

Schroder Matching Plus - Buy and Maintain Credit Sterling Cashflow Fund (2032-2040)

Summary

The Fund maintains a positive absolute sustainability score, based on Schroders' proprietary tool.

The sustainability score is measured by Schroders' proprietary tool that provides an aggregate estimate of the social and environmental costs and benefits that an issuer may create. It does this by scoring the issuer against a list of indicators – scores may be positive (for example, when an issuer pays more than average living wages) or negative (for example, when an issuer emits carbon). It does this using third party data as well as Schroders' own estimates and assumptions and the outcome may differ from other sustainability tools and measures.

The sustainability score of the Fund is measured by SustainEx™, Schroders' proprietary tool that provides an estimate of the societal or environmental impact that an issuer may create.

The Fund invests at least two-thirds of its assets in fixed and floating rate securities denominated in GBP (or in other currencies hedged back to GBP) issued by governments, government agencies, supra-nationals and companies worldwide with maturity dates between 2032 and 2040.

The Fund may also apply certain exclusions. Further information on all of the Fund's exclusions is to be found further below under the "Monitoring of sustainable investment objective" section.

The Investment Manager applies governance and sustainability criteria when selecting corporate issuer investments for the Fund.

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.

The minimum proportion of the Fund's assets used to attain the environmental or social characteristics is equal to 60%. The fund includes investments that are treated as neutral for sustainability purposes, such as cash and derivatives used with the aim of reducing risk (hedging) or managing the Fund more efficiently. It also includes investments that are not scored by the Schroders' proprietary sustainability tools and so do not contribute towards the Fund's sustainability score.

The Fund's investment and asset selection process has been reviewed and approved by the Investment Manager's Product Development Committee that includes representatives from the Legal, Compliance, Product and Sustainable Investment functions. Ongoing compliance with the agreed sustainability characteristics is monitored by the Portfolio Compliance Team. There are no external controls on that due diligence.

The Investment Manager's investment process is driven by proprietary bottom-up fundamental stock selection. Expertise from both the Investment team and the Sustainability team provide a diversity of idea generation and high degree of scrutiny of ideas around the expected trajectory of long term growth, ESG and sustainability characteristics. No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of meeting the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

The exclusion of certain activities, industries or groups of issuers listed under the "Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics" section, as well as the investment limits applicable to the Fund, will be measured within the Investment Manager's portfolio compliance framework.

The Investment Manager draws information on investee companies from publicly available corporate information and company meetings, from broker reports, industry bodies, and research organisations, think tanks, legislators, consultants, Non-Governmental Organisations and academics.

Third party research may be used, however our internal analysts form a proprietary view on each of the companies we analyse.

The Investment Manager subscribes to external ESG research providers including; MSCI ESG research, Bloomberg, Refinitiv, Sustainalytics and Morningstar, which is subject to periodic review and change.

Whilst the third parties that deliver the vast majority of the data used have been chosen carefully, data errors may occur. To address this, a dedicated ESG Data Governance team pro-actively monitors for errors and resolves data queries. This involves close collaboration with the third-party data providers, and managing and tracking data corrections.

Limitations to the Investment Manager's methodology and data may arise from data availability, and specifically the lack of company reported data.

Where data is not available, Schroders may engage with companies to encourage them to disclose the missing data points.

Some of our proprietary tools infer missing values where applicable. Our models typically employ a range of techniques to estimate missing values where appropriate and reasonably robust.

Where data for a metric is not sufficiently available to form robust conclusions, we do not include that metric in our tools.

The coding and monitoring of investment risk restrictions for individual fund and client mandates is the responsibility of the Investment Manager's Portfolio Compliance team within the independent Investment Risk function.

The data in the portfolio compliance framework forms the basis for monitoring of risk limits and indicators, and the latest information on portfolio structure (such as asset allocation, sector and country positions) and risk metrics is easily available to our investment risk, portfolio compliance and investment teams.

We consider active ownership to be the influence we can apply to management teams to ensure sustainable practices in the assets in which we invest. We aim to drive change that will protect and enhance the value of our investments and we are committed to leveraging the weight of our firm to change how a company is operating for the better. We believe this is an important aspect of our role as stewards of our clients' capital and how we help clients meet their long-term financial goals in line with our fiduciary responsibilities.

Further details on our approach to active ownership policy is publicly available:

<https://mybrand.schroders.com/m/3222ea4ed44a1f2c/original/schroders-engagement-blueprint.pdf>

No sustainable investment objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.

The Fund also ensures that at least 80% of the companies whose fixed and floating rate securities it holds have made a commitment to decarbonisation and/or net zero emissions.

Exclusions are applied to direct investments in companies. The Fund applies certain exclusions relating to international conventions on cluster munitions, antipersonnel mines, and chemical and biological weapons. The Fund also excludes companies that derive revenues above certain thresholds from activities related to tobacco and thermal coal. The Fund excludes companies that are assessed by Schroders to have breached one or more 'global norms' thereby causing significant environmental or social harm; these companies comprise Schroders' 'global norms' breach list. In exceptional circumstances a derogation may be applied in order to

Source: Schroders, as at TBC 2024. Screening data is provided by a third party unless otherwise specified.

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Any tie includes companies with an industry tie to the excluded activity.

allow the Fund to continue to hold a company on Schroders' 'global norms' breach list, for example where the stated investment strategy of the Fund may otherwise be compromised.

Further information on all of the Fund's investment exclusions is to be found further below in the "Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics" section.

Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

The Fund maintains a positive absolute sustainability score, based on Schroders' proprietary tool.

The Fund also ensures that at least 80% of the companies whose fixed and floating rate securities it holds have made a commitment to decarbonisation and/or net zero emissions. This means a commitment to reduce carbon emissions in their businesses and/or to support the goal of achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are produced and the amount that are removed from the atmosphere on a global basis.

No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund.

Investment strategy

The sustainable investment strategy used by the Investment Manager is as follows:

The Fund invests at least two-thirds of its assets in fixed and floating rate securities denominated in GBP (or in other currencies hedged back to GBP) issued by governments, government agencies, supra-nationals and companies worldwide with maturity dates between 2032 and 2040.

The Fund will invest in securities that, at the time of purchase, have an investment grade credit rating (as measured by Standard & Poor's or any equivalent grade of other credit rating agencies for rated bonds and implied Schroders ratings for non-rated bonds).

The Fund may use derivatives (including total return swaps), long and short, with the aim of achieving investment gains, reducing risk or managing the Fund more efficiently. The Fund may use interest rate swaps to gain or remove interest rate exposures. Total return swaps may be used on a continuous basis to gain long and short exposure or to hedge exposure to fixed and floating rate securities. The gross exposure of total return swaps will not exceed 100% and is expected to remain within the range of 0% to 25% of the Net Asset Value. In adverse market conditions this proportion may be higher. The Fund may also enter into repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions on a temporary basis. In particular, repurchase transactions may be used to obtain leveraged exposure to fixed and floating rate securities in order to hedge the interest rate and/or inflation risk within the present value of investors' liability cash flow obligations. The Fund's gross exposure to repurchase transactions / reverse repurchase transactions will not exceed 100% and is expected to remain within the range of 0% to 25% of the Net Asset Value. In adverse market conditions this proportion may be higher.

The Fund may also invest in money market instruments and hold cash.

The Fund maintains a positive absolute sustainability score, based on the Investment Manager's rating system. The Fund also ensures that at least 80% of the companies whose fixed and floating rate securities it holds have made a commitment to decarbonisation and/or net zero emissions

The Fund may also apply certain other exclusions. Further information on all of the Fund's exclusions is to be found further below in the "Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics" section.

The Investment Manager applies governance and sustainability criteria when selecting corporate issuer investments for the Fund.

In order to assess good governance practices, a central Good Governance Test is applied. This test is based on a data-driven quantitative framework, which uses a scorecard to assess companies across the categories of

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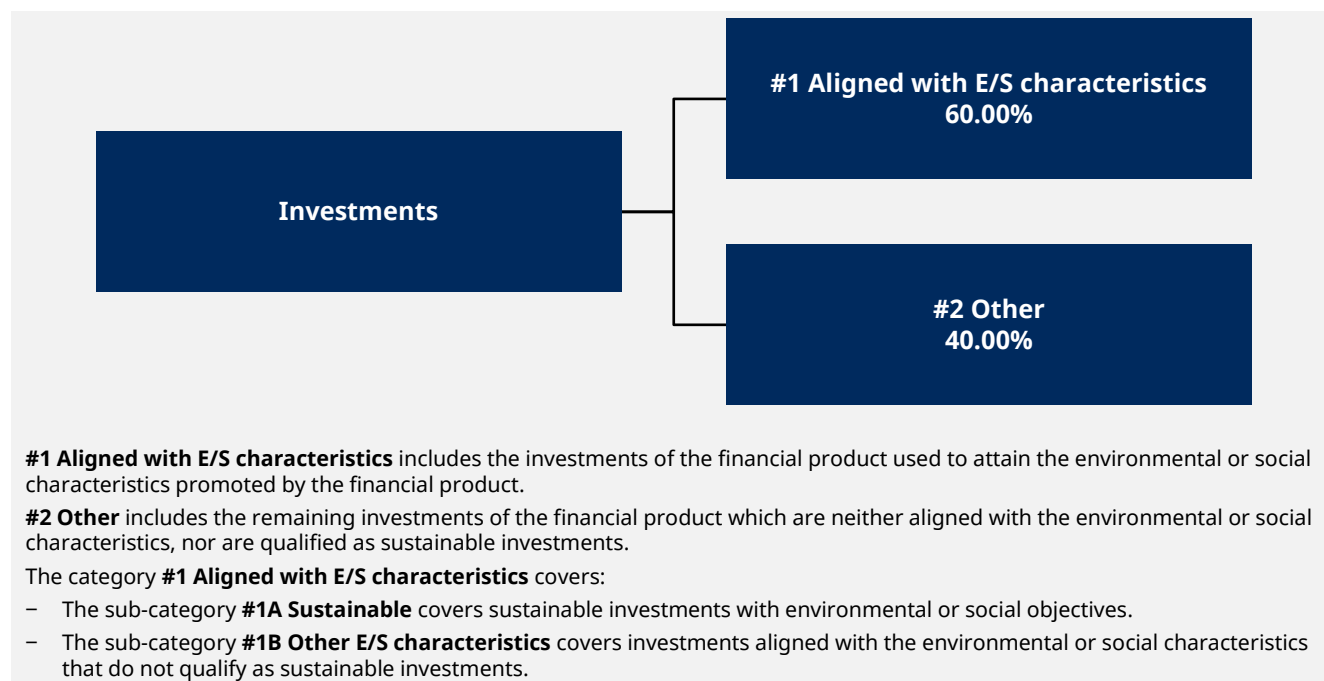
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sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff, and tax compliance. Schroders has defined a number of criteria across these pillars. Compliance with the test is monitored centrally and companies which do not pass this test cannot be held by the Fund, unless the Investment Manager has agreed that the issuer demonstrates good governance based on additional insights beyond that quantitative analysis.

Proportion of investments

The planned composition of the Fund's investments that are used to meet its environmental or social characteristics are summarised below.



#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics includes the minimum proportion of the Fund's assets used to attain the environmental or social characteristics, which is equal to 60%. The Fund commits to maintain a positive absolute sustainability score, and so the Fund's investments that are scored by Schroders' proprietary sustainability tool are included within the minimum proportion stated in #1 on the basis that they will contribute to the Fund's sustainability score (whether such individual investment has a positive or a negative score). The minimum proportion stated in #1 applies in normal market conditions. The actual proportion is expected to be higher.

In respect of any companies that fall within this minimum proportion of assets, at least 80% will have made a commitment to decarbonisation and/or net zero emissions as described above. The Fund typically holds up to 90% of its assets in fixed and floating rate securities issued by companies. However, the Fund is not required to maintain a minimum level of exposure to investments issued by companies, so its actual exposure to this characteristic will vary over time and may, in certain circumstances, be zero.

#2 Other includes investments that are treated as neutral for sustainability purposes, such as cash. #2 also includes investments that are not scored by Schroders' proprietary sustainability tool and so do not contribute towards the Fund's sustainability score. As #1 states a minimum proportion that is in practice expected to be higher, the proportion stated in #2 is expected to be lower.

Minimum safeguards are applied where relevant to other investments by restricting (as appropriate) investments in counterparties where there are ownership links or exposure to higher risk countries (for the purpose of money laundering, terrorist financing, bribery, corruption, tax evasion and sanctions risks). A firm-wide risk assessment considers the risk rating of each jurisdiction; which includes reference to a number of

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public statements, indices and world governance indicators issued by the UN, the European Union, the UK Government, the Financial Action Task Force and several Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), such as Transparency International and the Basel Committee.

In addition, new counterparties are reviewed by Schroders' credit risk team and approval of a new counterparty is based on a holistic review of the various sources of information available, including, but not limited to, quality of management, ownership structure, location, regulatory and social environment to which each counterparty is subject, and the degree of development of the local banking system and its regulatory framework. Ongoing monitoring is performed through a Schroders' proprietary tool, which supports the analysis of a counterparty's management of environmental, social and governance trends and challenges. Any significant deterioration in the profile of the counterparty in Schroders' proprietary tool would lead to further analysis and potential exclusion by Schroders' credit risk team.

Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The sustainability score of the Fund is measured by SustainEx™, Schroders' proprietary tool that provides an estimate of the societal or environmental impact that an issuer may create.

The decarbonisation characteristic is monitored by the portfolio management team for the Fund, with the support of the Schroders Sustainability team, and coded through the Investment Manager's portfolio compliance framework.

The exclusion of certain activities, industries or groups of issuers listed below, as well as the investment limits applicable to the Fund, will be measured within the Investment Manager's portfolio compliance framework.

Exclusions and limits are coded into this framework to seek to ensure that pre-trade compliance correctly flags the securities that should not enter the portfolio. Securities excluded based on revenue thresholds are evaluated quarterly by the Sustainable Investment team using MSCI's revenue data.

The coding and monitoring of investment risk restrictions for individual fund and client mandates is the responsibility of the Investment Manager's Portfolio Compliance team within the independent Investment Risk function.

The data in the portfolio compliance framework forms the basis for monitoring of risk limits and indicators, and the latest information on portfolio structure (such as asset allocation, sector and country positions) and risk metrics is easily available to our investment risk, portfolio compliance and investment teams.

Exclusion Criteria

Environmental exclusions

Excluded Activity	Exclusionary criteria
Thermal Coal Mining Maximum Percentage of Revenue	10%
Thermal Coal Power Generation Maximum Percentage of Revenue	30%
Oil Sands Extraction Maximum Percentage of Revenue	10%

Social exclusions

Excluded Activity	Exclusionary criteria
Tobacco Production Maximum Percentage of Revenue	10%
Tobacco Value Chain Maximum Percentage of Revenue*	25%
Gambling Maximum Percentage of Revenue	10%
Civilian Firearms Maximum Percentage of Revenue	10%

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Weapons Maximum Percentage of Revenue	10%
Schroders controversial weapons curated list ¹	All

Material ESG misconduct/controversy

Excluded Activity	Exclusionary criteria
Schroders Global Norms Breach List	Full list

Methodologies for environmental or social characteristics

The Fund promotes the following characteristics:

(1) The Fund maintains a positive absolute sustainability score, based on Schroders' proprietary tool. As stated above, the sustainability score is measured by SustainEx™, Schroders' proprietary tool that provides an estimate of the potential societal or environmental impact that an issuer may create. It does this by using certain metrics with respect to that issuer, and quantifying the positive (for example by paying 'fair wages') and negative (for example the carbon an issuer emits) impacts of each of those metrics to produce an aggregate measure expressed as a notional percentage of sales of the relevant underlying issuer. The overall sustainability score aggregates the effect of sustainability indicators including but not limited to greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, and salaries compared to the living wage. An issuer may be a company or a sovereign. The Investment Manager monitors compliance with this characteristic by reference to the weighted average sustainability score of the Fund in SustainEx™ over the previous six month period.

As part of the Fund's investment processes, the SustainEx™ score, and the drivers of that score, are reviewed at the overall fund level. Schroders proprietary tools, including SustainEx™, may not cover all of the Fund's holdings from time to time, in which case the Investment Manager may use alternative methods to assess relevant holdings in the Fund. In addition, certain types of assets (such as cash and certain equivalent securities such as gilts) are treated as neutral and are therefore not considered by our proprietary tools.

(2) The Fund also ensures that at least 80% of the companies whose fixed and floating rate securities it holds have made a commitment to decarbonisation and/or net zero emissions. The Fund measures the attainment of this characteristic by ensuring that these companies fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) approved – the company has developed its emissions reduction target in line with SBTi criteria and this target has been officially validated by the SBTi.
- SBTi committed – the company has submitted a letter to the SBTi establishing its intent to set a science-based target.
- Temperature - the company's projected carbon emissions are aligned with a global temperature rise of less than 1.5°C, based on Schroders' proprietary net zero tool and/or third party data.
- Paris-aligned – the company has committed to reducing its carbon emissions by at least 75% by no later than 2040.
- Sector "best in class" – the company's projected carbon emissions intensity at 2040, taking into account its targets, is lower than a 75% reduction in the average emissions for its sector over the same period.
- Net zero – a company has a written commitment to net zero emissions.
- The company otherwise demonstrates a strong commitment to decarbonisation as determined by the Investment Manager.

¹Full details of the criteria and company names available via the following link:

<https://www.schroders.com/en/sustainability/active-ownership/group-exclusions/>

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Any companies in a heavy carbon sector (including mining, metals, autos and energy) must have set scope 3 emissions targets to be eligible.

The Investment Manager may also periodically engage with companies held by the Fund to seek to ensure this commitment remains on track and/or improves. The Fund typically holds up to 90% of its assets in fixed and floating rate securities issued by companies. However, the Fund is not required to maintain a minimum level of exposure to investments issued by companies, so its actual exposure to this characteristic will vary over time and may, in certain circumstances, be zero.

As part of its broader assessment, the Investment Manager also considers the following:

CONTEXT

Context is a proprietary ESG research tool which provides a systematic framework for analysing a company's relationship with its stakeholders and the sustainability of its business model. Comprising over 260 metrics across over 13,000 companies, it is designed to support the Investment Manager's understanding of the sustainability of companies' business models and profitability, and provides structured, logical and wide-ranging data.

The tool enables analysts to select the most material ESG factors for each sector, weight their importance and apply relevant metrics. Analysts are then able to compare companies based on the metrics selected, their own company assessment scores or adjusted rankings (size, sector or region), with the flexibility to make company specific adjustments to reflect their detailed knowledge. The tool is fully integrated within Schroders' global research platform, which is readily accessible across investment desks and geographies.

External Research

The Investment Manager uses information from several external ESG research firms, but only ever as one input into the Investment Manager's own company assessments to be questioned, examined and built on. External data providers are used to challenge or endorse the proprietary view of the Investment Manager.

The Investment Manager's Sustainable Investment team has extensive networks within its respective field. Information is drawn from publicly available corporate information and company meetings, from broker reports, industry bodies, and research organisations, think tanks, legislators, consultants, Non-Governmental Organizations and academics; wherever it is felt the information would add value to the Investment Manager's analysis.

Through this process, the Investment Manager aims to evaluate the relevance and materiality of a range of ESG factors on future earnings growth and as potential risk factors for a company.

Data sources and processing

In order to assess and understand the potential impact of sustainability risks and opportunities, Schroders has developed a range of proprietary tools. These tools rely on data that is available at the level of the underlying investment holdings.

The Investment Manager draws information on investee companies from publicly available corporate information and company meetings, from broker reports, industry bodies, and research organisations, think tanks, legislators, consultants, Non-Governmental Organisations and academics.

Third party research may be used, however our internal analysts form a proprietary view on each of the companies we analyse. Financial analysts may also use third-party research to support their assessment of ESG issues when analysing companies, in addition to consulting with our in-house ESG specialists. Through this process, we aim to evaluate the relevance and materiality of a range of ESG factors on the sustainability of future earnings growth and as potential risk factors for a company.

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The Investment Manager subscribes to external ESG research providers including; MSCI ESG research, Bloomberg, Refinitiv, Sustainalytics and Morningstar, which is subject to periodic review and change.

Whilst the third parties that deliver the vast majority of the data used have been chosen carefully, data errors may occur. To address this, a dedicated ESG Data Governance team pro-actively monitors for errors and resolves data queries. This involves close collaboration with the third-party data providers, and managing and tracking data corrections.

Where data is not available, Schroders will engage with companies to encourage them to disclose the missing data points. This additional information will be used alongside data from conventional and unconventional data sources that feed into our proprietary tools.

Some of our proprietary tools infer missing values where applicable. Our models typically employ a range of techniques to estimate missing values where appropriate and reasonably robust. For example, in one tool, where reported values are missing for companies, we fill using metric-specific rules such as filling with the industry peer group 60th percentile where higher values are considered negative and the peer group 40th percentile where higher values are considered beneficial (which is a conservative approach).

Where data for a metric is not sufficiently available to form robust conclusions, we do not include that metric in our tools.

Limitations to methodologies and data

The characteristic promoted by the Fund is to maintain a higher overall sustainability score than the benchmark, based on the Investment Manager's rating system. The Fund also ensures that at least 80% of the companies whose fixed and floating rate securities it holds have made a commitment to decarbonisation and/or net zero emissions.

Limitations to the Investment Manager's methodology and data may arise from data availability, and specifically the lack of company reported data.

The section "Data sources and processing" outlines the approach in ensuring the above-mentioned limitations do not affect how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are met.

Due diligence

The Fund's investment and asset selection process has been reviewed and approved by the Investment Manager's Product Development Committee that includes representatives from the Legal, Compliance, Product and Sustainable Investment functions. Ongoing compliance with the agreed sustainability characteristics is monitored by the Portfolio Compliance Team. There are no external controls on that due diligence.

Engagement policies

We consider active ownership to be the influence we can apply to management teams to ensure sustainable practices in the assets in which we invest. We aim to drive change that will protect and enhance the value of our investments and we are committed to leveraging the weight of our firm to change how a company is operating for the better. We believe this is an important aspect of our role as stewards of our clients' capital and how we help clients meet their long-term financial goals in line with our fiduciary responsibilities.

Our active ownership priorities reflect the combined perspectives of our fund managers, investment analysts and sustainability specialists across the firm, supported centrally by the Sustainable Investment team. As a result, we are able to take a common approach across investment desks.

We focus on sustainability issues which we determine to be material to the long-term value of our investee holdings. When material and relevant, we believe that companies that address these factors, where lacking, will drive improved financial performance for our clients. These issues reflect expectations and trends across a range of stakeholders including employees, customers, and communities, to the environment, suppliers and

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regulators. By strengthening relationships with that range of stakeholders, business models become more sustainable. The governance structure and management quality that oversee these stakeholder relationships are also a focus for our engagement discussions. In addition, we seek to reflect the priorities of our clients. Based on this process, we identify six broad themes for our engagement: climate, natural capital & biodiversity, human rights, human capital management, diversity & inclusion and governance.

Our themes are underpinned by additional cross-cutting thematic priorities. We also increasingly recognise the interconnectedness of ESG themes, such as the “just transition”, which recognises the social dimension of the transition to a resilient and low-carbon economy. We seek to reflect this interconnectedness in our engagements with companies.

How we engage:

We identify three key methods for practicing active ownership:

1. Dialogue: We speak with companies to understand if and how they are preparing for the long-term sustainability challenges they face.

2. Engagement: We work with companies to help them to recognise the potential impact of these challenges and to help them take action in the areas where change may be required.

3. Voting (where applicable): We use our voice and rights as shareholders to make sure these changes are effected.

These forms of active ownership can take place directly with companies, led by our fund managers, investment analysts and Sustainable Investment team; they can also take place in collaboration with other groups. Engagement is therefore a component of the portfolio’s investment strategy, both from an environmental and social perspectives.

We recognise that effective engagement requires continuous monitoring and ongoing dialogue. Where we have engaged repeatedly and seen no meaningful progress, we will escalate our concerns. Decisions on whether and how to escalate are based on the materiality of each issue, its urgency, the extent of our concern and whether the company has demonstrated progress through previous engagements. We identify a number of methods to escalate our engagements, such as meeting or otherwise communicating with non-executive directors or the chair of the Board, publicly stating our concerns, withholding support or voting against management and directors (where applicable) up to divesting partially or fully.

Our approach to active ownership focusses on achieving real-world outcomes and achieving change. When determining when to engage and setting an objective for the engagement, we consider:

1. Materiality: We seek to focus our engagement on the most material sustainability threats and opportunities to the company.

2. Regional context: The materiality of issues and the expectations we have of companies vary by country and region; for example, differing socio-cultural factors, regulatory maturity and resource constraints. Where possible we reference country or regional initiatives, regulations and leading practice from peers in our dialogue with companies.

3. Realistic outcomes: We consider both leading practice and what could realistically be achieved by the company in the next few years, including considering the size of the company.

4. Ability to monitor progress: We use objective, measurable metrics or indicators that can be used to assess company performance on an issue.

5. Length of engagement: We aim to set short- to mid-term objectives – that can often be achieved over a 12- to 24-month period depending on the intensity of the engagement – but with a longer-term vision in mind.

We aim to set pre-defined SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound) engagement objectives. We regularly monitor progress against the engagement objectives, at least annually, and at a frequency that is appropriate for the priority of the engagement and materiality of the issue or holding. That said, we recognise that the length of time to achieve an objective will vary depending upon its nature, and that

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key strategic changes will take time to implement into a company's business processes. A measurable outcome from our engagement upon completion of an objective could take a range of forms, including additional disclosure by a company, influencing the company strategy on a particular issue, or a change to the governance of an issue.

Further details on our approach to active ownership policy is publicly available:

<https://mybrand.schroders.com/m/3222ea4ed44a1f2c/original/schroders-engagement-blueprint.pdf>.

Designated reference benchmark

No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of meeting the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

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