

MARTIN CURRIE RETIREMENT AND  
DEATH BENEFITS PLAN  
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT  
PRINCIPLES – 6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

APRIL 2022

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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This Statement of Investment Principles (“the Statement”) has been prepared by the Trustee of the Martin Currie Retirement and Death Benefits Plan (“the Plan”) in accordance with Section 35 of the Pensions Act 1995, as amended, and its attendant Regulations.

The Statement outlines the principles governing the investment policy of the Plan and the activities undertaken by the Trustee to ensure the effective implementation of these principles.

In preparing the Statement, the Trustee has:

- obtained and considered written advice from a suitably qualified individual, employed by their investment consultants, Mercer Limited, whom it believes to have a degree of knowledge and experience that is appropriate for the management of their investments; and
- consulted with the Sponsoring Employer, although they affirm that no aspect of their strategy is restricted by any requirement to obtain the consent of the Sponsoring Employer.

The advice and the consultation process considered the suitability of the Trustee’s investment policy for the Plan.

The Trustee will review the Statement formally at least every three years to coincide with the triennial Actuarial Valuation or other actuarial advice relating to the statutory funding requirements. Furthermore, the Trustee will review the Statement without delay after any significant change in investment policy. Any changes made to the Statement will be based on written advice from a suitably qualified individual and will follow consultation with the Sponsoring Employer.

# 2 INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

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The Trustee's primary investment objective for the Plan is to achieve an overall rate of return that is sufficient to ensure that assets are available to meet all liabilities as and when they fall due.

In doing so, the Trustee also aims to maximise returns at an acceptable level of risk taking into consideration the circumstances of the Plan.

The Trustee has also received confirmation from the Scheme Actuary during the process of revising the investment strategy that their investment objectives and the resultant investment strategy are consistent with the actuarial valuation methodology and assumptions used in the Statutory Funding Objective.

# 3 INVESTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

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## 3.1. TRUSTEE'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustee is responsible for setting the investment objectives and determining the strategy to achieve the objectives. The Trustee carries out its duties and fulfils its responsibilities as a sole independent trustee.

The duties and responsibilities of the Trustee include, but are not limited to, the following tasks and activities:

- The regular approval of the content of the Statement
- The appointment and review of the Investment Managers and investment adviser
- The assessment and review of the performance of each underlying investment manager
- The setting and review of the investment parameters within which the investment managers can operate
- The assessment of the risks assumed by the Plan at total fund level and manager by manager
- The approval and review of the asset allocation benchmark for the Plan
- The compliance of the investment arrangements with the principles set out in the Statement

## 3.2. INVESTMENT ADVISER'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustee has appointed Mercer as the investment adviser to the Plan. Mercer provides advice as and when the Trustee requires it, as well as raising any investment-related issues, of which it believes the Trustee should be aware. Matters on which Mercer expects to provide advice to the Trustee include the following:

- Setting of investment objectives
- Determining investment strategy and asset allocation
- Determining an appropriate investment structure
- Advising the Trustee in relation to funds and investment managers that are suitable to meet the Trustee's objectives in respect of the assets invested via the Mobius Life Investment Platform
- Liaising with Martin Currie Investment Management ("MCIM") in relation to their mandate with the Trustee
- Setting cashflow management (investment and withdrawal) policies (see Appendix 2)

The Trustee may seek advice from Mercer with regard to both strategic and tactical investment decisions (see Section 4 - Investment Strategy); however, it recognises that it retains responsibility for all such decisions, including those that concern investments and disinvestments relating to cashflows (see Appendix 2). Mercer may be proactive in advising the Trustee regarding tactical investment decisions; however, there is no responsibility placed on Mercer to be proactive in all circumstances.

The Trustee monitors the performance of the Plan's investment managers against their benchmarks.

Section 3.3 describes the responsibilities of MCIM as Investment Manager to the Plan and Mobius Life's role as Investment Platform Provider.

Mercer makes a fund based charge. This charge covers the services of Mercer as specified within the Implemented Investment Consultancy Services Agreement.

Any additional services provided by Mercer will be remunerated primarily on a time-cost basis.

In particular, Mercer does not receive commission or any other payments in respect of the Plan that might affect the impartiality of their advice, and as noted below, any discounts negotiated by Mercer with the underlying managers on the Mobius Life Investment Platform are passed on in full to the Plan.

The Trustee is satisfied that this is an appropriate adviser remuneration structure for the Plan.

Mercer is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA").

### 3.3. ARRANGEMENTS WITH INVESTMENT MANAGERS

The Trustee is a long term investor and does not look to change the investment arrangements on a frequent basis.

Investment managers are appointed by the Trustee based on their capabilities and therefore, their perceived likelihood of achieving the expected return and risk characteristics required for the asset class being selected.

The Trustee has appointed MCIM as investment manager to the Plan and, after considering appropriate investment advice, have taken out a Trustee Investment Policy (TIP) with Mobius Life Limited.

MCIM are responsible for managing around 55% of the Plan's assets in an equity mandate and Mobius Life are responsible for the remaining 45% of the Plan's assets on a multi-manager mandate.

The key duty of MCIM is to manage a global equity portfolio. MCIM is authorised and regulated by the FCA.

The key duty of Mobius Life is to host investment funds on their Platform suitable to each mandate within the Trustee's agreed asset allocation. Mobius Life will therefore contract with and appoint underlying investment managers to manage the Plan's assets on behalf of the Trustee. Mobius Life is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority ("PRA") and regulated by the FCA and PRA. The details of investment managers held on the Mobius Life Investment Platform are set out in Appendix 3, together with the details of each manager's mandate. All of the investment managers that are held via the Mobius Life Investment Platform will be authorised and regulated by the PRA, the FCA or both.

Both MCIM and Mobius Life invest in pooled investment vehicles. The Trustee therefore accepts that it cannot specify the risk profile and return targets of the managers, but the pooled funds are chosen with appropriate characteristics to align with the overall investment strategy.

If a manager is significantly downgraded by Mercer's Manager Research Team, the investment adviser will advise the Trustee and the Trustee may replace that manager with a suitable alternative.

In particular, the underlying investment managers are responsible for all decisions concerning the selection and de-selection of the individual securities within the portfolios they manage.

In the case of multi-asset mandates, the underlying investment managers are responsible for all decisions concerning the allocation to individual asset classes and changes in the allocations to individual asset classes.

The underlying investment managers are remunerated by ad valorem charges based on the value of the assets that they manage on behalf of the Plan. Where possible, discounts have been negotiated by Mercer with the underlying managers on their standard charges and the Plan benefits directly from these discounts.

None of the underlying managers in which the Plan's assets are invested have performance based fees which could encourage the manager to make short term investment decisions to hit their profit targets.

The Trustee therefore considers that the method of remunerating fund managers is consistent with incentivising them to make decisions based on assessments of medium to long-term financial and non-financial performance of an issuer of debt or equity. By encouraging a medium to long-term view, it will in turn encourage the investment managers to engage with issuers of debt or equity in order to improve their performance in the medium to long-term.

The Trustee accepts that it cannot influence the charging structure of the pooled funds in which the Plan is invested, but is satisfied that the ad-valorem charges for the different underlying funds are clear and are consistent with each fund's stated characteristics. The Trustee is therefore satisfied that this is an appropriate basis for remunerating the underlying investment managers and is consistent with the Trustee's policies as set out in this SIP.

Mobius Life makes a fund based charge for the services it provides.

### 3.4. SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A summary of the responsibilities of all relevant parties, including the Scheme Actuary and the scheme administrators, so far as they relate to the Plan's investments, is set out at Appendix 4.

# 4 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

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## 4.1. SETTING INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Trustee has determined its investment strategy after considering the Plan's liability profile and requirements of the Statutory Funding Objective, their own appetite for risk, the views of the Sponsoring Employer on investment strategy, the Sponsoring Employer's appetite for risk, and the strength of the Sponsoring Employer's covenant. The Trustee has also received written advice from their Investment Adviser.

The basis of the Trustee's strategy is to divide the Plan's assets between a "growth" portfolio, comprising primarily equities, and a "balanced" portfolio, comprising assets such as corporate bonds and liability driven investments ("LDI") and alternatives. The growth-balanced allocation is set with regard to the overall required return objective of the Plan's assets, which is determined by the funding objective and current funding level. The current split between the growth and balanced portfolios is around 55:45 and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

The Trustee has established a benchmark allocation to each asset class within each strategic asset allocation, which is set out in Appendix 1.

The Trustee recognises the benefits of diversification across growth asset classes, as well as within them, in reducing the risk that results from investing in any one particular market. Where they consider it advisable to do so, the Trustee has appointed investment managers to select and manage the allocations across growth asset classes, in particular where it would not be practical (or appropriate) for the Trustee to commit the resources necessary to make these decisions themselves.

In respect of the investment of contributions and any disinvestments to meet member benefit payments, the Trustee has decided on a structured approach to rebalance the assets in accordance with their overall strategy. This approach is set out in Appendix 2.

## 4.2. INVESTMENT DECISIONS

The Trustee distinguishes between three types of investment decision: strategic, tactical and stock-level.

### **Strategic Investment Decisions**

These decisions are long-term in nature and are driven by an understanding of the objectives, needs and liabilities of the Plan.

The Trustee takes all such decisions itself. It does so after receiving written advice from its investment adviser and consulting with the Sponsoring Employer. Examples of such decisions and of tasks relating to the implementation of these decisions include the following:

- Setting investment objectives
- Determining the split between the growth and the balanced portfolios
- Determining the allocation to asset classes within the growth and balanced portfolios
- Determining the overall benchmark
- Reviewing the investment objectives and strategic asset allocation



## Tactical Investment Decisions

These decisions are short-term and based on expectations of near-term market movements. Such decisions may involve deviating temporarily from the strategic asset allocation and may require the timing of entry into, or exit from, an investment market or asset class.

These decisions are the responsibility of the Trustee. However, where such decisions are made within a pooled fund, they are the responsibility of the investment manager of the fund.

## Stock Selection Decisions

All such decisions are the responsibility of the investment managers of the pooled funds in which the Plan is invested.

## 4.3. TYPES OF INVESTMENTS TO BE HELD

The Trustee is permitted to invest across a wide range of asset classes, including, but not limited to, the following:

- UK and overseas equities
- UK and overseas government bonds, fixed and inflation-linked
- UK and overseas corporate bonds
- Convertible bonds
- Property
- Commodities
- Hedge Funds
- Private equity
- High yield bonds
- Emerging market debt
- Diversified growth
- Liability driven investment products
- Cash

All the funds in which the Plan invests are pooled and unitised. The use of derivatives is permitted by the guidelines that apply to the pooled funds.

## 4.4. SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ETHICAL POLICY

The Trustee understands that it must consider all financially relevant factors in making investment decisions on behalf of the Plan. However, it may also consider any non-financial factors, to the extent that they have the ability to impact the financial results of the Plan's investments over the duration of the Plan, if they believe that such factors reflect the views of members.

The Trustee recognises that Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors, including climate change, can all influence the investment performance of the Plan's portfolio and it is therefore in members' and the Plan's best interests that these factors are taken into account within the investment process and that ESG risks are identified and avoided or mitigated as best as possible.

The Trustee believes that investing with a manager who approaches investments in a responsible way and takes account of ESG-related risks will lead to better risk adjusted performance results as omitting these risks in investment analysis could skew the results and underestimate the level of overall risk being taken.

Therefore, the Trustee will work with the Investment Consultant to help select the investment managers that have passed the initial ESG screening. ESG screening will involve some of the following activities, but is not limited to: ensuring the managers are signatories to UNPRI, reviewing the managers' own ESG policies, investigating the extent to which these policies are integrated into their standard procedures of investment research and analysis

etc. As part of the Mercer Manager Research Team appraisal process, investment managers are rated on a number of quantitative and qualitative factors, ESG considerations are taken into account in this process. This process is also applied to existing investment managers.

The Trustee is aware of the investment managers' approaches to social, environmental and ethical factors, including climate change considerations, with respect to their selection of investments and is satisfied that a responsible approach, which is consistent with the long-term financial interests of the Plan and its members, is undertaken.

As noted earlier, the Plan's assets are invested in pooled funds. The Trustee has identified that the influence it can have on the social, environmental and ethical policies and practices, including climate change considerations, of the companies in which its managers invest, is potentially limited. The Trustee will continue to review the available products and approaches in this space and strive for the Plan to continue to deliver strong risk-adjusted returns, incorporating responsible investments principles into the process, where possible.

## 4.5. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND VOTING POLICY

The Trustee has concluded that the decision on how to exercise voting rights should be left with their investment managers, who will exercise these rights in accordance with their respective published proxy voting policies. These policies, which are provided to the Trustee from time to time, take into account the financial interests of shareholders and should be for the Plan's benefit. Where this primary consideration is not prejudiced, the investment manager should engage with companies to take account of ESG factors, including climate change considerations, in the exercise of such rights.

The Trustee notes that the investment managers' proxy voting policies are available on request and on their respective websites.

Where the Trustee is specifically invited to vote on a matter relating to corporate policy, the Trustee will exercise its right in accordance with what it believes to be the best interests of the majority of the Plan's membership.

## 4.6. STEWARDSHIP

The Trustee will monitor the performance, strategy, risks, ESG policies, including climate change considerations, and corporate governance of the investment managers. If the Trustee has any concerns, they will raise them with the respective managers, verbally or in writing.

# 5 RISK

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The Trustee is aware, and seeks to take account of a number of risks in relation to the Plan's investments, including the following:

Under the Pensions Act 2004, the Trustee is required to state their policy regarding the ways in which risks are to be measured and managed. These are set out below.

## **Solvency Risk and Mismatching Risk**

- These are measured through a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the expected development of the assets relative to the liabilities.
- These are managed by setting a scheme-specific strategic asset allocation with an appropriate level of risk.

## **Manager Risk**

- This is assessed as the expected deviation of the prospective risk and return, as set out in the managers' objectives, relative to the investment policy.
- It is measured by monitoring the actual deviation of returns relative to the objective and factors supporting the managers' investment process, and, for the "balanced" portfolio, by appointing Mercer to monitor and advise on replacing any managers where concerns exist over their continued ability to deliver the investment mandate.

## **Liquidity Risk**

- This is monitored according to the level of cashflows required by the Plan over a specified period.
- It is managed by holding an appropriate amount of readily realisable investments. The Plan's assets are invested in pooled funds which are readily realisable.

## **Political Risk**

- This is measured by the level of concentration in any one market leading to the risk of adverse influence on investment values arising from political intervention.
- It is managed by regular reviews of the investments and through investing in funds which give a wide degree of diversification.

## **Corporate Governance Risk**

- This is assessed by reviewing the Plan's investment managers' policies regarding corporate governance and proxy voting.
- It is managed by delegating the exercise of voting rights to the managers, who exercise this right in accordance with their published proxy voting policies. Summaries of these policies are provided to the Trustee from time to time and take into account the financial interests of the shareholders, which should ultimately be to the Plan's advantage.

## **Sponsor Risk**

- This is assessed as the level of ability and degree of willingness of the sponsor to support the continuation of the Plan and to make good any current or future deficit.
- It is managed by assessing the interaction between the Plan and the sponsor's business, as measured by a number of factors, including the creditworthiness of the sponsor and the size of the pension liability relative to the sponsor. Regular updates on employer covenant are provided to the Trustee by senior staff of the sponsor.

## **Legislative Risk**

- This is the risk that legislative changes will require action from the Trustee so as to comply with any such changes in legislation.
- The Trustee acknowledges that this risk is unavoidable but will seek to address any required changes so as to comply with changes in legislation.

## **Credit Risk**

- This is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.
- The Trustee acknowledges that the assessment of credit risk on individual debt instruments is delegated to the investment manager. The Trustee will however ensure that it is comfortable with the amount of risk that the Plan's investment managers take.

## **Market Risk**

- This is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises of the following three types of risk

## **Currency Risk**

- This is the risk that occurs when the price of one currency moves relative to another (reference) currency. In the context of a UK pension scheme, the scheme may be invested in overseas stocks or assets, which are either directly or indirectly linked to a currency other than Sterling. There is a risk that the price of that overseas currency will move in such a way that devalues that currency relative to Sterling, thus negatively impacting the overall investment return.
- The Trustee acknowledges that currency risk is delegated to the underlying investment managers where the manager is responsible for the decision of whether or not to hedge.

## **Interest rate risk**

- This is the risk that an investment's value will change due to a change in the level of interest rates. This affects debt instruments more directly than growth instruments.
- The Trustee acknowledges that the interest rate risk related to individual debt instruments, and particularly liability driven instruments (LDI), is managed by the underlying investment managers through a combination of strategies, such as diversification, duration and yield curve management, and hedging via swaps, particularly where LDI is involved.

## **Other Price risk**

- This is the risk that principally arises in relation to the return seeking portfolio, which invests in equities, equities in pooled funds, equity futures, hedge funds, private equity and property.
- The Trustee acknowledges that a scheme can manage its exposure to price risk by investing in a diverse portfolio across various markets.

## **ESG risk**

- This is the risk that Environmental, Social or Corporate Governance concerns, including climate change, have a financially material impact on the return of the Plan's assets.
- The Trustee manages this risk by investing with investment managers where ESG principles are an established part of the investment decision making process and by regularly reviewing the ESG capabilities of the managers.

# 6 MONITORING OF INVESTMENT ADVISER AND MANAGERS

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## 6.1. INVESTMENT ADVISER

The Trustee assesses and reviews the performance of their adviser in a qualitative and quantitative way.

## 6.2. INVESTMENT MANAGERS

The Trustee receives quarterly monitoring reports on the performance of the underlying investment managers held on the Mobius Life Investment Platform from Mobius Life and Mercer, which present performance information over 3 months, 1 year and 3 years. The reports show the absolute performance, performance against the manager's stated target performance (over the relevant time period) on a net of fees basis. They also provide returns of market indices so that these can be used to help inform the assessment of the underlying managers' performance.

The reporting reviews the performance of the Plan's individual funds against their benchmarks, and the Plan's assets in aggregate against the Plan's strategic benchmark and relative to the Plan's liabilities.

MCIM provide monthly valuations and quarterly investment reports to the Trustee.

The Trustee in conjunction with advice from their investment adviser, have the role of replacing the underlying investment managers where appropriate. They take a long-term view when assessing whether to replace the underlying investment managers, and such decisions would not be made based solely on short-term performance concerns. Instead, changes would be driven by a significant downgrade of the investment manager by Mercer's Manager Research Team. This in turn would be due to a significant reduction in Mercer's confidence that the investment manager will be able to perform in line with their fund's mandate over the long term.

Changes will also be made to the underlying managers if there is a strategic change to the overall strategy that no longer requires exposure to that asset class or manager.

## 6.3. PORTFOLIO TURNOVER COSTS

The Trustee does not currently monitor portfolio turnover costs for the funds in which the Plan is invested, although notes that the performance monitoring reports which it receives are net of all charges, including such costs. Portfolio turnover costs means the costs incurred as a result of the buying, selling, lending or borrowing of investments.

The Trustee is also aware of the requirement to define and monitor targeted portfolio turnover and turnover range.

Given that the Plan invests in a range of pooled funds, many of which invest across a wide range of asset classes, the Trustee does not have an overall portfolio turnover target for the Plan.

The Trustee is working with Mercer to determine the most appropriate way to obtain and monitor the information required in relation to the pooled funds in which the Plan is invested.

# 7 CODE OF BEST PRACTICE

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The Trustee notes that in March 2017, the Pensions Regulator released 'Investment Guidance for Defined Benefit Pension Schemes'.

The Trustee has received training in relation this guidance and is satisfied that the investment approach adopted by the Scheme is consistent with the guidance so far as it is appropriate to the Plan's circumstances.

The Trustee meets with its investment adviser on a regular basis, monitoring developments both in relation to the Plan's circumstances and in relation to evolving guidance, and will revise the Plan's investment approach if considered appropriate.

# 8 COMPLIANCE

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The Plan's Statement of Investment Principles and annual report and accounts are available to members on request.

A copy of the Plan's current Statement plus Appendices is also supplied to the Sponsoring Employer, the Plan's auditors and the Scheme Actuary.

This Statement of Investment Principles, taken as a whole with the Appendices, supersedes all others and was approved by the Trustee on 1 April 2022.

<b>Signed on behalf of the Trustee by</b>	 .....	.....
<b>On</b>	05/04/2022 .....	.....
<b>Full Name</b>	Mark Woodhouse .....	.....
<b>Position</b>	Authorised signatory .....	.....

# APPENDIX 1: ASSET ALLOCATION BENCHMARK

The Plan's strategic asset allocation benchmark is set out below (with allocations in brackets indicating the benchmark position at a total portfolio level):

Asset Class	Strategic Allocation	Guideline Range
<b>Growth Assets</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>%</b>
Developed Equities	100 (55)	95 – 100
Cash	0 (0)	0 – 5
<b>Balanced Assets</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>%</b>
Alternatives (Private Markets)	22.5 (10)	17.5 – 27.5
Corporate Bonds	22.5 (10)	17.5 – 27.5
Liability Driven Investments	55 (25)	45 – 65
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

The strategic asset allocation will be monitored by the Trustee so as to maintain it within the guideline ranges. The Investment Managers will monitor the allocation within their respective mandates.

The policy for rebalancing and investment / disinvestment of cashflows is set out in Appendix 2.

Appendix 3 provides information about the funds in which the assets are invested.



# APPENDIX 2: CASHFLOW AND REBALANCING POLICY

Where possible, cash outflows will be met from cash balances held by the Plan and from income from the Plan's investments in order to minimise transaction costs.

Investments or disinvestments should be applied in such a way as to bring the actual asset allocation back towards the Plan's central benchmark asset allocation, as set out in Appendix 1.

The Trustee will review the cashflow policy from time to time to ensure that it remains appropriate taking into account changes in the Plan's cashflow requirements.

For avoidance of doubt, this Statement will not be revised purely in relation to a change in cashflow policy.

# APPENDIX 3: INVESTMENT MANAGER INFORMATION

The table below show the details of the underlying investment managers held on the Mobius Life Investment Platform.

Manager / Fund	Benchmark	Objective	Dealing Frequency	SORP / IFRS Class
<b>Equities</b>				
<b>Martin Currie Investment Management</b>	MSCI AC World Index	The objective is to provide sound long term growth by investing both overseas and in the UK principally through pooled products	Daily	(a) / 1
<b>Alternatives</b>				
<b>Partners Group Generations Fund Multi-Asset Private Markets</b>	MSCI World 100% Hedged to GBP Net Total Return	To outperform the benchmark over rolling five year periods	Daily	(b) / 2
<b>Corporate Bonds</b>				
<b>Standard Life Long Corporate Bond</b>	BoA Merrill Lynch Sterling Non-Gilts Over 10 Years Index	To outperform the benchmark by 0.75% p.a. gross of fees over rolling three year periods	Daily	(a) / 1
<b>Liability Driven Investments</b>				
<b>BMO Real Dynamic LDI</b>	The liability profile of a typical UK DB pension scheme	To provide hedging by offering interest rate and inflation protection which replicates the liability profile of a typical UK DB pension scheme	Weekly	(b) / 2
<b>BMO Real Nominal LDI</b>	The liability profile of a typical UK DB pension scheme	To provide hedging by offering interest rate protection which replicates the liability profile of a typical UK DB pension scheme	Weekly	(b) / 2

For avoidance of doubt, this SIP will not be updated solely in response to a replacement of one of the underlying investment managers.

In respect of the “Growth” portfolio MCIM has (subject to the Investment Objectives and Guidelines agreed with the Trustee) full discretion to manage the investments. The objective is to provide sound long term growth by investing both overseas and in the UK principally through pooled products.

For the quarterly reports provided by MCIM, the performance of the various in-house funds will be measured against the MSCI AC World Index.

# APPENDIX 4: RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES

## TRUSTEE

The Trustee's responsibilities include the following:

- Reviewing at least triennially, and more frequently if necessary, the content of this Statement in consultation with the Investment Adviser and modifying it if deemed appropriate
- Reviewing the investment strategy following the results of each actuarial review, in consultation with the Investment Adviser and Scheme Actuary
- Appointing the Investment Managers and custodian (if required)
- Assessing the quality of the performance and processes of the Investment Managers by means of regular reviews of investment returns and other relevant information, in consultation with the Investment Adviser
- Consulting with the sponsoring employer regarding any proposed amendments to this Statement
- Monitoring compliance of the investment arrangements with this Statement on a continuing basis

## INVESTMENT ADVISER

The Investment Adviser's responsibilities include the following:

- Participating with the Trustee in reviews of this Statement of Investment Principles
- Production of performance monitoring reports
- Advising the Trustee, at their request, on the following matters:
  - Through consultation with the Scheme Actuary, how any changes within the Plan's benefits, membership, and funding position may affect the manner in which the assets should be invested
  - How any significant changes in the Investment Managers' organisations could affect the interests of the Plan
  - How any changes in the investment environment could present either opportunities or problems for the Plan
- Undertaking project work, as requested, including:
  - Reviews of asset allocation policy
  - Research into and reviews of Investment Managers
- Advising on the selection of new managers and/or custodians

## INVESTMENT MANAGERS

As noted in this SIP, MCIM has been appointed as Investment Manager. In addition, the Trustee has taken out a TIP with Mobius Life who in turn sub-contract with the underlying investment managers on behalf of the Trustee.

The Investment Managers' responsibilities include the following:

- Providing the Trustee on a quarterly basis (or as frequently as required) with a statement and valuation of the assets and a report on their actions and future intentions, and any changes to the processes applied to their portfolios
- Informing the Trustee of any changes in the internal performance objectives and guidelines of any pooled fund used by the Plan as and when they occur
- Having regard to the need for diversification of investments, so far as appropriate for the particular mandate, and to the suitability of investments
- Giving effect to the principles contained in the Statement as far as is reasonably practicable

The underlying investment managers in respect of the Balanced Portfolio contract with Mobius Life and therefore do not have any direct responsibility to the Trustee.

## SCHEME ACTUARY

The Scheme Actuary's responsibilities include the following:

- Liaising with the Investment Adviser regarding the suitability of the Plan's investment strategy given the financial characteristics of the Plan
- Assessing the funding position of the Plan and advising on the appropriate response to any shortfall
- Performing the triennial (or more frequent, as required) valuations and advising on the appropriate contribution levels

## ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator's responsibilities include the following:

- Ensuring there is sufficient cash available to meet benefit payments as and when they fall due
- Paying benefits and making transfer payments
- Investing contributions not required to meet benefit payments with the Investment Managers according to the Trustee's instructions.





# Martin Currie SIP - April 2022

Final Audit Report

2022-04-05

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