



## **DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited**

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability and a licensed bank regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and registered with the Securities and Futures Commission for Types 1, 4, 6 and 9 regulated activities under the Securities and Futures Ordinance)  
**(the "Bank")**

**as Offeror and Product Arranger**

The Securities and Futures Commission ("**SFC**") has authorised the issue of this Financial Disclosure Document based on the standard format submitted under section 105(1) of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong). The SFC takes no responsibility for the contents of this Financial Disclosure Document, makes no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this Financial Disclosure Document. The SFC's authorization does not imply its endorsement or recommendation of the equity-linked deposits referred to in this Financial Disclosure Document.



## IMPORTANT

You are warned that the performance of the Equity-Linked Deposits ("**ELDs**") may fluctuate and you may sustain a total loss of your investment. You should therefore ensure that you understand the nature of the ELDs and carefully study the risk factors set out in the Offering Documents (as defined below) and, where necessary, seek independent professional advice, before you decide whether to invest in the ELDs. This Financial Disclosure Document sets out financial information relating to the Bank. No ELDs are being offered by this document alone. If you would like to make an investment in any ELDs, you must read the relevant Principal Brochure (and any addendum thereto), the relevant Information Sheet and this Financial Disclosure Document together, each as indicated in the relevant Information Sheet from time to time (together, the "**Offering Documents**"). You should read and understand all of the Offering Documents for an ELD before deciding whether to make an investment. Hard copies of all the Offering Documents will be available (free of charge) from the Bank while the relevant ELDs are being offered.

The Offering Documents include particulars given in compliance with the Code on Unlisted Structured Investment Products (the "**Code**") issued by the SFC for the purpose of giving information with regard to the Bank (as the offeror and product arranger) and the ELDs. The Bank (as the offeror and product arranger) accepts full responsibility for the contents of, and the completeness and accuracy of the information contained in, the Offering Documents and confirms, having made all reasonable enquiries, that to the best of the Bank's knowledge and belief there is no untrue or misleading statement, or other facts the omission of which would make any statement herein untrue or misleading.

Our auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers ( Certified Public Accountants, Hong Kong) of 22/F, Prince's Building, Central, Hong Kong, has given and has not withdrawn its written consent dated 8 April 2021 to the inclusion of the auditor's report dated 2 February 2021 (the "**Report**") on the audited consolidated financial statements of the Bank for the year ended 31 December 2020 and the references to its name in this Financial Disclosure Document, in the form and context in which they are included. The Report was not prepared for incorporation in this Financial Disclosure Document. The Bank confirms that the auditor was engaged by the Bank as its independent auditor in respect of the Report and the Bank is not aware of, to the best of its knowledge, any conflict of interests for the auditor in the preparation of the Report.

The Bank's financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.

If English is not your preferred language, you may request from the Bank a Chinese version of this Financial Disclosure Document. 倘若英文並非閣下屬意的語言，閣下可向本行索取本財務披露文件的中文版本。

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**Directors of the Bank**

**The Annual Report of DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited for the year ended 31 December 2020**

## **DIRECTORS OF THE BANK**

You may refer to page 1 of the Annual Report of DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The address for service of process of the above directors is at 11th Floor, The Center, 99 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong.

星展銀行（香港）有限公司  
**DBS BANK (HONG KONG) LIMITED**  
(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

**Annual Report 2020**

*DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries*

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*DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries*

# REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The directors of DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (the “Bank”) submit their report together with the audited financial statements of the Bank and its subsidiaries (together the “Group”) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

## **Principal activities**

The principal activity of the Bank is the provision of banking and related financial services. The principal activities of the subsidiaries are shown in Note 21 of the financial statements.

## **Results and appropriations**

The results of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2020 are set out in the consolidated income statement on page 6.

During the year, interim dividend totalling HK\$2,000 million (2019: HK\$4,500 million) was paid to the holder of ordinary shares and preferential dividend of HK\$55 million (2019: HK\$55 million) was paid to holder of Class A preference shares.

The directors do not recommend the payment of a final dividend for the year ended 31 December 2020 (2019: Nil).

## **Share capital**

Details of the movements in the share capital during the year are set out in Note 29 to the financial statements.

No debentures were issued by the Bank during the year.

## **Donations**

Donations made by the Group during the year amounted to HK\$10,329,281 (2019: HK\$814,881).

## **Directors**

The directors, including Executive Director (“ED”), non-executive directors (“NED”) and independent non-executive directors (“INED”) of the Bank during the year and up to the date of this report are:

Seah Lim Huat, Peter (NED) – Chairman

Piyush Gupta (NED) – Vice Chairman

J. E. Sebastian Paredes Muirragui (ED) – Chief Executive

Dominic Chiu Fai Ho (INED)

Kwok Kwok Chuen (INED)

(resigned on 17 January 2021)

Nancy Sau Ling Tse (INED)

Liu Chee Ming (INED)

Ho Hing Yuen, David (INED)

In accordance with the articles of association of the Bank, Mr. Seah Lim Huat, Peter, Mr. Piyush Gupta, Mr. J. E. Sebastian Paredes Muirragui, Mr. Dominic Chiu Fai Ho and Mr. Liu Chee Ming will retire from office at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.



### Directors (continued)

During the year and up to the date of this report, Mr. J. E. Sebastian Paredes Muirragui is also a director of the Bank's subsidiaries. Other directors of the Bank's subsidiaries during the year and up to the date of this report include Mr. Nimish Anil Bhanulal Panchmatia, Mr. Januar Tjandra, Mr. Peter Tze-chung Tung, Mr. Cheung Kin Sang, Mr. Ajay Surendra Mathur and Mr. Alfian Michael Sharifuddin. Mr. Januar Tjandra ceased to be director of the Bank's subsidiary on 1 July 2020.

### Directors' material interests in significant transactions, arrangements and contracts

No transactions, arrangements and contracts of significance in relation to the Bank's business, to which the Bank or any of its subsidiaries or its holding companies or any subsidiaries of its holding companies was a party and in which a director of the Bank or the director's connected party had a material interest, whether directly or indirectly, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

### Directors' interest in shares

As at the end of the year or at any time during the year, the DBSH Share Plan (the "Share Plan") was the only arrangement that enabled a director of the Bank to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of shares of DBS Group Holdings Ltd. ("DBSH"), or to be awarded shares of DBSH (or their equivalent cash value).

The Share Plan is granted to DBSH Group executives as determined by the Compensation and Management Development Committee ("CMDC") of DBSH appointed to administer the Share Plan from time to time. Participants are awarded shares of DBSH, their equivalent cash value or a combination of both.

Awards consist of the main award and the retention award (being 20% of the main award). The vesting of the main award is staggered between two to four years after grant, i.e. 33% of the shares comprised in the main award will vest two years after grant; another 33% will vest in the third year; and the remainder 34% plus the retention award will vest four years after grant. The fair value of the shares awarded is computed based on the market price of the ordinary shares at the time of the award.

During the year, the following directors were eligible to receive awards under the Share Plan as set out below:

- 1) A total of 30,012 share awards were granted to Mr. Seah Lim Huat, Peter and 30,012 share awards were vested in him;
- 2) A total of 295,054 share awards were granted to Mr. Piyush Gupta and 360,251 share awards were vested in him;
- 3) A total of 110,124 share awards were granted to Mr. J. E. Sebastian Paredes Muirragui and 98,823 share awards were vested in him.

Apart from the above, at no time during the year was the Bank or any of its subsidiaries or its holding companies or any subsidiaries of its holding companies a party to any arrangement to enable the directors of the Bank to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of shares in or debentures of the Bank or any other body corporates.

### Permitted indemnity provisions

The articles of association of the Bank provide that every director of the Bank shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the Bank against all liabilities incurred by him/her as a director for the benefit of the Bank or in defending any proceedings in which judgement is given in his/her favour, or in which he/she is acquitted or in connection with relief granted to him/her by the court.

All directors of the Bank and its associated companies are covered by the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Policy taken out by DBSH.

**Management contracts**

In December 2017, the Bank renewed a five-year outsourcing agreement, with respect to the provision of information technology and related support for the Group's operation in Hong Kong. There are various termination clauses contained within the agreement which indicated that under certain circumstances the service company could require the Group to pay termination cost on early termination of the contract. The exact amount of termination cost cannot be reliably determined as it is dependent upon business volumes over the period of the contract and on the timing of the termination itself.

Apart from the foregoing, no contract concerning the management and administration of the whole or any substantial part of the business of the Bank was entered into or existed during the year.

**Auditor**

The financial statements have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers who will retire at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment.

On behalf of the Board

**Seah Lim Huat, Peter**

Chairman

Hong Kong, 2 February 2021

*DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries*

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## **TO THE MEMBERS OF DBS BANK (HONG KONG) LIMITED**

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

### **Opinion**

#### *What we have audited*

The consolidated financial statements of DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (the "Bank") and its subsidiaries (the "Group") set out on pages 6 to 52, which comprise:

- the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020;
- the consolidated income statement for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the consolidated cash flow statement for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the consolidated financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

#### *Our opinion*

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2020, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### *Independence*

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the HKICPA's Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

### **Other Information**

The directors of the Bank are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the report of the directors and corporate governance report, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements**

The directors of the Bank are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated 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. We report our opinion solely to you, as a body, in accordance with Section 405 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's 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 consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated 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 Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' 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 Group's 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 consolidated 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 Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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.

**PricewaterhouseCoopers**  
Certified Public Accountants

Hong Kong, 2 February 2021

*DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries*

# CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

In HK\$ millions	Note	Year ended 31 December 2020	2019
Interest income		<b>9,632</b>	13,087
Interest expense		<b>(2,065)</b>	(4,176)
Net interest income	4	<b>7,567</b>	8,911
Net fee and commission income	5	<b>3,034</b>	3,084
Net trading income	6	<b>879</b>	486
Net income from investment securities	7	<b>147</b>	87
Other income	8	<b>72</b>	75
Total income		<b>11,699</b>	12,643
Total expenses	9	<b>(5,174)</b>	(5,533)
Profit before allowances for credit and other losses		<b>6,525</b>	7,110
Allowances for credit and other losses	10	<b>(1,380)</b>	(622)
Profit before income tax		<b>5,145</b>	6,488
Income tax expense	12	<b>(820)</b>	(1,127)
Profit attributable to shareholders		<b>4,325</b>	5,361

*The notes on pages 11 to 52 form part of these financial statements.*

DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

In HK\$ millions	Year ended 31 December	
	2020	2019
<b>Profit attributable to shareholders</b>	<b>4,325</b>	5,361
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>		
<b>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to income statement:</b>		
Debt instruments classified at fair value through other comprehensive income and others		
– Net valuation taken to equity	279	148
– Transferred to income statement	(111)	(74)
– Deferred income tax debited to equity	(29)	(11)
Cash flow hedge		
– Net valuation taken to equity	572	356
– Transferred to income statement	(198)	(182)
– Deferred income tax debited to equity	(62)	(29)
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to income statement:</b>		
Equity instruments classified at fair value through other comprehensive income		
– Net valuation taken to equity	62	86
<b>Other comprehensive income attributable to shareholders, net of tax</b>	<b>513</b>	294
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to shareholders</b>	<b>4,838</b>	5,655

The notes on pages 11 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

*DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries*

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

In HK\$ millions	Note	As at 31 December 2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and balances with central banks	15	<b>27,465</b>	2,789
Government securities and treasury bills	16	<b>32,715</b>	30,949
Due from banks	17	<b>207,057</b>	236,511
Derivatives	32	<b>1,627</b>	633
Bank and corporate securities	18	<b>11,240</b>	9,544
Loans and advances to customers	19	<b>194,052</b>	155,128
Other assets	20	<b>5,505</b>	6,552
Properties and other fixed assets	23	<b>4,330</b>	4,423
Goodwill	22	<b>168</b>	168
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>484,159</b>	446,697
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Due to banks		<b>15,806</b>	5,810
Deposits and balances from customers	24	<b>404,801</b>	374,100
Derivatives	32	<b>1,625</b>	566
Certificates of deposit issued	25	<b>2,215</b>	6,358
Other liabilities	26	<b>13,716</b>	16,633
Subordinated liability	28	<b>4,186</b>	4,203
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>442,349</b>	407,670
<b>Equity</b>			
Share capital	29(a)	<b>8,995</b>	8,995
Reserves	29(b)	<b>32,815</b>	30,032
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>41,810</b>	39,027
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>		<b>484,159</b>	446,697

*The notes on pages 11 to 52 form part of these financial statements.*

**Nancy Sau Ling Tse**  
Director

**J.E. Sebastian Paredes Muirragui**  
Director

DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

In HK\$ millions	Share capital	Other reserves	Retained earnings	Total equity
Balance as at 1 January 2019	8,995	2,455	26,502	37,952
Impact of adopting HKFRS 16 on 1 January 2019	–	–	(25)	(25)
Restated balance as at 1 January 2019	8,995	2,455	26,477	37,927
Total comprehensive income	–	294	5,361	5,655
Dividend paid	–	–	(4,555)	(4,555)
Balance as at 31 December 2019	8,995	2,749	27,283	39,027
Balance as at 1 January 2020	<b>8,995</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>27,283</b>	<b>39,027</b>
Total comprehensive income (Note)	–	<b>513</b>	<b>4,325</b>	<b>4,838</b>
Dividend paid	–	–	<b>(2,055)</b>	<b>(2,055)</b>
Balance as at 31 December 2020	<b>8,995</b>	<b>3,262</b>	<b>29,553</b>	<b>41,810</b>

Note: Included valuation gains of HK\$129 million resulting from reclassification of bank securities amounting to HK\$5,186 million from amortised cost to fair value through other comprehensive income ("FVOCI") during 2020 due to change of business model for the purpose of enhancing liquidity management.

The notes on pages 11 to 52 form part of these financial statements.



DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries

# CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

In HK\$ millions	Note	Year ended 31 December 2020	2019
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Profit before income tax		5,145	6,488
<b>Adjustments for non-cash items:</b>			
Allowances for credit and other losses		1,380	622
Write-off of properties and other fixed assets		14	7
Depreciation and amortisation		592	608
Advances and other assets written off		(495)	(413)
Recoveries of advances and other assets written off		64	82
Interest expense for subordinated liability		100	174
Interest expense on lease liabilities	31(a)	26	31
Profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities		6,826	7,599
<b>Increase / (decrease) in:</b>			
Due to banks		9,996	(4,070)
Deposits and balances from customers		30,701	10,442
Other liabilities and derivatives		(218)	(10,241)
Certificates of deposit issued		(4,143)	800
<b>(Increase) / decrease in:</b>			
Due from banks		56,790	(9,074)
Government securities and treasury bills		(3,231)	8,802
Loans and advances to customers		(39,770)	6,657
Bank and corporate securities		(1,485)	(23)
Other assets and derivatives		105	1,311
Net cash generated from operating activities before income tax		55,571	12,203
Hong Kong profits tax paid		(2,274)	(192)
Overseas tax paid		(3)	(6)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>		53,294	12,005
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of fixed assets		(270)	(381)
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		3	1
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		(267)	(380)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Principal element of lease payment	31(a)	(297)	(293)
Interest element of lease payment	31(a)	(26)	(31)
Dividend paid		(2,055)	(4,555)
Interest paid for subordinated liability		(104)	(176)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		(2,482)	(5,055)
Exchange differences		(17)	(26)
<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		50,528	6,544
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January</b>		80,066	73,522
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 December</b>	31(b)	130,594	80,066

The notes on pages 11 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2020

## 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The principal activities of DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (the "Bank") and its subsidiaries (together the "Group") are the provision of banking and related financial services. The Bank is a limited company incorporated and domiciled in Hong Kong. The address of its registered office is 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, The Center, 99 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong.

The immediate holding company<sup>(#)</sup> is DBS Diamond Holdings Ltd., which was incorporated in Bermuda. The ultimate holding company is DBS Group Holdings Ltd. ("DBSH" or "DBS Group") which is listed, incorporated and domiciled in the Republic of Singapore. The address of its registered office is 12 Marina Boulevard, Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 3, Singapore 018982.

The consolidated financial statements were approved for issue by the Board of Directors on 2 February 2021.

For regulatory reporting purposes, the Bank computes key regulatory ratios on a combined basis including the Bank and its overseas branch that is different from the basis of consolidation for accounting purposes. The basis is set out in the Regulatory Disclosure Statements. The disclosures of regulatory capital, liquidity and other disclosures are available in the section of Regulatory Disclosures on our website [www.dbs.com/hongkong/investor/financial-results.page](http://www.dbs.com/hongkong/investor/financial-results.page).

## 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following is a summary of the principal accounting policies applied by the Group and, except where noted, are consistent with those applied in the previous financial year.

### (a) Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance Cap 622.

The consolidated financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars and rounded to the nearest million, unless otherwise stated. Comparative figures in the consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform with current year's presentation.

The preparation of financial statements requires management to exercise judgement, use estimates and make assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts in the financial statements. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions,

actual results may differ from these estimates. Critical accounting estimates and assumptions used that are significant to the financial statements, and areas involving a higher degree of judgement and complexity, are disclosed in Note 3.

### (b) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

On 1 January 2020, the Group has adopted the following new or revised HKFRSs that are issued by HKICPA and relevant for the Group.

#### Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39 and HKFRS 7 Interest Rate Benchmark Reform

'Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39 and HKFRS 7 Interest Rate Benchmark Reform' provide temporary exceptions that allow entities to continue hedge accounting for existing hedge relationships under the assumption that Inter Bank Offer Rate ("IBOR") based hedged cash flows are not altered as a result of uncertainty arising from IBOR Reform. These exceptions would continue to apply until the uncertainty is resolved. As at 31 December 2020, uncertainty over IBOR reform continue to apply to the hedge accounting relationships.

In accordance with the transitional provisions, the amendments have been adopted retrospectively and there was no impact of the financial statements.

The key assumption made when performing hedge accounting is that both the hedged item and hedging instrument will be amended from existing IBOR linked interest rates to the new Risk Free Rate on the same time. Where actual differences between those dates arise hedge ineffectiveness will be recorded in the income statement.

A DBS Group Steering Committee was established in 2019 to manage the impact of Interest Rate Benchmark Reform on the DBS Group. The committee comprises senior representatives from Institutional Banking Group ("IBG"), Consumer Banking Group ("CBG"), Treasury & Markets ("T&M"), Finance, Risk Management Group ("RMG"), Technology & Operations, Legal and Compliance and is chaired by the Corporate Treasurer. The Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee are to review transition plans related to LIBOR discontinuation, IBOR reform, and other interest rate benchmark reform, to assess the bank's key risks across different scenarios, and to develop strategies to manage existing and new business in the context of these risks. Oversight of Interest Rate Benchmark Reform is provided by the DBS Group Executive Committee and the Board Risk Management Committee.

A Hong Kong IBOR Transition Working Group was also established in 2019 and co-ordinates closely with the DBS Group Steering Committee. This Working Group is chaired by the Head of Hong Kong Corporate Treasury and is represented by business and support units across the Bank. The purpose of this working group is to review the local benchmark rate transition plans while considering local regulatory requirements and mitigate the risks

<sup>(#)</sup> The immediate holding company of the Bank changed from DHB Limited ("DHB") to DBS Group (HK) Limited ("DGHK") with effect from 17 June 2020, and further changed to DBS Diamond Holdings Ltd. with effect from 17 August 2020. Both DHB and DGHK were dissolved by Members' Voluntary Liquidation during the year.

involved. The Board Risk Management Committee is kept informed of the preparatory work and provides oversight of the process.

The other amendments and interpretations effective from 1 January 2020 do not have a significant impact on the Group's financial statements.

### **New HKFRS and Interpretations effective for future periods**

The amendments and interpretations effective for future periods do not have a significant impact on the Group's financial statements, except for Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2 where impact is being assessed.

### **Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39 and HKFRS 7, HKFRS 4, HKFRS 16, Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2**

In November 2020, the HKICPA issued 'Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39 and HKFRS 7, HKFRS 4, HKFRS 16, Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2'. The amendments are effective from 1 January 2021 and

- require the Group to account for changes in the contractual cash flows of financial instruments that result solely from IBOR Reform by updating the effective interest rate rather than recognising an immediate gain or loss in the income statement; and
- require the Group to continue hedge accounting when changes to the hedging instrument, hedged item and hedged risk relate solely from IBOR Reform. Hedge ineffectiveness (e.g. arising from mismatches of timing or cash flows) would continue to be recorded in the income statement

The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments and considered the amendments would not have material impact to the Group.

### **General Accounting Policies**

#### **(c) Group accounting**

##### **Subsidiaries**

Subsidiaries are entities (including structured entities) over which the Group has control. The Group controls an entity when it is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date control is transferred to the Group to the date control ceases.

All intra-group transactions, balances, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation.

##### **Investment cost at Bank level**

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less accumulated impairment losses in the Bank's statement of financial position. On disposal of investments in subsidiaries and joint venture, the difference between the net proceeds and the carrying amounts of the investments is taken to the income statement.

#### **(d) Foreign currency treatment**

##### **(i) Functional and presentation currency**

Items in the financial statements are measured using the functional currency of each entity in the Group, being the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates. The Group's financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars, which is the functional currency of the Bank.

##### **(ii) Foreign currency transactions and balances**

Transactions in foreign currencies are measured using exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the exchange rate as at the end of the reporting period. Foreign exchange differences arising from this translation are recognised in the income statement as trading income.

Non-monetary assets and liabilities measured at cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction.

Non-monetary assets and liabilities measured at fair values in foreign currencies are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair values are determined, which is generally the end of the reporting period.

Unrealised foreign exchange differences arising from non-monetary financial assets and liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss ("FVPL") are recognised in the income statement as trading income. Non-monetary financial assets that are classified as FVOCI relates mainly to FVOCI equities. Refer to section 2(f) for the accounting treatment.

##### **(iii) Subsidiaries and branches**

The results and financial positions of subsidiaries and branches whose functional currency is not Hong Kong dollars ("foreign operations") are translated into Hong Kong dollars in the following manner:

- Assets and liabilities are translated at the exchange rates as at the end of the reporting period;
- Income and expenses in the income statement are translated at exchange rates prevailing at each month-end, approximating the exchange rates at the dates of the transactions; and
- All resulting exchange differences are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated under capital reserves in equity. When a foreign operation is disposed of, or when it is liquidated, such currency translation differences are recognised in the income statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal.

## Income Statement

### (e) Income recognition

#### (i) Interest income and interest expense

Interest income and interest expense as presented in Note 4 arise from all interest-bearing financial assets and financial liabilities regardless of their classification and measurement, with the exception of the Group's structured investment deposits which are carried at FVPL. Interest expense on such structured investment deposits is presented together with other fair value changes in "net trading income".

Interest income and interest expense are recognised on a time-proportionate basis using the effective interest method as prescribed by HKFRS. The calculation includes significant fees and transaction costs that are integral to the effective interest rate, as well as premiums or discounts.

#### (ii) Fee and commission income

The Group earns fee and commission income from a diverse range of products and services provided to its customers.

Fee and commission income are recognised when the Group has satisfied its performance obligation in providing the promised products and services to the customer, and are recognised based on contractual rates agreed with customers, net of expected waivers based on historical experience, and net of expenses directly related to it. The Group generally satisfies its performance obligation and recognises the fee and commission income on the following basis:

- Transaction-based fee and commission income is recognised on the completion of the transaction. Such fees include underwriting fees, brokerage fees, bancassurance sales commission and variable service fees, and fees related to the completion of corporate finance transactions.
- For a service that is provided over a period of time, fee and commission income is generally recognised on equal proportion basis over the period during which the related service is provided or credit risk is undertaken. This basis of recognition most appropriately reflects the nature and pattern of provision of these services to the customers over time. Fees for these services can be billed to customers in advance or periodically over time. Such fees include the income from issuance of financial guarantees and bancassurance fixed service fees.

The Group does not provide any significant credit terms to customers for the above products and services.

Directly related expenses typically include brokerage fees paid, card-related expenses and sales commissions, but do not include expenses for services delivered over a period (such as service contracts) and other expenses that are not specifically related to fee and commission income transactions.

#### (iii) Dividend income

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established. This is generally the ex-dividend date for listed equity securities, and usually the date when shareholders approve the dividend for unlisted equity securities. Dividend income arising from financial assets classified as FVPL is recognised in "Net trading income", while those arising from FVOCI financial assets is recognised in "Net income from investment securities".

#### (iv) Rental income

Rental income from operating leases on properties is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

#### (v) Allowances for credit losses

Please refer to Note 2(h) for the accounting policy on impairment of financial assets including loan loss provisions.

## Statement of financial position

### (f) Financial assets

#### Initial recognition

Purchases and sales of all financial assets are recognised on the date that the Group enters into the contractual arrangements with counterparties. When the Group acts as a trustee or in a fiduciary capacity for assets it does not directly control or benefit from, the assets and the corresponding income belonging to a customer are excluded from the financial statements.

Financial assets are initially recognised at fair value, which is generally the transaction price.

#### Classification and subsequent measurement

HKFRS 9 categorises debt-like financial assets based on the business model within which the assets are managed, and whether the assets constitute a "basic lending arrangement" where their contractual cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest ("SPPI"). Interest is defined as consideration for the time value of money, credit risk, other basic lending risks and may include a profit margin.

The classification of the financial assets and the associated accounting treatment is as follows:

- Debt instruments are measured at amortised cost when they are in a "hold to collect" ("HTC") business model and have contractual cash flows that are SPPI in nature. The objective of a HTC business model is to collect contractual principal and interest cash flows. Sales are incidental to the objective and expected to be either insignificant or infrequent.
- Debt instruments are measured at FVOCI when they are in a "hold to collect & sell" ("HTC&S") business model and have cash flows that are SPPI in nature. Both the collection of contractual cash flows and sales are integral to achieving the objective of the HTC&S business model.

Unrealised gains or losses on FVOCI debt instruments are recorded in other comprehensive income and accumulated in FVOCI reserves. When they are sold, the accumulated fair value adjustments in FVOCI are reclassified to the income statement as "Net income from investment securities".

- Debt instruments are measured at FVPL when:
    - (i) the assets are not SPPI in nature;
    - (ii) the assets are not part of a "HTC" or "HTC&S" business model; or
    - (iii) the assets are designated at FVPL to eliminate or significantly reduce the measurement or recognition inconsistencies that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities on different bases.
- Realised and unrealised gains or losses on FVPL financial assets, except interest income, are taken to "Net trading income" in the income statement in the period they arise.
- Subsequent changes in fair value of non-trading equity can be taken through profit or loss or comprehensive income, as elected. The Group generally elects its non-trading equity instruments to be classified as FVOCI. Other than dividend income, gains and losses on FVOCI equity instruments are recorded in other comprehensive income and accumulated in FVOCI reserves, and not reclassified to profit or loss upon derecognition.
  - Derivatives (including derivatives embedded in financial liabilities but separated for accounting purposes) are also classified as held for trading unless they are designated as hedging instruments. Derivatives are classified as assets when the fair value is positive and as liabilities when the fair value is negative. Changes in the fair value of derivatives other than those designated as hedging instruments in cash flow or net investment hedges are included in "Net trading income".

#### **Reclassification of financial assets**

Reclassification of financial assets are prohibited unless the Group changes its business model for managing financial assets. In practice, this is expected to be infrequent.

#### **Determination of fair value**

The fair value of financial assets is the price that would be received if the asset is sold in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value is generally estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Group for similar financial instruments. Where applicable, a valuation reserve or pricing adjustment is applied to arrive at the fair value. The determination of fair value is considered a significant accounting policy for the Group and further details are disclosed in Note 30 on fair value measurements.

#### **Offsetting**

Financial assets and liabilities are presented net when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle them on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### **Derecognition**

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or when they have been transferred together with substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

The Group enters into certain transactions where it transfers financial assets recognised on its statement of financial position but retains either all or a portion of the risks and rewards of the transferred financial assets. In such cases, the transferred financial assets are not derecognised from the statement of financial position. They also include certain transactions where control over the financial asset is retained, for example, by a simultaneous transaction (such as options) with the same counterparty to which the asset is transferred. In such cases, the Group continues to recognise the asset to the extent of its continuing involvement which is the extent to which it is exposed to changes in the value of the transferred asset. Please refer to Note 35 for disclosures on transfers of financial assets.

#### **(g) Cash and cash equivalents**

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise balances with less than three months' maturity from the date of acquisition including cash, balances with banks, placements with and advances to banks and short-term bills and notes classified as held-for-trading and FVOCI which are readily convertible into cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### **(h) Impairment**

##### **Expected Credit Loss ("ECL")**

ECL are recognised for all financial assets held at amortised cost, debt instruments measured at FVOCI, guarantees and undrawn credit commitments. It represents the present value of expected cash shortfalls over the residual term of a financial asset, guarantee or undrawn commitment.

At initial recognition, allowance is required for ECL resulting from possible default events that may occur within the next 12 months ("12-month ECL"). In the event of a significant increase in credit risk, allowance is required for ECL resulting from possible default events over the expected life of the instrument ("lifetime ECL").

The ECL recognised follows the three-stage model: financial instruments where 12-month ECL is recognised are considered Stage 1; financial instruments which experience a significant increase in credit risk are in Stage 2; and financial instruments with objective evidence of default or credit-impaired are in Stage 3.



- **Stage 1** – Financial instruments are classified as Stage 1 at initial recognition and will remain under Stage 1 unless they experience a significant increase in credit risk or become credit-impaired. 12-month ECL is recognised for these instruments.
- **Stage 2** – Financial instruments which experience a significant increase in credit risk (SICR) subsequent to initial recognition, but are not yet credit-impaired, will migrate from Stage 1 to Stage 2. Lifetime ECL is recognised for these instruments.

**Significant increase in credit risk (“SICR”):** SICR is assessed by comparing the risk of default at reporting date to the risk of default at origination using a range of qualitative and quantitative factors.

For *wholesale* exposures, a financial instrument is deemed to have experienced a significant increase in credit risk when:

- the observed change in its probability of default (“PD”), as observed by downgrades in the Group’s internal credit risk rating for this instrument between origination and reporting dates, is more than pre-specified thresholds; or
- it is placed on internal credit “watchlists” for closer scrutiny of developing credit issues.

For *retail* exposures, days past due is the main driver, supplemented with a PD-based criterion. In any event, all retail and wholesale exposures that are more than 30 days past due are presumed to have experienced a significant increase in credit risk, unless assessed otherwise, and are classified as Stage 2.

Instruments in Stage 2 that no longer exhibit a significant increase in credit risk will be transferred back to Stage 1.

- **Stage 3** – Financial instruments that become credit-impaired with evidence of default, i.e. non-performing assets, are transferred to Stage 3. Please refer to Note 37 for the definition of non-performing assets.

Lifetime ECL is recognised for these assets. ECL for Stage 3 assets are also known as specific allowances.

A Stage 3 exposure that is restructured can be upgraded to Stage 2 if there are reasonable grounds to conclude that the obligor is able to service future principal and interest payments in accordance with the restructured terms. Stage 3 financial assets are written-off, in whole or in part, when the Group has exhausted all practical recovery efforts and has concluded that there is no reasonable expectation of future recoveries.

#### Measurement of ECLs

ECL are unbiased and probability-weighted estimates of credit losses determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes, considering past events, current conditions and assessments of future economic conditions at the reporting date. The ECL associated with a financial instrument is typically a product of the its probability of default (“PD”), loss given default (“LGD”) and exposure at default (“EAD”) discounted using the original effective interest rate to the reporting date.

- **PD** – Point-in-time (based on current conditions, adjusted to take into account estimates of future conditions that will impact PD) estimate of the likelihood of default.
- **LGD** – Estimate of the loss arising on default. It is based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due and those that the Group would expect to receive, including recoveries from collaterals.
- **EAD** – Estimate of the expected credit exposure at time of default, taking into account repayments of principal and interest as well as expected drawdowns on undrawn credit commitments and potential pay-outs on guarantees issued.

The 12-month ECL is calculated by multiplying the 12-month PD, LGD and EAD. Lifetime ECL is calculated using the lifetime PD. The 12-month and lifetime PDs represent the probability of default occurring over the next 12 months and the remaining maturity of the instrument respectively.

In most instances, expected remaining maturity is the same as the remaining contractual life which represents the maximum contractual period over which the Group is exposed to the credit risk of the borrower. However, for some revolving products (e.g. credit cards), the expected remaining maturity may exceed the contractual maturity. In such instances, behavioural expected remaining life will be used.

#### ECL Modelling- Point-in-Time and Forward-Looking Adjustments

The Group leverages the models and parameters implemented under the Basel II Internal Ratings-Based (“IRB”) framework where possible, with appropriate modifications to meet HKFRS 9 requirements.

Other relevant historical information, loss experience or proxies will be utilised for portfolios without appropriate Basel models and parameters, with a view to maximise the use of available information that is reliable and supportable.

For the *wholesale* portfolios, credit risk cycle indices (“CCIs”) have been developed for the key industries and geographies. CCIs are summary measures that depict broad-based, sector-wide changes in credit risk, which are constructed by comparing the median expected default frequency of firms within each segment against a long-run average. Expected default frequency is in turn a market based point-in-time default risk measure, driven by the market value of firms’ assets, asset volatility and leverage. CCIs are then used as inputs to convert the generally more through-the-cycle PDs derived from Basel models / parameters into the point-in-time equivalents by adding the unaccounted portion of cyclical variations, as well as to incorporate forward-looking information. LGDs are determined using historical loss data, which are adjusted for both the latest and forecasted recovery experience.

The Group relies on a Monte Carlo simulation approach to consider over 100 probability-weighted forward-looking scenarios in estimating ECL. This involves simulations of alternative CCI scenarios to arrive at an unbiased ECL estimate that are meant to cover all possible good and bad scenarios based on known estimates and currently available information.

For *retail* portfolios, historical loss experience is used in conjunction with the forecast loss rates which take into account relevant macroeconomic variables, such as property-price and unemployment rates.

#### Expert credit judgement and post model adjustments

The measurement of ECLs requires the application of expert credit judgement. These include:

- assignment of credit risk ratings and determination of whether exposures should be placed on credit watchlists;
- assessment of whether a significant increase in credit risk has occurred;
- selecting and calibrating the ECL models such as CCLs;
- determining the expected remaining maturity of revolving products (e.g. overdrafts and credit cards);
- determination of the forecast loss rates; and
- application of thematic overlays where potential risks may not be captured in the underlying modelled ECL. Such top-down additional modelled ECL is quantified by means of applying conditional probabilities of more severe scenarios materializing arising from emerging risk themes.

As at 31 December 2020, thematic ECL overlays were applied to account for uncertainties arising from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the continuing US-China trade tensions and the socio-political situation in Hong Kong. In determining this overlay, the Group has considered a range of plausible outcomes under base and stress scenarios using a top-down approach. These assessments consider both the economic impact of COVID-19 and the various government relief measures implemented to mitigate the impact. The Group has assigned probabilities to the scenarios in-line with management's judgement of the likelihood of each scenario occurring in determining the overlay.

The base case scenario forecasts a deterioration in the short-term, with economic recovery within a 2-year horizon. The stress case scenario is a more severe outlook with a deeper and longer period of recession in which economic recovery is delayed till end 2023 and 2024. This includes a combination of negative GDP growth, declines in property prices and an increase in the unemployment rates.

#### Governance framework

The measurement of ECL is subject to a robust governance framework as described below.

- The DBS Group ECL Review Committee (Review Committee) is the overarching committee for ECL related matters and comprises senior management and representatives from functions across the Group. Significant changes to ECL models and methodologies and the application of thematic overlays are subject to the oversight and approval of the Review Committee.
- The Review Committee is supported by the DBS Group ECL Operating Committee (Operating Committee) which comprises cross functional representatives and subject matter experts. The Operating Committee recommends changes to ECL models, methodologies and thematic overlays to the Review Committee; provides oversight over system design, infrastructure and development; and establishes principles and significant policies pertaining to ECL. Group Credit Risk Models

Committee oversees ECL models and credit risk models used by the Group.

- Hong Kong ECL Review Group is established and coordinates closely with DBS Group Review Committee to govern and manage local ECL related matters.
- ECL models are subject to independent validation by the Risk Management Group (RMG) as well as independent reviews by internal and external auditors. The validation and assurance processes cover the review of the underlying ECL methodology including its logic and conceptual soundness.

#### (i) Repurchase agreements

**Repurchase agreements ("Repos")** are treated as collateralised borrowings. The amount borrowed is reflected as a financial liability either as "Due to banks" or "Deposits and balances from customers". The securities sold under repos are treated as pledged assets and remain on the balance sheet at amortised cost or fair value depending on their classification.

**Reversed repurchase agreements ("Reverse repos")** are treated as collateralised lending. The amount lent is reflected as a financial asset as "Cash and balances with central banks", "Due from banks" or "Loans and advances to customers".

Amounts paid and received in excess of the amounts borrowed and lent on the Repos and Reverse repos are amortised as interest expense and interest income respectively using the effective interest method.

#### (j) Goodwill

Goodwill arising from business combinations generally represents the excess of the acquisition cost over the fair value of the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed on acquisition date. Goodwill is stated at cost less impairment losses and it is tested at least annually for impairment.

At the acquisition date, any goodwill acquired is allocated to each of the cash-generating units ("CGU") or group of CGUs expected to benefit from the combination's synergies.

An impairment loss is recognised when the carrying amount of a CGU, or a group of CGUs, including the goodwill, exceeds the applicable recoverable amount. The recoverable amount of a CGU or CGU group is the higher of the CGU's or CGU group's fair value less cost to sell and its value-in-use. An impairment loss on goodwill is recognised in the income statement and cannot be reversed in subsequent periods.

#### (k) Properties and other fixed assets

##### Owned properties and other fixed assets

Properties (including investment properties) and other fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to write down the costs of the assets to their estimated residual values over the estimated useful lives of the assets. No depreciation is recognised when the residual value is higher than the carrying amount.

Generally, the useful lives are as follows:

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Land	Over the remaining lease period
Buildings	Over the remaining lease period of the land on which it is situated or 50 years, whichever is shorter
Leasehold improvements	Over the lease term of the leased properties or 5 years, whichever is shorter
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	3 – 8 years

Subsequent expenditure relating to properties and other fixed assets that has already been recognised is added to the carrying amount of the asset only when it is probable that future economic benefit associated with the item can be measured reliably. Other subsequent expenditure is recognised as hire and maintenance expense in the income statement during the financial year in which it is incurred.

Property and other fixed assets are subject to an impairment review if there are events or changes in circumstances which indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

Upon disposal, the difference between the net disposal proceeds and its carrying amount is taken to the income statement.

#### **Leased properties and other fixed assets**

Lease liabilities are initially measured at the present value of lease payments not paid at the lease commencement date, discounted using the respective lessee's incremental borrowing rate. Lease liabilities are subsequently measured using the effective interest method. It is remeasured when there is a change in expected future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, or if the Group changes its assessment of whether it will exercise an extension or termination option under certain condition. A corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset. If the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero and there is a further reduction in the measurement of the lease liability, the reduction is recognised in profit or loss.

Right-of-use assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the lease commencement date to the end of the lease term. Extension options are included in the lease term if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended. The right-of-use assets are periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for the remeasurements of the lease liabilities described above.

Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are not recognised. Payments associated with short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised on a straight-line basis as an expense in profit or loss over the lease term.

Please refer to Note 23 for the details of owned and leased properties and other fixed assets and their movements during the year.

#### **(I) Financial liabilities**

##### **Initial recognition, classification and subsequent measurement**

Financial liabilities are initially recognised at fair value. The Group generally classifies and measures its financial liabilities in accordance with the purpose for which the financial liabilities are incurred and managed. Accordingly:

- Financial liabilities are classified as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss if they are incurred for the purpose of repurchasing in the near term (held-for-trading), and this may include debt securities issued and short positions in securities for the purpose of ongoing market making, or trading. Financial liabilities at the fair value through profit or loss can also be designated by management on initial recognition (designated at fair value through profit or loss).

Realised or unrealised gains or losses on financial liabilities held for trading and financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss, except interest expense, are taken to "Net trading income" in the income statement in the period they arise. Interest expense on structured investment deposits at fair value through profit or loss are also presented together with other fair value changes in "Net trading income".

The changes to the fair value of financial liabilities designated under the fair value option that are attributable to a reporting entity's own credit risk are taken to retained earnings through other comprehensive income. These amounts are not transferred to the income statement even when realised.

- Derivative liabilities are treated consistently with derivative assets. Please refer to Note 2(f) for the accounting policy on derivatives.
- Other financial liabilities are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. These comprise predominantly the Group's deposit portfolio under "Deposits and balances from customers" and "Due to banks" and those under "Other liabilities".

Please refer to Note 14 for further details on the types of financial liabilities classified and measured as above.

##### **Determination of fair value**

The fair value of financial liabilities is the price that would be paid to transfer the liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Please refer also to Note 30 for further fair value measurement disclosures.

##### **Derecognition**

A financial liability is derecognised from the statement of financial position when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired.



**(m) Loan commitments, letters of credit and financial guarantees****Loan Commitments**

Loan commitments are typically not financial instruments and are not recognised on statement of financial position but are disclosed as off-balance sheet in accordance with HKAS 37. They form part of the disclosures in Note 33. Upon a loan draw-down, the amount of the loan is accounted for at amortised cost as described in Note 2(f).

**Letters of Credit**

Letters of credit are recorded off-balance sheet as contingent liabilities upon issuance, and the corresponding payables to the beneficiaries and receivables from the applicants are recognised on-balance sheet upon acceptance of the underlying documents.

**Financial Guarantees**

A financial guarantee is initially recognised in the financial statements at fair value on the date the guarantee is given. Financial guarantees are subsequently measured at the higher of:

- The amount of the ECL (Note 2 (h)); and
- The unamortised portion of the fees that were received on initial recognition. The fee is recognised over time as income in accordance with the principles in Note 2(e).

Off-balance sheet credit exposures are managed for credit risk in the same manner as financial assets.

**(n) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when:

- the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events;
- it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and
- a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**(o) Share capital**

Ordinary shares, and preference shares which do not result in the Group having a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset, or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with the holder under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the Group, are classified as equity. Incremental external costs directly attributable to the issuance of these instruments are accounted for as a deduction from equity.

Interim dividends are recorded during the financial year in which they are declared payable. Final dividends are recorded during the financial year in which the dividends are approved by the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

**Other Specific Topics****(p) Hedging and hedge accounting**

As part of the overall risk management of the Group, derivatives and other instruments are used to manage exposures to interest

rate and foreign currency risks, including exposures arising from forecast transactions.

Where hedge accounting is not applied, the derivatives are treated in the same way as derivatives held for trading purposes, i.e. realised and unrealised gains and losses are recognised in "Net trading income".

The Group applies hedge accounting for economic hedge relationships that meet the hedge accounting criteria. To qualify for hedge accounting, at the inception of each hedging relationship, the Group designates and documents the relationship between the hedging instrument and the hedged item; the risk management objective for undertaking the hedge transaction; and the methods used to assess the effectiveness of the hedge. At inception and on an on-going basis, the Group also assesses and measures the effectiveness of the hedging relationship between the hedging instrument and the hedged item.

Where all relevant criteria are met, hedge accounting is applied to remove the accounting mismatch between hedging instrument and the hedged item. The Group designates certain derivatives as hedging instruments in respect of foreign currency risk and interest rate risk in fair value hedges or cash flow hedges as described below.

**Fair value hedge**

The Group's fair value hedges consist principally of interest rate swaps used for managing the interest rate gaps that naturally arise from its purchases or issues of debt securities.

For a qualifying fair value hedge, the changes in the fair value of the hedging derivative are recorded in the income statement or other comprehensive income, together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk. Gain or loss arising from hedge ineffectiveness is recognised in the income statement under "Net trading income".

If the hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, the adjustment to the carrying amount of a hedged item is amortised to the income statement over its remaining maturity, using the effective interest method.

**Cash flow hedge**

For transactions with highly probable cash flows, derivatives are used to hedge against cash flow variability due to exchange rate movements in certain situations. Cash flow hedge accounting is principally applied in such cases.

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of a derivative designated and qualifying as a cash flow hedge is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated under the cash flow hedge reserve in equity. This amount is reclassified to the income statements in the periods when the hedged forecast cash flows affect the income statement. The ineffective portion of the gain or loss is recognised immediately in the income statement under "Net trading income".

When a hedging instrument expires or is sold, or when a hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, any cumulative gain or loss existing in the cash flow hedge reserve remains until

the forecast transaction is recognised in the income statement. When a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss in the cash flow hedge reserve is reclassified from equity to the income statement.

#### **Economic hedges which do not qualify for hedge accounting**

Some derivatives may be transacted as economic hedges as part of the Group's risk management but do not qualify for hedge accounting under HKFRS 9. This includes swaps and other derivatives (e.g. futures and options) that the Group transacts to manage interest rate, foreign exchange and other risks. Such derivatives are treated in the same way as derivative held for trading purposes, i.e. realised and unrealised gains and losses are recognised in "Net trading income". In some cases, the hedged exposures are designated at fair value through profit or loss, thereby achieving some measure of offset in the income statement.

Please refer to Note 32 for disclosures on hedging derivatives.

#### **(q) Employee benefits**

Employee benefits, which include base pay, cash bonuses, share-based compensation, contribution to defined contribution plans and other staff related allowances, are recognised in the income statement when incurred. For defined contribution plans, contributions are made to publicly or privately administered funds on a mandatory, contractual or voluntary basis. Once the contributions have been paid, the Group has no further payment obligations.

Employee entitlement to annual leave is recognised when they accrue to employees. A provision is made for the estimated liability for annual unutilised leave as a result of services rendered by employees up to the end of the reporting period.

#### **(r) Share-based compensation**

Employee benefits also include share-based compensation, namely, the DBSH Share Plan, the DBSH Employee Share Plan and the DBSH Employee Share Purchase Plan ("the Plans") run by DBSH, the ultimate holding company of the Bank. The details of the Plans are described in Note 40.

These share-based compensation expenses, which are measured at their fair values at grant date, are cash-settled with DBSH, amortised and recognised in the income statement over the relevant vesting periods. Non-market vesting conditions are taken into account in determining the number of shares to be granted or number of options that are expected to become exercisable on vesting dates. The impact of subsequent revision of original estimates, if any, is recognised in the income statement.

#### **(s) Current and deferred taxes**

Current income tax for current and prior periods is recognised as the amount expected to be paid or recovered from the tax authorities, using the tax rates and tax laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period. The Group considers uncertain tax positions generally at the level of the total tax liability to each tax authority for each period. The liability is determined based on the total amount of current tax expected to be paid, taking into account all tax uncertainties, using either an expected value approach or a single best estimate of the most likely outcome.

Tax assets and liabilities of the same type (current or deferred) are offset when a legal right of offset exists and settlement in this manner is intended. This applies generally when they arise from the same tax reporting group and relate to the same tax authority.

Deferred income tax is provided on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period.

The amount of deferred tax assets recognised takes into account the likelihood the amount that can be used to offset payables taxes for future profits.

Deferred tax related to fair value re-measurement of FVOCI investments, which are recognised outside the income statement, is also recognised outside the income statement i.e. in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the FVOCI reserve.

#### **(t) Finance leases**

Leases where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to the Group are accounted for as finance leases.

Where the Group is a lessor under finance leases and hire purchase transactions, the amounts due under the leases, net of unearned finance income, are recognised as receivables and included in "Loans and advances to customers". Finance income implicit in rentals receivable is credited to the income statement over the lease period so as to produce an approximately constant periodic rate of return on the net investments outstanding for each financial period.

### **3 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

The Group's accounting policies and use of estimates are integral to the reported results. Certain accounting estimates require management's judgement in determining the appropriate methodology for valuation of assets and liabilities. Procedures are in place to ensure that methodologies are reviewed and revised as appropriate. The Group believes its estimates for determining the valuation of its assets and liabilities are appropriate.

The following is a brief description of the Group's critical accounting estimates that involve management's valuation judgement.

#### **(a) Impairment of financial assets**

It is the Group's policy to recognise, through charges against profit, allowances in respect of estimated and inherent credit losses in its portfolio as described in Note 2(h).

ECLs are probability-weighted amounts determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes and taking into account past events, current conditions and assessments of future economic conditions, which will necessarily involve the use of judgement.

The COVID-19 pandemic, related measures to control the spread of the virus and governmental support to mitigate the impact of the pandemic had a profound economic impact on the Group's key markets. A significant degree of judgement is required in

estimating the ECLs in the midst of a rapidly evolving COVID-19 environment. Refer to Note 2(h) for more details.

In estimating specific allowances under HKFRS 9, the Group assesses the gap between borrowers' obligations to the Group and their repayment ability. The assessment takes into account various factors, including the economic or business outlook, the future profitability of the borrowers and the liquidation value of collateral. Such assessment requires considerable judgement.

The general allowances under HKFRS 9 are determined after taking into account historical data and management's assessment of the current economic and credit environment, country and portfolio risks, as well as industry practices.

#### (b) Fair value of financial instruments

The majority of the Group's financial instruments reported at fair value are based on quoted and observable market prices or on internally developed models that are based on independently sourced or verified market parameters.

The fair value of financial instruments without an observable market price in a liquid market may be determined using valuation models. The choice of model requires significant judgement for complex products.

Policies and procedures have been established to facilitate the exercise of judgement in determining the risk characteristics of various financial instruments, discount rates, estimates of future cash flows and other factors used in the valuation process.

Please refer to Note 30 for details on valuation process and the fair value hierarchy of the Group's financial instruments measured at fair value.

#### (c) Goodwill impairment

The Group performs an impairment review to ensure that the carrying amount of the CGU to which goodwill is allocated, does not exceed the recoverable amount of the CGU. Note 22 provides details of goodwill as of the reporting date.

The recoverable amount represents the present value of the estimated future cash flows expected to arise from continuing operations. Therefore, in arriving at the recoverable amount, management exercises judgement in estimating the future cash flows, growth rate and discount rate.

#### (d) Income taxes

Judgement is involved in determining the group-wide provision for income taxes. The Group recognises liabilities for expected tax issues based on reasonable estimates of whether additional taxes will be due. Note 27 provides details of the Group's deferred tax assets / liabilities.

## 4 NET INTEREST INCOME

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Cash and balances with central banks and Due from banks	3,938	5,935
Customer non-trade loans	4,402	5,139
Trade assets	632	911
Securities and others	660	1,102
<b>Total interest income</b>	<b>9,632</b>	<b>13,087</b>
Deposits and balances from customers	(1,761)	(3,497)
Interest expense on subordinated liability	(100)	(174)
Other interest expense	(204)	(505)
<b>Total interest expense</b>	<b>(2,065)</b>	<b>(4,176)</b>
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>8,911</b>
Comprising:		
Interest income from financial assets at FVPL	135	283
Interest income from financial assets at FVOCI	283	419
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost	9,214	12,385
Interest expense from financial liabilities at FVPL	(73)	(236)
Interest expense from financial liabilities not at FVPL <sup>(a)</sup>	(1,992)	(3,940)
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>8,911</b>

(a) Includes interest expense on lease liabilities of HK\$26 million (2019: HK\$31 million).

## 5 NET FEE AND COMMISSION INCOME

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Fee and commission income	3,635	3,764
Less: Fee and commission expense	(601)	(680)
<b>Net fee and commission income</b>	<b>3,034</b>	<b>3,084</b>
Comprising:		
– Wealth management	1,693	1,573
– Transaction services <sup>(a)</sup>	825	989
– Loan related	181	167
– Cards	308	338
– Brokerage	27	17
<b>Net fee and commission income</b>	<b>3,034</b>	<b>3,084</b>

(a) Includes trade & remittances, guarantees, and deposit-related fees.

Of which:

Fee and commission income arising from:

– Financial assets or financial liabilities not at FVPL	1,048	1,213
– Trust or other fiduciary activities	57	47

Fee and commission expense arising from:

– Financial assets or financial liabilities not at FVPL	424	536
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**6 NET TRADING INCOME**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Net trading income <sup>(a)</sup>		
– Foreign exchange	<b>853</b>	495
– Interest rates, equities and others	<b>53</b>	61
	<b>906</b>	556
Net loss from financial instruments designated at fair value	<b>(27)</b>	(70)
Total	<b>879</b>	486

(a) Includes income from assets that are mandatorily classified at FVPL as they are not SPPI in nature.

**7 NET INCOME FROM INVESTMENT SECURITIES**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Debt securities at:		
– FVOCI	<b>111</b>	74
– Amortised cost	<b>23</b>	–
Equity securities at FVOCI	<b>13</b>	13
Total	<b>147</b>	87
Of which dividend income from:		
– Listed investments	–	–
– Unlisted investments	<b>13</b>	13
Total	<b>13</b>	13

**8 OTHER INCOME**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Rental income	<b>27</b>	25
Others	<b>45</b>	50
Total	<b>72</b>	75

**9 TOTAL EXPENSES**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Employee benefits		
– Salaries and other short term employee benefits	<b>3,143</b>	3,018
– Pensions	<b>185</b>	162
– Share-based compensation	<b>67</b>	58
Premises and equipment expenses excluding depreciation		
– Expenses relating to short-term leases and low-value assets	<b>16</b>	38
– Others	<b>203</b>	249
Depreciation expenses		
– Owned properties and other fixed assets	<b>295</b>	292
– Leased properties and other fixed assets	<b>297</b>	316
Auditor's remuneration	<b>10</b>	10
Computerisation expenses	<b>381</b>	425
Other operating expenses	<b>577</b>	965
Total	<b>5,174</b>	5,533

**10 ALLOWANCES FOR CREDIT AND OTHER LOSSES**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Loans and advances to customers	<b>1,282</b>	613
Off-balance sheet credit exposures and others	<b>98</b>	9
Total	<b>1,380</b>	622

The table below shows the movements in specific and general allowances during the year.

In HK\$ millions	Balance at 1 January	Charge to income statement	Recoveries	Write-off	Exchange and other movements	Balance at 31 December
<b>2020</b>						
<b>Specific allowances</b>						
Loans and advances to customers (Note 19)	1,308	446	64	(495)	18	1,341
Others <sup>(a)</sup>	21	2	–	–	7	30
Total specific allowances	1,329	448	64	(495)	25	1,371
<b>General allowances</b>						
Loans and advances to customers (Note 19)	1,395	836	–	–	–	2,231
Others <sup>(a)</sup>	117	96	–	–	–	213
Total general allowances	1,512	932	–	–	–	2,444
Total allowances for credit and other losses	2,841	1,380	64	(495)	25	3,815
<b>2019</b>						
<b>Specific allowances</b>						
Loans and advances to customers (Note 19)	1,107	409	82	(309)	19	1,308
Others <sup>(a)</sup>	125	–	–	(104)	–	21
Total specific allowances	1,232	409	82	(413)	19	1,329
<b>General allowances</b>						
Loans and advances to customers (Note 19)	1,191	204	–	–	–	1,395
Others <sup>(a)</sup>	108	9	–	–	–	117
Total general allowances	1,299	213	–	–	–	1,512
Total allowances for credit and other losses	2,531	622	82	(413)	19	2,841

(a) Includes allowances for off-balance sheet exposures, other assets, bank and corporate securities and due from banks.

The following table outlines the changes in ECL allowances under HKFRS 9 in 2020 and 2019 which are attributed to the following:

- Transfers between stages.
- Net portfolio changes, which are determined on an obligor basis i.e. originations with new obligors net of derecognitions from former obligors.
- Remeasurements, which include the impact of changes in model inputs or assumptions, partial repayments, additional drawdowns on existing facilities and changes in ECL following a transfer between stages.

HK\$ millions	General allowances (Non-impaired)		Specific allowances (Impaired)	Total
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	
<b>2020</b>				
<b>Balance at 1 January</b>				
Allowance for credit and other losses	519	993	1,329	2,841
Transfer to/(from)	126	(196)	70	–
– Stage 1	(23)	14	9	–
– Stage 2	149	(210)	61	–
– Stage 3	–	–	–	–
Net portfolio changes	142	(11)	–	131
Remeasurements	633	238	378	1,249
Net write-offs <sup>(a)</sup>	–	–	(431)	(431)
Exchange and other movements	–	–	25	25
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	1,420	1,024	1,371	3,815
<b>Charge in the income statement</b>	901	31	448	1,380
<b>2019</b>				
<b>Balance at 1 January</b>				
Allowance for credit and other losses	462	837	1,232	2,531
Transfer to/(from)	144	(175)	31	–
– Stage 1	(16)	12	4	–
– Stage 2	160	(187)	27	–
– Stage 3	–	–	–	–
Net portfolio changes	25	(26)	–	(1)
Remeasurements	(112)	357	378	623
Net write-offs <sup>(a)</sup>	–	–	(331)	(331)
Exchange and other movements	–	–	19	19
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	519	993	1,329	2,841
<b>Charge in the income statement</b>	57	156	409	622

(a) Write-offs are net of recoveries.

There were no significant modifications of financial assets during the year.

The following table provides additional information on the financial instruments that are subject to loss allowances as at 31 December 2020 and 2019. FVPL assets and FVOCI equity instruments are not subject to loss allowances and therefore not reflected in the table.

In HK\$ millions	Gross carrying value <sup>(b)</sup>				ECL allowances balances			
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
<b>2020</b>								
<b>Assets</b>								
Cash and balances with central banks	27,465	–	–	27,465	–	–	–	–
Government securities and treasury bills	30,567	–	–	30,567	–	–	–	–
Due from banks	207,058	–	–	207,058	1	–	–	1
Bank and corporate securities <sup>(a)</sup>	10,985	–	–	10,985	2	–	–	2
Loans and advances to customers								
– Retail	65,176	586	438	66,200	560	361	109	1,030
– Wholesale	108,899	19,967	2,558	131,424	697	613	1,232	2,542
Other assets	1,456	66	28	1,550	2	2	28	32
<b>Liabilities</b>								
ECL on guarantees and other off-balance sheet exposures					158	48	2	208
<b>Total</b>					<b>1,420</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>3,815</b>
<b>2019</b>								
<b>Assets</b>								
Cash and balances with central banks	2,789	–	–	2,789	–	–	–	–
Government securities and treasury bills <sup>(a)</sup>	28,824	–	–	28,824	–	–	–	–
Due from banks	236,511	–	–	236,511	–	–	–	–
Bank and corporate securities <sup>(a)</sup>	8,270	–	–	8,270	1	–	–	1
Loans and advances to customers								
– Retail	64,393	715	331	65,439	183	215	87	485
– Wholesale	73,267	17,069	2,056	92,392	254	743	1,221	2,218
Other assets	1,461	–	21	1,482	6	–	21	27
<b>Liabilities</b>								
ECL on guarantees and other off-balance sheet exposures					75	35	–	110
<b>Total</b>					<b>519</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>2,841</b>

(a) Includes loss allowances of HK\$1 million for debt securities that are classified at FVOCI (2019: HK\$0.5 million)

(b) Balances exclude off-balance sheet exposures

#### Sensitivity of ECL calculation to macroeconomic variables

The Group assessed ECL sensitivity for the wholesale and retail portfolios to changes in the allocation of exposures between Stages 1 and 2. ECL is estimated to reduce by HK\$698 million (2019: HK\$699 million) should all the exposures in Stage 2 return to Stage 1 and were assigned a lower 12-month ECL instead of lifetime ECL. The impact also reflects the higher PDs ascribed to Stage 2 exposures in addition to the recognition of lifetime instead of 12-month ECL.

As ECL estimation relies on multiple variables, no single analysis can fully demonstrate the sensitivity of the ECL to changes in macroeconomic variables.

#### Relief measures offered to customers

In response to the impact of COVID-19, various forms of relief measures, such as Pre-approved Principal Payment Holiday Scheme launched by HKMA together with the Banking Sector SME Lending Coordination Mechanism, had been offered to eligible retail and corporate customers. Payment deferrals were considered to be non-substantial modifications and accounted for as a continuation of the existing loan agreements. No material modification gains or losses were recognised.

In line with regulatory guidelines, customers' utilisation of relief measures does not automatically result in a significant increase in credit risk and a transfer to Stage 2. The assessment of customer's risk of default continues to be performed comprehensively, taking into account the customer's ability to make payments based on the rescheduled payments and their creditworthiness in the long term.

## 11 BENEFITS AND INTERESTS OF DIRECTORS

### (a) Directors' emoluments

The aggregate amounts of emoluments paid or payable to directors of the Bank during the year are as follows:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Fees <sup>(a)</sup>	5	5
Salaries, housing and other allowances and benefits <sup>(b)</sup>	26	26
Contributions paid under a retirement benefit scheme	1	1
	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>

(a) The directors' fees, if any, are payable in 2020 to eligible persons who acted as directors of the Bank during the year ended 31 December 2020. Such fees are subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Bank.

(b) The amount included cash bonus accrued during the year, to be paid in the following year. Such cash bonus is subject to the approval of DBSH's Board of Directors. The amount also included the estimated money value of other perquisites.

During the year, no termination benefits were paid by the Bank to any of the Bank's directors.

During the year, the Bank did not incur any payment to third parties for making available directors' services.

### (b) Directors' material interests in transactions, arrangements and contracts

No transaction, arrangement and contracts of significance in relation to the Bank's business, to which the Bank or any of its subsidiaries or its holding companies or any subsidiary of its holding companies was a party and in which a director of the Bank or the director's connected party had a material interest, whether directly or indirectly, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

## 12 INCOME TAX EXPENSE

### (a) Income tax expense in the consolidated income statement is comprised of:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Hong Kong Profits Tax		
– Current year	1,006	1,075
– (Over)/under provision in prior years	(38)	108
Overseas tax		
– Current year	1	4
Current income tax	<b>969</b>	<b>1,187</b>
Deferred income tax (Note 27(b))		
– Current year	(163)	(22)
– Over/(under) provision in prior years	14	(38)
	<b>(149)</b>	<b>(60)</b>
Total	<b>820</b>	<b>1,127</b>

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at 16.5% (2019: 16.5%) on the estimated assessable profits for the year. Taxation for overseas subsidiaries and branch are charged at the appropriate current rates of taxation ruling in the countries in which they operate.

### (b) The deferred income tax credited to the consolidated income statement comprises the following temporary differences:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Accelerated depreciation allowances	(6)	11
Impairment allowances	(155)	(73)
Share-based compensation	(2)	(1)
Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities	14	(4)
Accrued expenses	–	7
	<b>(149)</b>	<b>(60)</b>

### (c) The tax on the Group's profit before income tax differs from the theoretical amount that would arise using the Hong Kong profits tax rate of 16.5% (2019: 16.5%) is as follows:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Profit before income tax	<b>5,145</b>	6,488
Tax calculated at tax rate of 16.5% (2019: 16.5%)	<b>849</b>	1,071
Effect of different tax rates in other countries	(1)	(2)
Income not subject to tax	(37)	(90)
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	33	78
(Over)/under provision in prior years	(24)	70
Income tax expense	<b>820</b>	<b>1,127</b>

## 13 DIVIDEND

### (a) Ordinary shares

	2020		2019	
	Per share HK\$	HK\$ millions	Per share HK\$	HK\$ millions
First interim dividend	0.286	2,000	0.357	2,500
Second interim dividend	–	–	0.286	2,000
Final dividend	–	–	–	–
	<b>0.286</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0.643</b>	<b>4,500</b>

### (b) Preference shares

Preferential dividend of HK\$55 million (2019: HK\$55 million) was paid to holder of Class A preference shares during the year.



## 14 CLASSIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

In HK\$ millions	Mandatorily at FVPL <sup>(c)</sup>	FVPL designated	FVOCI-Debt	FVOCI-Equity	Amortised cost	Hedging derivatives	Total
<b>2020</b>							
<b>Assets</b>							
Cash and balances with central banks	–	–	–	–	27,465	–	27,465
Government securities and treasury bills	2,148	–	21,361	–	9,206	–	32,715
Due from banks	–	–	–	–	207,057	–	207,057
Derivatives	1,545	–	–	–	–	82	1,627
Bank and corporate securities <sup>(d)</sup>	–	–	8,619	256	2,365	–	11,240
Loans and advances to customers	–	–	–	–	194,052	–	194,052
Other financial assets	–	–	–	–	5,265	–	5,265
Total financial assets	3,693	–	29,980	256	445,410	82	479,421
Non-financial assets <sup>(a)</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	4,738
Total assets							484,159
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Due to banks	–	–	–	–	15,806	–	15,806
Deposits and balances from customers	–	406	–	–	404,395	–	404,801
Derivatives	1,414	–	–	–	–	211	1,625
Certificates of deposit issued	–	–	–	–	2,215	–	2,215
Other financial liabilities	1,095	–	–	–	12,487	–	13,582
Subordinated liability	–	–	–	–	4,186	–	4,186
Total financial liabilities	2,509	406	–	–	439,089	211	442,215
Non-financial liabilities <sup>(b)</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	134
Total liabilities							442,349
<b>2019</b>							
<b>Assets</b>							
Cash and balances with central banks	–	–	–	–	2,789	–	2,789
Government securities and treasury bills	2,125	–	22,167	–	6,657	–	30,949
Due from banks	–	–	–	–	236,511	–	236,511
Derivatives	607	–	–	–	–	26	633
Bank and corporate securities	1,080	–	2,146	195	6,123	–	9,544
Loans and advances to customers	–	–	–	–	155,128	–	155,128
Other financial assets	–	–	–	–	6,369	–	6,369
Total financial assets	3,812	–	24,313	195	413,577	26	441,923
Non-financial assets <sup>(a)</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	4,774
Total assets							446,697
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Due to banks	–	–	–	–	5,810	–	5,810
Deposits and balances from customers	–	3,517	–	–	370,583	–	374,100
Derivatives	553	–	–	–	–	13	566
Certificates of deposit issued	–	–	–	–	6,358	–	6,358
Other financial liabilities	541	–	–	–	14,650	–	15,191
Subordinated liability	–	–	–	–	4,203	–	4,203
Total financial liabilities	1,094	3,517	–	–	401,604	13	406,228
Non-financial liabilities <sup>(b)</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,442
Total liabilities							407,670

(a) Includes goodwill, properties and other fixed assets, and deferred tax assets

(b) Includes current tax liabilities and deferred tax liabilities. Lease liabilities are included in other financial liabilities

(c) Includes assets and liabilities that are held for trading and debt-type financial assets that are not SPPI in nature

(d) In 2020, the Group reclassified HK\$5,186 million of "Bank and corporate securities" from amortised cost to FVOCI. The reclassification occurred during 2020 as the Group changed its business model in response to the liquidity conditions brought about by COVID-19



**15 CASH AND BALANCES WITH CENTRAL BANKS**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Cash in hand	576	959
Balances with central banks	26,889	1,830
Total	27,465	2,789

**16 GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AND TREASURY BILLS**

In HK\$ millions	Mandatorily at FVPL	FVOCI	Amortised cost	Total
<b>2020</b>				
Treasury bills <sup>(a)</sup>	651	16,243	–	16,894
Other debt securities <sup>(b)</sup>	1,497	5,118	9,206	15,821
Total	2,148	21,361	9,206	32,715
Of which:				
– Listed in Hong Kong, at fair value	1,497	339	–	1,836
– Listed outside Hong Kong, at fair value	–	645	–	645
– Listed outside Hong Kong, at cost	–	–	9,206	9,206
– Unlisted, at fair value	651	20,377	–	21,028
	2,148	21,361	9,206	32,715
Analysed by issuer as follows:				
– Sovereigns	2,148	21,361	9,206	32,715
Analysed by rating agency designation as follows:				
– AAA	–	4,133	–	4,133
– AA- to AA+	2,148	16,889	–	19,037
– A- to A+	–	339	9,206	9,545
	2,148	21,361	9,206	32,715

**2019**

Treasury bills <sup>(a)</sup>	1,052	17,167	–	18,219
Other debt securities <sup>(b)</sup>	1,073	5,000	6,657	12,730
	2,125	22,167	6,657	30,949
Of which:				
– Listed in Hong Kong, at fair value	1,071	427	–	1,498
– Listed outside Hong Kong, at fair value	–	934	–	934
– Listed outside Hong Kong, at cost	–	–	6,657	6,657
– Unlisted, at fair value	1,054	20,806	–	21,860
	2,125	22,167	6,657	30,949
Analysed by issuer as follows:				
– Sovereigns	2,125	22,167	6,657	30,949
Analysed by rating agency designation as follows:				
– AAA	–	3,447	–	3,447
– AA- to AA+	2,123	17,835	–	19,958
– A- to A+	2	885	6,657	7,544
	2,125	22,167	6,657	30,949

(a) Includes financial assets pledged or transferred of HK\$1,042 million (2019: HK\$500 million) (See Note 35)

(b) Includes financial assets pledged or transferred of HK\$1,355 million (2019: HK\$46 million) (See Note 35)

The ratings refer to Standard & Poor's ratings (or their equivalent) to the respective issues of the securities, while in the absence of such issue ratings, ratings designated for the issuers or location of incorporation of the issuers are reported.

As at 31 December 2020, the fair value of the above debt securities classified as amortised cost is HK\$9,238 million (2019: HK\$6,695 million).

As at 31 December 2020 and 2019, there were no impaired, overdue or rescheduled FVOCI and amortised cost financial assets.

**17 DUE FROM BANKS**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Balances with banks	4,823	2,957
Placements with and advances to banks		
Remaining maturity		
– Within one month	92,172	71,662
– One year or less but over one month	21,434	37,113
– Over one year and others	88,629	124,779
	202,235	233,554
Gross amount due from banks	207,058	236,511
Allowance for credit and other losses	(1)	–
Net amount due from banks	207,057	236,511

As at 31 December 2020 and 2019, there were no impaired, overdue or rescheduled placements with and advances to banks.

## 18 BANK AND CORPORATE SECURITIES

In HK\$ millions	Mandatorily at FVPL	FVOCI	Amortised cost	Total
<b>2020</b>				
Debt securities <sup>(a)</sup>	–	8,619	2,366	10,985
Equity securities	–	256	–	256
	–	8,875	2,366	11,241
Allowance for credit and other losses	–	–	(1)	(1)
	–	8,875	2,365	11,240
Of which:				
Debt securities				
– Listed in Hong Kong, at fair value	–	108	–	108
– Listed in Hong Kong, at cost	–	–	340	340
– Listed outside Hong Kong, at fair value	–	4,757	–	4,757
– Listed outside Hong Kong, at cost	–	–	2,025	2,025
– Unlisted, at fair value	–	3,754	–	3,754
	–	8,619	2,365	10,984
Equity securities				
– Unlisted, at fair value	–	256	–	256
	–	8,875	2,365	11,240
Analysed by issuer as follows:				
– Banks	–	8,619	1,662	10,281
– Corporates	–	256	703	959
	–	8,875	2,365	11,240
Debt securities analysed by rating agency designation as follows:				
– AAA	–	7,888	–	7,888
– A- to A+	–	731	2,250	2,981
– BBB- to BBB+	–	–	115	115
– Unrated	–	–	–	–
	–	8,619	2,365	10,984

In HK\$ millions	Mandatorily at FVPL	FVOCI	Amortised cost	Total
<b>2019</b>				
Debt securities	1,080	2,146	6,124	9,350
Equity securities	–	195	–	195
	1,080	2,341	6,124	9,545
Allowance for credit and other losses	–	–	(1)	(1)
	1,080	2,341	6,123	9,544
Of which:				
Debt securities				
– Listed in Hong Kong, at fair value	1	107	–	108
– Listed outside Hong Kong, at fair value	–	1,965	–	1,965
– Listed outside Hong Kong, at cost	–	–	1,518	1,518
– Unlisted, at fair value	1,079	74	–	1,153
– Unlisted, at cost	–	–	4,605	4,605
	1,080	2,146	6,123	9,349
Equity securities				
– Unlisted, at fair value	–	195	–	195
	1,080	2,341	6,123	9,544
Analysed by issuer as follows:				
– Public sector entities	–	–	792	792
– Banks	1,078	2,146	5,331	8,555
– Corporates	2	195	–	197
	1,080	2,341	6,123	9,544
Debt securities analysed by rating agency designation as follows:				
– AAA	–	1,533	5,331	6,864
– A- to A+	1,078	613	–	1,691
– BBB- to BBB+	2	–	–	2
– Unrated	–	–	792	792
	1,080	2,146	6,123	9,349

(a) ECL for FVOCI securities amounting to HK\$1 million (2019: \$0.5 million) are not shown in the table, as these securities are recorded at fair value

The ratings refer to Standard & Poor's ratings (or their equivalent) to the respective issues of the securities, while in the absence of such issue ratings, ratings designated for the issuers are reported.

As at 31 December 2020, the fair value of the above debt securities classified as amortised cost is HK\$2,382 million (2019: HK\$6,186 million).

As at 31 December 2020 and 2019, there were no impaired, overdue or rescheduled FVOCI and amortised cost financial assets.

**19 LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Gross loans and advances to customers	<b>197,624</b>	157,831
Allowance for credit and other losses		
– Specific allowances	<b>(1,341)</b>	(1,308)
– General allowances	<b>(2,231)</b>	(1,395)
	<b>194,052</b>	155,128
Comprising:		
– Trade bills	<b>9,718</b>	6,707
– Loans	<b>184,334</b>	148,421
	<b>194,052</b>	155,128

Loans and advances to customers include finance leases and hire purchase contracts receivables and are analysed as follows:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Gross investments in finance leases and hire purchase contracts receivables:		
– Not later than one year	<b>447</b>	713
– Later than one year and not later than five years	<b>1,866</b>	2,585
– Later than five years	<b>6,368</b>	6,284
	<b>8,681</b>	9,582
Unearned future finance income	<b>(1,537)</b>	(1,747)
Net investments in finance leases and hire purchase contracts receivables	<b>7,144</b>	7,835
The net investments in finance leases and hire purchase contracts receivables are analysed as follows:		
– Not later than one year	<b>305</b>	550
– Later than one year and not later than five years	<b>1,378</b>	2,031
– Later than five years	<b>5,461</b>	5,254
	<b>7,144</b>	7,835

Gross investments in finance lease and unearned future finance income in 2020 and 2019 are undiscounted lease payments to be received including fixed and variable interest rate contracts.

The unguaranteed residual values included in the gross investments in finance leases and hire purchase contracts receivables as at 31 December 2020 and 2019 are not material.

The specific allowances for finance leases and hire purchase contracts receivables amounted to HK\$19 million as at 31 December 2020 (2019: HK\$22 million).

**20 OTHER ASSETS**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Accrued interest receivables	<b>951</b>	1,638
Acceptances	<b>1,522</b>	1,461
Deferred tax assets (Note 27(b))	<b>240</b>	183
Cash collateral placed	<b>2</b>	1
Others	<b>2,822</b>	3,296
	<b>5,537</b>	6,579
Allowance for credit and other losses	<b>(32)</b>	(27)
	<b>5,505</b>	6,552

**21 SUBSIDIARIES**

The main operating subsidiary of the Group, which is wholly and directly owned by the Bank, is listed below:

Name of company	Place of incorporation	Place of operation	Particulars of issued share capital	Principal activities
Ting Hong Nominees Limited	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	10,000 shares	Provision of nominee, trustee and agency services

**22 GOODWILL**

As at 31 December 2020, the carrying value of the Group's goodwill arising from acquisition of subsidiaries is allocated to the Group's cash-generating units (CGUs) or groups of CGUs as follows:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
<b>Goodwill</b>	<b>168</b>	168

The carrying values of the CGUs are reviewed at least once a year to determine if the goodwill associated with them should be impaired. If a CGU's carrying value exceeds its recoverable value, a goodwill impairment charge is recognised in the income statement.

The recoverable value is determined based on a value-in-use calculation. The CGU's five-year projected cash flows, taking into account projected regulatory capital requirements, are discounted by its cost of capital to derive their present value. To derive the value beyond the fifth year, a long-term growth rate is imputed to the fifth-year cash flow and then discounted by the cost of capital to derive the terminal value. The long-term growth rate used does not exceed the historical long-term growth rate of the market the CGU operates in. The recoverable value is the sum of the present value of the five-year cash flows and the terminal value.

A growth rate of 3.5% (2019: 4.5%) and discount rate of 9.0% (2019: 9.0%) were assumed in the value-in-use calculation.

The process of evaluating goodwill impairment involves management judgement and prudent estimates of various factors including future cash flows as well as the cost of capital and long-term growth rates. The results can be highly sensitive to the assumptions used. Management believes that any reasonably possible change in the key assumptions would not cause the carrying amount of the operating unit to exceed its recoverable amount at 31 December 2020. However, if conditions in Hong Kong and the banking industry deteriorate and turn out to be significantly worse than anticipated in the Group's performance forecast, the goodwill may be impaired in future periods.

## 23 PROPERTIES AND OTHER FIXED ASSETS

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Owned properties and other fixed assets (Note 23(a))	<b>2,205</b>	2,247
Leased properties and other fixed assets (Note 23(b))	<b>2,125</b>	2,176
Total	<b>4,330</b>	4,423

### (a) Owned Properties and other fixed assets movements

In HK\$ millions	Freehold land and building	Land and buildings	Furniture, fixtures and equipment	Subtotal	Investment properties	Total
<b>2020</b>						
Cost						
As at 1 January 2020	23	2,364	2,390	4,777	33	4,810
Additions	–	42	228	270	–	270
Disposals/written off <sup>(a)</sup>	–	–	(73)	(73)	–	(73)
As at 31 December 2020	23	2,406	2,545	4,974	33	5,007
Accumulated depreciation and impairment						
As at 1 January 2020	17	978	1,547	2,542	21	2,563
Charge for the year (Note 9)	–	23	272	295	– <sup>#</sup>	295
Disposals/written off <sup>(a)</sup>	–	–	(56)	(56)	–	(56)
As at 31 December 2020	17	1,001	1,763	2,781	21	2,802
Net book value						
As at 31 December 2020	6	1,405	782	2,193	12	2,205
<b>2019</b>						
Cost						
As at 1 January 2019	23	2,346	2,134	4,503	33	4,536
Additions	–	21	360	381	–	381
Disposals/written off <sup>(a)</sup>	–	(3)	(104)	(107)	–	(107)
As at 31 December 2019	23	2,364	2,390	4,777	33	4,810
Accumulated depreciation and impairment						
As at 1 January 2019	17	961	1,372	2,350	20	2,370
Charge for the year (Note 9)	–	18	273	291	1	292
Disposals/written off <sup>(a)</sup>	–	(1)	(98)	(99)	–	(99)
As at 31 December 2019	17	978	1,547	2,542	21	2,563
Net book value						
As at 31 December 2019	6	1,386	843	2,235	12	2,247

(a) Included amount written off of HK\$14 million (2019: HK\$7 million).

# Amount under HK\$500,000.

The total market value of all properties as at 31 December 2020 was HK\$6,813 million (2019: HK\$7,855 million), of which investment properties accounted for HK\$238 million (2019: HK\$278 million). The market values are determined using investment method or using a combination of comparable sales and investment methods. The properties are classified under Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy and the significant unobservable input used for valuation is market yields. For the year ended 31 December 2020, there were no transfers into or out of Level 3.

The minimum lease receivables as at the balance sheet date are as follows:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
<b>Minimum lease receivables</b>		
Not later than 1 year	–	9
Later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	–	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17</b>

(a) The lease contract was terminated during 2020.

The net book values of land and buildings and investment properties held by the Group are as follows:

In HK\$ millions	2020		2019	
	Land and buildings	Investment properties	Land and buildings	Investment properties
<b>Freeholds</b>				
Held outside Hong Kong	6	–	6	–
<b>Leaseholds</b>				
Held in Hong Kong				
– Leases of over 50 years	141	1	134	1
– Leases of between 10 to 50 years	1,263	11	1,250	11
Held outside Hong Kong				
– Leases of between 10 to 50 years	1	–	2	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>12</b>

**(b) Lease properties and other fixed assets**

In HK\$ millions	Properties	Other fixed assets	Total
<b>2020</b>			
As at 1 January 2020	2,053	123	2,176
Additions of right-of-use assets during the year	3	–	3
Changes of lease term	163	80	243
Depreciation charge for the year	(273)	(24)	(297)
As at 31 December 2020	1,946	179	2,125
<b>2019</b>			
As at 1 January 2019	2,692	94	2,786
Additions of right-of-use assets during the year	62	59	121
Changes of lease term	(415)	–	(415)
Depreciation charge for the year	(286)	(30)	(316)
As at 31 December 2019	2,053	123	2,176

The Group's leases comprise primarily of office premises, branches and data centres. The leases of office premises are contracted for periods up to 8 years, whilst leases of other assets are up to 5 years. Some leases may also include renewal rights.

Lease payments are generally agreed upfront except for lease payments on certain significant leases of office premises and for renewal periods whereby the lease payments are subject to periodic adjustments based on prevailing market rates.

**24 DEPOSITS AND BALANCES FROM CUSTOMERS**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Deposits from customers, at amortised cost	404,395	370,583
Structured investment deposits classified as financial liabilities designated at FVPL <sup>(a)</sup>	406	3,517
<b>Total</b>	<b>404,801</b>	<b>374,100</b>

Analysed by:

– Demand deposits and current accounts	120,828	68,982
– Savings deposits	204,845	143,736
– Time, call and notice deposits	79,128	161,382
<b>Total</b>	<b>404,801</b>	<b>374,100</b>

(a) Changes in fair value arising from changes in credit risk are determined as the amount of change in their fair value that is not attributable to changes in market conditions that give rise to market risk. Changes in market conditions that give rise to market risk include changes in benchmark interest rate, foreign exchange rate or index of prices or rates. Changes in fair value arising from changes in credit risk are considered not significant. The carrying amount of the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss was HK\$1 million higher than the contractual amount at maturity as at 31 December 2020 (2019: HK\$15 million higher).

**25 CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT ISSUED**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Certificates of deposit issued, measured at amortised cost	2,215	6,358

**26 OTHER LIABILITIES**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Accrued interest payable	121	763
Acceptances	1,522	1,461
Current income tax liabilities (Note 27(a))	132	1,440
Deferred tax liabilities (Note 27(b))	1	2
Payable in respect of short sale of securities	1,095	541
Lease liabilities <sup>(c)</sup>	2,208	2,259
Other liabilities and provisions <sup>(a) (b)</sup>	8,637	10,167
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,716</b>	<b>16,633</b>

(a) Includes income received in advance of HK\$1,114 million (2019: HK\$1,226 million) arising from the 15-year distribution agreement with Manulife to be amortised on a straight-line basis. HK\$112 million (2019: HK\$111 million) of the income received in advance was recognised as fee income during the year.

(b) Includes allowance for credit and other losses of HK\$208 million (2019: HK\$110 million).

(c) Total lease payments made during the year amounted to HK\$323 million (2019: HK\$324 million).

## 27 TAXATION

### (a) Current income tax assets and liabilities

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Current income tax liabilities (Note 26)		
Hong Kong profits tax payable	118	1,424
Overseas tax payable	14	16
	132	1,440

### (b) Deferred income tax

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Included in "Other assets" (Note 20)		
– Deferred tax assets	240	183
Included in "Other liabilities" (Note 26)		
– Deferred tax liabilities	(1)	(2)
	239	181

The movements on the net deferred tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
As at 1 January	181	151
Impact of adopting HKFRS 16 at 1 January 2019	–	10
Deferred income tax charged to income statement (Note 12(a))	149	60
Deferred income tax debited to equity (Note 29(b))	(91)	(40)
As at 31 December	239	181

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are attributable to the following items:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Deferred tax assets		
Impairment allowances	440	286
Share-based compensation	20	18
Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities	–	14
Accrued expenses	21	21
Revaluation of investment securities	–	2
	481	341
Deferred tax liabilities		
Impairment allowances	(1)	(2)
Accelerated depreciation allowances	(118)	(124)
Cash flow hedge investment	(96)	(34)
Revaluation of investment securities	(27)	–
	(242)	(160)

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities and when the deferred income taxes relate to the same fiscal authority. The deferred tax assets and liabilities are to be recovered and settled after one year and the following amounts, determined after appropriate offsetting, are shown in the statement of financial position:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Deferred tax assets	481	341
Deferred tax liabilities	(241)	(158)
Deferred tax assets included in "Other assets"	240	183

## 28 SUBORDINATED LIABILITY

On 13 December 2017, the Bank issued a subordinated loan (the "Loan") of US\$540 million to DBSH. Interest on the Loan is payable quarterly at USD 3-month LIBOR plus 1.62% per annum. The Loan will mature on 13 December 2027 and is repayable on 13 December 2022 or any date thereafter. The terms require the Loan to be written off if and when the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA") notifies the Bank that a write-off, or a public sector injection of capital (or equivalent support), is necessary, without which the Bank would become non-viable. In addition, the lender of the Loan is subject to the exercise of the Hong Kong Resolution Authority Power by the relevant Hong Kong Resolution Authority. The Loan is qualified as Tier 2 capital of the Bank under the Banking (Capital) Rules made by the HKMA.

## 29 CAPITAL AND RESERVES

### (a) Share capital

	2020		2019	
	Number of shares	HK\$ millions	Number of shares	HK\$ millions
<b>Ordinary shares</b>				
At 1 January and 31 December	7,000 million	7,595	7,000 million	7,595
<b>Preference shares<sup>(i)</sup></b>				
At 1 January and 31 December	140	1,400	140	1,400
Issued share capital at 31 December		8,995		8,995

(i) The Bank issued 140 non-cumulative Class A preference shares to its parent holding company, DBSH, on 13 October 2016 for an aggregate issue price of HK\$1,400 million. Dividends are payable annually at the rate of 3.9% per annum at the discretion of the Bank. The preference shares are redeemable on 13 October 2021 or any date thereafter. The terms require the preference shares to be converted into ordinary shares if and when the HKMA notifies the Bank that a conversion of the instrument, or a public sector injection of capital (or equivalent support), is necessary, without which the Bank would become non-viable. In addition, the holder of the preference shares is subject to the exercise of the Hong Kong Resolution Authority Power by the relevant Hong Kong Resolution Authority. The preference shares qualify as Additional Tier 1 capital of the Bank under the Banking (Capital) Rules made by the HKMA.

**(b) Reserves****Group**

In HK\$ millions	Capital reserves	FVOCI reserve	Cash flow hedge reserve	Property revaluation reserve	General reserve	Retained earnings	Total reserves
<b>2020</b>							
Balance as at 1 January 2020	12	160	169	9	2,399	27,283	30,032
Net valuation taken to equity	–	341	572	–	–	–	913
Transferred to income statement	–	(111)	(198)	–	–	–	(309)
Deferred income tax debited to equity (Note 27(b))	–	(29)	(62)	–	–	–	(91)
Profit attributable to shareholders	–	–	–	–	–	4,325	4,325
Dividend paid	–	–	–	–	–	(2,055)	(2,055)
Balance as at 31 December 2020	12	361	481	9	2,399	29,553	32,815
<b>2019</b>							
Balance as at 1 January 2019	12	11	24	9	2,399	26,502	28,957
Impact of adopting HKFRS 16 on 1 January 2019	–	–	–	–	–	(25)	(25)
Restated balance as at 1 January 2019	12	11	24	9	2,399	26,477	28,932
Net valuation taken to equity	–	234	356	–	–	–	590
Transferred to income statement	–	(74)	(182)	–	–	–	(256)
Deferred income tax debited to equity (Note 27(b))	–	(11)	(29)	–	–	–	(40)
Profit attributable to shareholders	–	–	–	–	–	5,361	5,361
Dividend paid	–	–	–	–	–	(4,555)	(4,555)
Balance as at 31 December 2019	12	160	169	9	2,399	27,283	30,032

**Bank**

In HK\$ millions	FVOCI reserve	Cash flow hedge reserve	Property revaluation reserve	General reserve	Retained earnings	Total reserves
<b>2020</b>						
Balance as at 1 January 2020	160	169	9	2,285	27,211	29,834
Net valuation taken to equity	341	572	–	–	–	913
Transferred to income statement	(111)	(198)	–	–	–	(309)
Deferred income tax debited to equity (Note 27(b))	(29)	(62)	–	–	–	(91)
Profit attributable to shareholders	–	–	–	–	4,324	4,324
Dividend paid	–	–	–	–	(2,055)	(2,055)
Balance as at 31 December 2020	361	481	9	2,285	29,480	32,616
<b>2019</b>						
Balance as at 1 January 2019	11	24	9	2,285	26,431	28,760
Impact of adopting HKFRS 16 on 1 January 2019	–	–	–	–	(25)	(25)
Restated balance as at 1 January 2019	11	24	9	2,285	26,406	28,735
Net valuation taken to equity	234	356	–	–	–	590
Transferred to income statement	(74)	(182)	–	–	–	(256)
Deferred income tax debited to equity (Note 27(b))	(11)	(29)	–	–	–	(40)
Profit attributable to shareholders	–	–	–	–	5,360	5,360
Dividend paid	–	–	–	–	(4,555)	(4,555)
Balance as at 31 December 2019	160	169	9	2,285	27,211	29,834



Property revaluation reserve represents the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of the properties transferred as investment property at the date of changes.

General reserve is comprised of transfers from the previous years' retained earnings.

As at 31 December 2020, no regulatory reserve was earmarked from the retained earnings (2019: HK\$229 million). The regulatory reserve is maintained to satisfy the provisions of the Banking Ordinance for prudential supervision purposes. Movements in the reserve are made directly through retained earnings and in consultation with the HKMA.

### 30 FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

#### (a) Valuation process

The valuation processes within the Group are governed by the Valuation Policy and Supporting Standards. These policy and standards apply to financial assets and liabilities where mark-to-market or model valuation is required. The overall framework is endorsed by Group Market and Liquidity Risk Committee and Risk Executive Committee before approval by the Board Risk Management Committee.

The Valuation Policy and Supporting Standards govern the revaluation of all financial assets and liabilities that are fair value measured, covering both market prices as well as model inputs. Financial assets and liabilities are marked directly using reliable and independent market prices or by using reliable and independent market parameters (as model inputs) in conjunction with a valuation model. Products with a liquid market or those traded via an exchange will fall under the former while most over-the-counter ("OTC") products will form the latter. Market parameters include interest rate yield curves, credit spreads, exchange prices, dividend yields, option volatilities and foreign exchange rates.

Valuation models go through an assurance process carried out by the Risk Management Group, independent of the model developers. This assurance process would review the underlying methodology including its logic and conceptual soundness together with the model inputs and outputs. Model assurances are conducted prior to implementation and subject to regular review or when there are significant changes arising from market or portfolio changes. Where necessary, the Group also imposes model reserves and other adjustments in determining fair value. Models are approved by the Group Market and Liquidity Risk Committee.

The majority of OTC derivatives are traded in active markets. Valuations are determined using generally accepted models (discounted cash flows, Black-Scholes model, interpolation techniques) based on quoted market prices for similar instruments or underlyings or market parameters.

A process of independent price verification ("IPV") is in place to establish the accuracy of the market parameters used when the marking is performed by the Front Office. The IPV process entails independent checks to compare traders' marks to independent sources such as broker/dealer sources or market consensus providers. The results of the IPV are reviewed by independent control functions on a monthly basis.

For illiquid financial instruments where mark-to-market is not possible, the Group will value these products using an approved valuation model. Prices and parameters used as inputs to the model or to any intermediate technique involving a transformation process must be derived using approved market reliable sources. Where possible, the inputs must be checked against multiple sources for reliability and accuracy. Reliance will be placed on the model assurance process established by Risk Management Group for assurance of valuation models as fit for purpose.

The Group uses various market accepted benchmark interest rates such as LIBOR and Swap Offer Rates to determine the fair value of the financial instruments.

Where unobservable inputs are used in these models resulting in Level 3 classification, valuation adjustments or reserves will be taken for the purpose of adjusting for uncertainty in valuations. Valuation adjustment or reserve methodologies are used to substantiate the unobservable inputs and attempt to quantify the level of uncertainty in valuations. Such methodologies are governed by the Valuation Policy and Supporting Standards and require approval by the Group Market and Liquidity Risk Committee.

The main valuation adjustments and reserves are described below:

#### Model and Parameter Uncertainty Adjustments

Valuation uncertainties may occur during fair value measurement either due to uncertainties in the required input parameters or uncertainties in the modelling methods used in the valuation process. In such situations, adjustments may be necessary to take these factors into account.

For example, where market data such as prices or rates for an instrument are no longer observable after an extended period of time, these inputs used to value the financial instruments may no longer be relevant in the current market conditions. In such situations, adjustments may be necessary to address the pricing uncertainty arising from the use of stale market data inputs.

#### Credit Valuation Adjustments

Credit valuation adjustments are taken to reflect the impact on fair value of counterparty credit risk. Credit valuation adjustments are based upon the creditworthiness of the counterparties, magnitude of the current or potential exposure on the underlying transactions, netting and collateral arrangements, and the maturity of the underlying transactions.



#### Day 1 Profit or Loss (P&L) Reserve

In situations where the market for an instrument is not active and its fair value is established using a valuation model based on significant unobservable market parameters, Day 1 P&L reserve is utilised to defer the P&L arising from the difference between the transaction price and the model value. A market parameter is defined as being significant when its impact on the Day 1 P&L is greater than an internally determined threshold. The Day 1 P&L reserve is released to profit or loss as the parameters become observable or the transaction closed out or amortised over the duration of the transaction. As at 31 December 2020, there was no Day 1 P&L reserve (31 December 2019: Nil).

#### Bid Offer Adjustments

The Group often holds, at varying points in time, both long or short positions in financial instruments which are valued using mid market levels. Bid offer adjustments are then made to account for close-out costs.

#### (b) Fair value hierarchy

The fair value hierarchy accords the highest level to observable inputs such as unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities and the lowest level to unobservable inputs. The fair value measurement of each financial instrument is categorised in accordance to the same level of the fair value hierarchy as the input with the lowest level that is significant to the entire measurement. If unobservable inputs are deemed as significant, the financial instrument will be categorised as Level 3.

Financial instruments that are valued using quoted prices in active markets are classified as Level 1 within the fair value hierarchy. These would include government and sovereign securities, listed equities and corporate debt securities which are actively traded. Derivatives contracts which are traded in an active exchange market are also classified as Level 1 of the valuation hierarchy.

Where fair value is determined using quoted market prices in less active markets or quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities, such instruments are generally classified as Level 2. In cases where quoted prices are generally not available, the Group will determine the fair value based on valuation techniques that use market parameters as inputs including but not limited to yield curves, volatilities and foreign exchange rates. The majority of valuation techniques employ only observable market data and so reliability of the fair value measurement is high. These would include corporate debt securities, repurchase, reverse repurchase agreements and most of the Group's over-the-counter derivatives.

The Group classifies financial instruments as Level 3 when there is reliance on unobservable market parameters whether used directly to value a financial asset or liability, or used as inputs to a valuation model, attributing to a significant contribution to the instrument value. These would include all input parameters which are derived from historical data, for example, asset correlations or certain volatilities. Level 3 instruments also include unquoted equity securities which are measured based on the net asset value of the investments. In addition, Level 3 inputs include all stale quoted security prices and other approximations (e.g. bonds valued using credit default swap spreads).

The following tables present assets and liabilities measured at fair value, classified by level within the fair value hierarchy:

In HK\$ millions	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>2020</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss				
– Government securities and treasury bills	2,148	–	–	2,148
Fair value through other comprehensive income financial assets				
– Government securities and treasury bills	20,954	407	–	21,361
– Bank and corporate securities	8,589	30	256	8,875
Derivatives	–	1,627	–	1,627
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss				
– Payable in respect of short sale of securities	1,095	–	–	1,095
– Deposits and balances from customers	–	406	–	406
Derivatives	–	1,625	–	1,625
<b>2019</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss				
– Government securities and treasury bills	2,125	–	–	2,125
– Bank and corporate securities	1	1,079	–	1,080
Fair value through other comprehensive income financial assets				
– Government securities and treasury bills	21,760	407	–	22,167
– Bank and corporate securities	2,116	30	195	2,341
Derivatives	–	633	–	633
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss				
– Payable in respect of short sale of securities	541	–	–	541
– Deposits and balances from customers	–	3,517	–	3,517
Derivatives	–	566	–	566

During the year, there were no transfer between fair value hierarchies.

#### (c) Fair value of financial assets and liabilities not carried at fair value

For financial assets and liabilities not carried at fair value in the financial statements, the Group has ascertained that their fair values were not materially different from their carrying amounts at year end as shown below. The bases of arriving at their fair values are as follows:

##### (i) Due from banks

The estimated fair value of placements with and advances to banks is based on the discounted cash flows using the prevailing money market interest rates for placements and advances with similar remaining maturity.

## (ii) Loans and advances to customers

The fair value approximates their carrying amount as majority of the loans and advances to customers are on floating rate terms.

## (iii) Bank and corporate securities – loans and receivables

The fair values are determined based on independent market quotes, where available. Where market prices are not available, fair values are estimated using discounted cash flow method. The fair value is set out in Note 18.

## (iv) Due to banks and Deposits and balances from customers

The estimated fair value of deposits with no stated maturity, which includes non-interest-bearing deposits, is the amount repayable on demand. The estimated fair value of deposits and other borrowings with fixed interest rates is based on discounted cash flows using prevailing interest rates with similar remaining maturity.

## (v) Certificates of deposit issued

The estimated fair value of certificates of deposit issued is based on discounted cash flows using the prevailing money market interest rates with similar remaining maturity.

## (vi) Subordinated liability

The fair value of subordinated liability approximates its carrying amount as it is on floating rate term and bears interest at prevailing market interest rate.

**31 NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT****(a) Analysis of changes in financing activities during the year****Lease liabilities**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Balance as at 1 January	2,259	–
Impact of adopting HKFRS 16 on 1 January 2019	–	2,846
Interest element of lease liabilities	26	31
Cash outflow from financing activities	(323)	(324)
Net change due to addition and changes of lease term	246	(294)
Balance as at 31 December	2,208	2,259

**(b) Analysis of the balances of cash and cash equivalents**

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Cash and balances with central banks	27,465	2,789
Due from banks		
– Balances with banks	4,823	2,957
– Placements with and advances to banks repayable with original maturity within three months	91,552	66,081
Bills and notes repayable with original maturity within three months	6,754	8,239
	130,594	80,066

**32 DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND HEDGING ACTIVITIES****(a) Derivatives**

The Group uses financial derivatives to hedge the positions of the Group. It also trades in financial instruments where it takes positions in traded and over-the-counter instruments, including derivatives, to take advantage of short term market movements in bond price, currency and interest rate. The Group places trading limits on the level of exposure that can be taken in relation to both overnight and intra-day market positions. With the exception of specific hedging arrangements, foreign exchange and interest rate exposures associated with these derivatives are normally offset by entering into counterbalancing positions, thereby controlling the variability in the net cash amounts required to liquidate market positions.

The following is a summary of each significant type of derivatives:

In HK\$ millions	Contract/ notional amount	Positive fair values	Negative fair values
<b>2020</b>			
<b>Derivatives held for trading</b>			
Interest rate derivatives			
– Interest rate swaps	35,996	698	856
– Interest rate futures	155	–	–
– Interest rate options	4,651	10	10
– Interest rate caps/floors	–	–	–
Sub-total	40,802	708	866
Foreign exchange (FX) derivatives			
– FX contracts	79,324	600	311
– Currency swaps	7,936	52	52
– Currency options	36,932	91	91
Sub-total	124,192	743	454
Equity derivatives	1,280	68	68
Credit derivatives	8,614	26	26
Commodity derivatives	–	–	–
<b>Total derivatives held for trading</b>	<b>174,888</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,414</b>
<b>Derivatives held for hedging</b>			
Interest rate swaps held for fair value hedge	450	8	1
Currency swaps held for cash flow hedge	8,419	74	210
<b>Total derivatives held for hedging</b>	<b>8,869</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Total derivatives</b>	<b>183,757</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>1,625</b>

In HK\$ millions	Contract/ notional amount	Positive fair values	Negative fair values
<b>2019</b>			
<b>Derivatives held for trading</b>			
Interest rate derivatives			
– Interest rate swaps	18,540	198	250
– Interest rate futures	–	–	–
– Interest rate options	2,336	3	3
– Interest rate caps/floors	1,374	–	–
Sub-total	22,250	201	253
Foreign exchange (FX) derivatives			
– FX contracts	91,833	296	191
– Currency swaps	7,388	33	33
– Currency options	30,784	53	52
Sub-total	130,005	382	276
Equity derivatives	1,132	18	18
Credit derivatives	8,801	6	6
Commodity derivatives	3	–	–
Total derivatives held for trading	162,191	607	553
<b>Derivatives held for hedging</b>			
Interest rate swaps held for fair value hedge	1,351	14	–
Currency swaps held for cash flow hedge	6,397	12	13
Total derivatives held for hedging	7,748	26	13
<b>Total derivatives</b>	<b>169,939</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>566</b>

The amounts are shown on a gross basis and do not take into account the effect of bilateral netting arrangements. The contract or notional amounts of these instruments indicate the volume of transactions outstanding as at the end of the reporting period; they do not represent amounts at risk.

#### (b) Hedging derivatives

The accounting treatment of the hedge derivative transactions varies according to the nature of the hedge and whether the hedge meets the specified criteria to qualify for hedge accounting. Derivatives transacted as economic hedges but do not qualify for hedge accounting are treated in the same way as derivative instruments held for trading purposes.

#### (c) Hedge accounting

The Group enters into hedging transactions to manage exposures to interest rate and foreign currency risks. Hedge accounting is applied to minimise volatility in earnings arising from changes in interest rate and foreign exchange rates.

Refer to Note 37 for more information on market risk and the Group's risk management practices and Note 2(p) for the Group's accounting policy for hedge accounting.

#### Fair value hedge

In accordance with the risk management strategy in place, the Group enters into interest rate swaps to mitigate the risk of changes in interest rates on the fair value of the following:

- issued fixed rate debt; and
- a portion of purchased fixed rate bonds.

In such instances, the Group hedges the benchmark interest rate risk component which is an observable and reliably measurable component of interest rate risk. Specifically, the Group has designated fair value hedge relationships, on a hedge-by-hedge basis, to hedge against movements in the benchmark interest rate. This effectively results in the recognition of interest expense (for fixed rate liabilities), or interest income (for fixed rate assets) at floating rates.

The Group manages all other risks derived by these exposures, such as credit risk, but hedge accounting is not applied for those risks.

The Group assesses prospective hedge effectiveness by comparing the changes in fair value of the hedged item resulting from movements in the benchmark interest rate with the changes in fair value of the interest rate swaps used to hedge the exposure. The Group determines the hedge ratio by comparing the notional of the derivative with the principal of the debt issued or the bond asset purchased, or the loan granted.

For all interest rate swaps used for hedging purposes, critical terms match or nearly match those of the underlying hedged items.

The Group has identified the following possible sources of ineffectiveness:

- The use of derivatives as a protection against interest rate risk creates an exposure to the derivative counterparty's credit risk which is not offset by the hedged item. This risk is minimised by entering into derivatives with high credit quality counterparties; or
- Use of different discounting curves when measuring the fair value of the hedged items and hedging instruments. For derivatives the discounting curve used depends on collateralisation and the type of collateral used; or
- Difference in the timing of settlement of hedging instruments and hedged items.

No other significant sources of ineffectiveness were identified in these hedge relationships.

The following table sets out the maturity profile of the hedging instruments used in fair value hedges. The amounts shown in the table reflect the notional amounts of derivatives and the carrying amounts of loans and deposits (if any). Refer to Note 32 for the carrying values of the derivatives.

In HK\$ millions	Less than 1 year	1 to 5 years	More than 5 years	Total
<b>2020</b>				
<b>Derivatives (notional)</b>				
Interest rate swaps	450	–	–	450
<b>2019</b>				
<b>Derivatives (notional)</b>				
Interest rate swaps	900	451	–	1,351

The table below provides information on hedged items relating to fair value hedges.

In HK\$ millions	Carrying amounts (including hedge adjustments)	Fair value hedge adjustments included in carrying amounts
<b>2020</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
Bank and corporate debt securities	234	–
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Other debt securities	218	1
<b>2019</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
Bank and corporate debt securities	231	(2)
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Other debt securities	1,119	2

For the year ended 31 December 2020, the net losses on hedging instruments used to calculate hedge effectiveness was HK\$4 million (2019: losses of HK\$20 million). The net gains on hedged items attributable to the hedged risk amounted to HK\$4 million (2019: gains of HK\$20 million). The ineffectiveness arising from these hedges for 2020 and 2019 were insignificant and recorded in the income statement as “net trading income”.

#### Cash flow hedge

The Group is predominantly exposed to variability in future cash flows due to interest rate movements and foreign currency fluctuations against HKD from the following:

- forecasted interest earnings denominated in foreign currency;
- issued floating or fixed rate foreign currency debt; and
- a portion of purchased floating or fixed rate foreign currency bonds.

In accordance with the Group risk management strategy the Group enters into interest rate swaps, forward contracts or cross currency swaps to protect against the variability of cash flows due to changes in interest rates and/or foreign currency exchange rates. In such instances, cash flow hedge relationships are designated. These are applied on a hedge-by-hedge basis.

The Group also enters into cross currency swaps to mitigate 100% of the risk of fluctuation of coupon and principal cash flows due to changes in foreign currency rates of issued foreign currency debt and a portion of purchased foreign currency bonds. Critical terms of the cross-currency swaps match that of the issued foreign currency debt or purchased foreign currency bonds. In this way the Group exchanges foreign currency interest and principal cash flows, to HKD cash flows.

The Group manages all other risks derived by these exposures, such as credit risk, but they do not apply hedge accounting for these risks.

The Group has identified the following possible sources of ineffectiveness in its cash flow hedge relationships:

- The use of derivatives as a protection against currency and interest rate risk creates an exposure to the derivative counterparty's credit risk which is not offset by the hedged

- item. This risk is minimised by entering into derivatives with high credit quality counterparties;
- Difference in tenor of hedged items and hedging instruments;
- Difference in timing of settlement of the hedging instrument and hedged item.
- Designation of off-market hedging instruments.

The following table sets out the maturity profile of the hedging instruments used in cash flow hedges. The amounts shown in the table reflect the notional amounts of derivatives and the carrying amounts of loans and deposits. Refer to Note 32 for the carrying values of the derivatives.

In HK\$ millions	Less than 1 year	1 to 5 years	More than 5 years	Total
<b>2020</b>				
<b>Derivatives (notional)</b>				
Currency swaps FX contracts	–	5,690	2,729	8,419
<b>2019</b>				
<b>Derivatives (notional)</b>				
Currency swaps FX contracts	–	394	6,003	6,397

The currency swaps have maturity dates that coincide within the expected occurrence of these transactions. The forecast transactions are expected to occur within seven years from the balance sheet date and are expected to affect income statements in the same period these cash flow occur.

The ineffectiveness arising from these hedges for 2020 and 2019 were insignificant.

Refer to Note 29 for information on the cash flow hedge reserve.

#### Interest Rate Benchmark Reform

As described in Note 2(b), the Group adopted ‘Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39 and HKFRS 7 Interest Rate Benchmark Reform’ with provide temporary exceptions that allow entities to continue hedge accounting.

The Group has no exposure in hedging relationships maturing after 31 December 2021 that are impacted by IBOR Reform.

### 33 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

The following is a summary of the contractual amounts of each significant class of contingent liabilities and commitments:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Direct credit substitutes	603	273
Transaction-related contingencies	2,526	2,835
Trade-related contingencies	11,604	8,762
Forward forward deposits placed	1,798	–
Other commitments with an original maturity of not more than one year	212	27
Other commitments with an original maturity of more than one year	13,720	2,156
Other commitments which are unconditionally cancellable	161,747	161,566
	192,210	175,619
Credit risk-weighted amount	21,445	15,735

The information is prepared with reference to the Banking (Capital) Rules. For accounting purposes, acceptances are recognised on the statement of financial position in "Other assets" and "Other liabilities" in accordance with HKFRS 9 Financial Instruments. For the purpose of the Banking (Capital) Rules, acceptances are included in the capital adequacy calculation as if they were trade-related contingencies. The contract amount of acceptances included in the table above was HK\$1,522 million (2019: HK\$1,461 million).

In December 2017, the Bank renewed a five-year outsourcing agreement, with respect to the provision of information technology and related support for the Group's operation in Hong Kong. There are various termination clauses contained within the agreement which indicated that under certain circumstances the service company could require the Group to pay termination cost on early termination of the contract. The exact amount of termination cost cannot be reliably determined as it is dependent upon business volumes over the period of the contract and on the timing of the termination itself.

Other than the claims with provisions recognised in other liabilities, the Group is currently being served a number of claims related to the normal commercial activities. It is not probable that a significant liability would arise from these claims.

### 34 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Capital commitments outstanding at the end of the reporting period but not yet incurred are as follows:

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Expenditure contracted but not provided for	30	23
Expenditure authorised but not contracted for	8	16
	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>

### 35 SECURITIES PLEDGED OR TRANSFERS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The Group pledges or transfers financial assets to third parties or group companies in the ordinary course of business. Transferred assets continue to be recognized in the Group's financial statements when the Group retains substantially all their risks and rewards. Among these, as set out below, are securities pledged or transferred to secure the Group's short position in securities or pursuant to the repurchase or securities lending agreement.

Securities transferred under repurchase and securities lending arrangements are generally conducted under terms in line with normal market practice. The counterparty is typically allowed to sell or re-pledge the securities but has an obligation to return them at maturity. If the securities decrease in value, the Group may, in certain circumstances, be required to place additional collateral.

For repurchase agreements, the securities pledged or transferred continue to be recorded on the balance sheet while cash received in exchange is recorded as a financial liability. The Group also pledges assets to secure its short position in securities and to facilitate settlement operations. The fair value of the associated liabilities approximates their carrying amount of HK\$2,378 million (2019: HK\$541 million), which are recorded under "Due to banks" and "Other liabilities" on the balance sheet.

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Assets pledged or transferred		
– Government securities and treasury bills	<b>2,397</b>	546

The assets pledged as security included financial assets at fair value through profit or loss of HK\$722 million (2019: HK\$46 million).

There were no securities lending transaction outstanding as at 31 December 2020 and 2019.

### 36 OFFSETTING FINANCIAL ASSETS AND FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

Financial assets and liabilities are presented net when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts, and there is intention to settle them on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. As at 31 December 2020, no financial assets and liabilities were offset on the statement of financial position (2019: Nil).

#### Financial assets and liabilities subject to netting agreements but not offset on the statement of financial position

The Group enters into master netting arrangements with counterparties where it is appropriate and feasible to do so to mitigate counterparty risk. The credit risk associated with favourable contracts is reduced by a master netting arrangement to the extent that if an event of default occurs, all amounts with the counterparty are settled on a net basis. Master netting arrangements do not result in an offset of financial assets and liabilities on the statement of financial position, as the legal right to set off the transactions is conditional upon default.

These agreements include derivative master agreements (including the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) Master Agreement), global master repurchase agreements and global securities lending agreements. The collaterals received and pledged under these agreements are generally conducted under terms that are in accordance with normal market practice. The agreements may allow rehypothecation of collateral received and there may be ongoing margin requirements to mitigate counterparty risk.

The disclosures set out in the tables below pertain to financial assets and liabilities that are not offset in the Group's statement of financial position but are subject to master netting arrangements or similar agreements that covers similar financial instruments. The disclosures enable the understanding of both the gross and net amounts (for IFRS and US GAAP readers respectively), as well as provide additional information on how such credit risk is mitigated.



In HK\$ millions	Related amounts not offset on statement of financial position			Net amounts <sup>(b)</sup>
	Carrying amounts on statement of financial position	Financial instruments (including non-cash collateral) <sup>(a)</sup>	Cash collateral received / pledged	
Types of financial assets/liabilities	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)=(A)-(B)-(C)
<b>2020</b>				
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Positive fair values for financial derivatives	1,627	844	349	434
Reverse repurchase agreements	8,699	8,682	–	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,326</b>	<b>9,526</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>451</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Negative fair values for financial derivatives	1,625	844	2	779
Repurchase agreements	1,283	1,283	–	–
Payable in respect of short sale of securities	1,095	1,095	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,003</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>779</b>
<b>2019</b>				
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Positive fair values for financial derivatives	633	386	92	155
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Negative fair values for financial derivatives	566	386	1	179
Payable in respect of short sale of securities	541	541	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>179</b>

(a) Amounts under "Financial instruments (including non-cash collateral)" represent the amounts of financial liabilities/assets position and other non-cash collateral that are subject to netting agreement or similar arrangements, capped at the carrying amount of the financial instruments.

(b) Net amounts represent

- Financial instruments that are not subject to netting agreement or similar arrangements; or
- Financial assets/liabilities that are subject to netting agreement or similar arrangements but the Group's counterparty does not have equivalent financial liabilities/assets position with the Group to offset upon default.

## 37 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

### Risk governance

Under the risk management approach, the Board of Directors, through the Board Risk Management Committee ("BRMC"), sets risk appetite, oversees the establishment of enterprise-wide risk management policies and processes, and set risk appetite limits to guide the Group's risk-taking.

#### (a) Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the Group's daily activities in various businesses. These activities include lending to retail, corporate and institutional customers. It includes both the risk of lending as well as the pre-settlement and settlement risk of foreign exchange, derivatives and debt securities.

#### Credit Risk Management

The Group's approach to credit risk management comprises the following building blocks:

##### • Policies

The dimensions of credit risk and the scope of its application are defined in DBSH's Credit Risk Management Policy. Senior management sets the overall direction and policy for managing credit risk at the enterprise level.

DBSH's Core Credit Risk Policies established for Consumer Banking/Wealth Management and Institutional Banking (herein referred to as "CCRP") set forth the principles by which DBS conducts its credit risk management and control activities. These policies, supplemented by a number of operational standards and guidelines, ensure consistency in identifying, assessing, underwriting, measuring, reporting and controlling credit risk across DBS, and provide guidance in the formulation of business-specific and/or location-specific credit risk policies and standards.

The operational standards and guidelines are established to provide greater details on the implementation of the credit principles within the CCRPs and are adapted to reflect different credit environments and portfolio risk profiles.

##### • Risk Methodologies

Credit risk is managed by thoroughly understanding our corporate customers – the businesses they are in, as well as the economies in which they operate. It is also managed through statistical models and data analytics for retail customers.

The assignment of credit risk ratings and setting of lending limits are an integral part of DBS' credit risk management process, and we use an array of rating models for our corporate and retail portfolios. Most of these models are built internally by DBSH using DBSH's loss data.

Wholesale borrowers are assessed individually using both judgmental credit risk models and statistical credit risk models. They are further reviewed and evaluated by experienced credit risk managers who consider the relevant credit risk factors in the final determination of the borrower's risk. For some portfolios within the SME segment, DBS also uses a programme-based approach to achieve a balanced management of risks and rewards. Retail

exposures are assessed using credit scoring models, credit bureau records, and internally and externally available customer behaviour records. Credit applications are proposed by the business unit and are independently assessed by credit risk managers.

Pre-settlement credit risk for traded products arising from a counterparty potentially defaulting on its obligations is quantified by evaluation of the market price plus potential future exposure.

The Group actively monitors and manages its exposure to counterparties in over-the-counter ("OTC") derivative trades to protect its balance sheet in the event of a counterparty default. DBSH has a policy to guide handling of specific wrong-way risk transactions.

- **Concentration Risk Management**

The Group's risk management processes aim to ensure that an acceptable level of risk diversification is maintained across the Group on an ongoing basis. Limits are established and regularly monitored in respect of country exposures and major industry groups, as well as for single counterparty exposures.

- **Country Risk**

Country risk refers to the risk of loss due to events in a specific country (or a group of countries). This includes political, exchange rate, economic, sovereign and transfer risks. The Group manages country risk as part of concentration risk management.

Transfer risk limits for priority countries are set based on country-specific strategic business considerations as well as the acceptable potential loss.

- **Environmental, Social and Governance Risk**

Responsible financing, covering Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues, is a topic of increasing importance to societal constituents, and one that affects investing and lending decisions across the bank. The Bank recognises that our financing practices have an impact on society and failure of our customers to appropriately manage ESG issues can directly impact their operations and long-term economic viability, and the communities and environment in which they operate.

The Bank adopts DBSH's Responsible Financing Standard that documents the overarching approach to responsible financing and additional assessment required when entering into transactions with elevated ESG risks. The requirements of this Standard represent the minimum standards. Where significant ESG issues are identified, escalation is required to the relevant industry specialist and IBG Sustainability Office in DBSH for further guidance before submitting the credit memorandum to the credit approving authority.

- **Credit Stress Testing**

The Group performs various types of credit stress tests which are directed by the regulators or driven by internal requirements and management. Credit stress tests are performed at a portfolio or sub-portfolio level and are generally meant to assess the impact of changing economic conditions on asset quality, earnings performance, capital adequacy and liquidity.

- **Processes, Systems and Reports**

The end-to-end credit process is continually being reviewed and improved through various front-to-back initiatives involving the business units, the operations units, the Risk Management Group and other key stakeholders.

- **Non-performing assets**

The Group classifies its credit facilities as "Performing Assets" or "Non-performing assets" in accordance with HKMA's loan classification framework.

Refer to Note 2(h) for the Group's accounting policies on the impairment of financial assets. In general, impairment allowance is made when there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of the occurrence of loss events that will have an impact on the estimated future cash flows.

When required, the Group will take possession of collateral and dispose of them as soon as practicable. Realised proceeds are used to reduce the outstanding indebtedness.

- **Credit Risk Mitigants**

- **Collateral Received**

Where possible, the Group takes collateral as a secondary source of repayment. This includes, but not limited to, cash, marketable securities, real estate, trade receivables, inventory, equipment, and other physical and/or financial collateral. The Group may also take fixed and floating charges on the assets of borrowers.

Policies are in place to determine the eligibility of collateral for credit risk mitigation. The Group's collateral is generally diversified and periodic valuations of collateral are required.

For derivatives, repurchase agreements (repo) and other repo-style transactions with financial market counterparties, collateral arrangements are typically covered under market-standard documentation, such as International Swaps & Derivatives Association (ISDA) Agreements and Master Repurchase Agreements. The collateral received is marked-to-market on a frequency that the Group and the counterparties mutually agreed upon. This is governed by internal guidelines with respect to collateral eligibility. In the event of a default, the credit risk exposure is reduced by master-netting arrangements where the Group is allowed to offset what the Group owes a counterparty against what is due from that counterparty in a netting-eligible jurisdiction.

In times of difficulty, the Group will review the customer's specific situation and circumstances to assist them in restructuring their financial obligations.

- **Maximum exposure to credit risk**

The maximum exposure to credit risk for financial assets recognised on the statement of financial position is the carrying amount. For contingent liabilities, the maximum exposure to credit risk is the maximum amount the Group would have to pay if the instrument is called upon. For undrawn facilities, the maximum exposure to credit risk is the full amount of the undrawn credit facilities granted to customers. Refer to Note 33 for the contractual amounts of each significant class of contingent liabilities and commitments.

The Group's exposures to credit risk, measured using the expected gross credit exposures that will arise upon a default of the end obligor are as shown in the disclosures required under the Banking (Disclosure) Rules.

#### Analysis of Collateral

Whilst the Group's maximum exposure to credit risk is the carrying amount of the assets or, in the case of off-balance sheet instruments, the amount guaranteed, committed, accepted or endorsed, the likely exposure may be lower due to offsetting collateral, credit guarantees and other actions taken to mitigate the Group's exposure.

The description of collateral for each class of financial asset is set out below:

*Balances with central banks, government securities and treasury bills, due from banks and bank and corporate debt securities*  
Collateral is generally not sought for these assets.

#### Derivatives

The Group maintains collateral agreements and enters into master netting agreements with most of the counterparties for derivative transactions. The impact of netting arrangements recognised for the computation of capital adequacy ratio is shown in the disclosures required under the Banking (Disclosure) Rules.

#### Loans and advances to customers, contingent liabilities and commitments

Certain loans and advances to customers, contingent liabilities and commitments are typically collateralised to a substantial extent. In particular, residential mortgage exposures are generally fully secured by residential properties. Income-producing real estate, which is a sub-set of the Specialised Lending exposure, are fully secured by the underlying assets financed.

The extent to which credit exposures are covered by eligible collateral under the Banking (Capital) Rules, besides real estate, after the application of the requisite regulatory hair-cuts, is shown in the disclosures required under the Banking (Disclosure) Rules. The amount shown is a sub-set of the actual collateral arrangements entered by the Group as the Banking (Capital) Rules imposes strict legal and operational standards before collateral can be admitted as credit risk mitigants. As a result, certain collateral arrangements which do not meet its criteria will not be included. Certain collateral types which are not permitted as credit risk mitigants for credit exposures under the Standardised Approach are also excluded. There are five broad classifications that describe the credit quality of the Group's lending portfolio including "pass" and "special mention". These classifications each encompass a range of more granular, internal credit rating grades. This mapping reference is reviewed on a regular basis. Please refer to Note 2(h) for details on impairment. Analysis of allowances for credit and other losses as at 31 December 2020 and the movement during the year are disclosed in Note 10.

#### Loans and advances to customers by credit quality

In HK\$ millions	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
<b>2020</b>				
Neither past due nor impaired				
– Pass	173,434	18,131	–	191,565
– Special Mention	43	2,258	–	2,301
Past due but not impaired <sup>(a)</sup>	598	164	–	762
Impaired				
– Substandard	–	–	347	347
– Doubtful	–	–	2,323	2,323
– Loss	–	–	326	326
	174,075	20,553	2,996	197,624
<b>2019</b>				
Neither past due nor impaired				
– Pass	135,515	16,266	–	151,781
– Special Mention	86	1,170	–	1,256
Past due but not impaired <sup>(a)</sup>	2,059	348	–	2,407
Impaired				
– Substandard	–	–	390	390
– Doubtful	–	–	1,744	1,744
– Loss	–	–	253	253
	137,660	17,784	2,387	157,831

(a) The majority of past due but not impaired assets are classified as "Pass" in 2020 and 2019.

Impaired loans and advances to customers are individually assessed customer advances with objective evidence of impairment.

- (i) Analysis of loans and advances to customers that were neither past due nor impaired by reference to the loan gradings under the HKMA guidelines

In HK\$ millions	Pass	Special mention	Total
<b>2020</b>			
Manufacturing	17,300	326	17,626
Building and construction	41,589	222	41,811
Housing loans	24,253	31	24,284
General commerce	43,369	1,141	44,510
Transportation, storage and communication	16,403	330	16,733
Financial institutions, investments and holding companies	10,320	192	10,512
Professionals and private individuals (except housing loans)	30,244	–	30,244
Others	8,087	59	8,146
	191,565	2,301	193,866
<b>2019</b>			
Manufacturing	11,710	288	11,998
Building and construction	23,221	108	23,329
Housing loans	22,787	17	22,804
General commerce	40,192	792	40,984
Transportation, storage and communication	10,410	7	10,417
Financial institutions, investments and holding companies	8,423	6	8,429
Professionals and private individuals (except housing loans)	31,107	6	31,113
Others	3,931	32	3,963
	151,781	1,256	153,037



## (ii) Loans and advances to customers that were past due but not impaired

In HK\$ millions	Past due but not impaired				Total
	Less than 1 month	1-2 months	2-3 months	More than 3 months	
<b>2020</b>					
Manufacturing	47	–	–	–	47
Building and construction	112	6	–	–	118
Housing loans	238	17	2	–	257
General commerce	75	4	5	–	84
Transportation, storage and communication	36	9	3	–	48
Professionals and private individuals (except housing loans)	162	22	1	–	185
Others	22	–	1	–	23
	<b>692</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>762</b>
<b>2019</b>					
Manufacturing	415	5	2	–	422
Building and construction	159	3	2	–	164
Housing loans	384	38	–	–	422
General commerce	562	202	18	1	783
Transportation, storage and communication	156	11	5	1	173
Professionals and private individuals (except housing loans)	239	34	7	–	280
Others	97	57	6	3	163
	<b>2,012</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,407</b>

Loans and advances to customers that were past due by more than 3 months represent individually insignificant advances which are subject to general allowances assessment.

## (iii) Impaired loans and advances to customers

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Manufacturing	316	318
Building and construction	125	114
Housing loans	108	35
General commerce	1,960	1,480
Transportation, storage and communication	76	99
Financial institutions, investments and holding companies	2	–
Professionals and private individuals (except housing loans)	314	284
Others	95	57
	<b>2,996</b>	<b>2,387</b>

	HK\$' millions	% of gross Loans and advances to customers
<b>2020</b>		
Gross impaired advances	2,996	1.52
Specific allowances	(1,341)	
	<b>1,655</b>	
Impaired advances covered by collateral	1,280	
<b>2019</b>		
Gross impaired advances	2,387	1.51
Specific allowances	(1,308)	
	<b>1,079</b>	
Impaired advances covered by collateral	903	

The specific allowances were made after taking into account the value of collateral in respect of the above advances.

### Analysis of specific allowances

In HK\$ millions	As at 1 January	Amounts written off	Recoveries of advances written off in previous years	Net charge/ (release) to income statement	Others	As at 31 December
<b>2020</b>						
Manufacturing	189	(5)	1	(27)	–	158
Building and construction	17	(9)	–	17	(3)	22
General commerce	904	(123)	1	192	(6)	968
Transportation, storage and communication	67	(47)	–	3	27	50
Financial institutions, investments and holding companies	–	–	–	–	–	–
Professionals and private individuals (except housing loans)	89	(283)	62	243	–	111
Others	42	(28)	–	18	–	32
	<b>1,308</b>	<b>(495)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,341</b>
<b>2019</b>						
Manufacturing	206	(10)	1	(6)	(2)	189
Building and construction	14	(7)	1	9	–	17
General commerce	726	(47)	5	223	(3)	904
Transportation, storage and communication	48	(28)	–	23	24	67
Financial institutions, investments and holding companies	–	–	10	(10)	–	–
Professionals and private individuals (except housing loans)	79	(211)	65	156	–	89
Others	34	(6)	–	14	–	42
	<b>1,107</b>	<b>(309)</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1,308</b>

### Analysis of general allowances

In HK\$ millions	As at 1 January	Additions/ (Releases)	As at 31 December
<b>2020</b>			
Manufacturing	88	(3)	85
Building and construction	349	166	515
Housing loans	3	1	4
General commerce	231	145	376
Transportation, storage and communication	267	(24)	243
Financial institutions, investments and holding companies	13	(3)	10
Professionals and private individuals (except housing loans)	397	524	921
Others	47	30	77
	<b>1,395</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>2,231</b>
<b>2019</b>			
Manufacturing	103	(15)	88
Building and construction	314	35	349
Housing loans	4	(1)	3
General commerce	258	(27)	231
Transportation, storage and communication	188	79	267
Financial institutions, investments and holding companies	2	11	13
Professionals and private individuals (except housing loans)	296	101	397
Others	26	21	47
	<b>1,191</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>1,395</b>

Professionals and private individuals of the above tables include allowances for credit cards and other unsecured lending exposures.

### Geographical concentration

The analysis of the Group's gross advances to customers by geographical area is based on the location of the counterparty after taking into account the transfer of risk. In general, transfer of risk applies if the claim is guaranteed by a party in a country which is different from that of the counterparty.

In HK\$ millions	Loans	Trade Finance (including trade bills)	Total
<b>As at 31 December 2020</b>			
Hong Kong	144,124	17,900	162,024
Mainland China	17,028	8,799	25,827
Others	7,153	2,620	9,773
	<b>168,305</b>	<b>29,319</b>	<b>197,624</b>
<b>As at 31 December 2019</b>			
Hong Kong	116,990	18,222	135,212
Mainland China	6,543	6,729	13,272
Others	7,729	1,618	9,347
	<b>131,262</b>	<b>26,569</b>	<b>157,831</b>

### Analysis of impaired advances, impairment allowances for loans and trade finance which accounted for 10% or more of the Group's gross advances to customers:

In HK\$ millions	Impaired advances to customers	Specific allowances	General allowances
<b>As at 31 December 2020</b>			
Hong Kong	2,498	920	2,202
Mainland China	335	282	9
<b>As at 31 December 2019</b>			
Hong Kong	1,874	860	1,375
Mainland China	361	319	5

**(b) Market risk**

The Group's exposure to market risk is categorised into:

- **Trading portfolios:** Arising from positions taken for (i) market-making (ii) client-facilitation and (iii) benefiting from market opportunities.
- **Non-trading portfolios:** Arising from (i) positions taken to manage the interest rate risk of the Group's retail and commercial banking assets and liabilities (ii) debt securities comprising of investments held for yield and/or liquidity risk management (iii) strategic stakes in entities and (iv) structural foreign exchange risk arising mainly from the Group's strategic investments which are denominated in currencies other than Hong Kong dollar.

The Group uses a variety of financial derivatives such as swaps, forwards and futures, and options for trading and hedging against market movements.

**Market Risk Management**

The Group's approach to market risk management comprises the following building blocks:

- **Policies**

The Group Market Risk Management Policy sets out the Group's overall approach towards market risk management. The Policy is supported by standards and guides, which establishes the basic requirements for the market risk management within the Group, and provides more details regarding specific subject matters. The standards and guides facilitate the identification, measurement, control, monitoring and reporting of market risk in a consistent manner within the Group. They also set out the overall approach, requirements and controls governing market risk stress testing across the Group.

The criteria for determining the positions to be included in the trading book are stipulated in the Trading Book Policy Statement.

- **Risk Methodologies**

The Group utilises Value-at-Risk (VaR), a statistical risk measure, to estimate the potential loss from market movements. This measure uses historical simulation based on data for the previous 12 months. It assumes that historical changes in market values reflect the distribution of potential outcomes in the immediate future.

The Group limits and monitors market risk exposures using Expected Shortfall (ES) that is VaR calculated with a one-day holding period and an expected tail-loss methodology which approximates a 97.5% confidence interval. ES is supplemented by risk control metrics such as sensitivities to risk factors and loss triggers for management action.

The Group conduct backtesting to verify the predictiveness of the VaR model. Backtesting compares VaR calculated for positions at the close of each business day with the profit and loss (P&L) that arises from those positions on the following business day. The backtesting P&L excludes fees and commissions, revenues from intra-day trading, non-daily valuation adjustments and time effects.

For backtesting, VaR at the 99% confidence interval and over a one-day holding period is used. The Group adopt the standardised approach to compute market risk regulatory capital for the trading book positions. As such, VaR backtesting does not impact our regulatory capital for market risk.

There are limitations to VaR models; for example, past changes in market risk factors may not provide accurate predictions of future market movements, and the risk arising from adverse market related events may be understated.

To monitor our vulnerability to unexpected but plausible extreme market risk related events, multiple market risk stress tests are conducted regularly. These cover trading and non-trading portfolios and follow a combination of historical and hypothetical scenarios depicting risk-factor movement.

ES and Net Interest Income (NII) variability are the key market risk metrics used to manage our assets and liabilities. As an exception, credit risk arising from loans and receivables is managed under the credit risk management framework. Interest rate risk in the banking book ("IRRBB") arises from mismatches in the interest rate profile of assets, liabilities and capital instruments. It includes basis risk arising from different interest rate benchmarks, interest rate repricing risk and yield curve risk. Estimating IRRBB requires the use of behavioural models and assumptions on certain parameters such as loan repayment, and duration of non-maturity deposits. We measure IRRBB on a weekly basis.

- **Processes, Systems and Reports**

Robust internal control processes and systems have been designed and implemented to support the Group's approach for market risk management. The Group reviews these control processes and systems regularly, and these reviews allow senior management to assess their effectiveness.

The day-to-day market risk monitoring, control and analysis is managed by the RMG Market and Liquidity Risk unit – an independent risk management function that reports to the Senior Risk Executive. DBS Bank Ltd provides RMG Market and Liquidity Risk with model analytics, risk infrastructure and risk report production support.

### Market Risk Metrics

The trading portfolio ES is tabulated below, showing the period-end, average, high and low ES.

In HK\$ millions	As at 31 December 2020	1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020		
		Average	High	Low
Total	5.0	5.0	6.4	3.3

In HK\$ millions	As at 31 December 2019	1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019		
		Average	High	Low
Total	3.7	3.3	4.9	1.9

Note: ES is computed in Singapore dollars and translated into Hong Kong dollars using the prevailing exchange rates on the reporting dates for presentation purpose.

Trading portfolios' average daily ES increased by HK\$1.7 million, contributed largely by an increase in interest rate exposures.

Trading portfolio experienced 1 backtesting exception in 2020 which occurred in November. The backtesting exception was largely due to swings in HKD interest rates.

The key market risk drivers of the Group's non-trading portfolios are HKD and USD interest rate exposures. The Net Interest Income (NII) of the Group is assessed under various rate scenarios to determine the impact of interest rate movements on future earnings. Simulation using a 100 basis points parallel upward or downward shift in yield curves on the Group's banking book exposures. NII is estimated to increase by HK\$499 million and decrease by HK\$806 million respectively.

Equity price risk arises from the Group's strategic investments which are overseen by the Hong Kong Management Committee. The Group's equity exposures booked in its banking book portfolio as at 31 December 2020 and 2019 were not material and were held for long term investment purpose. They were reported as bank and corporate securities in Note 18 to the financial statements and are subject to the accounting and valuation policies set out in Notes 2(f) and 2(h) to the financial statements.

### (c) Liquidity risk

The Group's liquidity risk arises from its obligations to honour withdrawals of deposits, repayments of borrowed funds at maturity, and commitments to extend loans to our customers.

The Group seeks to manage its liquidity in a manner that ensures that its liquidity obligations would continue to be honoured under normal as well as adverse circumstances.

### Liquidity Risk Management

#### Liquidity Management and Funding Strategy

The Group strives to develop a diversified funding base with access to funding sources across retail and wholesale channels. In particular, the Group has continuously made inroads in growing, deepening and diversifying its deposit base, spanning retail, wealth management, corporate and institutional customers across markets that it operates in. Supplementing the deposit base, the Group continues to maintain access to wholesale channels, to support the growth of its investor base, as well as to increase flexibility and manage funding cost in capitalising on business opportunities.

In deploying the funds, the Group aims to predominantly fund its lending activities via customer deposits and borrowings. In the event where market conditions lead to insufficient or prohibitively expensive customer funding, flexibility is maintained to fund lending growth with duration matched wholesale funding. With increasing diversification of funding sources, optimising the mismatch in fund deployments against sources with respect to pricing, size, currency and tenor remains challenging. To this end, where practicable and transferable without loss in value, the Group makes appropriate use of swap markets for relevant currencies, commensurate with the liquidity of each, in the conversion and deployment of surplus funds.

The Assets and Liabilities Committee regularly reviews the composition and growth trajectories of the balance sheet and refine our funding strategy according to business momentum, competitive factors and prevailing market conditions.

#### Approach to Liquidity Risk Management

The Group's approach to liquidity risk management comprises the following building blocks:

- **Policies**

The Group Liquidity Risk Management Policy sets out the Group's overall approach towards liquidity risk management and describes the range of strategies employed by the Group to manage its liquidity. These strategies include maintaining an adequate counterbalancing capacity to address potential cash flow shortfalls and having diversified sources of liquidity. The Group's counterbalancing capacity includes liquid assets and the capacity to borrow from the money markets as well as forms of managerial interventions that improve liquidity. In the event of a potential or actual crisis, the Group has in place a set of liquidity contingency and recovery plans to ensure that we maintain adequate liquidity.

The Policy is supported by Standards that establish the detailed requirements for liquidity risk identification, measurement, reporting and control within the Group. The set of policies, standards and supporting guides communicate these baseline requirements to ensure consistent application throughout the Group.

- **Risk Methodologies**

The primary measure used to manage liquidity within the tolerance defined by the Board is the cash flow maturity mismatch analysis. This form of analysis is performed on a regular basis under normal

and adverse scenarios. It assesses the adequacy of the counterbalancing capacity to fund or mitigate any cash flow shortfalls that may occur as forecasted in the cash flow movements across successive time bands. To ensure that liquidity is managed in line with the Risk Appetite, core parameters such as the types of scenarios, the survival period and the minimum level of liquid assets, are pre-specified for monitoring and control at the Group. Any occurrences of forecasted shortfalls that cannot be covered by the counterbalancing capacity will be escalated to the relevant committees for evaluation and action.

Liquidity risk testing is performed regularly using cash flow maturity mismatch analysis, and covers adverse scenarios including general market and idiosyncratic stress scenarios. Stress tests assess the Group's vulnerability when liability run-offs increase, asset rollovers increase and / or liquid assets buffer reduces. In addition, ad-hoc stress tests are performed as part of the Group's internal capital adequacy assessment process.

Liquidity risk control measures, such as liquidity-related ratios and balance sheet analysis are complementary tools to the cash flow

maturity mismatch analysis, and they are performed regularly to obtain deeper insights and finer control over the liquidity profile across the Group. The liquidity risk control measures also include loan to deposit ratio, concentration measures on top depositors, wholesale borrowing ratios and swapped funds ratios.

#### • Processes, Systems and Reports

Robust internal control processes and systems support our overall approach for identifying, measuring, aggregating, controlling and monitoring liquidity risk across the Group.

Continuous improvement in data and reporting platforms has allowed most elements of internal liquidity risk reporting to be centralised.

The day-to-day liquidity risk monitoring, control, reporting and analysis are managed by the RMG Market and Liquidity Risk unit – an independent risk management function that reports to the Senior Risk Executive.

### Liquidity Risk Metrics

The table below analyses assets and liabilities of the Group as at 31 December based on the remaining period as at the end of the reporting period to the contractual maturity dates:

In HK\$ millions	Repayable on demand	Less than 1 month	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	After 5 years	Undated	Total
<b>2020</b>								
<b>Assets</b>								
– Cash and balances with central banks	27,416	–	–	–	–	–	49	27,465
– Government securities and treasury bills, classified as								
– FVPL	–	551	–	100	293	1,204	–	2,148
– FVOCI	–	5,229	12,179	624	984	2,345	–	21,361
– Amortised cost	–	–	–	–	6,190	3,016	–	9,206
– Due from banks	4,823	92,172	1,069	20,365	88,628	–	–	207,057
– Bank and corporate securities								
– Debt securities classified as FVPL	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
– Debt securities classified as FVOCI	–	–	560	2,338	5,390	331	–	8,619
– Debt securities classified as amortised cost	–	–	–	–	1,831	534	–	2,365
– Equity securities	–	–	–	–	–	–	256	256
– Loans and advances to customers	7,031	42,879	23,670	24,823	62,554	31,440	1,655	194,052
– Others	141	4,138	867	474	541	1,918	3,551	11,630
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>39,411</b>	<b>144,969</b>	<b>38,345</b>	<b>48,724</b>	<b>166,411</b>	<b>40,788</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>484,159</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>								
– Due to banks	2,721	4,162	8,915	8	–	–	–	15,806
– Deposits and balances from customers	325,713	33,561	35,869	9,658	–	–	–	404,801
– Certificates of deposit issued	–	–	2,215	–	–	–	–	2,215
– Subordinated liability	–	–	–	–	4,186	–	–	4,186
– Lease liabilities	–	21	45	193	867	1,082	–	2,208
– Others	1,043	6,034	1,190	370	901	602	2,993	13,133
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>329,477</b>	<b>43,778</b>	<b>48,234</b>	<b>10,229</b>	<b>5,954</b>	<b>1,684</b>	<b>2,993</b>	<b>442,349</b>

In HK\$ millions	Repayable on demand	Less than 1 month	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	After 5 years	Undated	Total
<b>2019</b>								
<b>Assets</b>								
– Cash and balances with central banks	2,749	–	–	–	–	–	40	2,789
– Government securities and treasury bills, classified as								
– FVPL	–	2	3	1,056	532	532	–	2,125
– FVOCI	–	8,699	7,533	2,995	1,570	1,370	–	22,167
– Amortised cost	–	–	–	–	418	6,239	–	6,657
– Due from banks	2,957	71,662	20,277	16,836	124,779	–	–	236,511
– Bank and corporate securities								
– Debt securities classified as FVPL	–	–	–	1,078	2	–	–	1,080
– Debt securities classified as FVOCI	–	74	–	1,105	967	–	–	2,146
– Debt securities classified as amortised cost	–	136	249	1,188	3,758	792	–	6,123
– Equity securities	–	–	–	–	–	–	195	195
– Loans and advances to customers	8,688	44,892	20,824	18,700	29,098	31,847	1,079	155,128
– Others	1,035	2,939	1,019	502	1,366	1,617	3,298	11,776
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>15,429</b>	<b>128,404</b>	<b>49,905</b>	<b>43,460</b>	<b>162,490</b>	<b>42,397</b>	<b>4,612</b>	<b>446,697</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>								
– Due to banks	1,918	2,003	818	1,071	–	–	–	5,810
– Deposits and balances from customers	212,723	70,862	70,745	19,770	–	–	–	374,100
– Certificates of deposit issued	–	900	3,499	1,740	219	–	–	6,358
– Subordinated liability	–	–	–	–	4,203	–	–	4,203
– Lease liabilities	–	26	52	219	881	1,081	–	2,259
– Others	3,954	6,099	973	426	487	877	2,124	14,940
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>218,595</b>	<b>79,890</b>	<b>76,087</b>	<b>23,226</b>	<b>5,790</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>2,124</b>	<b>407,670</b>

The above tables indicate disclosure of contractual maturity of financial liabilities, which approximate the same analysis on an undiscounted basis as total future interest payments are not material relative to the principal amounts. Derivative assets and liabilities are included in “less than 1 month” bucket as they are mainly held for trading.

Lease liabilities in 2020 and 2019 are included in other liabilities and predominantly to be matured over 5 years.

The table below shows the contractual undiscounted cash flows for derivatives, contingent liabilities and commitments.

In HK\$ millions	Repayable on demand	3 months or less	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	After 5 years	Total
<b>2020</b>						
<b>Derivatives settled on a net basis</b>	–	3	(27)	(84)	(16)	(124)
<b>Derivatives settled on a gross basis</b>						
– Inflow	–	60,639	24,035	21,080	2,962	108,716
– Outflow	–	(60,310)	(23,880)	(20,896)	(2,798)	(107,884)
<b>Contingent liabilities and commitments</b>						
– Contingent liabilities	–	14,733	–	–	–	14,733
– Commitments	77,998	99,479	–	–	–	177,477
	<b>77,998</b>	<b>114,212</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>192,210</b>

In HK\$ millions	Repayable on demand	3 months or less	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	After 5 years	Total
<b>2019</b>						
<b>Derivatives settled on a net basis</b>	–	4	(14)	(24)	(9)	(43)
<b>Derivatives settled on a gross basis</b>						
– Inflow	–	72,430	27,454	12,388	6,128	118,400
– Outflow	–	(72,241)	(27,345)	(11,699)	(6,120)	(117,405)
<b>Contingent liabilities and commitments</b>						
– Contingent liabilities	–	11,870	–	–	–	11,870
– Commitments	95,522	68,227	–	–	–	163,749
	95,522	80,097	–	–	–	175,619

The Group actively monitors and manages its liquidity profile based on the cash flow maturity mismatch analysis.

In forecasting the cash flow under the analysis, behavioural profiling is necessary in cases where a product has indeterminate maturity or the contractual maturity does not realistically reflect the expected cash flow. Two examples are maturity-indeterminate savings and current account deposits which are generally viewed as sources of stable funding for commercial banks. In fact, they consistently exhibit stability even under historic periods of stress.

A conservative view is adopted in the Group's behavioural profiling of assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet commitments that have exhibited cash flow patterns that differ significantly from the contractual maturity profile shown in this note.

The table below shows the Group's behavioural net and cumulative maturity mismatch between assets and liabilities over a one-year period in normal scenario without incorporating growth projections. The Group's liquidity is observed to remain adequate under the maturity mismatch analysis, amidst funding surplus from loans and deposits deployed to short-term interbank money market lending.

In HK\$ millions <sup>(i)</sup>	Less than 7 days	1 week to 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 12 months
<b>2020</b>				
Net liquidity mismatch	<b>35,218</b>	<b>34,889</b>	<b>(3,225)</b>	<b>28,939</b>
Cumulative mismatch	<b>35,218</b>	<b>70,107</b>	<b>66,882</b>	<b>95,820</b>
<b>2019<sup>(ii)</sup></b>				
Net liquidity mismatch	48,333	12,895	21,228	20,358
Cumulative mismatch	48,333	61,228	82,456	102,814

(i) Positive indicates a position of liquidity surplus. Negative indicates a liquidity shortfall that has to be funded. The Group's liquidity is monitored on a cumulative mismatch basis.

(ii) As the behavioural assumptions used to determine the maturity mismatch between assets and liabilities are updated from time to time, the information presented above may not be directly comparable across past balance sheet dates.

#### (d) Operational risk

Operational risk is inherent in our business activities and may arise from inadequate or failed internal processes, people, systems, or from external events.

The Group's objective is to keep operational risk at appropriate levels, taking into account the markets the Bank operates in, the characteristics of the businesses as well as our economic and regulatory environment.

#### Operational Risk Management

The Group's approach to operational risk management comprises the following building blocks:

- Policies**

The Group Operational Risk Management ("ORM") Policy sets our overall approach for managing operational risk in a structured, systematic and consistent manner.

There are policies, standards, tools and programmes in place to govern ORM practices across the Group. These include corporate operational risk policies and standards that are owned by the respective corporate oversight and control functions. The key policies address risk areas relating to technology, compliance, fraud, money laundering, financing of terrorism and sanctions, new product and outsourcing.

- Risk Methodologies**

The Group adopts the standardised approach to compute operational risk regulatory capital.

To manage and control operational risk, we use various tools including risk and control self-assessment, operational risk event management and key risk indicator monitoring.

The Group's three lines of defence adopt one common risk taxonomy, and a consistent risk assessment approach to managing operational risk. Risk and control self-assessment is conducted by each business or support unit to identify key operational risk and assess the effectiveness of internal controls. When control issues are identified, the units develop action plans and track the resolution of the issues.

Operational risk events are classified in accordance with Basel standards. Such events, including any significant incidents that may impact the Group's reputation, must be reported based on certain established thresholds. Key risk indicators with pre-defined escalation triggers are employed to facilitate risk monitoring in a forward-looking manner.



Additional methodologies are in place to address subject-specific risks, including, but not limited to, the following:

#### **Technology risk**

Information Technology (IT) risk is managed through an enterprise technology risk approach. It covers risk identification, assessment, mitigation, monitoring and reporting. In addition, the appropriate governance, IT policies and standards, control processes and risk mitigation programmes are in place to support the risk management approach.

Similarly, cybersecurity risk is managed through the same enterprise risk management approach. It cuts across all lines of business, and it takes a collective team effort to proactively address cybersecurity threats. Since January 2019, we have established a one stop competency centre for all cybersecurity related matters and drive deep collaboration with the management of many other types of risks including operational risks and data protection/data privacy risks.

#### **Compliance risk**

Compliance risk refers to the risk of the Group not being able to successfully conduct our business because of any failure to comply with laws, regulatory requirements, industry codes or standards of business and professional conduct applicable to the financial sector.

This includes, in particular, laws and regulations applicable to the licensing and conducting of banking or other financial businesses, financial crime such as anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, fraud and bribery/corruption. We maintain a compliance programme designed to identify, assess, measure, mitigate and report on such risks through a combination of policy and relevant systems and controls.

The Group also provides relevant training and implements assurance processes. We strongly believe in the need to promote a strong compliance culture as well, and this is developed through the leadership of our Board and senior management.

#### **Fraud risk**

The Group has established minimum standards for our business and support units to prevent, detect, investigate and remediate fraud and related events. This is based on the Fraud Management Programme, through which standards are implemented at the unit and geographical levels. These standards aim to provide end-to-end management for fraud and related issues within the Group.

#### **Money laundering, financing of terrorism and sanctions risks**

There are minimum standards for our business and support units to mitigate and manage our actual and/or potential exposure to money laundering, terrorist financing, sanctions, corruption, or other illicit financial activities. Accountabilities have also been established for the protection of the Group's assets and reputation, as well as the interests of our customers and shareholders.

#### **New product and outsourcing and ecosystem partnership risks**

Each new product, service or outsourcing arrangement or ecosystem partnership is subject to a risk review and sign-off process, where relevant risks are identified and assessed. Variations of existing products

or services and existing outsourcing arrangements and ecosystem partnerships are also subject to a similar process.

#### **Other mitigation programmes**

A robust business continuity management programme is in place to ensure that essential banking services can continue in the event of unforeseen events or business disruptions. This includes a crisis management plan to enable quick response to manage incidents.

Exercises are conducted annually, simulating different scenarios to test business continuity plans and crisis management protocol. The effectiveness of these exercises, as well as the Group's business continuity readiness are communicated and attested by senior management to the BRMC on an annual basis.

To mitigate losses from specific risk events which are unexpected and significant, the Group purchases group-wide insurance policies – under the Group Insurance Programme. These include policies relating to crime and professional indemnity, directors and officers liability, cyber risk, property damage and business interruption, general liability, and terrorism.

#### **Processes, systems and reports**

Robust internal control processes and systems are integral to identifying, monitoring, managing and reporting operational risk.

All units are responsible for the day-to-day management of operational risk in their products, processes, systems and activities, in accordance with the various frameworks and policies. The RMG Operational Risk unit and other corporate oversight and control functions:

- Oversee and monitor the effectiveness of operational risk management,
- Assess key operational risk issues with the units,
- Report and/or escalate key operational risks to risk committees with recommendations on appropriate risk mitigation strategies.

The Group implemented an integrated governance, risk and compliance system with aligned risk assessment methodology, common taxonomy, and unified processes for the three lines of defence.

#### **(e) Capital management**

The Group's capital management policies are to diversify its sources of capital, to allocate capital efficiently, guided by the need to maintain a prudent relationship between available capital and the risks of its underlying businesses and to meet the expectations of key constituencies, including investors and regulators.

The Banking Ordinance and the Banking (Capital) Rules set out the current requirements relating to the minimum capital adequacy ratios and leverage ratio for an authorised institution incorporated in Hong Kong and the methodology for calculating these ratios.

The Bank is required to compute its capital adequacy ratios and leverage ratio on a combined basis that includes the Bank and its overseas branch.

The Bank complied with the capital requirements imposed by the HKMA throughout 2020 and 2019.



### 38 MATERIAL RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

#### (a) Holding companies and fellow subsidiaries

The Group's immediate holding company is DBS Diamond Holdings Ltd. and the ultimate holding company is DBS Group Holdings Ltd ("DBSH"). DBS Bank Ltd. is an intermediate holding company of the Group.

As part of the Group's normal course of business, it enters into various transactions with holding companies and fellow subsidiaries on normal commercial terms. These transactions include interbank placements, sales and purchase of loans and advances to customers, taking of deposits, financial derivatives, contingent liabilities and commitments.

The Group has policies on credit processing for its affiliates, as well as transactions with its affiliates and related parties. Affiliate-related transactions must be conducted on an arm's length basis using credit standards, terms and conditions that are comparable to similar transactions with non-affiliates.

During the year ended 31 December 2020, the Group has purchased a portfolio of loans and advances to customers of HK\$25.1 billion (2019: Nil) and undrawn commitment of HK\$6.0 billion (2019: Nil) on an arm's length basis from DBS Bank Ltd., HK Branch.

Information relating to income and expenses from these transactions during the year and balances outstanding as at 31 December are set out below:

#### (i) Income and expenses with holding companies and fellow subsidiaries

In HK\$ millions	DBS Group Holdings Ltd		DBS Bank Ltd		Fellow subsidiaries	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Interest income	-	-	3,851	5,843	44	55
Interest expense	(100)	(174)	(66)	(122)	(3)	(3)
Net fee and commission income / (expense)	-	-	130	89	(29)	(18)
Net trading profit/(loss)	-	-	12	584	(12)	9
Other income	-	-	41	36	8	7
Total expenses recovered	-	-	26	32	54	57

#### (ii) Balances with DBS Bank Ltd as at 31 December

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Due from banks	192,402	227,889
Derivatives	819	378
Other assets	919	1,576
	<b>194,140</b>	<b>229,843</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Due to banks	13,500	3,976
Derivatives	1,462	446
Other liabilities	174	201
	<b>15,136</b>	<b>4,623</b>

#### (iii) Contract / notional amounts of financial derivatives with DBS Bank Ltd and fellow subsidiaries as at 31 December

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Foreign exchange contracts	97,869	101,517
Interest rate contracts	25,843	16,721
Equity contracts	640	567
Credit contracts	4,311	4,409
Commodity contracts	-	1
	<b>128,663</b>	<b>123,215</b>

#### (iv) Contingent liabilities and commitments with DBS Bank Ltd and fellow subsidiaries

As at 31 December 2020, total contingent liabilities and commitments with DBS Bank Ltd and fellow subsidiaries amounted to HK\$2,512 million (2019: HK\$531 million).

#### (v) Balances with immediate holding company and other intermediate holding companies as at 31 December

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Deposits and balances from customers	-	317

#### (vi) Balances with DBS Group Holdings Ltd as at 31 December

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Subordinated liability	4,186	4,203
Other liabilities	4	8
	<b>4,190</b>	<b>4,211</b>

#### (vii) Balances with fellow subsidiaries as at 31 December

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Due from banks	7	13
Bank and corporate securities	-	1,078
Other assets	407	362
	<b>414</b>	<b>1,453</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Due to banks	137	163
Deposits and balances from customers	635	599
Derivatives	13	-
Other liabilities	526	265
	<b>1,311</b>	<b>1,027</b>

#### (b) Directors and key management personnel

#### (i) Transactions and balances with directors and key management personnel

For the year ended 31 December 2020 and 2019, the Group has banking and non-banking transactions with directors of the Bank and DBSH Group and key management personnel of the Bank and their close family members. These transactions, including the taking of deposit and extension of credit card and other loan facilities, are made in the ordinary course of business and on commercial terms, and are not material.

## (ii) Compensation of directors and key management personnel

In HK\$ millions	2020	2019
Salaries, other short term employee benefits and directors' fee (Note)	84	86
Pension	3	3
Share-based compensation	25	25
	112	114

## Note:

The directors' fees if any, are payable in 2021 to eligible persons who acted as directors of the Bank during the year ended 31 December 2020. Such fees are subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Bank.

The amount included cash bonus accrued during the year, to be paid in the following year. Such cash bonus is subject to the approval of DBSH's Board of Directors.

**39 LOAN TO DIRECTOR AND ENTITY CONNECTED WITH DIRECTOR**

No loan to director of the Bank and entity connected with director subsisted during the year.

**40 SHARE BASED COMPENSATION PLANS**

As part of the Group's remuneration policy, the Group provides various share-based compensation plans to foster a culture that aligns employees' interests with shareholders', enable employees to share in the Bank's performance and enhance talent retention.

**Main Scheme/ Plan****DBSH Share Plan (Share Plan)**

- The Share Plan is granted to Group executives as determined by the Committee appointed to administer the Share Plan from time to time.
- Participants are awarded shares of the Company or, at the Committee's discretion, their equivalent cash value or a combination.
- Awards consist of main award and retention award (20%/15% of main award) for employees on bonus/sales incentives plans respectively. Dividends on unvested shares do not accrue to employees.
- For employees on bonus plan, the main award vests from 2 to 4 years after grant i.e. 33% will vest 2 years after grant; another 33% will vest on the third year and the remaining 34% plus the retention award will vest 4 years after grant.
- For employees on sales incentives plans, the main award vests from 1 to 3 years after grant; i.e. 33% will vest 1 year after grant, another 33% will vest on the second year and the remaining 34% plus the retention award will vest 3 years after grant.
- There are no additional retention awards for shares granted to top performers and key employees as part of talent retention.
- The awards will lapse immediately upon termination of employment, except in the event of ill health, injury, disability, redundancy, retirement or death. The fair value of the shares granted include an adjustment to exclude the present value of future expected dividends to be paid during the vesting period.
- The market price of shares on the grant date is used to estimate the fair value of the shares awarded.

- Vested and unvested shares are subject to clawback/malus. Conditions that trigger such clawback/malus are in the Corporate Governance section of the Annual Report.
- Shares are awarded to non-executive directors as part of director's remuneration. Details of these awards are disclosed in the Corporate Governance section of DBSH's Annual Report.

**DBSH Employee Share Plan (ESP)**

- The Committee has ceased granting shares under the ESP effective from financial year 2018 remuneration. Shares granted from prior years continue to be outstanding until the shares are fully vested.

**DBSH Employee Share Purchase Plan (ESPP)**

- The ESPP was implemented in 2019. All confirmed permanent employees who hold the rank of Vice President or below with at least 3 months of service are eligible to participate in the scheme.
- The ESPP is a savings-based share ownership plan to help eligible employees to own DBSH shares through monthly contributions via deductions from payroll or designated bank accounts.
- Participants contribute up to 10% of monthly salary (minimum S\$50, capped at S\$1,000) and the Group will match 25% of the participant's contributions to buy DBSH ordinary shares for a period of 12 months during each plan year.
- The matching shares bought from the Group's contribution will vest 24 months after the last contribution month for each plan year.
- The matching shares will lapse immediately upon termination of employment, except in the event of ill health, injury, disability, redundancy, retirement or death.

The following table sets out the outstanding awards at the end of each reporting period and the movement during the year:

Number of shares	Share Plan	ESP	ESPP
At 1 January 2020	1,429,837	209,704	49,563
Granted	637,145	–	89,565
Transfer	15,854	312	(130)
Vested	(463,031)	(112,269)	(1,708)
Forfeited	(51,880)	(5,532)	(4,924)
At 31 December 2020	1,567,925	92,215	132,366
Weighted average fair value of the shares granted during the year <sup>(a)</sup>	SG\$21.42	–	SG\$18.55
At 1 January 2019	1,245,166	374,359	–
Granted	596,355	–	51,406
Transfer	100,020	(1,177)	(47)
Vested	(453,145)	(136,943)	(46)
Forfeited	(58,559)	(26,535)	(1,750)
At 31 December 2019	1,429,837	209,704	49,563
Weighted average fair value of the shares granted during the year <sup>(a)</sup>	SG\$21.36	–	SG\$22.54

Since the inception of the Share Plan and ESP, no awards have been cash-settled.

(a) The fair value of the shares granted in 2020 includes a deduction of the present value of future expected dividends to be paid during the vesting period

**41 BANK LEVEL STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

In HK\$ millions		As at 31 December	
	Note	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and balances with central banks		27,465	2,789
Government securities and treasury bills		32,715	30,949
Due from banks		207,057	236,511
Derivatives		1,627	633
Bank and corporate securities		11,240	9,544
Loans and advances to customers		194,052	155,128
Other assets		5,505	6,552
Subsidiaries		44	53
Properties and other fixed assets		4,330	4,423
Total assets		484,035	446,582
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Due to banks		15,806	5,810
Deposits and balances from customers		404,816	374,115
Derivatives		1,625	566
Certificates of deposit issued		2,215	6,358
Other liabilities		13,716	16,633
Amounts due to subsidiaries		60	68
Subordinated liability		4,186	4,203
Total liabilities		442,424	407,753
<b>Equity</b>			
Share capital		8,995	8,995
Reserves	29(b)	32,616	29,834
Total equity		41,611	38,829
Total liabilities and equity		484,035	446,582

**Nancy Sau Ling Tse**  
Director

**J.E. Sebastian Paredes Muirragui**  
Director

*DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and its Subsidiaries*

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (unaudited)

The following information is disclosed as part of the accompanying information to the financial statements and does not form part of the audited financial statements.

## 1 BOARD AND BOARD COMMITTEES

DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (the “Bank”) is fully committed to effective corporate governance in order to ensure its proper functioning and protect the interests of all the Bank’s stakeholders. The Bank is subject to, and during the year has complied, in all material aspects, with the guidelines set out in the HKMA Supervisory Policy Manual CG-1 Corporate Governance of Locally Incorporated Authorized Institutions.

The Board of Directors of the Bank (the “Board”) directs the Bank in the conduct of its affairs and ensures that corporate responsibility and ethical standards underpin the conduct of the Bank’s business. The Board provides sound leadership to the Management in setting the strategic vision, direction and long-term goals of the Bank as well as ensuring that adequate resources are available to meet these objectives and there is appropriate balance between promoting long-term growth and delivering short-term financial gains. The Board bears the ultimate responsibility for the Bank’s governance, strategy, risk management, financial performance and key personnel decisions.

To discharge its stewardship and responsibilities in specific areas, the Board may delegate authority to specialized Board committees to more efficiently and effectively contribute to the strategic and operational development of the Bank. The composition, roles and functions of the Board committees of the Bank are set out below.

### (a) Board Audit Committee

The Board Audit Committee (the “BAC”) comprises four non-executive directors. A majority (three out of four) of the members of the BAC, including its Chairman, are independent non-executive directors (“INED”) of the Bank. All members of the BAC are highly experienced in financial and internal control management; most with expertise in audit practices, financial reporting and accounting. The BAC held four meetings during the year ended 31 December 2020.

BAC members for the year ended 31 December 2020	
Mr. Dominic Chiu Fai HO (Chairman)	INED
Mr. SEAH Lim Huat, Peter	NED
Mr. KWOK Kwok Chuen	INED
Ms. Nancy Sau Ling TSE	INED
Mr. Ho Hing Yuen, David replaced Mr. KWOK Kwok Chuen to be a member of the BAC with effect from 17 January 2021	

The key responsibilities of the BAC include:

- monitoring the financial reporting process;
- reviewing the Bank’s financial statements prior to submission to the Board for approval;
- overseeing and interacting with the internal and external auditors;

- making recommendations to the Board on the proposals to shareholders on the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the external auditor and approving the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external auditor;
- approving the appointment, removal and remuneration of the Head of Internal Audit;
- reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal audit function and processes;
- reviewing the independence and objectivity of the external auditor;
- approving the internal and external auditor’s audit plans and audit reports;
- ensuring that any observations of internal or external auditors regarding internal control weaknesses or deficiencies are promptly communicated to the BAC and rectified by Management of the Bank; and
- reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of the Bank’s internal controls, such as financial, operational, compliance and information technology controls, as well as accounting policies and systems.

### (b) Board Risk Management Committee

The Board Risk Management Committee (the “BRMC”) comprises five directors. All of the members of the BRMC, including its Chairman, are non-executive directors (“NED”). A majority (three out of five) of the members of the BRMC, including its Chairman, are INED of the Bank. The BRMC members are appropriately qualified to discharge their responsibilities with extensive experience in risk management issues and practices. The BRMC held four meetings during the year ended 31 December 2020.

BRMC members for the year ended 31 December 2020	
Ms. Nancy Sau Ling TSE (Chairman)	INED
Mr. SEAH Lim Huat, Peter	NED
Mr. Piyush GUPTA	NED
Mr. Dominic Chiu Fai HO	INED
Mr. HO Hing Yuen, David	INED

The BRMC has oversight of the Bank’s risk governance, risk approaches and risk limits of the Bank to ensure that all risks are effectively managed within the Bank’s overall risk governance framework. The BRMC also has oversight of the culture and behavioural standards that promote prudent risk taking and fair treatment of customers and ensure the effectiveness of initiatives designed to influence culture in alignment with the Bank’s culture standards. In particular, the principal duties of the BRMC include:

- reviewing and recommending for the Board’s approval the key risk policies and risk appetite statement setting out the Bank’s risk strategies as well as specific risks relevant to the Bank, such as credit, market, liquidity, operational and reputational risks;
- approving the Bank’s overall and specific risk governance frameworks, risk authority limits and major risk policies as delegated by the Board;
- approving risk exposures and profile against risk limits and risk strategy in accordance with approved risk appetite and/or guidelines;
- monitoring the quarterly portfolio reviews of total exposures as well as large exposures and asset quality;

- discussing large risk events and subsequent remedial action plans;
- monitoring market developments, such as macro-economic, credit, industry, country risk and stress tests related to these developments;
- overseeing the independence and adequacy of the risk management function;
- overseeing the implementation of plans to meet regulatory requirements relating to risk management;
- overseeing the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process, including approving stress scenarios and commensurate results for capital, risk-weighted assets, profit and loss and liquidity;
- obtaining assurance on the sufficiency of the information systems, infrastructure, resources and systems for risk management;
- assessing the risks inherent in new products and services to be launched and approving the new product approval policy;
- reviewing and recommending the effectiveness of culture and behavioural standards to the Board; and
- approving the relevant statements and reports related to the risk culture.

The BRMC supervises the Bank's risk management and risk culture in accordance with the overall risk appetite established by the Board. This risk appetite framework guides Management in the pursuit of the Bank's strategy and business plans and is encapsulated in a formal risk appetite statement which considers capital adequacy, earnings volatility and the various risk types including but not limited to credit risk, country risk, market risk, liquidity risk, operational risk and reputational risk. Risk appetite takes into account potential impact arising from stressed conditions and concentration risk. Portfolio risk limits for the quantifiable risk types are established through a top-down approach and operationalised through a formal framework. Other significant risk aspects are guided by qualitative expression of principles. The risk appetite framework is reviewed annually.

### (c) Board Nomination and Remuneration Committee

The Board Nomination and Remuneration Committee (the "BNRC") comprises three directors. All of the members of the BNRC, including its Chairman, are NED. A majority (two out of three) of the members of the BNRC, including its Chairman, are INED of the Bank. The BNRC members are appropriately qualified to discharge their responsibilities with relevant expertise and skills. The BNRC held two meetings during the year ended 31 December 2020.

BNRC members for the year ended 31 December 2020	
Mr. LIU Chee Ming (Chairman)	INED
Mr. SEAH Lim Huat, Peter	NED
Mr. KWOK Kwok Chuen	INED
Ms. Nancy Sau Ling TSE replaced Mr. KWOK Kwok Chuen to be a member of the BNRC with effect from 17 January 2021	

The BNRC oversees the overall remuneration policy of the Bank. It also identifies and nominates suitable individuals to become directors and senior management of the Bank and make recommendations to the Board for their appointment, reappointment and succession planning; and conducts evaluation

on members of the Board. The key responsibilities of the BNRC include:

- reviewing and approving the remuneration policy applicable to the employees of the Bank;
- approving the remuneration packages and any subsequent adjustments of senior management and other key personnel;
- identifying and selecting fit and proper qualified candidates for appointment to the Board and Board committees;
- reviewing nominations for appointments and reasons for resignation or dismissal of senior management;
- making recommendation to the Board on the selection of nominated candidates for directorships and senior management positions and on the re-appointment of directors or succession planning of directors and chief executive officer;
- assessing the performance and effectiveness of the Board and Board committees;
- reviewing regularly the structure, size and composition (including skills, knowledge and experience of members) of the Board and Board committees; and
- determining the independence of the INED in accordance with the regulatory guidelines and other relevant factors.

## 2 SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Senior Management of the Bank consists of a group of highly competent and experienced individuals responsible and accountable to the Board for the sound and prudent day-to-day management of the Bank in accordance with the business strategy, risk appetite and policies approved by the Board. Specialised Management committees are established to oversee and implement business strategies, risk management systems and internal controls. The roles, functions and composition of each of the Management committees are set out below.

### (a) Hong Kong Management Committee

The Hong Kong Management Committee (the "HKMC") is responsible for formulating and implementing DBS Group's strategy for Hong Kong, as well as the financial and non-financial results of DBS Group's activities in this geographic segment. It provides leadership to the various business and support units in Hong Kong with a view to ensure sound and effective governance while achieving the targeted financial returns. Towards this end, the HKMC prioritises business development initiatives and support infrastructure projects necessary to underpin robust growth and allocates capital within the context of DBS Group's strategy. The HKMC is also responsible for ensuring that policies and practices are in place to maintain high standards of corporate governance, risk management and compliance in Hong Kong. Chaired by the Hong Kong Head of DBS, the HKMC comprises senior management staff in Hong Kong.

### (b) Hong Kong Risk Executive Committee

The Hong Kong Risk Executive Committee provides oversight of all risk types (including those without an underlying risk committee oversight), interactions between risk types and cross-risk stress testing for major downside risk. It reviews, from a risk perspective, existing and new business proposals and establishes overall local risk architecture direction and determine reporting requirements in line with those established by DBS Group. It also monitors the Bank's risk profiles, as well as the market and regulatory



developments; and oversees the establishment of risk controls and measurement tools, the non-financial compliance matters and financial crime related matters. The Hong Kong Risk Executive Committee comprises the CEO of the Bank, the Senior Risk Executive of Hong Kong and representatives from key business units and support units.

**(c) Hong Kong Asset and Liability Committee**

The Hong Kong Asset and Liability Committee oversees strategies to enhance the quality of net interest income, liquidity management and structural foreign exchange management for Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Asset and Liability Committee also oversees the capital management and planning process and review the Bank's capital position and adequacy. The Hong Kong Asset and Liability Committee comprises the CEO of the Bank and representatives from the relevant business units and support units.

**(d) Hong Kong Credit Risk Committee**

The Hong Kong Credit Risk Committee serves as an executive forum for discussions and decisions pertaining to credit risk and its management. It assesses credit risk taking, and reviews and monitors credit risk portfolio, special loan and asset review situations, credit systems, specific credit concentrations and trends, key policy deviations, macroeconomic trends with material impact to the Bank. The Hong Kong Credit Risk Committee exercises active oversight on credit risk related regulatory developments, the use of internal rating systems and ensure the continuing appropriateness of stress testing. The Hong Kong Credit Risk Committee comprises the Credit Head of the Bank and representatives from relevant business units, credit, risk management and other support units.

**(e) Hong Kong Market and Liquidity Risk Committee**

The Hong Kong Market and Liquidity Risk Committee provides comprehensive and bank-wide oversight of all market and liquidity risks and their management in trading and banking books. It serves as an executive forum for discussions and decisions on all aspects of market and liquidity risks and their management. It maintains oversight on effectiveness of market and liquidity risk management framework including policies, models, people, systems, processes, information and methodologies. It sets standards and provides necessary guidance on the establishment and maintenance of the bank-wide liquidity contingency plan. The Hong Kong Market and Liquidity Risk Committee comprises the Market & Liquidity Risk Head of the Bank and representatives from risk management and other relevant business units and support units.

**(f) Hong Kong Operational Risk Committee**

The Hong Kong Operational Risk Committee provides comprehensive location-wide oversight and direction relating to the management of operational risk. It monitors and reviews the effectiveness of operational risk management, policies, processes, methodologies and infrastructure. It performs top-down assessment and monitors critical operational risk exposures and provides direction for resolution of critical operational risk issues and monitors issue resolution. The Hong Kong Operational Risk Committee comprises the Head of Risk Management Group – Operational Risk, and representatives from key business units and support units.

**(g) Hong Kong Risk Culture and Conduct Committee**

The Hong Kong Risk Culture and Conduct Committee ("HKRCCC") provides location-wide oversight and direction relating to the management and implementation of the risk culture and conduct agenda. It oversees and monitors the culture and behavioural standards across the Bank and approves the culture enhancement initiatives and plans of the Bank. Chaired by the Hong Kong Head of DBS, the HKRCCC comprises heads of key business units and support units.

**(h) Hong Kong Product Oversight Committee**

The Hong Kong Product Oversight Committee provides country oversight over the risks associated with new products in Hong Kong. It provides holistic overview of such risks to ensure new products are offered in line with the bank's strategy and risk appetite, in the interest of protecting the bank's franchise. The Hong Kong Product Oversight Committee comprises the Senior Risk Executive of Hong Kong and representatives from key business units and support units.

**3 DISCLOSURE ON REMUNERATION PURSUANT TO THE HKMA SUPERVISORY POLICY MANUAL CG-5 "GUIDELINE ON A SOUND REMUNERATION SYSTEM"**

**(a) Design and implementation of the remuneration system**

The Bank adopts the remuneration policy and practices formulated by DBSH. Please refer to the Annual Report of DBSH for major characteristics of the remuneration system.

**(b) Aggregate quantitative information on remuneration for senior management and key personnel for the year ended 31 December 2020 are as follows:**

Senior management is defined as those who are responsible for oversight of the Bank's strategy or activities or those of the Bank's material business lines. Key personnel is defined as individual employees whose duties or activities in the course of their employment involve the assumption of material risk or taking on of material exposures on behalf of the Bank.

Breakdown of remuneration awarded <sup>(i)</sup>	2020	2019
Number of senior management	14	14
Number of key personnel	18	12
<b>In HK\$ millions</b>		
Fixed remuneration		
• Cash based (non-deferred)	82	65
• Share based	–	–
• Other	–	–
Variable remuneration <sup>(ii)</sup>		
• Cash based (non-deferred)	66	60
• Share based (deferred)	29	32
• Other	–	–
	<b>177</b>	<b>157</b>

**In HK\$ millions**

<b>Breakdown of deferred remuneration</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
• Outstanding – vested	–	–
• Outstanding – unvested	<b>120</b>	124
• Awarded during the year	<b>29</b>	32
• Paid out during the year	<b>41</b>	45
• Reductions in current year due to ex-post adjustment – explicit <sup>(iii)</sup>	–	–
• Reductions in current year due to ex-post adjustment – implicit <sup>(iv)</sup>	<b>(3)</b>	–

(i) Remuneration figures for senior management and key personnel are aggregated due to data confidentiality.

(ii) Cash and share based variable remuneration are subject to the approval of the DBSH Board of Directors.

(iii) Examples of explicit ex-post adjustments include malus, clawbacks, or similar reversals or downward revaluation of awards.

(iv) Examples of implicit ex-post adjustments include fluctuations in the value of shares or performance units.

No senior management or key personnel has been awarded with new guaranteed bonus or severance payments in 2020 (2019: Nil).

No severance payment being paid to senior management or key personnel (2019: Nil).

In 2020, there was one case of sign-on award being paid to senior management or key personnel which amount to HK\$520,294 (2019: Nil).

#### **4 INTERNAL AUDIT**

Internal Audit is independent of the activities it audits. Its objectives, scope of authority and responsibilities are defined in the Hong Kong Audit Charter, which is approved by the BAC. Head of Internal Audit reports functionally to the Head of Group Audit and the Chairman of BAC, as well as administratively to the CEO.

Internal Audit's responsibilities include:

- (i) Evaluating the reliability, adequacy and effectiveness of the Bank's risk management and internal controls systems, including whether there is prompt and accurate recording of transactions and proper safeguarding of assets;
- (ii) Providing an objective and independent assessment of the Bank's credit portfolio quality, the execution of approved credit portfolio strategies and control standards relating to credit management processes;
- (iii) Reviewing whether the Bank complies with laws and regulations and adheres to established policies; and
- (iv) Reviewing whether management is taking appropriate steps to address control deficiencies.

Internal Audit adheres to the Bank's Code of Conduct and is guided by the Mission Statement in the Audit Charter. They have adopted the Code of Ethics and has aligned its practices with the International Professional Practices Framework established by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). In addition, they have embedded IIA's 10 Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing into their activity.

Internal Audit has unfettered access to the BAC, the Board and management, as well as the right to seek information and explanation. Internal Audit has an organisational and strategic alignment to the Bank. The Head of Internal Audit has a seat in the Bank's HKMC. He or his delegate attends the business reviews and strategic planning forums.

Internal Audit adopts a risk-based approach in its auditing activities. An annual audit plan is developed using a structured risk and control assessment framework through which the inherent risk and control effectiveness of each auditable entity in the Bank is assessed. The assessment also covers risks arising from new lines of business, new products and emerging risks from the Bank's operating environment. Audit projects are planned based on the results of the assessment, with priority given to auditing higher risk areas and as required by regulators.

Audit reports containing identified issues and corrective action plans are reported to the BAC and senior management. Progress of the corrective action plans is monitored, and past due action plans are included in regular reports to the senior management and the BAC. In all routine audits, Internal Audit evaluates the control environment and management's control awareness which incorporates risk culture as guided by Financial Stability Board's Guidance on Sound Risk Culture.

Internal Audit apprises regulators and external auditors of all relevant audit matters. It works closely with external auditors to coordinate audit efforts.

#### **QUALITY ASSURANCE & KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

In line with leading practices, Internal Audit has a quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP) that covers all aspects of its audit activity and conforms to the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. As part of our QAIP programme, internal quality assessment reviews (QAR) are conducted quarterly and external QAR are carried out at least once every five years by qualified professionals from an external organisation.

Since 2014, the internal QAR has been contracted to an independent assessor, KPMG.

In 2018, KPMG was appointed to perform the external QAR. KPMG rated Group Audit (including Hong Kong Internal Audit) as adequate and effective and Generally Conforms<sup>1</sup> to the international standards promulgated by the Institute of Internal Auditors. In addition, KPMG's report indicated their strong endorsement of Internal Audit's leading practices in Agile, Data Analytics and technology advancement.

Internal Audit leverages on the use of data, technology and automation to provide greater insights and to enhance the Bank's audit assurance. Since 2017, Internal Audit has operationalised its Future of Auditing roadmap with the use of digital tools, rule based and predictive analytics, coupled with the continuous monitoring approach to perform risk assessments and control testing and provide better risk management insights.

<sup>1</sup> Definition of Generally Conforms: Internal Audit activity has a charter, policies and processes that are judged to be in accordance with the IIA standards.

