

AL KHALIJI FRANCE S.A. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES BRANCHES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE HEAD OFFICE OF AL KHALIJI FRANCE S.A. – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) BRANCHES

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Al Khaliji France S.A. – United Arab Emirates (UAE) Branches (the "Branches"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, and the statement of profit or loss, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Branches as at 31 December 2023, and their financial performance and their cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). 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 Branches in accordance with the *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (the "IESBA Code") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Arab Emirates, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs and in compliance with the applicable provisions of the UAE Federal Decree Law No. (32) of 2021 and the Decretal Federal Law No. (14) of 2018, and for such internal control as management determines 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, management is responsible for assessing the Branches' ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Branches or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Branches' financial reporting process.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE HEAD OFFICE OF AL KHALIJI FRANCE S.A. – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) BRANCHES (continued)

Report on the audit of the financial statements (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 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Branches' internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Branches' ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Branches to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE HEAD OFFICE OF AL KHALIJI FRANCE S.A. – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) BRANCHES (continued)

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Further, as required by the Decretal Federal Law No. (14) of 2018, we report that we have obtained all the information and explanations we considered necessary for the purpose of our audit.

For Ernst & Young

Signed by:

Anthony O'Sullivan

Partner

Registration No.: 687

18 March 2024

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

	Notes	31 December 2023 AED'000	31 December 2022 AED'000
ASSETS	rotes	ALD 000	ALD 000
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of the U.A.E.	6	451,704	510,703
Due from related parties	7	108,607	134,673
Deposits and balances due from banks and			
financial institutions	8	208,603	239,044
Investment securities	9	128,773	125,077
Loans and advances to customers	10	418,907	299,552
Other assets	11	12,581	13,841
Property and equipment	12	1,950	2,169
Intangible assets	13	1,785	327
Total assets	_	1,332,910	1,325,386
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY Liabilities Deposits and balances due to banks and financial institutions Customers' deposits Due to related parties Other liabilities	14 15 7 16	87,388 652,691 17,688 25,180	1,552 710,632 80,761 29,861
Total liabilities		782,947	822,806
Equity Assigned capital Statutory reserve Fair value reserve Retained earnings	17(a) 17(b)	375,000 64,226 (164) 110,901	375,000 59,311 1,606 66,663
Total equity	·	34 7,703 	502,580
Total liabilities and equity		1,332,910	1,325,386
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Gilles Dermaux General Manager

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

	Notes	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Interest income		80,825	42,868
Interest expense		(5,446)	(1,757)
Net interest income		75,379	41,111
Fee and commission income		9,124	10,868
Fee and commission expenses		(427)	(538)
Net fee and commission income		8,697	10,330
Net gain from foreign currency transactions		3,119	2,707
Other operating income		48	5,682
Operating income for the year		87,243	59,830
General and administrative expenses	18	(25,267)	(32,950)
Allowance for impairment, net	19	(10,039)	(6,675)
Net operating expenses		(35,306)	(39,625)
Profit before tax		51,937	20,205
Income tax – net	20	(2,784)	-
Net profit for the year		49,153	20,205

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2023	2022
	AED'000	AED'000
Net profit for the year	49,153	20,205
Other comprehensive (loss)/income that will be reclassified to the income statement:		
Debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income:		
Net change in fair value during the year	(1,770)	668
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	(1,770)	668
Total comprehensive income for the year	47,383	20,873

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Assigned capital AED'000	Statutory reserve AED'000	Fair value reserve AED'000	Retained earnings AED'000	Total AED'000
Balance as at 1 January 2022	375,000	57,290	939	113,478	546,707
Profit for the year	-	-	-	20,205	20,205
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	668	<u>-</u>	668
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	_	668	20,205	20,873
Profits transferred to Head Office / dividends paid	-	-	-	(65,000)	(65,000)
Transfer to statutory reserve (Note 17)	-	2,021	-	(2,021)	-
Foreign currency translation reserve	-	-	(1)	1	-
Balance at 31 December 2022	375,000	59,311	1,606	66,663	502,580
Balance as at 1 January 2023	375,000	59,311	1,606	66,663	502,580
Profit for the year	-	-	-	49,153	49,153
Other comprehensive loss for the year		-	(1,770)	<u>-</u>	(1,770)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	(1,770)	49,153	47,383
Transfer to statutory reserve (Note 17)	-	4,915	-	(4,915)	-
Balance at 31 December 2023	375,000	64,226	(164)	110,901	549,963

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Profit before tax		51,937	20,205
Adjustments for:			
Allowance for impairment, net	19	10,039	6,675
Amortisation of premium/discounts on investment securities, net		(110)	(38)
Depreciation and amortization	12 & 13	1,101	1,040
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	16(i)	1,007	805
Revaluation (gain)/loss	_	(1,862)	33
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities		62,112	28,720
Increase in cash reserve with the Central Bank		(6,819)	(5,238)
Increase in due from related parties		(18,362)	-
Decrease/(increase) in due from banks and financial		, , ,	
institutions		34,576	(52,685)
(Increase)/decrease in loans and advances		(113,582)	42,197
Increase in other assets		(3,117)	(584)
Decrease in customers' deposits		(57,941)	(65,030)
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities		(5,761)	5,495
Cash used in operations		(108,894)	(47,125)
Employees' end-of-service benefits paid	16(i)	(1,008)	(521)
Net cash used in operating activities		(109,902)	(47,646)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property and equipment	12	(546)	(821)
Purchase of intangible assets	13	(1,794)	(206)
Purchase of investment securities		(18,585)	-
Proceeds from maturity/disposal of investment securities		-	38,688
Net cash (used in)/ generated from investing activities		(20,925)	37,661
Cash flow from financing activities			
Profits transferred to Head Office / dividends paid			(65,000)
Net cash used in financing activities		-	(65,000)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(130,827)	(74,985)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		658,959	733,944
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	21	528,132	658,959

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

1. General information

Al Khaliji France S.A (the "Bank") is a French registered bank with its Head Office in Paris, France (the "Head Office"). It commenced its operations in the United Arab Emirates in 1973 as a retail bank and currently has two branches, one each in the Emirate of Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Masraf Al Rayan is the Ultimate Parent Company of Al Khaliji France S.A. The Bank's regional office in Dubai is responsible for managing the operations of the United Arab Emirates Branches. The regional office's registered address is P.O. Box 4207, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

These financial statements reflect the activities of the branches of Al Khaliji France S.A. in the United Arab Emirates only (the "Branches") and exclude all transactions, assets and liabilities of the Head Office and Ultimate Parent Company's branches. The principal activities of the Bank are retail and commercial banking. The activities of the Bank are carried out through its Branches in United Arab Emirates.

Implementation of UAE Corporation Tax law and application of IAS 12 Income Taxes

On 9 December 2022, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Finance ("MoF") released Federal Decree-Law No 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses, Corporate Tax Law ("CT Law") to implement a new CT regime in the UAE. The new CT regime is applicable for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 June 2023. The Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 116 of 2022 specifies the threshold of income over which the 9% tax rate would apply and accordingly, the Law is now considered to be substantively enacted from the perspective of IAS 12 – Income Taxes. A rate of 9% will apply to taxable income exceeding AED 375,000 and a rate of 0% will apply to taxable income not exceeding AED 375,000 and a rate of 0% on qualifying income of free zone entities.

Based on the assessment conducted by the Bank, it has been determined that the CT Law does not have any effect on deferred taxes in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. Moving forward, the Bank will continue to monitor further developments and assess the impact of the corporate tax on its financial statements, particularly focusing on both current and deferred tax implications, in light of any further explanations and instructions regarding the application of the CT Law.

Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorized for issue on 18 March 2024.

2. Basis of preparation

2.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), and the applicable provisions of the Central Bank of the UAE regulations.

2.2 Functional and presentation currency

These financial statements are presented in United Arab Emirates Dirhams ("AED") which is the Branches's functional and presentation currency. Except as otherwise indicated, financial information presented in AED has been rounded to the nearest thousand.

2.3 Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for derivative financial instruments measured at fair value and financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

3. Application of new and revised International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs")

a. New and amended standards and interpretations

The Branches applied for the first-time certain standards and amendments, which are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 (unless otherwise stated). The Branches have not early adopted any other standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts

IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts is a comprehensive new accounting standard for insurance contracts covering recognition and measurement, presentation and disclosure. IFRS 17 replaces IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts. IFRS 17 applies to all types of insurance contracts (i.e., life, non-life, direct insurance and re-insurance), regardless of the type of entities that issue them as well as to certain guarantees and financial instruments with discretionary participation features; a few scope exceptions will apply. The overall objective of IFRS 17 is to provide a comprehensive accounting model for insurance contracts that is more useful and consistent for insurers, covering all relevant accounting aspects. IFRS 17 is based on a general model, supplemented by:

- A specific adaptation for contracts with direct participation features (the variable fee approach)
- A simplified approach (the premium allocation approach) mainly for short-duration contracts

The new standard had no impact on the Branches' financial statements.

Definition of Accounting Estimates - Amendments to IAS 8

The amendments to IAS 8 clarify the distinction between changes in accounting estimates, changes in accounting policies and the correction of errors. They also clarify how entities use measurement techniques and inputs to develop accounting estimates.

The amendments had no impact on the Branches' financial statements.

Disclosure of Accounting Policies - Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2

The amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2 Making Materiality Judgements provide guidance and examples to help entities apply materiality judgements to accounting policy disclosures. The amendments aim to help entities provide accounting policy disclosures that are more useful by replacing the requirement for entities to disclose their 'significant' accounting policies with a requirement to disclose their 'material' accounting policies and adding guidance on how entities apply the concept of materiality in making decisions about accounting policy disclosures.

The amendments have had an impact on the Branches' disclosures of accounting policies, but not on the measurement, recognition or presentation of any items in the Branches' financial statements.

Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction – Amendments to IAS 12

The amendments to IAS 12 Income Tax narrow the scope of the initial recognition exception, so that it no longer applies to transactions that give rise to equal taxable and deductible temporary differences such as leases and decommissioning liabilities.

The amendments had no impact on the Branches' financial statements.

International Tax Reform—Pillar Two Model Rules – Amendments to IAS 12

The amendments to IAS 12 have been introduced in response to the OECD's BEPS Pillar Two rules and include:

- A mandatory temporary exception to the recognition and disclosure of deferred taxes arising from the jurisdictional implementation of the Pillar Two model rules; and
- Disclosure requirements for affected entities to help users of the financial statements better understand an entity's exposure to Pillar Two income taxes arising from that legislation, particularly before its effective date.

The mandatory temporary exception – the use of which is required to be disclosed – applies immediately. The remaining disclosure requirements apply for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023, but not for any interim periods ending on or before 31 December 2023.

The amendments had no impact on the Branches' financial statements as the Branches are not in scope of the Pillar Two model rules as their revenue is less than EUR 750 million/year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

3. Application of new and revised International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs") (continued)

b. Standards issued but not yet effective

The new and amended standards and interpretations that are issued, but not yet effective, up to the date of issuance of the Branches' financial statements are disclosed below. The Branches intends to adopt these standards, if applicable, when they become effective.

Amendments to IFRS 16: Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback

In September 2022, the IASB issued amendments to IFRS 16 to specify the requirements that a seller-lessee uses in measuring the lease liability arising in a sale and leaseback transaction, to ensure the seller-lessee does not recognise any amount of the gain or loss that relates to the right of use it retains.

The amendments are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024 and must be applied retrospectively to sale and leaseback transactions entered into after the date of initial application of IFRS 16. Earlier application is permitted and that fact must be disclosed.

The amendments are not expected to have a material impact on the Branches' financial statements.

Amendments to IAS 1: Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current

In January 2020 and October 2022, the IASB issued amendments to paragraphs 69 to 76 of IAS 1 to specify the requirements for classifying liabilities as current or non-current. The amendments clarify:

- What is meant by a right to defer settlement
- That a right to defer must exist at the end of the reporting period
- · That classification is unaffected by the likelihood that an entity will exercise its deferral right
- That only if an embedded derivative in a convertible liability is itself an equity instrument would the terms of a liability not impact its classification

In addition, a requirement has been introduced to require disclosure when a liability arising from a loan agreement is classified as non-current and the entity's right to defer settlement is contingent on compliance with future covenants within twelve months.

The amendments are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024 and must be applied retrospectively. The Branches are currently assessing the impact the amendments will have on current practice and whether existing loan agreements may require renegotiation.

Supplier Finance Arrangements - Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7

In May 2023, the IASB issued amendments to IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows and IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures to clarify the characteristics of supplier finance arrangements and require additional disclosure of such arrangements. The disclosure requirements in the amendments are intended to assist users of financial statements in understanding the effects of supplier finance arrangements on an entity's liabilities, cash flows and exposure to liquidity risk.

The amendments will be effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024. Early adoption is permitted but will need to be disclosed.

The amendments are not expected to have a material impact on the Branches' financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

4. Material accounting policy information

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all years presented in these financial statements.

Financial instruments

Classification and measurement

The Branches classify their financial assets into the following measurement categories:

- i. those to be measured at fair value (either through other comprehensive income, or through profit or loss); and
- ii. those to be measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on the Branches' business model for managing financial assets and the contractual terms of the financial assets' cash flows. The Branches classify their financial liabilities at amortised cost unless they have has designated liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are required to measure liabilities at fair value through profit or loss such as derivative liabilities.

Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income

Debt instruments

Investments in debt instruments are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income where they have:

- contractual terms that give rise to cash flows on specified dates, that represent solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding; and
- are held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets.

These debt instruments are initially recognised at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are included in other comprehensive income within a separate component of equity. Impairment losses or reversals, interest revenue and foreign exchange gains and losses are recognised in the income statement. Upon disposal, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified from equity to the income statement. Refer to note 9 for Investments and Islamic instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income.

The measurement of credit impairment is based on the three-stage expected credit loss model as applied to financial assets at amortised cost.

Equity instruments

Investment in equity instruments that are neither held for trading nor contingent consideration, are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income, where an irrevocable election has been made by management.

Amounts presented in other comprehensive income are not subsequently transferred to the statement of profit or loss.

Financial assets measured at fair value through the statement of profit or loss

Financial assets at fair value through the statement of profit or loss comprise:

- financial assets held for trading;
- financial assets specifically designated as fair value through the statement of profit or loss on initial recognition; and
- Financial instruments held at fair value through the statement of profit or loss are initially recognised at fair value, with transaction costs recognised in the income statement as incurred. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value and any gains or losses are recognised in the income statement as they arise. Where a financial asset is measured at fair value, a credit valuation adjustment is included to reflect the credit worthiness of the counterparty, representing the movement in fair value attributable to changes in credit risk.

Financial instruments held for trading

A financial instrument is classified as held for trading if it is acquired or incurred principally for the purpose of selling or repurchasing in the near term, or forms part of a portfolio of financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of short-term profit taking, or it is a derivative not in a qualifying hedge relationship. Trading derivatives and trading securities are classified as held for trading and recognised at fair value.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

4. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

Classification and measurement (continued)

Financial instruments designated as measured at fair value through the statement of profit or loss

Upon initial recognition, financial instruments may be designated as measured at fair value through the statement of profit or loss. A financial asset may only be designated at fair value through the statement of profit or loss if doing so eliminates or significantly reduces measurement or recognition inconsistencies (i.e. eliminates an accounting mismatch) that would otherwise arise from measuring financial assets or liabilities on a different basis.

A financial liability may be designated at fair value through the statement of profit or loss if it eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch or:

- if a host contract contains one or more embedded derivatives; or
- if financial assets and liabilities are both managed and their performance evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy.

Where a financial liability is designated at fair value through the statement of profit or loss, the movement in fair value attributable to changes in the Branches' own credit quality is calculated by determining the changes in credit spreads above observable market interest rates and is presented separately in other comprehensive income.

Financial assets measured at amortised cost

Debt instruments

Investments in debt instruments are measured at amortised cost where they have:

- contractual terms that give rise to cash flows on specified dates, that represent solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding; and
- are held within a business model whose objective is achieved by holding to collect contractual cash flows.

These debt instruments are initially recognised at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost. The measurement of credit impairment is based on the three-stage expected credit loss model described in note 4 (e) Impairment of financial assets.

Impairment of financial assets

The Branches apply a three-stage approach to measuring ECL for the following categories of financial assets that are not measured at fair value through the statement of profit or loss:

- debt instruments measured at amortised cost and fair value through other comprehensive income;
- due from banks and financial institutions;
- loans and advances to customers;
- loan commitments;
- financial guarantee contracts; and
- lines of credit.

No ECL is recognised on equity investments.

Financial assets migrate through the following three stages based on the change in credit risk since initial recognition:

Stage 1: 12-months ECL

For exposures where there has not been a significant increase in credit risk (SICR) since initial recognition and that are not credit impaired upon origination, the portion of the lifetime ECL associated with the probability of default events occurring within the next 12 months is recognised.

Stage 2: Lifetime ECL – not credit impaired

For exposures where there has been an SICR since initial recognition but are not credit impaired, a lifetime ECL (i.e. reflecting the remaining lifetime of the financial asset) is recognised.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

4. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

Impairment of financial assets (continued)

Stage 3: Lifetime ECL - credit impaired

Exposures are assessed as credit impaired when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of that asset have occurred. For exposures that have become credit impaired, a lifetime ECL is recognised. The Branches define a financial instrument as in default, which is fully aligned with the definition of credit-impaired.

The Branches assess, on a forward-looking basis, the ECL associated with the above categories of financial assets. The measurement of ECL reflects:

- An unbiased and probability-weighted amount that is determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes;
- The time value of money; and
- Reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort at the reporting date about past events, current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions.

The assessment of SICR and the calculation of ECL both incorporate forward-looking information. The Branches have performed historical analysis and identified the key economic variables impacting credit risk and expected credit losses for each portfolio.

Loan commitments and letters of credit:

The ECL related to loan commitments and letters of credit are recognised in other liabilities. When estimating lifetime ECL for undrawn loan commitments, the Branches estimates the expected portion of the loan commitment that will be drawn-down over its expected life. The ECL is then based on the present value of the expected shortfalls in cash flows if the loan is drawn-down, based on a probability-weighting of the scenarios.

Guarantee contracts:

The ECL related to guarantee contracts are recognised in other liabilities. For this purpose, the Branches estimates ECL based on the present value of the expected payments to reimburse the holder for a credit loss that it incurs. The calculation is made using a probability-weighting of the scenarios.

Write-offs:

Financial assets are written off through allowance account when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery, such as a debtor failing to engage in a repayment plan with the branches. Where loans or receivables have been written off, the branches continue to engage in enforcement activity to attempt to recover the receivable due. Where recoveries are made, these are recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

Measuring ECL

The ECL is measured on either a 12-month or lifetime basis depending on whether an SICR has occurred since initial recognition or whether an asset is considered to be credit-impaired. ECL is the discounted product of the Probability of Default (PD), Exposure at Default (EAD) and Loss Given Default (LGD), defined as follows:

- Two types of PDs are used for calculating ECL
 - 12 month PDs This is the estimated probability of default occurring within the next 12 months (or over the remaining life of the financial instrument if that is less than 12 months). This is used to calculate 12 month ECL for Stage 1 exposures.
 - Lifetime PDs This is the estimated probability of a default occurring over the remaining life of the financial instrument. This is used to calculate lifetime ECL for Stage 2 and Stage 3 exposures.
- EAD is based on the amounts the Branches expects to be owed at the time of default, over the next 12 months or over the remaining lifetime. It varies for the types of financial assets defined in the section above.
- LGD represents the Branches' expectation of the extent of loss on a defaulted exposure. LGD is expressed as a percentage loss per unit of exposure at the time of default.

Weighted average ECL is calculated considering base case, upside and downside scenarios multiplied by the associated scenario weightings, at the contract level for reflection of the ECL impact in the books of accounts. The most significant year-end assumptions used for ECL estimate are disclosed in Note 27. The scenarios base case, upside and downside were used for all portfolios keeping in view the principal macroeconomic variables, including GDP in the range of 2 to 7% for different scenario.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

4. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities

The Branches derecognise a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expires, or they transfer the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of the ownership of the financial asset are transferred or in which the Branches neither transfer nor retain substantially all of the risks and rewards or ownership and they do not retain control of the financial asset. On derecognition of a financial asset, the difference between the carrying amount of the asset (or the carrying amount allocated to the portion of the asset derecognised) and the sum of (i) the consideration received (including any new asset obtained less any new liability assumed) and (ii) any cumulative gain or loss that had been recognised in OCI is recognised in profit or loss. Any interest in transferred financial assets that qualify for derecogniton that is created or retained by the Branches is recognised as a separate asset or liability.

The Branches enter into transactions whereby they transfer assets recognised on their consolidated statement of financial position, but retain either all or substantially all of the risks and rewards of the transferred assets or a portion of them. In such cases, the transferred assets are not derecognised. Examples of such transactions are repurchase agreements. In transactions in which the Branches neither retain nor transfer substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a financial asset and they retain control over the asset, the Branches continue to recognise the asset to the extent of their continuing involvement, determined by the extent to which they are exposed to changes in the value of the transferred asset. The Branches derecognise a financial liability when their contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled, or expired.

Revenue recognition

Interest income and interest expense

The Branches recognise interest income and interest expense in the statement of profit or loss for all interest bearing financial instruments classified as fair value through profit and loss, fair value through other comprehensive income and loans and receivables using the effective interest method, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument or a shorter period, where appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability on initial recognition. When there is doubt in the collection of the principal or the interest, the recognition of interest income ceases. Interest income from financial assets measured at FVTPL is recognised on accrual basis. Recoveries in respect of loans fully provided for are accounted for on a cash receipt basis.

Fees and commission income and expenses

Fees and commission income and expenses are generally recognised in the statement of profit or loss on accrual basis as the related services are provided except those that are integral to the effective interest rate calculations. Fees and commission included in the effective interest rate calculation are those that are incremental and directly attributable to the origination of the product and which are integral to the yield of the product.

Other fees and commission expense relate mainly to transaction and service fees, which are expensed as the services are received.

Foreign currency transactions

The financial statements of the Branches are expressed in Arab Emirates Dirhams ('AED'), which is the functional currency of the Branches and the presentation currency for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements of the Branches, transactions in currencies other than the Branches' functional currency (foreign currencies) are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At the end of the reporting period, monetary items denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at the end of the reporting period. Non-monetary items carried at fair value that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at the date when the fair value was determined. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are not retranslated.

Exchange differences are recognised in the statement of profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

4. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Property and equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment loss, if any. Additions and subsequent expenditures are capitalised only to the extent that they enhance the future economic benefits expected to be derived from the assets.

Depreciation is determined using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets, as follows:

	<u>Years</u>
Office equipment	3 - 5
Furniture and fittings	3 - 5
Vehicles	3
Leasehold improvements	5 - 7

The depreciable amount is the gross carrying amount, less the estimated residual value at the end of its useful economic life.

The useful lives, methods and the residual values underlying the calculation of depreciation of items of property and equipment are reviewed at each reporting date to take account of any change in circumstances.

An item of property and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property and equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

Gain or loss on disposal is determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

Capital work-in-progress is carried at cost, less any recognised impairment loss. Such properties are classified to the appropriate categories of property and equipment when completed and ready for intended use. Depreciation of these assets, on the same basis as other property assets, commences when the assets are ready for their intended use.

Due from other banks

Amounts due from other banks are initially recognised at fair value and measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Impairment of amounts due from other banks is assessed as outlined in the accounting policy on financial instrument.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets acquired separately are measured on initial recognition at cost. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses. Additions and subsequent expenditures are capitalised only to the extent that they enhance the future economic benefits expected to be derived from the assets. Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised over the useful economic life and assessed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the intangible asset may be impaired. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for an intangible asset with a finite useful life is reviewed at least at each financial year end. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset is accounted for by changing the amortisation period or method, as appropriate, and treated as changes in accounting estimates. The amortisation expense on intangible assets with finite lives is recognised in the statement of profit or loss in the expense category consistent with the function of the intangible asset.

Impairment of tangible and intangible assets

At each reporting period, the Branches review the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the assets is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Branches estimate the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

4. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Impairment of tangible and intangible assets (continued)

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in the statement of profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, such that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (cash-generating unit) in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the statement of profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried at revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Employees' end-of-service benefits

Provision for employees' end-of-service indemnity is made based on current remuneration and cumulative years of service at the end of each reporting period. The provision is made in accordance with the Branches' policy which is not less than the liability arising under the U.A.E. labour laws.

Pension and national insurance contributions for U.A.E. citizens are made by the Branches in accordance with the relevant local laws and regulations applicable to U.A.E. citizens.

Income tax

Income tax comprises current tax and deferred tax. Income tax is recognised in the statement of profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, in which case it is recognised in the same statement in which the related item appears.

Current tax is the expected tax payable or receivable on the taxable profit or loss for the year, calculated using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date. The Branches provide for potential current tax liabilities that may arise on the basis of the amounts expected to be paid to the tax authorities.

Deferred tax is recognised on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position and the amounts attributed to such assets and liabilities for tax purposes. Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no long probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

Deferred tax is calculated using the tax rates expected to apply in the periods in which the assets will be realised or the liabilities settled, based on tax rates and laws enacted, or substantively enacted, by the reporting date.

Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, money in current and call accounts and placements with original maturity of less than three months, excluding the minimum reserve deposits required to be maintained with the U.A.E. Central Bank.

Due to other banks and customer deposits

Due to other banks and customer deposits are initially measured at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequently, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method except where the Branches choose to carry the liabilities at fair value through the statement of profit or loss. Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on settlement.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

4. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Branches have a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Branches will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. When a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows.

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, a receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

Present obligations arising under onerous contracts are recognised and measured as provisions. An onerous contract is considered to exist where the Branches have a contract under which the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the contract exceed the economic benefits expected to be received from the contract.

Acceptances

Acceptances are recognised as financial liability in the statement of financial position with a contractual right of reimbursement from the customer as a financial asset. Therefore, commitments in respect of acceptances have been accounted for as financial assets and financial liabilities.

Documentary credits

Documentary credits, issued on behalf of the customers of the Branches, are contracts whereby the Branches guarantee to pay on behalf of the customers' money to the holder for goods supplied to the customers of the Branches. The payment would be made only on submission of documents as prescribed in the credit by the holder through his bank

The income received for the issue of the credit and subsequent handling of the bills under the credit is recognised as fee income as and when received.

Commitments to extend credit

These are firm commitments made by the Branches to its customers to extend credit as per the terms of the agreement and are considered as an off-balance sheet liability.

Lease

The Branches assess at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. The Branches apply a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases where they are the lessee, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. The Branches recognise lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

Right-of-use assets

The Branches recognise right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e. the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received. Unless the Branches are reasonably certain to obtain ownership of the leased asset at the end of the lease term, the recognised right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of its estimated useful life and the lease term. Right-of-use assets are subject to impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

4. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Lease (continued)

Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Branches recognise lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The lease payments also include the exercise price of a purchase option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Branches and payments of penalties for terminating a lease, if the lease term reflects the Branches exercising the option to terminate. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as expense in the period on which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Branches use the incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the in-substance fixed lease payments or a change in the assessment to purchase the underlying asset.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Branches apply the short-term lease recognition exemption to their short-term leases of property and equipment (i.e. those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date and do not contain a purchase option). They also apply the lease of low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of property and equipment that are considered of low value. Payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The Branches have the option, under some of its leases to lease the assets for an additional term. The Branches apply judgement in evaluating whether it is reasonably certain to exercise the option to renew. That is, they consider all relevant factors that create an economic incentive for their to exercise the renewal. After the commencement date, the Branches reassess the lease term if there is a significant event or change in circumstances that is within their control and affects their ability to exercise (or not to exercise) the option to renew (e.g. a change in business strategy).

Derivatives

A derivative financial instrument is a financial contract between two parties where payments are dependent upon movements in the price of one or more underlying financial instrument, reference rate or index.

Derivative financial instruments are initially recognised at fair value at trade date, and are subsequently re-measured at fair value at the end of each reporting period. All derivatives are carried at their fair values as assets where the fair values are positive (unrealised gains) and as liabilities where the fair values are negative (unrealized losses). Derivative assets and liabilities arising from different transactions are only offset if the transactions are with the same counterparty, a legal right of offset exists and the parties intend to settle the cash flows on a net basis.

Derivative fair values are determined from quoted prices in active markets where available. Where there is no active market for an instrument, fair value is derived from prices for the derivative's components using appropriate pricing or valuation models.

The method of recognising fair value gains and losses depends on whether derivatives are held for trading or are designated as hedging instruments, and if the latter, the nature of the risks being hedged.

The Bank deals with derivative instrument i.e Interest rate swaps used for hedging purpose. The details of the derivative financial instruments are disclosed in Note 27.

5. Critical accounting judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Branches' accounting policies, which are described in Note 4, the management is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

5. Critical accounting judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

The 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 future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Significant areas where management has used estimates, assumptions or exercised judgments are as follows:

Business model assessment

The Branches make an assessment of the objective of a business model in which an asset is held at a portfolio level because this best reflects the way the business is managed and information is provided to management. The information considered includes:

- The stated policies and objectives for the portfolio and the operation of those policies in practice;
- How the performance of the portfolio is evaluated and reported to the Branches' management;
- The risks that affect the performance of the business model (and the financial assets held within that business model) and how those risks are managed;
- How managers of the business are compensated (e.g. whether compensation is based on the fair value of the assets managed or the contractual cash flows collected); and
- The frequency, volume and timing of sales in prior periods, the reasons for such sales and its expectations about future sales activity. However, information about sales activity is not considered in isolation, but as part of an overall assessment of how the Branches' stated objective for managing the financial assets is achieved and how cash flows are realised.

Financial assets that are held for trading or managed and whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis are measured at FVTPL because they are neither held to collect contractual cash flows nor held both to collect contractual cash flows and to sell financial assets.

Assessment whether contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest

For the purposes of this assessment, 'principal' is defined as the fair value of the financial asset on initial recognition. 'Interest' is defined as consideration for the time value of money and for the credit risk associated with the principal amount outstanding during a particular period of time and for other basic lending risks and costs (e.g. liquidity risk and administrative costs), as well as profit margin.

In assessing whether the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest ("the SPPI test"), the Branches consider the contractual terms of the instrument. This includes assessing whether the financial asset contains a contractual term that could change the timing or amount of contractual cash flows such that it would not meet this condition. In making the assessment, the Branches consider contingent events that would change the amount and timing of cash flows, prepayment and extension terms, terms that limit the Branches' claim to cash flows from specified assets and features that modify consideration of the time value of money. Instruments failing SPPI will be measured at FVTPL.

6. Cash and balances with the Central Bank of the U.A.E.

	2023	2022
	AED'000	AED'000
Cash on hand	8,285	6,024
Balances with the Central bank of the U.A.E.		
Current accounts	7,020	5,099
Statutory reserve (*)	46,399	39,580
Overnight deposit facility	390,000	460,000
	451,704	510,703

^(*) The Branches are required to maintain statutory reserve with the Central Bank of the U.A.E, which is not available for use in the day-to-day operations.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

7. Related parties balances and transactions

The Branches enter into transactions with entities that fall within the definition of a related party in accordance with International Accounting Standard 24: *Related Party Disclosures*. Related parties comprise of Head Office and Ultimate Parent Company outside the U.A.E. Transactions with such related parties are made on substantially the same terms, as those prevailing at the same time for comparable transactions with external customers and parties.

The Branches maintain certain deposits with the Head Office and the Ultimate Parent Company and conducts banking transactions with them as part of its normal activities.

The Head Office provides administrative and management support to the Branches (Note 18) for which the Branches were charged a fee for the year ended 31 December 2023 of AED 992 thousand (2022: AED 957 thousand).

The significant transactions and balances included in the financial statements are as follows:

	2023	2022
	AED'000	AED'000
Due from related parties		
Current accounts		
Ultimate Parent Company	475	2,650
Head Office	69,479	38,987
Term placement / deposit		
Head Office*	38,653	93,036
	108,607	134,673
* Torm placement/denosit with the Head Office has a residual maturity of less	- than 2 manths and as	

^{*} Term placement/deposit with the Head Office has a residual maturity of less than 3 months and carries an interest rate of 4.69% p.a. (2022: 3.25% p.a.).

	2023	2022
	AED'000	AED'000
Due to related parties		
Current accounts		
Ultimate Parent Company	4,073	80,007
Head Office	761	754
	4,834	80,761
Term borrowing / deposit		
Head Office	12,854	
	17,688	80,761
		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

7. Related parties balances and transactions (continued)

Related party transactions for the year are as follows:

ntions	2023 AED'000 3,069 2023 AED'000 134,743 76,113 210,856 (2,253)	AED'000 1,433 23 957 3,535 2022 AED'000 125,033 118,217 243,250
ntions	3,069 2023 AED'000 134,743 76,113 210,856	23 957 3,535 2022 AED'000 125,033 118,217
ntions	992 3,069 2023 AED'000 134,743 76,113 210,856	957 3,535 2022 AED'000 125,033 118,217
ntions	3,069 2023 AED'000 134,743 76,113 210,856	3,535 2022 AED'000 125,033 118,217
ntions	2023 AED'000 134,743 76,113 210,856	2022 AED'000 125,033 118,217
ntions	2023 AED'000 134,743 76,113 210,856	2022 AED'000 125,033 118,217
ntions	AED'000 134,743 76,113 210,856	AED'000 125,033 118,217
_	AED'000 134,743 76,113 210,856	AED'000 125,033 118,217
_	134,743 76,113 210,856	125,033 118,217
_	76,113	118,217
_	76,113	118,217
_		243,250
_	(2,253)	
		(4,206)
_	208,603	239,044
ncial institutions i	s as follows:	
Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
AED'000	AED'000	AED'000
55,567	-	243,250
6	-	85,494
(37,083)		(117,888)
18,490	-	210,856
3,178	_	4,206
77	-	897
(1.011)	-	(1,013)
(1,011)	-	(1,837)
(1,837)	-	
	-	2,253
8	0 77 2) (1,011)	0 77 - 2) (1,011) - - (1,837) -

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

8. Deposits and balances due from banks and financial institutions (continued)

	Stage 1 AED'000	Stage 2 AED'000	Stage 3 AED'000	Total AED'000
Gross exposure at 1 January 2022	32,518	40,942	-	73,460
Transfer to Stage 1	4,021	(4,021)	-	_
New assets originated or purchased	160,747	37,009	-	197,756
Assets derecognised or repaid	(9,603)	(18,363)	-	(27,966)
At 31 December 2022	187,683	55,567	<u>-</u>	243,250
ECL allowance at 1 January 2022	7	227	-	234
New ECL originated or purchased	1,021	2,946	_	3,967
Foreign exchange differences	-	5	-	5
Allowance for impairment – net, as per note 19	1,028	3,178	_	4,206
Closing balance on 31 December 2022	186,655	52,389	-	239,044
			2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Investments at FVOCI			70,879	70,757
Investments at amortized cost			73,174	54,478
			144,053	125,235
Less: Allowance for impairment – net, as per note	19		(15,280)	(158)
		•	128,773	125,077
Gross investment securities by geographic concentra	ation are as follo	ows:		
			2023	2022
			AED'000	AED'000
Within the U.A.E.			89,224	70,757
Outside the U.A.E.		_	54,829	54,478
			144,053	125,235

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

9. Investment securities (continued)

Investment securities as at 31 December 2023 and 2022 represent the Branches' investments in the government and public sector.

The analysis of gross investment securities by credit risk is as follows:

	Stage 1 AED'000	Stage 2 AED'000	Stage 3 AED'000	Total AED'000
Gross exposure at 1 January 2023	125,235	-	-	125,235
Transfer to stage 2	(36,116)	36,116	-	-
New assets originated or purchased	18,467	128	223	18,818
At 31 December 2023	107,586	36,244	223	144,053
ECL allowance at 1 January 2023	158	-	-	158
Transfer to stage 2	(153)	153	-	-
New ECL originated or purchased	187	14,712	223	15,122
Allowance for impairment – net, as per note 19	192	14,865	223	15,280
Closing balance on 31 December 2023	107,394	21,379	-	128,773
-	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000
Gross exposure at 1 January 2022	149,238	18,358	2,043	169,639
Assets derecognised or repaid	(24,003)	(18,358)	(2,043)	(44,404)
At 31 December 2022	125,235			125,235
ECL allowance at 1 January 2022	84	204	2,043	2,331
ECL derecognised or repaid or reversed	74	(204)	(2,038)	(2,168)
Foreign exchange differences	- -	-	(5)	(5)
Allowance for impairment – net, as per note 19	158		_	158
Closing balance on 31 December 2022	125,077			125,077

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

10. Loans and advances to customers

a) Loans and advances to customers comprise of the following:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Loans and advances Less: Allowance for impairment – net, as per note 19	466,848 (47,941)	349,574 (50,022)
	418,907	299,552

At 31 December 2023, the fair value of collateral held against loans and advances to customers was AED 531 million (2022: AED 659 million) an analysis of which is provided in Note 27.

b) The movement of the allowance for impairment of loans and advances to customers is as follows:

	2023	2022
	AED'000	AED'000
At 1 January	50,022	54,255
Impairment allowance for the year	7,377	21,835
Amounts written off during the year	(69)	(16,707)
Recoveries during the year	(9,389)	(9,361)
At 31 December	47,941	50,022

Impairment allowance for the year includes AED 4.5 million of suspended interest (2022: AED 5.0 million) and AED 0.75 million recoveries of suspended interest during the year (2022: AED 0.03 million).

c) Analysis of gross loans and advances to customers by class:

	2023	2022
	AED'000	AED'000
Corporate lending	273,476	131,653
Small business lending	108,334	126,957
Retail lending	85,038	90,964
	466,848	349,574
d) Gross loans and advances by geographical area were as follows:		
	2023	2022
	AED'000	AED'000
Within the U.A.E.	360,234	289,330
Outside the U.A.E.	106,614	60,244
	466,848	349,574

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

10. Loans and advances to customers (continued)

e) Gross loans and advances by industry were as follows:

			2023	2022
			AED'000	AED'000
Government			91,813	-
Real estate			142,140	168,671
Services			134,596	117,497
Financial institutions			46,811	-
Manufacturing			16,880	17,513
Wholesale and retail trade			24,075	22,926
Construction			7,952	20,182
Personal loans			2,581	2,785
		_	466,848	349,574
f) Gross loans and advances and their related 1	ECL allowances	by credit risk we	re as follows:	
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000
Gross exposure at 1 January 2023	114,715	198,912	35,947	349,574
Transfer to Stage 2	(2,236)	2,236	-	-
Transfer to Stage 3	(24)	-	24	-
New assets originated or purchased	145,216	223	1,626	147,065
Assets derecognised or repaid	(10,579)	(12,933)	(6,279)	(29,791)
At 31 December 2023	247,092	188,438	31,318	466,848
ECL allowance at 1 January 2023	197	13,878	35,947	50,022
Transfer to Stage 2	(17)	17	-	-
New ECL originated or purchased	2,265	383	4,541	7,189
ECL derecognised or repaid	(87)	(13)	(9,170)	(9,270)
Allowance for impairment – net, as per note 19	2,358	14,265	31,318	47,941
Closing balance on 31 December 2023	244,734	174,173	-	418,907
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000
Gross exposure at 1 January 2022	110,528	255,222	37,706	403,456
Transfer to Stage 2	-	(9,259)	9,259	-
Transfer to Stage 2 New assets originated or purchased	23,210	(9,259) 4,994	9,259 5,689	33,893
Transfer to Stage 2	-	(9,259)	9,259	-
Transfer to Stage 2 New assets originated or purchased	23,210	(9,259) 4,994	9,259 5,689	33,893
Transfer to Stage 2 New assets originated or purchased Assets derecognised or repaid At 31 December 2022	23,210 (19,023) 114,715	(9,259) 4,994 (52,045) 198,912	9,259 5,689 (16,707) 35,947	33,893 (87,775) 349,574
Transfer to Stage 2 New assets originated or purchased Assets derecognised or repaid At 31 December 2022 ECL allowance at 1 January 2022	23,210 (19,023) 114,715	(9,259) 4,994 (52,045)	9,259 5,689 (16,707) 35,947 37,706	33,893 (87,775) 349,574 54,255
Transfer to Stage 2 New assets originated or purchased Assets derecognised or repaid At 31 December 2022	23,210 (19,023) 114,715	(9,259) 4,994 (52,045) 198,912	9,259 5,689 (16,707) 35,947	33,893 (87,775) 349,574
Transfer to Stage 2 New assets originated or purchased Assets derecognised or repaid At 31 December 2022 ECL allowance at 1 January 2022 New ECL originated or purchased	23,210 (19,023) 114,715	(9,259) 4,994 (52,045) 198,912	9,259 5,689 (16,707) 35,947 37,706 15,028	33,893 (87,775) 349,574 54,255 15,055
Transfer to Stage 2 New assets originated or purchased Assets derecognised or repaid At 31 December 2022 ECL allowance at 1 January 2022 New ECL originated or purchased ECL derecognised or repaid	23,210 (19,023) 114,715 170 27	(9,259) 4,994 (52,045) 198,912 16,379 (2,501)	9,259 5,689 (16,707) 35,947 37,706 15,028 (16,787)	33,893 (87,775) 349,574 54,255 15,055 (19,288)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

11. Other assets

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Interest receivable	6,593	4,206
Assets under acceptances (Note 16)	1,279	3,789
Prepaid expenses	1,427	1,348
Fair value of derivatives	2,534	4,401
Others	748	97
	12,581	13,841

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

12. Property and equipment

	Office equipment AED'000	Furniture and fittings AED'000	Vehicles AED'000	Leasehold improvements AED'000	Capital- work in progress AED'000	Total AED'000
Cost At 1 January 2022 Additions during the year	6,502 15	905	425	3,601	- 806	11,433 821
At 31 December 2022 Additions during the year Transfers	6,517 534 806	905 12	425	3,601	806 - (806)	12,254 546
At 31 December 2023	7,857	917	425	3,601	-	12,800
Accumulated depreciation At 1 January 2022 Charge for the year	6,244 139	905	425	1,905 467	-	9,479 606
At 31 December 2022 Charge for the year	6,383 297	905 1	425	2,372 467	<u> </u>	10,085 765
At 31 December 2023	6,680	906	425	2,839	-	10,850
Carrying amount At 31 December 2023	1,177	11	-	762		1,950
At 31 December 2022	134	-	-	1,229	806	2,169

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

13. Intangible assets

	Software AED'000	Work-in- progress AED'000	Total AED'000
Cost			
At 1 January 2022 Additions	19,150	176	19,150 206
At 31 December 2022	19,180	176	19,356
Additions	1,602	192	1,794
Transfers	176	(176)	-
At 31 December 2023	20,958	192	21,150
Accumulated amortization	·		
At 1 January 2022	18,595	-	18,595
Charge for the year	434		434
At 31 December 2022	19,029	_	19,029
Charge for the year	336	-	336
At 31 December 2023	19,365		19,365
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2023	1,593	192	1,785
At 31 December 2022	151	176	327

14. Deposits and balances due to banks and financial institutions

(a) The analysis of the due to banks and financial institutions as at 31 December 2023 and 2022 is as follows:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Current accounts Borrowings*	2,388 85,000	1,552
	87,388	1,552

^{*} This balance carries an annual interest rate of 6.0% and matures in January 2024.

(b) The geographical analysis of the due to banks and financial institutions as at 31 December 2023 and 2022 is as follows:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Due to banks and financial institutions outside the U.A.E. Due to banks and financial institutions inside the U.A.E.	2,388 85,000	1,552
	87,388	1,552

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

15. Customers' deposits

By t	ype:
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Бу сурс.	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Current accounts Saving accounts	302,321 16,739	408,614 16,652
Time deposits Margin accounts	277,349 56,282	228,103 57,263
Wargin accounts	652,691	710,632

Time deposits held under lien as security for loans and advances (funded and unfunded) as at 31 December 2023 amounted to AED 88 million (2022: AED 109 million).

By geographical area:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Within the U.A.E. Outside the U.A.E.	625,407 27,284	684,239 26,393
	652,691	710,632

16. Other liabilities

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits (i)	7,535	7,536
Liabilities under acceptances (Note 11)	1,279	3,789
Interest payable	1,750	897
Impairment loss allowance on commitments and financial guarantees (ii)	2,641	1,834
Income tax provision (Note 20)	2,784	-
Other	9,191	15,805
	25,180	29,861

i) The movements in the provision for employees' end-of-service benefits during the year were as follows:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Balance at the beginning of the year Charge for the year Payments during the year	7,536 1,007 (1,008)	7,252 805 (521)
Balance at the end of the year	7,535	7,536

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

16. Other liabilities (continued)

ii) Movement of the impairment loss allowance on commitments and financial guarantees is as follows:

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000
ECL allowance at 1 January 2023 Transfer to Stage 1 Transfer to Stage 3 New ECL originated or purchased during year	132 25 388	225 (25) (101) 218	1,477 - 101 201	1,834 - - 807
ECL allowance at 31 December 2023	545	317	1,779	2,641
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000
ECL allowance at 1 January 2022	146	247	4,017	4,410
ECL derecognised or repaid	(14)	(22)	(2,540)	(2,576)
ECL allowance at 31 December 2022	132	225	1,477	1,834

17. Assigned capital and statutory reserve

(a) Assigned capital

The Branches maintained assigned capital of AED 375,000 thousand as at 31 December 2023 and 2022.

(b) Statutory reserve

In accordance with the UAE Company's Law and Regulations, the Branches have to establish a statutory reserve by appropriation of 10% of net profit for each year until the reserve equals 50% of the assigned capital. This reserve is not available for distribution.

18. General and administrative expenses

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Salaries and employees related expenses	14,619	14,296
Depreciation and amortization	1,101	1,040
Head Office charges (Note 7)	992	957
Other	8,555	16,657
	25,267	32,950

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

19. Allowance for impairment, net

a. The following tables show reconciliation of the opening to the closing balance of the loss allowance by class of financial instrument including net impairment loss on financial assets for the year. Comparative amounts represent allowance account for credit losses and reflect measurement basis under IFRS 9.

2023	Loans and advances to customers AED'000	Investment securities AED'000	Financial commitments and guarantees AED'000	Other financial assets* AED'000	Total AED'000
At 1 January	50,022	158	1,834	4,206	56,220
Impairment charge for the year	2,860	15,574	1,454	818	20,706
Reversal of impairment allowance	(288)	(452)	(647)	(934)	(2,321)
Recoveries during the year	(8,346)				(8,346)
Allowance for impairment, net	(5,774)	15,122	807	(116)	10,039
Interest in suspense	4,517	-	-	-	4,517 (755)
Interest in suspense recovered Amounts written off during the year	(755) (69)	-	-	-	(69)
Sub-total	47,941	15,280	2,641	4,090	69,952
Currency revaluation	-	-	-	(1,837)	(1,837)
Total allowance for impairment	47,941	15,280	2,641	2,253	68,115
2022	Loans and advances to customers AED'000	Investment securities AED'000	Financial commitments and guarantees AED'000	Other financial assets* AED'000	Total AED'000
At 1 January	54,255	2,331	4,410	234	61,230
Impairment charge for the year	16,783	75	833	3,967	21,658
Reversal of impairment allowance	(9,282)	(204)	(182)	-	(9,668)
Recoveries during the year	(49)	(2,039)	(3,227)	-	(5,315)
Allowance for impairment, net	7,452	(2,168)	(2,576)	3,967	6,675
Interest in suspense net of recoveries	4,922	-	-	-	4,922
Amounts written off during the year	(16,607)				(16,607)
Sub-total	50,022	163	1,834	4,201	56,220
Currency revaluation		(5)	-	5	
Total allowance for impairment	50,022	158	1,834	4,206	56,220

^{*}This represents impairment charge on deposits and balances due from banks and financial institutions.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

19. Allowance for impairment, net (continued)

The CBUAE issued its IFRS 9 guidance in March 2018 addressing various implementation challenges and practical implications for banks adopting IFRS 9 in the UAE ("the Guidance"). Pursuant to the Guidance, the reconciliation between general and specific provision under Circular 28/2010 of CBUAE and IFRS 9 is as follows:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Impairment reserve: General General provisions under Circular 28/2010 of CBUAE Less: Stage 1 and Stage 2 provisions under IFRS 9	7,934 (34,795)	6,917 (18,796)
General provision transferred to the regulatory impairment reserve		
	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Impairment reserve: Specific Specific provisions under Circular 28/2010 of CBUAE Less: Stage 3 provisions under IFRS 9	33,320 (33,320)	37,424 (37,424)
Specific provision transferred to the regulatory impairment reserve	-	-
Total provision transferred to the regulatory impairment reserve	-	-

In the case where provisions under IFRS 9 exceed provisions under CBUAE requirements, no amount shall be transferred to the impairment reserve.

20. Income tax - net

The Branches are subject to taxation at the rate of 20% of the taxable income for the year. The taxable income is calculated after adding back certain provisions to the net profit before taxation, which management believes are likely to be disallowed as deductions by the tax authorities:

Income tax expense for the year shown in the statement of profit or loss represents the following:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
In respect of the current year	2,784	-
In respect of the prior year		
Deferred tax	2,784	_
Deterred tax		
Total income tax expenses recognised in the current year	2,784	
(a) The movements in income tax provision during the year were as follows:		
	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Balance, at the beginning of the year In respect of the current year	2,784	- -
Balance, at the end of the year (Note 16)	2,784	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

20. Income tax – net (continued)

(b) Relationship between tax expense and accounting profit is as follows:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Profit before tax Income not subject to tax	51,937 (64,725)	20,205
Items not allowed as tax deductions Adjustment of carry forward tax losses*	78,301 (51,591)	(122,258)
Others	-	(2,972)
Taxable income/(loss) Income tax rate	13,922 20%	(105,025) 20%
Income tax expense	2,784	

^{*}The recognition of deferred tax assets is subject to specific requirements of IAS 12 "Income Taxes". These require a deferred tax asset to be recognized to the extent that it is probable that the deferred tax asset will be recovered in near future. However, management has assessed that the tax profits realized in the two Branches amounting to AED 13.9 million (2022: AED 105.0 million) are still low and will be difficult to recover within 2 years as allowed by the Tax Authorities in UAE, and therefore has not recognized a deferred tax amount on current impairments.

21. Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of the U.A.E.	15,305	11,123
Cash reserves and certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of the U.A.E. Due from related parties	436,399 90,244	499,580 134,673
Due from banks and financial institutions	137,659	135,476
	679,607	780,852
Due to related parties	(17,688)	(80,761)
Due to banks and financial institutions	(87,388)	(1,552)
Statutory reserve with the Central Bank of the UAE	(46,399)	(39,580)
Total cash and cash equivalents	528,132	658,959

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

22. Concentrations of assets, liabilities, equity and off balance sheet items

	31 December 2023			31 December 2022			
	Assets AED'000	Liabilities and equity AED'000	Off balance sheet items AED'000	Assets AED'000	Liabilities and equity AED'000	Off balance sheet items AED'000	
Geographic regions							
U.A.E.	983,945	1,257,649	262,638	949,987	1,203,791	299,935	
Other Middle East countries	134,622	35,132	3,000	139,119	106,226	3,000	
O.E.C.D.*	129,668	33,991	-	199,265	13,637	-	
Other	84,675	6,138	8,277	37,015	1,732	-	
Total	1,332,910	1,332,910	273,915	1,325,386	1,325,386	302,935	
Industry sector							
Government and public sector	665,683	27,637	-	631,142	410	-	
Commercial and business	199,096	481,786	269,665	215,755	504,531	299,814	
Personal	84,425	194,415	393	88,841	191,276	21	
Financial institutions	369,229	151,420	3,857	379,486	101,851	3,100	
Other	14,477	477,652	-	10,162	527,318	-	
Total	1,332,910	1,332,910	273,915	1,325,386	1,325,386	302,935	

^{*} Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

23. Classification of financial assets and financial liabilities

The table below sets out the Branches' classification of each class of financial assets and financial liabilities and their carrying amounts as at 31 December:

	Amortised cost	FVOCI 2023	Amortised cost	FVOCI 2022
	2023 AED'000	AED'000	2022 AED'000	AED'000
Financial assets				
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of the U.A.E.	451,704	-	510,703	-
Due from related parties	108,607	-	134,673	-
Due from banks and financial institutions	208,603	-	239,044	-
Investment securities	67,792	70,879	49,283	70,757
Loans and advances to customers	418,907	· -	299,552	-
Other assets	7,341	-	4,303	-
Total	1,262,954	70,879	1,237,558	70,757
Financial liabilities				
Due to banks and financial institutions	87,388	-	1,552	-
Customers' deposits	652,691	-	710,632	-
Due to related parties	17,688	-	80,761	-
Other liabilities	3,029	-	4,686	-
Total	760,796		797,631	

In addition to the above, the Branches carry derivative financial assets amounting to AED'000 2,534 as at 31 December 2023 (2022: AED'000 4,401) which are classified at fair value through profit or loss (FVPL).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

24. Liquidity profile

(a) The following table summarises the maturity profile of the Branches' assets and liabilities based on contractual repayment arrangements. The contractual maturities of assets and liabilities have been determined on the basis of the remaining period at the reporting date to the contractual maturity date:

	Less than 3 months AED'000	3 months to 1 year AED'000	Over 1 year AED'000	Total AED'000
2023				
Assets				
Cash and balances with the	405,305	_	46,399	451,704
Central Bank of the U.A.E. Due from related parties	108,607	_	-	108,607
Deposits and balances due from banks and	135,407	54,834	18,362	208,603
financial institutions Investment securities	133,407	54,054	128,773	128,773
Loans and advances to customers	77,731	14,803	326,373	418,907
Other assets	8,419	1,735	2,427	12,581
Property and equipment	-	-	1,950	1,950
Intangibles	-	-	1,785	1,785
Total assets	735,469	71,372	526,069	1,332,910
Liabilities and equity				
Due to banks and financial institutions	87,388	-	-	87,388
Customers' deposits	586,290	66,401	-	652,691
Due to related parties	17,688	-	-	17,688
Other liabilities	16,999	530	7,651	25,180
Equity			549,963	549,963
Total liabilities and equity	708,365	66,931	557,614	1,332,910
	Less than 3	3 months to		
	months	1 year	Over 1 year	Total
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000
2022 Assets				
Cash and balances with the				
Central Bank of the U.A.E.	471,123	-	39,580	510,703
Due from related parties Deposits and balances due from banks and	134,673	-	-	134,673
financial institutions	131,271	53,328	54,445	239,044
Investment securities	-	-	125,077	125,077
Loans and advances to customers	93,975	10,947	194,630	299,552
Other assets	11,044	444	2,353	13,841
Property and equipment Intangibles	-	-	2,169 327	2,169 327
intangioles			321	321
Total assets	842,086	64,719	418,581	1,325,386
Liabilities and equity				
Due to banks and financial institutions	1,552	-	-	1,552
Customers' deposits	668,366	42,266	-	710,632
Due to related parties	80,761	-	-	80,761
Other liabilities	21,988	213	7,660	29,861
Equity			502,580	502,580
Total liabilities and equity	772,667	42,479	510,240	1,325,386

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

24. Liquidity profile (continued)

(b) The following table details the Branches' contractual maturity for non-derivative financial liabilities. The table below is the undiscounted cash flow of financial liabilities based on the earliest date on which the Branches can be required to pay.

	Weighted average effective interest rates %	Less than 3 months AED'000	3 months to 1 year AED'000	Over 1 year AED'000	Total AED'000
2023					
Financial liabilities					
Due to banks and financial		0= =00			0= =00
institutions	4.73	87,799 597,531	-	-	87,799
Customers' deposits	0.72 0.34	587,521	67,675	-	655,196
Due to related parties Other liabilities*	0.34	17,765 16,181	180	7,651	17,765 24,012
Other habilities	-			7,031	24,012
Total		709,266	67,855	7,651	784,772
2022					
Financial liabilities					
Due to banks and financial institutions	0.0	1,552	-	-	1,552
Customers' deposits	0.22	668,791	42,364	-	711,155
Due to related parties	0.22	80,802	-	-	80,802
Other liabilities*	-	21,687	191	7,660	29,538
Total		772,832	42,555	7,660	823,047

^{*}for the purpose of this disclosure, customers related payables were deducted from other liabilities and added within customers' deposits.

25. Fair value of financial instruments

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, regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique. In estimating the fair value of an asset or a liability, the Branches take into account the characteristics of the asset or liability if market participants would take those characteristics into account when pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date.

In addition, for financial reporting purposes, fair value measurements are categorised into Level 1, 2 or 3 based on the degree to which the inputs to the fair value measurements are observable and the significance of the inputs to the fair value measurement in its entirety, which are described as follows:

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date;
- Level 2 inputs are inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Valuation techniques and assumptions applied for the purposes of measuring fair value. The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are determined as follows.

- The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities with standard terms and conditions and traded on active liquid markets are determined with reference to quoted market prices; and
- The fair values of other financial assets and financial liabilities are determined in accordance with generally
 accepted pricing models based on discounted cash flow analysis using prices from observable current market
 transactions and dealer quotes for similar instruments.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

25. Fair value of financial instruments (continued)

Fair value of the Branches' financial assets that are measured at amortised cost on recurring basis

Some of the Branches' financial assets are measured at amortised cost at the end of the reporting period. Except as detailed in the following table, the management considers that the carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities recognised in the financial statements approximate their fair values.

		Fair value					
2023	Carrying amount AED'000	Level 1 AED'000	Level 2 AED'000	Level 3 AED'000	Total AED'000		
Financial assets							
Investment at amortized cost	57,894	67,568	-	-	67,568		
Investment at FVOCI	70,879	70,879	-	-	70,879		
Derivative financial instruments (FVPL)	2,534	2,534	-	-	2,534		
			Fair	· value			
	Carrying amount AED'000	Level 1 AED'000	Level 2 AED'000	Level 3 AED'000	Total AED'000		
2022 Financial assets							
Investment at amortized cost	54,320	49,283	-	-	49,283		
Investment at FVOCI	70,757	70,757	-	-	70,757		
Derivative financial instruments (FVPL)	4,401	4,401	-		4,401		
Movement of level three financial ass	ets:						
				2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000		
Exposure at 1 January Proceeds from sale of investments ECL stage 3				- - -	(2,043) 2,043		
Exposure at 31 December			_ 		-		

26. Capital management

The Branches' lead regulator, the Central Bank of the U.A.E., sets and monitors regulatory capital requirements.

The Branches' objectives when managing capital are:

- To safeguard the Branches' ability to continue as a going concern and to increase returns for shareholders; and
- To comply with regulatory capital requirements set by the Central Bank of the U.A.E.

In implementing current capital requirements, the Branches calculates its capital adequacy ratio in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Bank of the U.A.E. that essentially prescribe that this is a ratio of capital to risk weighted assets.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

26. Capital management (continued)

Regulatory capital

The Central Bank of U.A.E. sets and monitors capital requirements for the Branches as a whole.

Effective from 2018, the capital is computed using the Basel III framework of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision ('Basel Committee'), after applying the amendments advised by the Central Bank of U.A.E., within national discretion. The Basel III framework, is structured around three 'pillars': minimum capital requirements, supervisory review process and market discipline.

Minimum Capital Requirements

The Central Bank of U.A.E. issued Basel III capital regulations, which came into effect from 1 February 2018 introducing minimum capital requirements at three levels, namely Common Equity Tier 1 ('CET1'), Additional Tier 1 ('AT1') and Total Capital.

Additional capital buffers (Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) and Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CcyB) – maximum up to 2.5% for each buffer) introduced over and above the minimum CET1 requirement of 7%.

The Branches' capital base is divided into three main categories, namely CET1, AT1 and Tier 2 ('T2'), depending on their characteristics.

- CET1 capital is the highest quality form of capital, comprising share capital, share premium, legal, statutory
 and other reserves, retained earnings, after deductions for intangibles and other regulatory adjustments relating
 to items that are included in equity but are treated differently for capital adequacy purposes under 'CBUAE'
 guidelines.
- AT 1 capital comprises eligible non-common equity capital instruments.
- T2 capital comprises collective impairment allowance.

Various limits are applied to elements of the capital base:

- Tier 2 capital cannot exceed 67% of tier 1 capital;
- Tier 1 capital must be a minimum of 7% of risk weighted assets; and
- Qualifying subordinated capital cannot exceed 50% of tier 1 capital.

The Branches assets are risk weighted as to their relative credit, market, and operational risk. Credit risk includes both on and off-balance sheet risks. Market risk is defined as the risk of losses in on and off-balance sheet positions arising from movements in market prices and includes interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, equity exposure risk, and commodity risk. Operational risk is defined as the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people or systems, or from external events.

Capital adequacy and the use of regulatory capital are monitored on a regular basis by the Branch's management, employing techniques based on the guidelines developed by the Basel Committee and the Central Bank of U.A.E.

No changes have been made to the objectives, policies and processes from the previous year. However, they are under constant review by the management. During the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022, the Branches complied in full with all its externally imposed capital requirements.

During the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022, all banks operating in the U.A.E. were required to maintain a capital adequacy ratio at 12.375% and 11.75% inclusive of capital conservation buffer respectively. The Branches are computing and reporting Basel III ratios in accordance with guidelines of the Central Bank of U.A.E.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

26. Capital management (continued)

Regulatory capital (continued)

Minimum Capital Requirements (continued)

The Branches' regulatory capital position is as follows:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Tier 1 capital		
Assigned capital	375,000	375,000
Statutory reserve	64,226	59,311
Retained earnings	110,901	66,663
Less: Regulatory adjustments	(1,949)	396
Total	548,178	501,370
Tier 2 capital		
Eligible stage 1 and stage 2 provision (max 1.25% of CRWA under standardised approach)	7,934	6,917
Total capital base	556,112	508,287
Risk-weighted assets		
Credit risk	634,748	553,394
Market risk	495	3,640
Operational risk	114,125	90,778
Total risk-weighted assets	749,368	647,812
Capital adequacy ratio	74.21%	78.46%
CET 1 Ratio	73.15%	77.39%

Capital allocation

The allocation of capital between specific operations and activities is, to a large extent, driven by optimisation of the return achieved on the capital allocated. The amount of capital allocated to each operation or activity is based on the inherent risk it carries. The process of allocating capital to specific operations and activities is undertaken independently of those responsible for the operation.

Although maximisation of the return on risk-adjusted capital is the principal basis used in determining how capital is allocated within the Branches to particular operations or activities, it is not the sole basis used for decision making. Account also is taken of synergies with other operations and activities, the availability of management and other resources, and the fit of the activity with the Branches' longer term strategic objectives. The Branches' policies in respect of capital management and allocation are reviewed regularly.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management

The Branches have set up a strong risk management infrastructure supported by adoption of certain practices in the field of risk management to manage and monitor the following major risks arising out of its day to day operations:

- Credit risk
- Liquidity risk
- Market risk
- Interest rate risk
- Operational risk

Risk management framework

The Head Office of the Branches has overall responsibility for the oversight of the risk management framework. It has established detailed policies and procedures in this regard along with senior management committees to ensure adherence to the approved policies and close monitoring of different risks within the Branches.

The Credit, Risk and Management Committees work under the mandate of the Head Office to set up risk limits and manage the overall risk in the Branches.

These committees are responsible for developing risk policies in line with the Branches' appetite. Highly experienced and trained managers have delegated authority within the risk management framework to approve credit risk transactions and monitor market and operational risk.

Credit risk management

Policies relating to credit are reviewed and approved by the Branches' Risk Committee. All credit lines are approved centrally for the Branches. Loans in general, are secured by acceptable forms of collateral in order to mitigate credit risk. The Branches further limit risk through diversification of its assets by industry sectors.

All credit facilities are administered and monitored by the Credit Administration Department. Periodic reviews are conducted by Credit Examination teams from the Audit, Review and Compliance and obligors are risk graded based on criterion established in the Credit Policy Manual.

The Credit Committees are responsible for setting credit policy of the Branches. It also establishes industry caps, approves policy exceptions and conducts periodic portfolio reviews to ascertain portfolio quality.

Different credit underwriting procedures are followed for retail and commercial lending as described below.

Retail lending

Each retail credit application is considered for approval according to a product program, which is devised in accordance with guidelines set out in the product policy approved by the Branches' Credit Committee. Different authority levels are specified for approving product programs and exceptions thereto, and individual loans/credits under product programs. Each product program contains detailed credit criteria (such as customer demographics and income eligibility) and regulatory, compliance and documentation requirements, as well as other operating requirements.

Commercial lending

All credit applications for commercial lending are subject to the Branches' credit policies, underwriting standards and industry caps (if any) and to regulatory requirements, as applicable from time to time. The Branches do not lend to companies operating in industries that are considered by the Branches inherently risky and where specialized industry knowledge is required. In addition, the Branches set credit limits for all customers based on an evaluation of their creditworthiness.

All credit lines or facilities extended by the Branches are made subject to prior approval pursuant to a set of delegated credit authority limits approved by the Branches' Head Office.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Credit review procedures and loan classification

The Branches' Credit Risk Team (the 'CRT'), subjects the Branches' risk assets to an independent quality evaluation on a regular basis in conformity with the guidelines of the Central Bank of the U.A.E. and Branches' internal policies in order to assist in the early identification of accrual and potential performance problems. The CRT validates the risk ratings of all commercial clients, provides an assessment of portfolio risk by product and segment for retail customers and monitors observance of all approved credit policies, guidelines and operating procedures across the Branches.

If a credit is overdue for 90 days or more, interest is suspended and is not credited to income. Specific allowance for impairment of classified assets is made based on recoverability of outstanding and risk ratings of the assets.

The Branches also comply with IFRSs, in accordance with which it assesses the need for any impairment losses on its loan portfolio by calculating the net present value of the expected future cash flows for each loan or its recoverability based either on collateral value or the market value of the asset where such price is available.

Impaired loans and advances

Impaired loans and advances are loans and advances for which the Branches determine that it is probable that it will be unable to collect all principal and interest due according to the contractual terms of the loan/advances agreement(s). These loans are graded fair, OLEM, substandard, doubtful or loss in the Branches' internal credit risk grading system.

Past due but not impaired loans

Loans and advances where contractual interest or principal payments are past due but the Branches believe that impairment is not appropriate on the basis of the level of security/collateral available and/or the stage of collection of amounts owed to the Branches.

Allowances for impairment

The Branches establish an allowance for impairment losses that represents its estimate of incurred losses in its loan portfolio. The main components of this allowance are a specific loss component that relates to individually significant exposures, and a collective loan loss allowance established for Branches of homogeneous assets in respect of losses that have been incurred but have not been identified on loans subject to individual assessment for impairment.

Write-off policy

The Branches write off a loan (and any related allowances for impairment losses) when Branches' Credit Committee determines that the loan is uncollectible in whole or in part. This determination is reached after all avenues for recovery have failed. For smaller balance standardised loans, charge off decisions generally are based on a product specific past due status.

Inputs, assumptions and techniques used for estimating impairment

Significant increase in credit risk

When determining whether the risk of default on a financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition, the Branches considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis including internal credit risk grading system, external risk ratings, where available, delinquency status of accounts, credit judgement and, where possible, relevant historical experience. The Branches may also determine that an exposure has undergone a significant increase in credit risk based on particular qualitative indicators that it considers are indicative of such and whose effect may not otherwise be fully reflected in its quantitative analysis on a timely basis.

In determining whether credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition following criteria are considered:

- i) Two notches downgrade for ratings from Aaa to Baa or one notch downgrade for ratings from Ba to Caa;
- ii) Facilities restructured during previous twelve months;
- iii) Actual or expected significant adverse changes in business, financial or economic conditions that are expected to cause a significant change to the customer's ability to meet its obligations;
- iv) Actual or expected significant changes in the operating results of the customer;
- v) Significant changes in the expected performance and behaviour of the customer, including changes in the payment status of customers in the group and changes in the operating results of the customer.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Credit risk grades

Credit risk grades are defined using qualitative and quantitative factors that are indicative of risk of default. These factors vary depending on the nature of the exposure and the type of borrower. Exposures are subject to on-going monitoring, which may result in an exposure being moved to a different credit risk grade.

Generating the term structure of Probability of Default (PD)

The Branches employs statistical models to analyse the data collected and generate estimates of PD of exposures and how these are expected to change as a result of the passage of time. This analysis includes the identification and calibration of relationships between changes in default rates and changes in key macro-economic factors, across various geographies in which the Branches has exposures.

Renegotiated financial assets

The contractual terms of a loan may be modified for a number of reasons, including changing market conditions, customer retention and other factors not related to a current or potential credit deterioration of the customer. An existing loan whose terms have been modified may be derecognised and the renegotiated loan recognised as a new loan at fair value. Where possible, the Branches seeks to restructure loans rather than to take possession of collateral, if available. This may involve extending the payment arrangements and documenting the agreement of new loan conditions. Management continuously reviews renegotiated loans to ensure that all criteria are met and that future payments are likely to occur. The accounts which are restructured due to credit reasons in past 12 months will be classified under Stage 2.

Definition of default

The Branches considers a financial asset to be in default when:

- the borrower is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Branches in full, without recourse by the Branches to actions such as realizing security (if any is held); or
- the borrower is past due more than 90 days on any material credit obligation to the Branches; or
- the borrower is rated 9 or 10.

In assessing whether a borrower is in default, the Branches also considers indicators that are:

- quantitative e.g. overdue status and non-payment on another obligation of the same issuer to the Branches; and
- based on data developed internally and obtained from external sources.

Inputs into the assessment of whether a financial instrument is in default and their significance may vary over time to reflect changes in circumstances. The definition of default largely aligns with that applied by the Branches for regulatory capital purposes.

Incorporating forward looking information increases the level of judgement as to how changes in these macroeconomic factors will affect the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) applicable to the stage 1 and stage 2 exposures which are considered as performing. The methodologies and assumptions involved, including any forecasts of future economic conditions, are reviewed periodically

Forward-looking information incorporated in the ECL models

The assessment of SICR and the calculation of ECL both incorporate forward-looking information. The Branches has performed historical analysis and identified the key economic variables impacting credit risk and expected credit losses for each portfolio.

The Branches employs statistical models to incorporate macro-economic factors on historical default rates. In the case that none of the macro-economic parameters are statistically significant or the results of forecasted PDs are too deviated from the present forecast of the economic conditions, qualitative PD overlay is used by management based on portfolio analysis.

Incorporating forward looking information increases the level of judgement as to how changes in these macroeconomic factors will affect the ECL applicable to the stage 1 and stage 2 exposures. The methodologies and assumptions involved, including any forecasts of future economic conditions, are reviewed periodically.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Forward-looking information incorporated in the ECL models (continued)

These economic variables and their associated impact on the PD, EAD and LGD vary by financial instrument. Expert judgment has also been applied in this process. Forecasts of these economic variables (the "base economic scenario") are based on available information and include mean reversion approaches for long-term forecasts. The impact of these economic variables on the PD, EAD and LGD has been determined by performing statistical regression analysis to understand the impact changes in these variables have had historically on default rates and on the components of LGD and EAD.

In addition to the base economic scenario, other possible scenarios are assessed along with scenario weightings. The number of other scenarios used is set based on the analysis of each major product type to ensure non-linearities are captured. At 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, the Branches concluded that three scenarios appropriately captured non-linearities for all portfolios. The scenario weightings are determined by a combination of statistical analysis and expert credit judgement, taking account of the range of possible outcomes each chosen scenario is representative of. The assessment of SICR is performed using the Lifetime PD under each of the base, and the other scenarios, multiplied by the associated scenario weighting, along with qualitative and backstop indicators. This determines whether the whole financial instrument is in Stage 1, Stage 2, or Stage 3 and hence whether 12-month or lifetime ECL should be recorded. Following this assessment, the Branches measures ECL as either a probability weighted 12 month ECL (Stage 1), or a probability weighted lifetime ECL (Stages 2 and 3).

These probability-weighted ECLs are determined by running each scenario through the relevant ECL model and multiplying it by the appropriate scenario weighting (as opposed to weighting the inputs).

As with any economic forecasts, the projections and likelihoods of occurrence are subject to a high degree of inherent uncertainty and therefore the actual outcomes may be significantly different to those projected. The Branches considers these forecasts to represent its best estimate of the possible outcomes.

Economic variable assumptions

The most significant period-end assumption used for the ECL estimate as at 31 December 2023 is the gross domestic product, given the high level of correlation between this and other economic indicators. The scenarios "base", "upside" and "downside" were used for all portfolios.

Macroeconomic variables - 2023	Scenario	Assigned probabilities	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	Base case	65.0%	3.5	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.3
Gross domestic product, constant prices (% change)	Upside	11.2%	5.5	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.3
prices (% change)	Downside	23.8%	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.6
	Base case	65.0%	33.0	32.0	31.2	30.7	30.3	30.1
General government revenue (% of GDP)	Upside	11.2%	abilities 2023 2024 2025 2026 5.0% 3.5 3.9 4.0 4.2 1.2% 5.5 5.8 6.0 6.2 3.8% 1.5 1.9 2.1 2.3 5.0% 33.0 32.0 31.2 30.7 1.2% 36.9 36.0 35.1 34.5 3.8% 29.0 28.2 27.4 26.8 5.0% 7.1 7.0 6.8 6.7 1.2% 12.3 12.0 11.6 11.3	34.0	33.7			
revenue (% or GDF)	Downside	23.8%	29.0	28.2	27.4	26.8	26.5	26.2
	Base case	65.0%	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.5
Current account balance (% of GDP)	Upside	11.2%	12.3	12.0	11.6	11.3	11.0	10.8
balance (70 of GDF)	Downside	23.8%	1.9	1.5	1.0	0 4.2 0 6.2 1 2.3 .2 30.7 .1 34.5 .4 26.8 8 6.7 .6 11.3	0.3	0.2

The weightings assigned to each economic scenario at 31 December 2023 were as follows:

	Base	Upside	Downside
All portfolios	65%	11.2%	23.8%

Other forward-looking considerations not otherwise incorporated within the above scenarios, such as the impact of any regulatory, legislative or political changes, have also been considered, but are not deemed to have a material impact and therefore no adjustment has been made to the ECL for such factors. This is reviewed and monitored for appropriateness on a quarterly basis.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Derivatives

The positive / negative fair values of derivative financial instruments, entered into by the Branches, at the reporting date are as below:

	31 December 2023			31 December 2022		
Derivatives	Positive fair value AED'000	Negative fair value AED'000	Net AED'000	Positive fair value AED'000	Negative fair value AED'000	Net AED'000
Forward foreign exchange contracts	-	-	-	_	-	-
Interest rate swaps	2,534	-	2,534	4,401	-	4,401
Total	2,534	-	2,534	4,401	-	4,401

Notional amounts of derivative financial instruments amounted to AED 73.5 million as at 31 December 2023 (2022: AED 73.5 million).

Foreign exchange contracts are used to hedge mismatches between loans and deposits denominated in different currencies.

Measurement of ECL

The key inputs into the measurement of ECL are the term structure of the following variables:

- probability of default (PD);
- loss given default (LGD);
- exposure at default (EAD).

These parameters are generally derived from internally developed statistical models and other historical data. They are adjusted to reflect forward-looking information as described above.

PD estimates are estimates at a certain date, which are calculated based on statistical rating models. These statistical models are primarily based on internally compiled data comprising both quantitative and qualitative factors and are supplemented by external credit assessment data where available.

LGD is the magnitude of the likely loss if there is a default. The Branches estimates LGD parameters based on a consistent rate for unsecured facilities and considers the impact of collateral for secured facilities.

Credit quality

Pursuant to the adoption of IFRS 9, the Branches has mapped its internal credit rating scale to Moody's rating scale, the table below provides an analysis of counterparties by rating grades and credit quality of the Branches' credit risk, based on Moody's ratings (or their equivalent) as at 31 December 2023. The following table sets out information about the credit quality of financial assets, commitments and financial guarantees.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Credit quality (continued)

Creau quany (commueu)				2023	2022
	Stage 1 AED'000	Stage 2 AED'000	Stage 3 AED'000	Total AED'000	Total AED'000
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of the U.A.E (excluding cash on hand) and due from related parties and deposit and balances due from banks and financial institutions					
AAA to AA-	443,419	-	-	443,419	582,501
A+ to A-	87,941	-	-	87,941	7,060
BBB to BBB-	49,579	-	-	49,579	49,579
BB+ to B-	54,889	18,363	-	73,252	107,820
Unrated*	108,564	127		108,691	135,642
Total	744,392	18,490	-	762,882	882,602
Expected credit losses – IFRS 9	(1,846)	(407)	-	(2,253)	(4,206)
Carrying amount	742,546	18,083	-	760,629	878,396
*Externally unrated are internally rated	Stage 1 AED'000	Stage 2 AED'000	Stage 3 AED'000	2023 Total AED'000	2022 Total AED'000
Loans and advances to customers					
AAA to AA-	-	-	-	-	-
A+ to A-	-	-	-	-	-
BBB to BBB-	-	-	-	-	-
BB+ to B-	138,623	-	-	138,623	-
Unrated*	108,469	188,438	31,318	328,225	349,574
Total	247,092	188,438	31,318	466,848	349,574
Expected credit losses – IFRS 9	(2,358)	(14,265)	(31,318)	(47,941)	(50,022)
Carrying amount	244,734	174,173		418,907	299,552
-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				-

^{*}Externally unrated are internally rated by the Bank

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Credit quality (continued)

	Stage 1 AED'000	Stage 2 AED'000	Stage 3 AED'000	2023 Total AED'000	2022 Total AED'000
Investment securities					
AAA to AA-	18,344	-	-	18,344	-
A+ to A-	70,879	-	-	70,879	70,757
BBB to BBB-	-	-	-	-	-
BB+ to B-	18,363	-	-	18,363	54,478
Unrated*		36,244	223	36,467	
Total	107,586	36,244	223	144,053	125,235
Expected credit losses – IFRS 9	(192)	(14,865)	(223)	(15,280)	(158)
Carrying amount	107,394	21,379	-	128,773	125,077
*Externally unrated are internally rate	ed by the Bank Stage 1 AED'000	Stage 2 AED'000	Stage 3 AED'000	2023 Total AED'000	2022 Total AED'000
Financial commitments and					
guarantees AAA to AA-					
A+ to A-	_	-	-	_	_
BBB to BBB-	_	_	_	_	_
BB+ to B-	_	_	_	_	_
Unrated*	185,988	85,274	2,653	273,915	302,935
Total	185,988	85,274	2,653	273,915	302,935
Expected credit losses – IFRS 9	(545)	(317)	(1,779)	(2,641)	(1,834)
Carrying amount	185,443	84,957	874	271,274	301,101

^{*}Externally unrated are internally rated by the Bank

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Credit quality (continued)

Set out below is an analysis of the gross and net (of allowances for impairment) amounts of impaired assets by risk grade.

	Due from banks and		Loans and		Investment		
	financial i			customers		ities	
	2023 AED'000	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	
Impaired							
Doubtful	-	-	7,191	-		-	
Loss	-	-	24,127	35,947	223	-	
Gross amount			31,318	35,947	223		
Interest suspended	-	-	(10,955)	(7,193)		-	
Specific allowance for impairment	-	-	(20,363)	(28,754)	(223)	-	
ппрантиен							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Past due but not impaired							
Past due loans less than 30 days		_	2,116	384			
	-	-	2,116	384	-	-	
Neither past due nor impaired							
Gross amount	210,856	243,250	433,414	313,243	143,830	125,235	
IFRS 9 allowance for impairment	(2,253)	(4,206)	(16,623)	(14,075)	(15,057)	(158)	
	208,603	239,044	416,791	299,168	128,773	125,077	
Carrying amount	208,603	239,044	418,907	299,552	128,773	125,077	

Credit risk exposure of the Branches' Loans and Islamic financing receivables as per the internal and external risk grade is as follows:

	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Normal OLEM	416,817 18,713	294,537 19,090
Substandard Doubtful	7,191	2 10,509
Loss	466,848	25,436 349,574

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Credit quality (continued)

The Branches hold collateral against loans and advances to customers in the form of mortgage interests over property, other registered securities over assets, and guarantees. Estimates of fair value are based on the value of collateral assessed at the time of borrowing, and value of collaterals are monitored periodically as per the policy of Bank and as and when a loan is individually assessed as impaired. Collateral generally is not held over amounts due from banks and financial institutions. Collateral usually is not held against investment securities, and no such collateral was held at 31 December 2023 or 2022.

At 31 December, the fair value of collateral held was as follows:

Loans and advances to customers

31-December-2023				31-Decem	ber-2022			
	Stage 1 AED'000	Stage 2 AED'000	Stage 3 AED'000	Total AED'000	Stage 1 AED'000	Stage 2 AED'000	Stage 3 AED'000	Total AED'000
Property	180,637	326,875	16,038	523,550	185,192	320,416	25,817	531,425
Cash	5,964	1,007	-	6,971	7,040	8,513	-	15,553
Others	-	-	-	-	57,000	54,555	-	111,555
Total	186,601	327,882	16,038	530,521	249,232	383,484	25,817	658,533

The Branch's internal credit rating grades for the year ended 31 December 2023:

ECL staging	External rating description	Balances with UAE Central Bank AED'000	Contingencies and commitments* AED'000	Due from banks AED'000	Loans and advances AED'000	Investment securities AED'000	Due from related parties AED'000	Total AED'000
Stage 1	AAA to B- or B3	443,419	185,988	192,366	247,092	107,586	108,607	1,285,058
Stage 2	Caal or CCC+ to CCC-	-	85,274	18,490	188,438	36,244	-	328,446
Stage 3	Ca or CC to D	-	2,653	-	31,318	223	-	34,194
Gross a	mount	443,419	273,915	210,856	466,848	144,053	108,607	1,647,698
Less provinterests	visions & in suspense	-	(2,641)	(2,253)	(47,941)	(15,280)	-	(68,115)
Net boo	k value	443,419	271,274	208,603	418,907	128,773	108,607	1,579,583

^{*}Includes the outstanding unutilised facilities as of 31 December 2023 amounted to AED 87 million (2022: AED 87 million).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Credit quality (continued)

The Branch's internal credit rating grades for the year ended 31 December 2022:

ECL staging	External rating description	Balances with UAE Central Bank AED'000	Contingencies and commitments* AED'000	Due from banks AED'000	Loans and advances AED'000	Investment securities AED'000	Due from related parties AED'000	Total AED'000
Stage 1	AAA to B- or B3	504,679	189,730	187,683	114,715	125,235	134,673	1,256,715
Stage 2	Caal or CCC+ to CCC-	-	111,056	55,567	198,912	-	-	365,535
Stage 3	Ca or CC to D	-	2,149	-	35,947	-	-	38,096
Gross ar	nount	504,679	302,935	243,250	349,574	125,235	134,673	1,660,346
Less provinterests i	visions & in suspense	-	(1,834)	(4,206)	(50,022)	(158)	-	(56,220)
Net bool	k value	504,679	301,101	239,044	299,552	125,077	134,673	1,604,126

The following table shows the mapping between the Branches Internal credit rating along with their related External rating used by the Credit Ratings Agencies (CRA's):

ORR	UAE	Moody's	S&P	FITCH
1		Aaa	AAA	AAA
2+		Aa1	AA+	AA+
2		Aa2	AA	AA
2-		Aa3	AA-	AA-
3+		A1	A +	A +
3		A2	A	A
3-		A3	A-	A-
4+	Normal	Baa1	BBB+	BBB+
4	Normai	Baa2	BBB	BBB
4-		Baa3	BBB-	BBB-
5+		Ba1	BB+	BB+
5		Ba2	BB	BB
5-		Ba3	BB-	BB-
6+		B1	B+	B+
6		B2	В	В
6-		В3	В-	В-
		Caa1	CCC+	
7	OLEM	Caa2	CCC	
		Caa3	CCC-	CCC
8	Substandard	Ca	CC	
O	Substanuaru	Ca	C	
9	Doubtful			DDD
7	Doubuui	C	D	DD
10	Loss			D

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Credit quality (continued)

Loans and advances to customer with renegotiated terms

The following table contains an analysis of the credit risk exposure of total restructured loans and advances to customer:

Total restructured portfolio	Stag AED'(As at 31 Do Stage 2 AED'000	ecember 2023 Stage 3 AED'000	Total AED'000
Outstanding balance Allowances for impairment (ECL)		-	185,797 (13,867)	-	185,797 (13,867)
Carrying amount		-	171,930	-	171,930
Total restructured portfolio	Stag AED'(As at 31 De Stage 2 AED'000	ecember 2022 Stage 3 AED'000	Total AED'000
Outstanding balance Allowances for impairment (ECL)		-	189,495 (13,867)	-	189,495 (13,867)
Carrying amount		-	175,628	-	175,628
	As at 31-12-2023			As at 31-12-2022	
Total restructured portfolio during the year	Post- modification AED'000		Pre- ification IED'000	Post- modification AED'000	Pre- modification AED'000
Outstanding balance	168,791		178,425	19,075	19,891
Stage 1 Stage 2	168,791		178,425	19,075	19,891
Stage 3 Allowances for impairment (ECL)	(11,481)		(11,481)	(2,386)	-
Carrying amount	157,310		166,944	16,689	19,891

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Geographical sectors

The following tables break down the Branches' credit risk exposure at their net carrying amounts (without taking into account any collateral held or other credit support), as categorized by geographical region. For this table, the Branches has allocated exposures to regions based on the country of domicile of its counterparties.

	UAE AED'000	Middle East countries AED'000	O.E.C.D AED'000	Other countries AED'000	Impairment allowance AED'000	Total AED'000
At 31 December 2023 Balances with the Central Bank of U.A.E excluding cash	443,419	-	100 122	-	-	443,419
Due from related parties Deposits and balances due from banks and financial institutions	134,743	475 19,111	108,132 20,531	36,471	(2,253)	108,607 208,603
Loans and advances to customers	360,233	59,804	-	46,811	(47,941)	418,907
Investment securities Other assets	89,224 2,163	54,829 2,032	1,005	1,392	(15,280)	128,773 6,592
Total exposure	1,029,782	136,251	129,668	84,674	(65,474)	1,314,901
	UAE AED'000	Middle East countries AED'000	O.E.C.D AED'000	Other countries AED'000	Impairment allowance AED'000	Total AED'000
At 31 December 2022 Balances with the Central Bank of U.A.E excluding cash Due from related parties	504,679	2,650	132,023	-	-	504,679 134,673
Deposits and balances due from banks and financial institutions	118,217	22,051	66,899	36,083	(4,206)	239,044
Loans and advances to customers	289,330	60,244	-	-	(50,022)	299,552
Investment securities Other assets	70,757 1,605	54,478 1,323	344	933	(158)	125,077 4,205
Total exposure	984,588	140,746	199,266	37,016	(54,386)	1,307,230

Concentration of risks of financial assets with credit risk exposure - off balance sheet

Geographical sectors

	UAE AED'000	Middle East countries AED'000	O.E.C.D AED'000	Other countries AED'000	Total AED'000
At 31 December 2023					
Guarantees	177,125	3,000	-	-	180,125
Letters of credit	6,600	-	-	-	6,600
Unutilised credit facilities	78,913	-	-	8,277	87,190
Total exposure	262,638	3,000	-	8,277	273,915

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Concentration of risks of financial assets with credit risk exposure - off balance sheet (continued)

Geographical sectors (continued)

		Middle				
	East			Other		
	$U\!AE$	countries	O.E.C.D	countries	Total	
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	
At 31 December 2022						
Guarantees	206,207	3,000	-	-	209,207	
Letters of credit	6,255	-	-	-	6,255	
Unutilised credit facilities	87,473	-	-	-	87,473	
Total exposure	299,935	3,000	-	-	302,935	

The distributions by geographical concentration of impaired loans and advances and impairment allowance for credit losses are as follows:

	UAE AED'000	Middle East countries AED'000	O.E.C.D AED'000	Other countries AED'000	Total AED'000
2023 Non-performing loans Impairment allowance for credit losses Interest in suspense	29,690 (18,735) (10,955)	1,628 (1,628)	- -	- -	31,318 (20,363) (10,955)
Total exposure	-	-	-	-	-
	UAE AED'000	Middle East countries AED'000	O.E.C.D AED'000	Other countries AED'000	Total AED'000
Non-performing loans Impairment allowance for credit losses Interest in suspense	34,319 (27,126) (7,193)	1,628 (1,628)	- - -	- - -	35,947 (28,754) (7,193)
Total exposure	-	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Concentration of risks of financial assets with credit risk exposure - off balance sheet (continued)

Geographical sectors (continued)

The following table depicts the interest rate sensitivity position and interest rate gap position based on contractual repricing arrangement as at 31 December 2023:

Interest rate sensitivity gap:

	Within 3 months AED'000	From 3 to 6 months AED'000	From 6 to 12 months AED'000	Over 1 year AED'000	Non- interest sensitive AED'000	Total AED'000
Assets Cash and Balances with the Central						
Bank of U.A.E.	390,000	-	-	-	61,704	451,704
Due from related parties	108,132	-	-	-	475	108,607
Deposits and balances due from banks and financial institutions	134,579	18,363	36,471	18,362	828	208,603
Investment securities	70,879	-	-	57,894	-	128,773
Loans and advances to customers	169,570	1,724	5,224	242,389	-	418,907
Other assets	-	-	-	-	12,581	12,581
Property and equipment	-	-	-	-	1,950	1,950
Intangibles	-	-	-	-	1,785	1,785
Total assets	873,160	20,087	41,695	318,645	79,323	1,332,910
Liabilities and Equity						
Due to banks and financial institutions	85,000	-	-	-	2,388	87,388
Customers' deposits	227,850	42,674	23,035	-	359,132	652,691
Due to related parties	12,854	-	-	-	4,834	17,688
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	25,180	25,180
Equity	-	-	-	-	549,963	549,963
Total liabilities and Equity	325,704	42,674	23,035	-	941,497	1,332,910
On balance sheet gap	547,456	(22,587)	18,660	318,645	(862,174)	-
Cumulative interest rate sensitivity gap	547,456	524,869	543,529	862,174	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Credit risk management (continued)

Concentration of risks of financial assets with credit risk exposure - off balance sheet (continued)

Geographical sectors (continued)

The following table depicts the interest rate sensitivity position and interest rate gap position based on contractual repricing arrangement as at 31 December 2022:

	Within 3 months	From 3 to 6 months	From 6 to 12 months	Over 1 year	Non- interest sensitive	Total
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000
Assets Cash and Balances with the Central Bank of U.A.E.	460,000	-	-	-	50,703	510,703
Due from related parties	128,389	-	-	-	6,284	134,673
Deposits and balances due from banks and financial institutions	117,520	18,363	34,965	54,445	13,751	239,044
Investment securities	70,757	-	-	54,320	-	125,077
Loans and advances to customers	176,768	2,464	12,927	107,393	-	299,552
Other assets Property and equipment Intangibles	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	13,841 2,169 327	13,841 2,169 327
Total assets	953,434	20,827	47,892	216,158	87,075	1,325,386
Liabilities and Equity Due to banks and financial					1,552	1,552
institutions	-	-	-	-		
Customers' deposits	205,085	14,421	27,148	_	463,978	710,632
Due to related parties Other liabilities	67,941	-	-	-	12,820 29,861	80,761 29,861
Equity	-	-	-	-	502,580	502,580
Total liabilities and Equity	273,026	14,421	27,148	-	1,010,791	1,325,386
On balance sheet gap	680,408	6,406	20,744	216,158	(923,716)	-
Cumulative interest rate sensitivity gap	680,408	686,814	707,558	923,716	-	-

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Branches will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations from its financial liabilities at a point of time.

Management of liquidity risk

The Branches' approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Branches' reputation.

Treasury receives information from other business units regarding the liquidity profile of their financial assets and liabilities and details of other projected cash flows arising from projected future business. Treasury then maintains a portfolio of short-term liquid assets, largely made up of loans and advances to banks and other inter-bank facilities, to ensure that sufficient liquidity is maintained within the Branches.

The daily liquidity position is monitored regularly and liquidity stress testing is conducted covering both normal and more severe market conditions. Liquidity policies and procedures are subject to review and approval by Head Office. Reports of the Branches liquidity positions are reviewed daily. A summary report including any exceptions and remedial action taken is also reviewed daily.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Liquidity risk (continued)

Management of liquidity risk (continued)

The Central bank of U.A.E. through its circular no. 33/2015 dated 27 May 2015 announced new Regulations regarding Liquidity at Banks followed by a Guidance Manual. The above mentioned regulations introduced a new Liquidity ratio called Eligible Liquid Assets ratio ("ELAR") applicable from 1 July 2015.

The key measure used by the Branches for managing liquidity risk is the ratio of net liquid assets to deposits from customers. For this purpose net liquid assets are considered as including cash and cash equivalents and investment grade debt securities for which there is an active and liquid market less any deposits from banks, other borrowings and commitments maturing within the next month. A similar, but not identical, calculation is used to measure the Branches' compliance with the liquidity limit established by the Branches' lead regulator. The other indicators closely monitored on regular basis are Advances to Deposit Ratio, Utilization of funds to stable resources and stress testing of liquid funds against unexpected withdrawal of liabilities and the recently implemented ELAR.

Market risk management

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the financial instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market variables such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, and equity prices. The Branches classify exposures to market risk into either trading or non-trading or banking-book.

The Branches carry a limited amount of market risk as a policy preference and it is continuously monitored. Foreign exchange for the account of the Branches is managed properly.

Market risk - Non Trading or Banking Book

Market risk on non-trading or banking positions mainly arises from the interest rate and foreign currency exposures.

i) Interest rate risk management

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect the value of financial instruments. The Branches are exposed to interest rate risk as a result of mismatches or gaps in the amounts of assets and liabilities.

The Branches use monitoring tools to periodically measure and monitor interest rate sensitivity. The results are analysed and monitored by Local Management Committee. Since a portion of the Branches' assets and liabilities have floating rates, deposits and loans generally repriced simultaneously providing a natural hedge, which reduces interest rate exposure. Moreover, the majority of the Branches' assets and liabilities are repriced within one year, thereby further limiting interest rate risk. The following paragraphs depicts the sensitivity to a reasonable possible change in interest rates, with other variables held constant, on the Branches' statement of profit or loss or Equity. The sensitivity of the income is the effect of the assumed changes in interest rates on the net interest income for one year, based on the floating rate non-trading financial assets and financial liabilities held as at 31 December 2023, including the effect of hedging instruments. The sensitivity of equity is analysed by maturity of the asset or swap. All the banking book exposures are monitored and analysed in currency concentrations and relevant sensitivities are disclosed in AED million.

The impact of 1% sudden movement in benchmark interest rate on net income over a 12 months period as at 31 December 2023 would have been a decrease in net income by -10.46% (in case of decrease of interest rate) and would have been an increase in net income by +10.46% (in case of increase of interest rate) [2022: -31.30% and +31.30%] respectively.

The effective interest rate on bank placements, financial institutions, investments and certificates of deposits with the Central Bank of the U.A.E. was 5.35% (2022: 2.30%), on loans and advances was 8.05% (2022: 5.50%), on customer deposits was 0.72% (2022: 0.22%) and on bank borrowings was 0.58% (2022: 0.22%).

IBOR reforms

Interest rate benchmark reform:

A fundamental reform of major interest rate benchmarks is being undertaken globally to replace or reform IBOR with alternative risk-free rates (referred to as 'IBOR reform'). The Branches has exposure to interbank offered rates (IBORs) on its financial instruments that will be replaced or reformed as part of this market-wide initiative. AS part of Interest rate initiative reform, the Bank has transitioned to Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) rates under supervision of ALCCO and Treasury/Central Operations department.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Market risk management (continued)

i) Interest rate risk management (continued)

Financial assets:

The Branch's IBOR exposures on floating-rate Loans and Islamic financing receivables loans and advances are covered in the following table:

Currency	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
USD AED	282,699 291,504	183,625
	574,203	183,625

The IBOR Committee is in the process of establishing policies for amending the interbank offered rates on its existing floating-rate loan portfolio indexed to IBORs that will be replaced as part of the IBOR reform. The Branch expects that retail products will be amended in a uniform way. However, the Branch expects to participate in bilateral negotiations with the counterparties in its bespoke products, such as loans and advances issued to corporates. The Head office began amending the contractual terms of its existing floating-rate assets; however, the exact timing to complete the amendment will vary depending on the extent to which standardized language can be applied across certain loan types and the extent of bilateral negotiations between the Branches and loan counterparties.

ii) Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk of change in the value of financial instruments due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The Head Office has set limits on positions by currencies, which are monitored daily, and hedging strategies are also used to ensure that positions are maintained within the limits.

The Branches' assets are typically funded in the same currency as that of the business transacted in order to eliminate foreign exchange exposure. The Branches manage exposure to the effects of fluctuations in prevailing foreign currency exchange rates on its financial position and cash flows. The Branches' Head Office sets limits on the level of exposure by currency and in total for both overnight and intra-day positions, which are monitored daily. At the end of the year, the Branches had the following significant net exposures denominated in foreign currencies:

	Net spot position AED'000	Forward position AED'000	Total 2023 AED'000	Total 2022 AED'000
Australian Dollars	12	-	12	4
Bahraini Dinars	18	-	18	
Canadian Dollars	6	-	6	4
Swiss Francs	22	-	22	8
Euro	47	-	47	-
Sterling Pounds	1	-	1	5
Jordanian Dinars	15	-	15	9
Kuwaiti Dinars	82	-	82	-
Omani Riyals	37	-	37	46
Qatari Riyals	92	-	92	2,267
Saoudi Riyals	163		163	1,297
Total	495	-	495	3,640

The exchange rate of AED against US Dollar is pegged since November 1980 and the Branches' exposure to currency risk is limited to that extent.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

27. Risk management (continued)

Operational risk

The Branches manage and undertake to minimise operational losses as follows:

Identify and assess the operational risk inherent in all material products, activities, processes and systems, and ensure that before new products, activities, processes and systems are introduced or undertaken, the inherent operational risk in them is subject to adequate assessment procedures.

Implement a process to monitor operational risk profiles and material exposures to losses on a regular basis.

Establish and implement policies, processes and procedures to mitigate and/or control material operational risks. Periodically review organisational risk limitation and control strategy and adjust its operational risk profile using appropriate strategies in the context of the Branches' overall risk appetite and profile.

Ensure contingency and business continuity plans are in place to ensure the Branches' ability to operate on an ongoing basis and to limit losses in the event of severe business interruption, disruption or loss.

Climate related matters

The Branches and their customers may face significant climate-related risks in the future. These risks include the threat of financial loss and adverse non-financial impacts that encompass the political, economic and environmental responses to climate change. The key sources of climate risks have been identified as physical and transition risks. Physical risks arise as the result of acute weather events such as hurricanes, floods and wildfires, and longer-term shifts in climate patterns, such as sustained higher temperatures, heat waves, droughts and rising sea levels and risks. Transition risks may arise from the adjustments to a net-zero economy, e.g., changes to laws and regulations, litigation due to failure to mitigate or adapt, and shifts in supply and demand for certain commodities, products and services due to changes in consumer behaviour and investor demand. These risks are receiving increasing regulatory, political and societal scrutiny, both within the country and internationally. While certain physical risks may be predictable, there are significant uncertainties as to the extent and timing of their manifestation. For transition risks, uncertainties remain as to the impacts of the impending regulatory and policy shifts, changes in consumer demands and supply chains.

The Branches are in the process of embedding climate risk in their risk framework, including the development of a comprehensive sustainable finance and climate risk framework. The Board Risk Committee of the Ultimate Parent Company is responsible for the oversight over management of climate risk. In addition, the Branches will start assessing their model landscape to incorporate climate-related risks and their impact on borrower's credit risk. The Branches will also make significant progress in building the knowledge and capacity of their workforce in matters relating to climate-related risk. Despite the progress, the Branches acknowledge the need for further efforts to fully integrate climate in the Branches' risk assessments and management protocols.

Therefore, the impact of this matter remains uncertain and depends on future developments that cannot be accurately predicted at this stage, and a reliable estimate of such an impact cannot be made at the date of authorisation of these financial statements. Notwithstanding, these developments could impact the Branches' future financial results, cash flows and financial position.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 December 2023

28. Contingent liabilities and commitments

a) Contingent liabilities

a) Comingent infomices	2023 AED'000	2022 AED'000
Guarantees	180,125	209,207
Stage 1	112,041	132,999
Stage 2	65,431	74,059
Stage 3	2,653	2,149
Letters of credit	6,600	6,255
Stage 1	6,600	6,255
Stage 2	· •	-
Stage 3	-	-
Unutilised credit facilities	87,190	87,473
Stage 1	67,347	50,476
Stage 2	19,843	36,997
Stage 3		-
	273,915	302,935

The outstanding unutilized facilities as of 31 December 2023 amounted to AED 87 million (2022: AED 87 million), The outstanding unused portion of commitments can be revoked unilaterally at any time by the Branches provided there are reasonable grounds as per contract terms.

b) Contingent liabilities - maturity profile

The maturity profile of the Branches' contingent liabilities was as follows:

	Within 3 months AED'000	From 3 to 6 months AED'000	From 6 to 12 months AED'000	Over 1 year AED'000	Total AED'000
2023 Guarantees Letters of credit Unutilised credit facilities	139,363 4,308 24,083	11,273 2,292 22,583	24,234 - 32,247	5,255 - 8,277	180,125 6,600 87,190
	167,754	36,148	56,481	13,532	273,915
		From	From		
	Within	3 to 6	6 to 12	Over	
	3 months	months	months	1 year	Total
	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000	AED'000
2022	15.050	24.502	21.11.5	5 .02 5	200 205
Guarantees	156,353	24,702	21,115	7,037	209,207
Letters of credit	2,807	3,448	-	-	6,255
Unutilised credit facilities	47,247	23,060	17,166	-	87,473
	206,407	51,210	38281	7,037	302,935

The analysis of commitments and contingencies by industry sector is shown in Note 27.

29. Legal proceedings

Litigation is a common occurrence in the banking industry due to the nature of the business undertaken. The Branches have been advised by their legal counsel that it is only possible, but not probable, that the action will succeed. Accordingly, no provision for any liability has been made in these financial statements.