

Vol. 73 | December 2023

STATISTICAL

BULLETIN



STATISTICAL BULLETIN - Q4 2023

This is the seventy third volume of the BVI Financial Services Commission's Quarterly Statistical Bulletin. It provides important statistics, information and analysis on financial services activities for the fourth quarter of 2023. The FSC's Statistical Bulletin is one mechanism by which the FSC communicates the progress made within several different sectors of the Financial Services industry.

Registry of Corporate Affairs

The Registry of Corporate Affairs primarily administers the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004, the Limited Partnership Act, 1996 the Limited Partnership Act, 2017, the UK Patents Act, 1925, the Trade Marks Act, 2015 and the Trade Mark Rules, 2015. It is responsible for ensuring that entities doing business in and from within the Territory are duly registered and maintains the required Registers of Companies and Limited Partnerships.

Table 1: Number of new Incorporations for Q4 2023

Incorporations

	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022	Total BCs on the Register (as 31st December 2023)
*BC Quarterly Incorporations	5,845	6,124	6,686	361,491

*Company incorporations include new BCs, private trust companies, foreign companies and continuations.

The number of new incorporations in Q4 2023 decreased by 12.58% when compared to the number of new incorporations in Q4 2022. The number of new incorporations decreased by 4.56% when compared to the previous quarter.

*Table 2: Number of new BCs for the selected listed Registration Categories***

Other BC Registration Categories	Q4 2023	Total number of Registrations on the Register (as at 31st December 2023)
Private Trust Companies (PTCs)	1,086	1,142
Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs)	36	37
Foreign Companies	56	68
Continuations	2,798	2,943

*This figure represents the cumulative active total for the selected registration categories.

** This table only lists selected registration categories and does not list all registration categories.

Chart A: Company Incorporations by quarter for the period (2019 - 2023)

Company Incorporations (2019 - 2023)

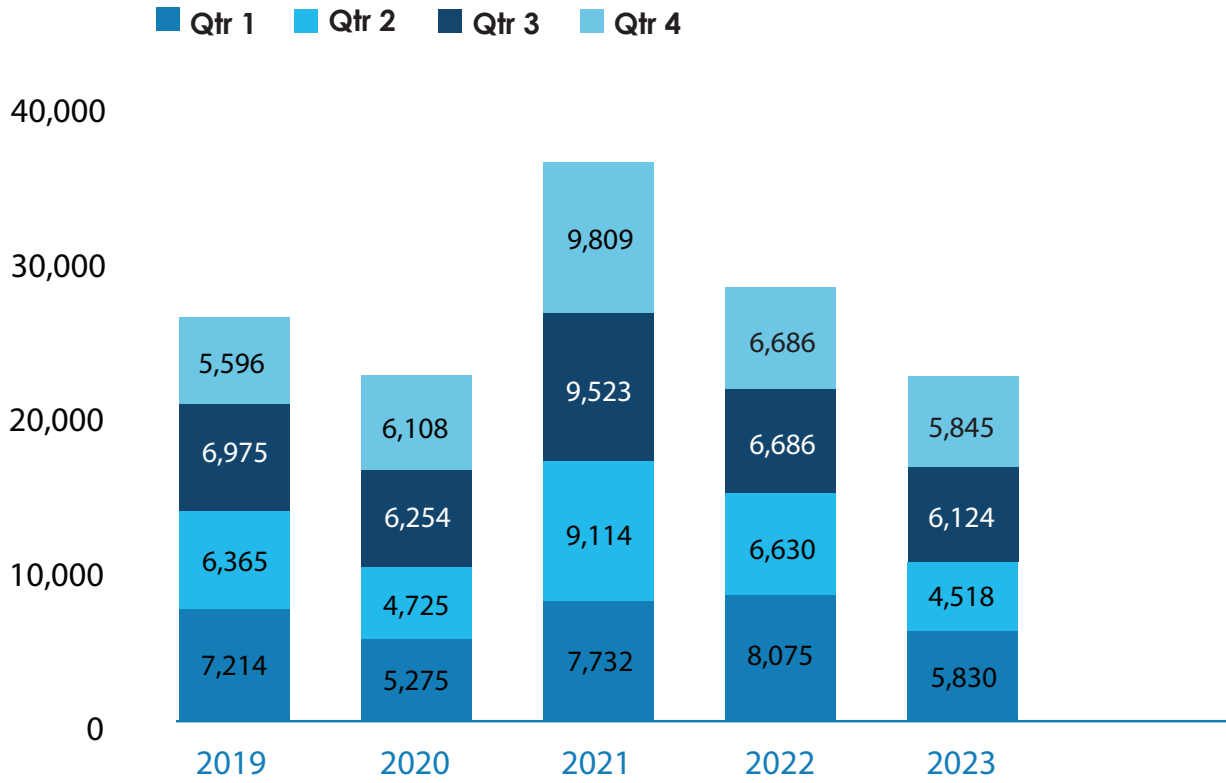


Table 3: Top 10 BC Transactions by quarter for the period (2021 - 2023)

BC Transactions	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023
Annual Fee Submission	121,251	41,713	142,801	23,280	93,608	40,959	140,765	29,693	116,930
Name Reservation (10 days)	43,400	32,971	34,249	34,667	35,697	36,347	33,237	32,902	33,257
Registration of Members	294	284	344	304	254	329	270	237	219
Registration of Directors	20,993	18,857	18,055	18,453	18,634	17,166	16,488	16,480	15,892
Request for Certificate of Good Standing	10,580	10,296	9,932	9,174	9,611	9,454	9,639	8,951	8,668
Request for Report	5,313	4,993	5,014	3,944	4,416	4,280	4,557	3,929	4,439
Filing of Notice of Appointment of Liquidator	2,533	1,881	2,021	2,022	3,672	677	1,067	1,271	1,573
Filing Notice of Completion of Liquidation	2,597	1,877	2,154	1,829	2,859	1,777	1,094	1,097	1,633
Registered Agent Intent to Resign	624	1,452	2,171	1,522	1,054	860	957	596	678
Notice of Change of Registered Agent	1,515	527	1,837	1,337	1,572	871	1,325	1,149	2,241
Application of Registration of Charge	1,995	1,461	1,794	1,422	1,299	1,205	1,122	1,117	957

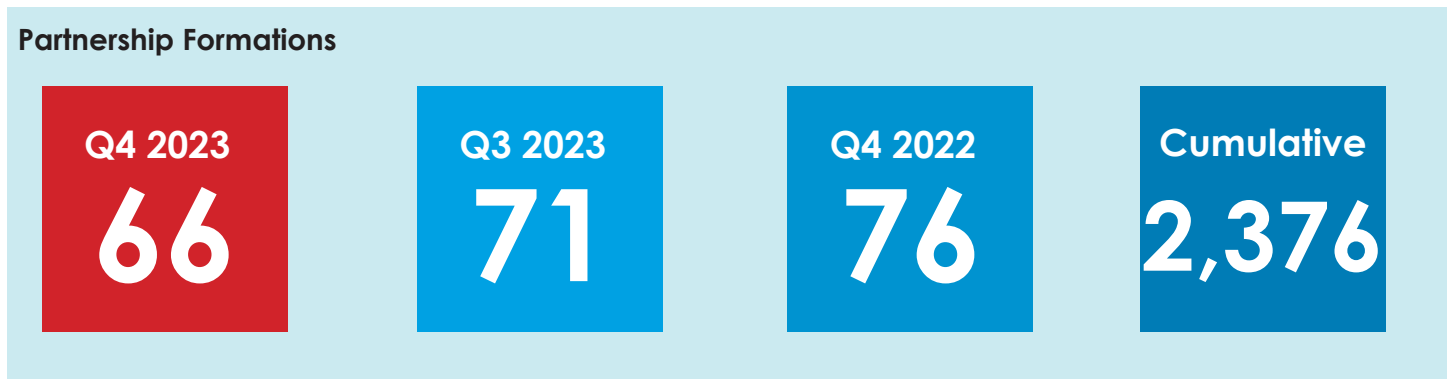
Annual Fee Submission is the most frequent transaction for Q4 2023. Name Reservation (10 days) is the second most frequent for the quarter. The total number of Name Reservations (10 days) transactions filed and approved for Q4 2023 is 33,257. Thirty (30) Name Reservations (90 days) have also been filed and approved in Q4 2023 making the total number of Name Reservations filed and approved for Q4 2023: 33,287.

*Prior to Q1 2018, the transaction for the filing of Registers of Directors were counted along with the transaction for the filing of Registers of Members. The two have now been separated and recorded separately.

Limited Partnerships

The Limited Partnership Act, 2017 ("The LP Act") was enacted in December 2017 and applies to all newly formed BVI limited partnerships. The provisions of the 1996 Partnership Act continue to apply to limited partnerships which were formed prior to the commencement of the LP Act and have not re-registered under the LP Act.

Chart B: Limited Partnership Formations by Quarter



There was a 13.16% decrease in the number of new Limited Partnerships (LPs) formed in Q4 2023 when compared to Q4 2022. There was a 7.04% decrease in the number of LPs formed in Q4 2023 when compared to Q3 2023.

Table 4: Selected Post Formation Transactions

Q4 2023 Approved Transactions	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Amendment to Partnerships/General Amendments	1	2	3
L.P. Request Certificate of Good Standing	59	63	59
L.P. Notice of Dissolution	3	2	2
L.P. Notice of Completion of Liquidation	4	2	5
Request for Certifications	2	1	13
L.P. Registered Agent Intent to Resign	3	2	4
L.P. Notice of Resignation of Registered Agent	1	1	17
L.P. Registration of Charge	-	2	4

Trade Marks

The Office of the Registrar of Trade Marks, Patents & Copyright within the Registry of Corporate Affairs is responsible for administering all laws relating to intellectual property in the British Virgin Islands. Responsibilities currently include the registration and post registration filings under the Trade Marks Act 2013, and the Trade Marks Rules, 2013 and the Registration of United Kingdom Patents Act, 1925 (CAP.156) of the Laws of the Virgin Islands and The United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Act, 1930 (CAP.159) of the Laws of the Virgin Islands.

Chart C: New Trade Mark Applications filed by Quarter



The total number of new applications to register a Trade Mark for Q4 2023 remained the same compared to Q4 2022. The total number of new applications to register a Trade Mark for Q4 2023 decreased by 21.98% when compared to Q3 2023.

Since the enactment of the Trade Marks Act, 2013 (September, 2015) a total of 2,529 new applications to register a Trade Mark have been filed³.

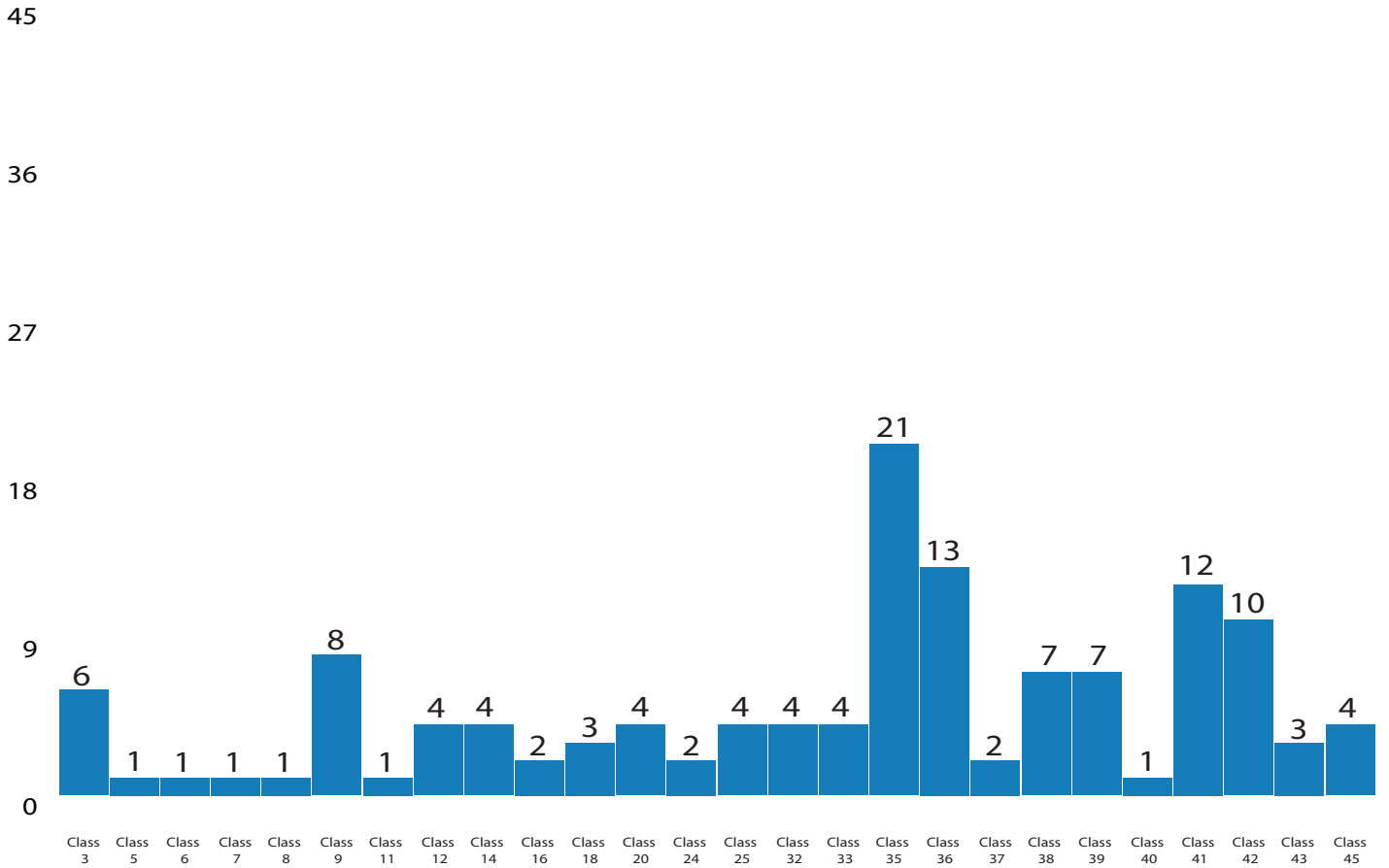
Chart D: Annual Total Trade Marks Registered 2021 - 2023

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³ Certificates of Registration are issued 3 months after the Gazette Publication date, provided no oppositions are received by the Office.

Chart E: Trade Mark Classes Registered for Q4 2023



The above frequency chart details the most popular Trade Mark Classes registered in Q4 2023. Classes 35, 36 and 41 are the top 3 Trade mark classes for Q4 2023. Class 35 is the overall frequent registration class for this quarter. Trade Mark Classes are designated under the Nice Classification (NCL) System. A description of all the classes may be accessed at www.wipo.int/classifications/nice/en/. The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) class index lists classes 1-34 as goods and classes 35-45 as services.

Chart F: Top 3 Popular Nice Classifications for Q4 2023



Table 5: Post Registration Transactions for Trade Marks

Transactions	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Change of Name/Address/ Service or Agent Requests (TM19)	74	44	70
Renewal Requests (TM11)	31	38	47
Restoration Requests (TM11)	5	1	4
Application to Register Registrable Transaction other than license (TM13)	16	10	27
Search Requests (TM21)	53	15	48
Notice of Objection/Opposition/Withdrawal/ Rectification of Error/Variation (TM8)	2	2	-
Surrender Notices (TM12)	-	-	3
Request for copy of Extract (TM20)	4	-	1
Total	185	110	200

Change of Name/Address/ Service or Agent Requests is the most frequent post registration transaction for Q4 2023. This is followed by Search Requests . The total number of post registration transactions filed decreased by 7.50% in Q4 2023 when compared to Q4 2022. The total number of post registration transactions filed increased by 68.18% in Q4 2023 when compared to Q3 2023.

Table 6: Approvals to Act as Registered Trade Mark Agent

Q4 2023	Type of Trade Mark Agent			Total No. of Trade Mark Agents
	Individual	Legal Person	Partnership	
October	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-
Cumulative Total	8	4	14	26

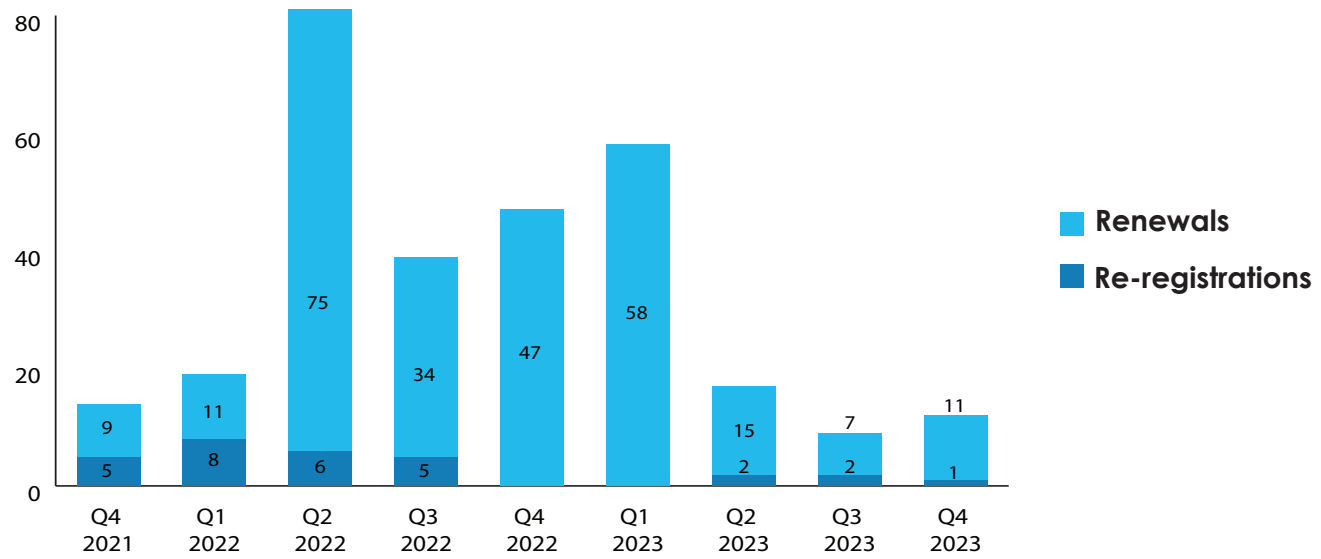
Patents

The re-registration of EU/UK Patents currently falls under the remit of Registry of Corporate Affairs, in the Office of Trade Marks, Patents and Copyright.

Chart G: Number of Applications for Re-registration of EU/UK Patents by Quarter



Chart H: Number of Patent Renewals and EU/UK Patents Re-registered by Quarter for the period (2021 - 2023)



Banking, Insolvency and Fiduciary Services

Chart I: Total Number of Entities holding a Banking Licence

General Banking Licence



The following Balance Sheet and Financial Stability Indicators are representative of all commercial Banks in aggregate. All monetary values for the Banking Industry are recorded in USD '000s.

Table 7: Selected Balance Sheet Items in USD '000s

Selected Balance Sheet Items	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Cash Items	496,734	\$649,219	\$559,555
Loans & Advances	1,656,634	\$1,632,056	\$1,588,148
Investments	134,260	\$134,381	\$26,853
Other Assets	698,426	\$666,018	\$670,041
Total Assets	2,994,450	\$3,111,999	\$2,863,531
Deposits	2,353,560	\$2,378,266	\$2,177,591
Long Term Debt	4,534	\$4,515	\$5,008
Accrued Liabilities	14,648	\$15,136	\$10,821
Other Liabilities	22,400	\$25,727	\$23,783
Loss Reserves	9,106	\$8,303	\$14,689
Total Liabilities	2,398,748	\$2,431,947	\$2,231,892
Total Shareholder's Equity	595,702	\$680,052	\$631,638

Balance Sheet Analysis - the banking sector's total asset size this quarter was reported at \$2.99 billion compared to the previous quarter reported at \$3.11 billion.

The balance sheet experienced changes quarter over quarter as:

Cash items decreased by 23.49%.

Loans and Advances increased to \$1.65 billion (1.51%) from the previous quarter.

Other Assets increased by 4.87%.

Deposits decreased by 1.04% from \$2.37 billion to \$2.35 billion due to a decrease in customer deposits.

Long Term Debt remained the same and was reported at \$4.5 million.

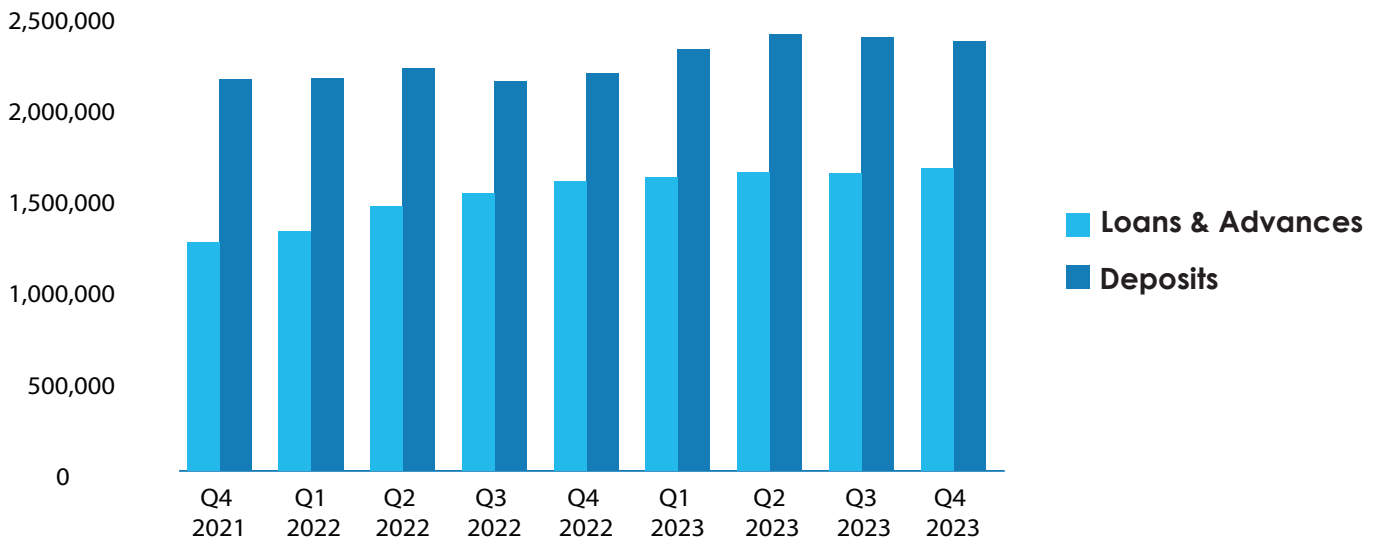
Accrued Liabilities decreased to \$14.6 million.

Other Liabilities decreased to \$22.4 million.

Loss Reserves increased from \$8.3 million in Q3 2023 to \$9.1 million in Q4 2023 due to a increase in provisioning for potential loan losses.

Total Shareholder's Equity decreased by 12.40% from \$680.0 million in Q3 2023 to \$595.7 million in Q4 2023.

Chart J: Total Loans and Deposits by quarter for the period (2021 - 2023) in USD '000s



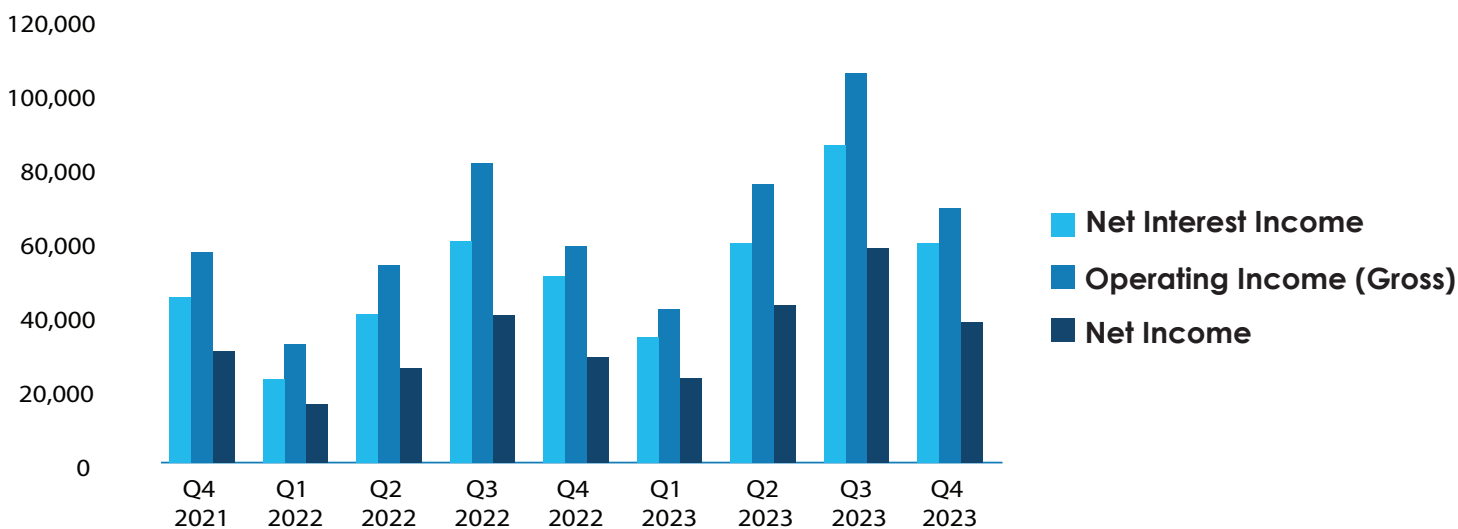
Total Deposits increased by \$175,969 (8.08%) in Q4 2023 when compared to Q4 2022 and decreased by \$24,706 (1.04%) when compared to Q3 2023.

Table 8: Statement of Income for Licensed commercial BVI Banks in USD '000s

	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Net Interest Income	\$59,443	\$85,907	\$50,363
Operating Income (Gross Income)	\$68,809	\$105,342	\$58,447
Net Income	\$37,906	\$57,974	\$28,421

The Net Interest Income recorded for all commercial banks increased by 18.03% in Q4 2023 when compared to Q4 2022. Net Interest Income decreased by 30.81% in Q4 2023 when compared to Q3 2023. Net Income increased by 33.37% in Q4 2023 when compared to Q4 2022 and decreased by 34.62% when compared to Q3 2023.

Chart K: Net Interest Income, Operating Income Gross and Net Income by quarter for the period (2021 - 2023) in USD '000s



The above chart indicates a consistent pattern in the amount of Net Interest Income, Operating Income (Gross) and Net Income from 2021 to 2023. Q3 in each given year out-performs the other quarters while Q1 is the lowest performing among the quarters.

Table 9: Solvency Indicators for Licensed commercial BVI Banks

Solvency	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Adjusted Risk-weighted Assets	\$1,412,638	\$1,426,288	\$1,315,286
Risk-asset Ratio	42.65%	48.34%	48.96%
Net Income	\$37,906	\$57,974	\$28,421

Adjusted Risk-weighted Assets recorded for all commercial banks increased by 7.40% in Q4 2023 when compared to Q4 2022. Adjusted Risk-weighted Assets decreased by 0.96% in Q4 2023 when compared to Q3 2023.

Chart L: Risk Asset Ratio by quarter for the period (2021 - 2023)

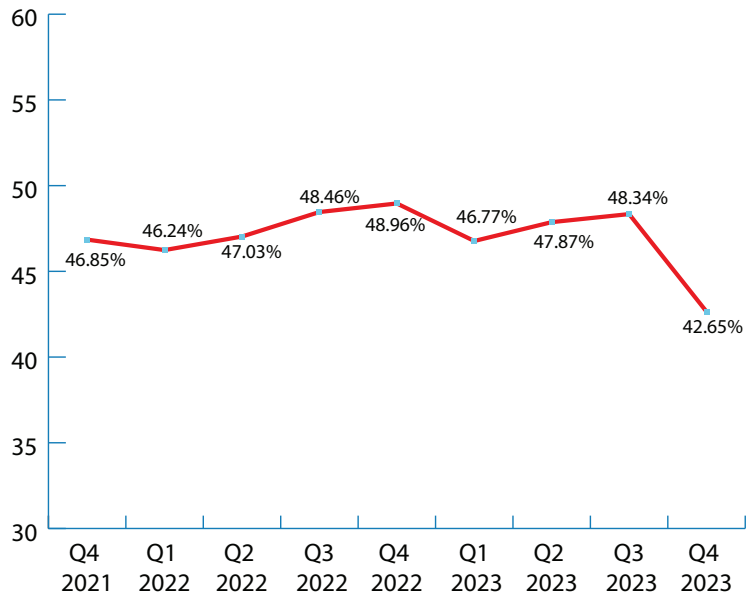


Table 10: Asset Quality Indicators for Licensed commercial BVI Banks

Asset Quality in USD '000s	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Total Non-Performing Loans	\$110,506	\$107,412	\$107,187
Non-Accruing Loans	\$110,506	\$107,412	\$107,187
Non-Performing Loans as a percentage of Total Loans	8.24%	7.73%	13.70%
Loan Loss Reserves	\$9,106	\$8,303	\$14,689

Total Non-Performing Loans in Q4 2023 increased by 3.10% when compared to Q4 2022 and increased by 2.88% when compared to Q3 2023. Loan Loss Reserves decreased in Q4 2023 by 38.01% when compared to Q4 2022 and increased by 9.67% when compared to Q3 2023.

Table 11: Profitability Indicators for Licensed commercial BVI Banks

Profitability	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Return on Assets	1.27%	1.86%	0.99%
Return on Equity	6.37%	8.52%	4.50%
Profit Margin	46.39%	55.95%	49.67%
Net Interest Margin to Gross Income	86.39%	81.55%	86.17%
Non-Interest Expense to Gross Income	45.50%	44.46%	51.92%

Table 12: Concentration & Sensitivity to Market Risk for Licensed commercial BVI Banks

Concentration	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Deposits			
Ten (10) largest depositors as a percentage of total deposits	32.08%	34.02%	27.94%
Demand Deposits as a percentage of total deposits	33.03%	33.06%	33.96%
Related Deposits as a percentage of total deposits	9.68%	5.90%	0.12%
Loans			
Ten (10) largest loans as a percentage of total loans	18.18%	18.33%	17.58%
Market loans as a percentage of total loans	54.56%	62.82%	53.62%
Related loans as a percentage of total loans	46.84%	58.24%	51.85%
Sensitivity to Market Risk			
Net Open Position	1,970	946	149
Net Open Position as a percentage of Capital	0.33%	0.14%	0.02%

Financing and Money Services

Chart M: Total number of Money Services Business and Financing Business Licensees



The following tables provide Balance Sheet and Financial Stability indicators in exact USD for the Money Services Business Sector.

Table 13: Selected Balance Sheet Items in USDs for the MSB Sector

	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Cash Items	\$950,808	\$1,083,184	\$1,637,523
Total Assets	\$4,018,896	\$4,006,767	\$4,769,569
Total Liabilities	\$2,241,080	\$2,230,826	\$3,064,728
Total Shareholders' Equity	\$1,777,816	\$1,775,939	\$1,704,841

Table 14: Financial Stability Indicators for the MSB Sector

	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Current Ratio (Current Assets to Current Liabilities)	221.23%	253.79%	146.34%
Current Assets to Total Assets	79.78%	79.65%	65.59%
Net Profit Margin	-0.94%	11.91%	-2.26%
Return on Assets	-0.06%	0.78%	-0.12%
Return on Equity	-0.14%	1.76%	-0.34%

Table 15: Totals for money transmitted to and from the BVI in USDs by MSBs

Amount Received for Transmission:	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
From the BVI to Foreign Countries	\$11,391,780	\$11,457,267	\$11,516,481
To the BVI from Foreign Countries	\$1,912,334	\$1,794,107	\$1,983,642
Number of Transactions			
From the BVI to Foreign Countries	37,375	38,574	39,519
To the BVI from Foreign Countries	4,445	4,139	4,470

All reported figures for MSBs are in exact USDs.

Fiduciary Services

Table 16: Number of Fiduciary Services Licensees by Quarter

Fiduciary Services Licensees Q4 2023	Licensees as at 30th September 2023	Q4 2023 Licences Issued	Q4 2023 Licences Re-classified	Q4 2023 Licences Cancelled	Licensees as at 31st December 2023
Class I Trust	53	-	-	-	53
Class II Trust	27	-	-	-	27
Class III*	30	1	-	-	31
Restricted Class II Trust	47	-	-	-	47
Restricted Class III*	108	2	-	-	110
Company Management	17	2	-	-	19
Authorised Custodian	1	-	-	-	1
Total	283	5	-	-	288

* Pursuant to the Banks and Trust Companies (Amendment) Act, 2018, "Class III Trust Licence" was changed to "Class III Licence" and "Restricted Class III Trust Licence" was changed to "Restricted Class III Licence".

Table 17: Post Licensing Transactions for Fiduciary Services Licensees for Q4 2023

Q4 2023 Post Licensing Transactions	October	November	December	Total
Change in Authorised Agent	3	28	12	43
Change in Ownership/Shareholding*	1	9	11	21
Change in Principal Office	-	-	7	7
Change in Undertaking	2	1	2	5
Extension to Submit Audited Financial Statements	-	-	4	4
Operation of a Subsidiary	-	-	2	2
Change of Name	-	2	-	2
Variation of Professional Indemnity	-	-	1	1
Exemption from appointing a Compliance Officer	2	1	-	3
Total	8	41	39	88

*Change in Ownership/Shareholding includes acquisitions, imposition of share pledges and charges on shares.

Insolvency Services

Table 18: Total number of Insolvency Practitioners with a full and restricted licence

Current No. insolvency Practitioners (IP) Licensees	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Current # of licence IP's (full licence)	29	29	27
Current # of licence IP's (restricted licence)	-	-	-
Total No. of IP's	29	29	27

Investment Business

Table 19: Number of New Approvals by Quarter

	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022	Total as at 31 st December 2023
Investment Business Licences	1	-	2	132
Approved Investment Managers	46	53	0	822
Authorised Representatives (SIBA)*	-	-	38	55

* Securities and Investment Business Act, 2010

Table 20: Number of Investment Business Licences by Sub-category as at the end of December 2023.

Investment Business Licence by Sub-category*	Total Licences at 31st December 2023
Category 1 Sub-category A – Dealing as Agent	22
Category 1 Sub-category B – Dealing as Principal	32
Category 2 – Arranging Deals in Investments	24
Category 3 Sub-category A – Managing Segregated Portfolios (Excluding Mutual Funds)	3
Category 3 Sub-category B – Managing Mutual Funds	44
Category 3 Sub-category C – Managing Pension Schemes	3
Category 3 Sub-category D – Managing Insurance Products	1
Category 3 Sub-category E – Managing Other Types of Investment	21
Category 4 Sub-category A – Investment Advice (Excluding Mutual Funds)	27
Category 4 Sub-category B – Investment Advice (Mutual Funds)	9
Category 5 Sub-category A – Custody of Investments (Excluding Mutual Funds)	6
Category 5 Sub-category B – Custody of Investments (Mutual Funds)	2
Category 6 Sub-category A – Administration of Investments (Excluding Mutual Funds)	12
Category 6 Sub-category B – Administration of Investments (Mutual Funds)	23

*The number of Investment Business licenses as at 31st December 2023 was 132. (See table 19). Table 7 breaks down the number of Investment Business licenses into sub-categories. It is important to note that 1 Investment Business licence may fall under more than one sub-category.

Table 21: Number of New Funds Registered by Quarter

	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022	Total at 31st December 2023
Professional	6	11	12	848
Private	4	5	17	290
Public	-	-	-	21
Foreign	-	-	-	1
Incubator	4	5	7	162
Approved	13	12	9	328
Private Investment Funds	10	16	17	366
Total	37	49	62	2,016*

*The total number of funds registered includes 148 Segregated Portfolio Companies (Regulated) as at 31st December 2023.

Chart N: Total Number of Active Mutual Funds by quarter for the period (2021 - 2023)

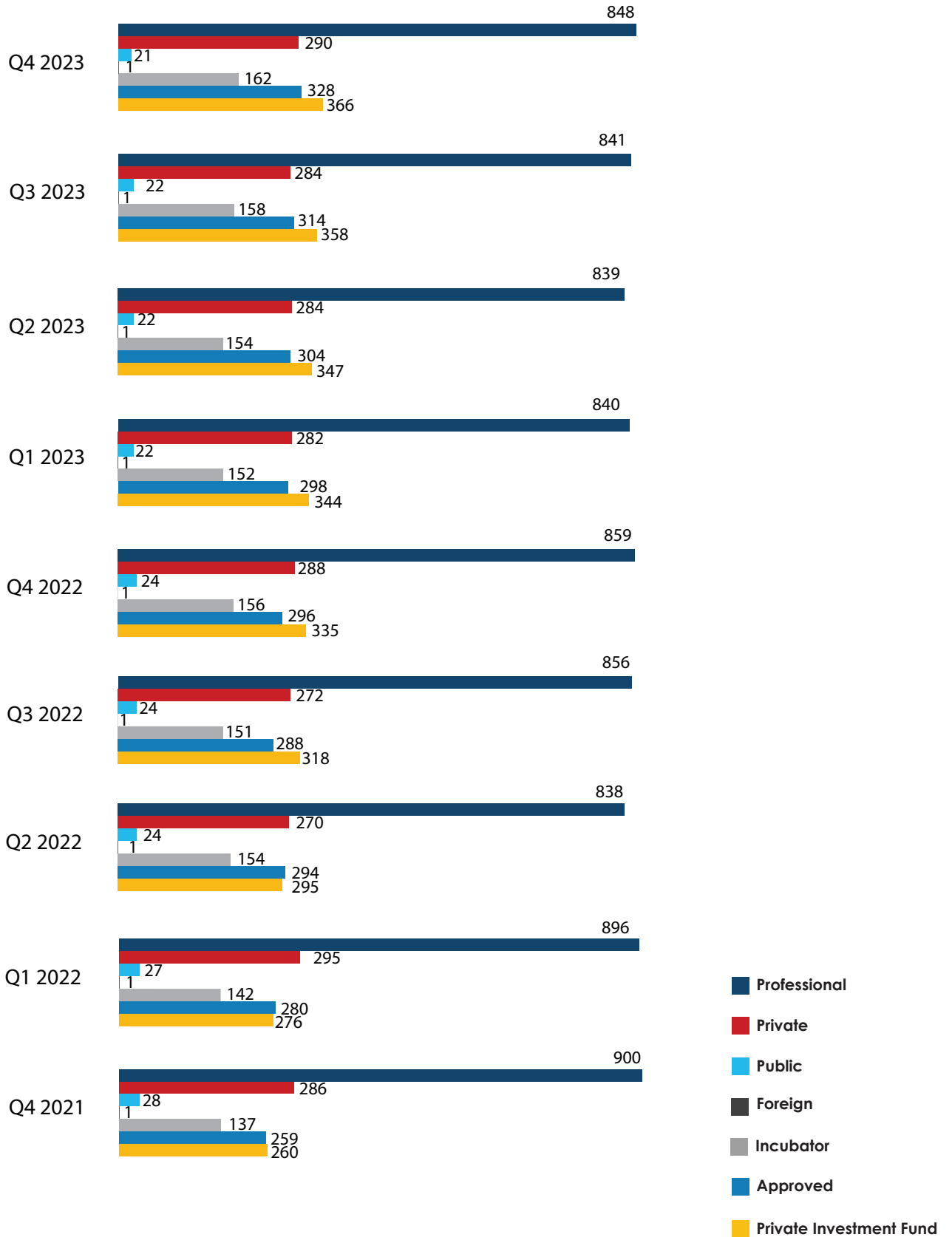


Table 22: Number of Mutual Funds Incorporated or Re-registered as a SPC

	Q4 2023		Q3 2023		Q4 2022		Cumulative Totals as at 31 st December 2023
	Inc.*	Reg.*	Inc.*	Reg.*	Inc.*	Reg.*	
Certificates Granted- Professional Mutual Funds	-	-	1	-	4	-	90
Certificates Granted- Private Mutual Funds	-	-	1	-	1	-	27
Certificates Granted- Public Mutual Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Certificates Granted- Incubator Funds	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Certificates Granted - Approved Funds	1	-	1	-	9	-	19
Certificates Granted - Private Investment Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Total	1	-	3	-	15	-	153

* Inc. - Incorporated

* Reg. - Registered

Virtual Assets Service Providers

Table 23: Number of New Approvals by Quarter

	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022	Total as at 31 st December 2023
VASP* Licensee	-	-	-	-
Authorised Representatives (VASP)*	3	5	-	12
Sandbox	-	-	-	1

*Virtual Assets Service Providers Act, 2022

Insurance

Table 24: Total Number of Insurers and Functionaries by Quarter

Insurance Licensees and Functionaries	Q3 2023 Licensees	Q4 2023 Licences Issued	Q4 2023 Licences Cancelled	Licensees as at 31 st December 2023
Insurers				
Captive Insurers	45	-	-	45
Domestic Insurers	38	-	-	38
Functionaries				
Agents	12	-	-	12
Brokers	2	-	-	2
Insurance Managers	6	-	-	6
Loss Adjusters	3	-	-	3
Total	106	-	-	106

Table 25: Number of Insurance Post Licensing Transactions for Q4 2023

Insurance Q4 2023 Post Licensing Transactions	Total
Exemption from licensing	1
Approval for Re-organization of ownership structure/ Change in shareholding	2
Approval for Change of Insurance Manager	2
Total	5

Approved Persons Unit

The Approved Persons Unit falls under the office of the Deputy Managing Director, Regulation and primarily processes applications of senior officers, including directors, compliance officers and money laundering reporting officers (MLROs). Table 26 below indicates the number of approved persons appointments for Q4 2023.

Table 26: Approved Persons Appointments

Q4 2023 Approved Persons Appointments	
Transaction	Total
Appointment of Director	72
Appointment of Compliance Officer	1
Appointment of Compliance Officer and Money Laundering Reporting Officer	10
Appointment of Senior Officer	16
Total	99

Enforcement

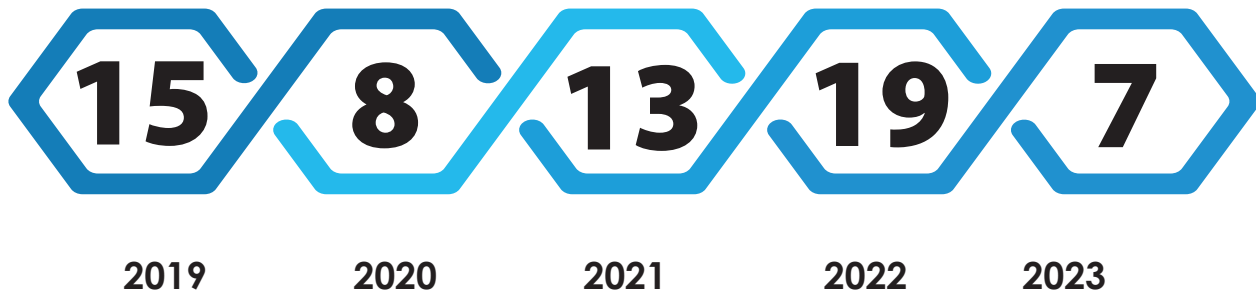
The Enforcement Committee is responsible for determining and administering enforcement action on licensees for any contravention or breach of financial services legislation. Enforcement actions range from warning letters to complete licence revocation. In Q4 2023 an enforcement action was levied, notably: 2 imposed penalties and 1 Warning Letter.

Onsite Inspections

Onsite inspections are conducted by the Compliance Inspection Unit. The Unit conducts full scope and thematic inspections on all licensees on a periodic basis. There was one (1) full scope inspection of a Bank concluded in Q4 2023.

Chart O: Total number of inspections conducted from 2019 - Q4 2023 for which close-out meetings were held in the given year

Total Number of Inspections Conducted from 2019 - 2023.



The Licensing and Supervisory Committee (LSC)

The Licensing and Supervisory Committee (LSC) grants approvals and authorisations for specified initial licensing and ongoing applications under any Financial Services legislation. Table 27 below indicates the number of matters brought to the LSC by the various Divisions within the Commission.

Table 27: Number of Matters Referred to the LSC in Q4 2023

Matters Referred to LSC in Q4 2023				
	October	November	December	Total
Banking, Insolvency and Fiduciary	34	99	60	193
Investment Business/ SIBA/ VASP	31	16	2	49
Insurance	4	3	1	8
Compliance Inspection Unit	-	-	2	2

International Cooperation

Table 28 below records the number of incoming and outgoing requests for information. Requests are classified as formal or informal. Within the context of the Financial Services Commission's International Cooperation obligations, formal requests for information refers to requests for information made or received consistent with a specific MoU or MMoU signed by the Financial Services Commission and a foreign regulatory authority and other requests made or received where there is a duty to cooperate requiring the sharing of documents and information permitted under the BVI Financial Services Commission Act, 2001 (as amended).

Table 28: Incoming and Outgoing Requests for Information

Legal and Enforcement Division Statistics			
	Q4 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2022
Formal Incoming Requests	21	24	8
Informal Incoming Requests	-	-	-
Formal Outgoing Requests	27	2	-
Informal Outgoing Requests	-	-	-
FIN-NET	15	27	-

