

Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust

Stewardship Code compliance statement



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Policy

Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust plc (“the Company”) supports the principles of the UK’s Stewardship Code, and seeks to play its role in delivering good stewardship of the companies in which it invests. The Company’s Board views stewardship as an integral part of investing in companies, an activity which is carried out for the Company by its fund manager, Martin Currie Investment Management Limited (“Martin Currie”). The Board acknowledges its role in setting the tone for the effective delivery of stewardship by Martin Currie on its behalf and is clear that the Board retains responsibility for this being done properly and fully in the interests of the Company’s shareholders.

As stewardship is a core part of the investment activity carried out by Martin Currie, the Board sees its position in the stewardship chain as holding the Company’s fund manager accountable for delivery of the stewardship activity on the Company’s behalf. Martin Currie, as a fund manager, has a genuinely integrated approach to stewardship, whereby its fund management teams are responsible for stewardship activity and calling to account the management and boards of companies in which they invest. Martin Currie is a tier one signatory to the UK Stewardship Code. Its approach to stewardship applies globally and its own robust statement can be found at <https://www.martincurrie.com/institutional/uk/insights/stewardship-tier-1-signatory>. The Board reviews Martin Currie’s compliance with that statement, on a regular basis.

The Board receives regular reporting from Martin Currie including its stewardship activity with regard to the companies in which the Company invests. As part of the Board’s investment management oversight, it regularly engages with the portfolio manager and the fund management team on their stewardship activity, raising questions about the reports and, as appropriate, other relevant stewardship matters. The Board seeks consistently to ensure that these stewardship activities are carried out actively and effectively in the furtherance of good long-term investment returns consistent with the Company’s investment policy and the returns expectations of the Company’s shareholders.

The Stewardship Code has seven principles and the following explains how the Company, and Martin Currie on its behalf, discharges each of these stewardship responsibilities:

Managing conflicts of interest

The Company is a listed UK investment trust whose business is investment in global listed companies, none of which is a significant investor in the Company. The Company’s Board is comprised of independent directors. The Board does not believe that there are any potential conflicts which might affect its duty to act in the interests of the Company’s shareholders.

However, the Board also requires that Martin Currie effectively manages any conflicts that it faces in respect of stewardship matters. Martin Currie reports to the Board regarding any conflict that specifically affects the Company, so that the Board can ensure it is managed effectively and appropriately. There is a clear discussion of the issue of conflicts in relation to stewardship matters in Martin Currie’s statement on stewardship codes. The Board monitors Martin Currie’s delivery of these undertakings.

Monitoring

The Board recognises that active and ongoing monitoring of companies is the foundation of good stewardship, reminding companies in which the Company invests that they have obligations to their shareholders to deliver returns over the appropriate long-term investment timeframe and, consistent with this, to manage any related environmental and social risks responsibly. Martin Currie has set out a clear approach to monitoring the companies in which it invests on the Company’s behalf in its Stewardship Principles (see <https://www.martincurrie.com/institutional/uk/insights/stewardship-tier-1-signatory>) which the Company has reviewed and accepted. This monitoring is an integral part of Martin Currie’s long-term investment approach. The Board’s role as asset owner, on behalf of the shareholders, is to monitor Martin Currie’s delivery and effectiveness, to provide independent challenge to Martin Currie, and to press for escalation if it believes that this is needed and has not been delivered.

Escalation

An escalation of stewardship activities is needed where monitoring identifies some failure to address factors which may affect that company's ability to deliver returns over the long term. It is not in the Company's shareholders' interests for the Company to engage directly in an escalation of a stewardship issue which is being pursued by Martin Currie as part of its wider investment management activity. Martin Currie's statement on stewardship codes sets out its willingness to escalate engagement as necessary and the ways in which this might be done. As noted above, the Board monitors the effectiveness of the manager on an ongoing basis and will escalate if the Board believes it is required.

Acting collectively

It is rarely in the Company's shareholders' interests for the Company to act collectively with other investors in relation to stewardship of individual companies in which it invests. The most efficient method of collaboration with others is through the investment manager by the means of aggregating its assets with the assets of other Martin Currie's clients. As appropriate, the Board supports Martin Currie's participation in broader collective activities, whether formal (through a range of investor associations globally) or informally.

Voting policy and disclosure

The Company's policy is that it should always vote, and it does so except in those unusual circumstances where voting might be so costly or administratively difficult that it is not in the Company's shareholders' interests. The Board believes that votes should be cast in a considered and responsible way and support Martin Currie's approach whereby fund management teams have the responsibility for taking voting decisions. In the absence of explicit instruction from the Board, Martin Currie is empowered to use discretion in the exercise of the Company's voting rights, and the Company has made clear that it expects that Martin Currie will not automatically vote in support of all resolutions. When voting against management on the Company's behalf Martin Currie endeavours to inform

the management of its rationale for doing so in advance of the vote so as to allow due time for a response. Martin Currie discloses its aggregate voting activity, including that on the Company's behalf, one quarter in arrears, here (<https://www.martincurrie.com/corporate/about-us/governance-and-sustainability>) and reports to the Board at each Board meeting on the Company's specific voting activity. The Company's assets are available for a stock-lending programme, because the Board regards this as an appropriate way to enhance returns; Martin Currie has the ability to recall stock from that programme as relevant for voting purposes.

Reporting

The Board receives and notes regular reports on stewardship from Martin Currie. The Board receives and assesses Martin Currie's annual controls assessment under the Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE) No. 16, Reporting on Controls at a Service Organization (SSAE16), which includes matters relevant to stewardship. The Board reports to the Company's shareholders annually on the Company's stewardship activities in the Governance section of the Annual Report which includes reference to Martin Currie's statement with regard to the UK Stewardship Code. The Board does not believe that there is currently sufficient benefit for the Company to incur the costs of further reporting but keep this under review.



Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust

How to contact us

Tel: 0131 229 5252

Fax: 0131 228 5959

Email: chairman@martincurrieglobal.com

www.martincurrieglobal.com

The Chairman
c/o Company secretary
Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust plc
Saltire Court
20 Castle Terrace
Edinburgh
EH1 2ES

Calls to the above may be recorded.



Martin Currie Investment Management Limited, registered in Scotland (no SC066107).

Registered office: Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES

Tel: 0808 100 2125 Fax: 0870 888 3035 www.martincurrie.com

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