

Schroders

Assessment of Value (AoV) Report

October 2023



Chair's Letter



James Rainbow

James Rainbow
Chair of Schroder Unit Trusts Limited

“We believe that assessing the value created by our funds is a continual process that we have incorporated into their everyday oversight”

Amid a global battle against inflation, UK investors are facing up to higher interest rates and concerns about recession. At the same time, the “3Ds” of decarbonisation, demographics and deglobalisation are causing significant long-term implications for global markets. While there has been more encouraging news on inflation in the UK recently, the economic and geopolitical backdrop remains uncertain. As ever, safeguarding our clients’ investments remains our first priority.

This is our fourth Assessment of Value report, covering our Wealth funds, and it aligns with our core purpose, to provide the best possible service and investment performance through active management.

As part of our continued commitment to you, and the reporting responsibility set by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), we produce this Assessment of Value report annually for each UK-domiciled investment fund that we manage. The data for this report was collected as at 30 June 2023.

We believe that assessing the value created by our funds is a continual process that we have incorporated into their everyday oversight. The risk and performance of each fund is formally reviewed at Committees and the Board of Schroder Unit Trusts Limited, and these discussions are integrated into our annual assessment.

We take pride in the fact that we take appropriate, timely action when necessary. As a result of last year’s assessment of our funds, over the past year we have:

- Taken action on individual funds which were identified as not consistently demonstrating value, by instigating portfolio composition changes (see the performance section on [page 7](#) for more information)
- Maintained the bi-annual automated process for share class conversions, moving eligible investors into cheaper classes where appropriate (see [page 8](#))
- Continued to offer scale discounts for retail investors in our largest funds. This year more funds are eligible for discounts as they have grown in size (see the economies of scale section on [page 8](#) for more information)

We continually seek to enhance the overall presentation of our report, so that it is clearly understood. We have set out our methodology, conclusions and next steps for each of the seven areas, and describe the key governance steps we take during the Assessment of Value lifecycle.

We seek to deliver investment returns for our investors by taking into account environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors. How this is done may vary by investment strategy. An explanation of this is provided in our 'Sustainability in Focus' section (see [page 3](#))

Where we have identified that certain funds are not demonstrating value consistently, we have completed a further review and shared the measures that we have taken, or plan to take, to address the issues.

We hope this report will reassure you through providing a detailed breakdown of the value that our funds provide. We also hope it will help to promote enhanced transparency, governance and outcomes, ultimately strengthening trust in the asset management industry.



Andy Howard
Global Head of
Sustainable Investment

Sustainability in focus: A message from our Global Head of Sustainable Investment

Sustainable investing is a key element of our strategy. Social and environmental trends are shaping economies, industries and financial markets. As active managers, our priorities are navigating the risks and opportunities that those trends may create, and connecting the capital that we manage for our clients to forces that will require funding and shape future investment returns.

We are not alone in believing that the business and investment landscape is changing. This shift is underlined by the changing nature of the most important threats global executives identify in the latest World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report¹. Each of the five global risks highlighted this year are grounded in social or environmental trends, whereas a decade ago they barely featured.

This picture of change underlines our conviction that the forces that have driven business success and outperformance in the past will not be the only factors that define future returns. Our path to navigating the changing world and the consequences of growing social and environmental pressures lies in both the analysis we apply to investment decisions and the influence we can bring to our clients' investments through active ownership.

In 2022, we recognised the efforts that our investment teams make to engage with the management teams of investee companies by introducing our Engagement Blueprint². Many of our analysts and fund managers undertake two to three in-depth engagements annually covering the areas described in our Engagement Blueprint.

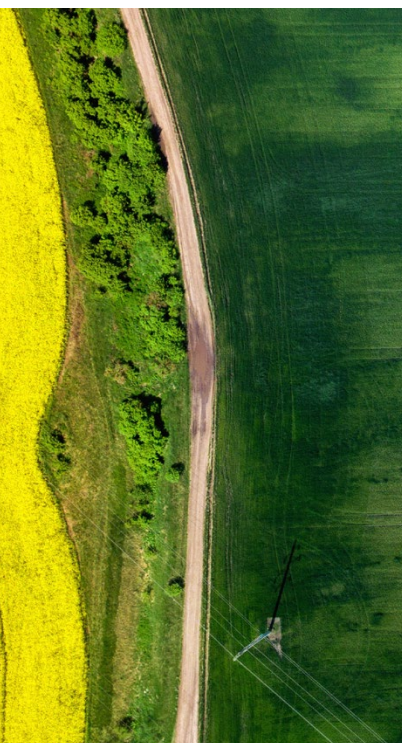
We have long viewed climate change as a challenge that over time will impact performance in every investment portfolio to some extent; the key question is whether the risks and opportunities posed are managed proactively or not. We have stated our intention to transition our own business, including the investment portfolios that we manage on behalf of many clients, towards a net zero future.

We remain the largest focused asset manager by AUM to have targets validated by the Science Based Targets Initiatives (as of December 2022)³. To that end, we have developed a range of models and tools to assess individual companies' exposures to climate change and the strength of their commitment to address it. We have embarked on the largest engagement programme our firm has undertaken, with over 700 climate-focused engagements in 2022. These efforts across the firm put us on track to achieve our transition commitments, albeit that we are in the early years of a long journey.

We are driven by the goal of helping our clients to achieve sustainable investment returns over time, and in doing so navigating the risks posed by social and environmental pressures.


The message from many of our clients, through our recent Institutional Investor Study, indicates they want more transparency and support to navigate their sustainability and impact investing objectives, particularly regarding the measurement of how they are achieving those objectives.

Our investment in developing insights and analysis, and the data and infrastructure to apply that analysis, is becoming increasingly important to the value we bring to our clients.



¹ https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2023.pdf. ² <https://www.schroders.com/en-gb/uk/institutional/insights/how-we-updated-our-engagement-blueprint/>. ³ <https://sciencebasedtargets.org/blog/science-based-targets-for-financial-institutions-2022-in-review#list-of-validated-fi-science-based-targets-as-of-december-2022>.

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Schroder Unit Trusts Ltd (SUTL) board of directors

The SUTL board, which includes executive directors and independent non-executive directors, is responsible for representing the best interests of investors and implementing the outcomes of the Assessment of Value.

Executive Directors

James Rainbow

Head of UK



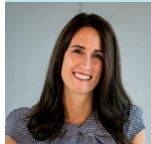
James Rainbow is the Chair of SUTL and joined the board in December 2019.

James is currently Head of UK at Schroders. He joined Schroders in 2007 and has more than 20 years of industry experience.

As Chair of the SUTL board, James holds the regulatory responsibility for SUTL complying with its obligation as Authorised Fund Manager (AFM), carrying out the Assessment of Value, recruiting independent directors and acting in the best interests of investors.

Lesley-Ann Morgan

Global Head of Pensions and Retirement, Client Group



Lesley-Ann Morgan is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SUTL and joined the board in June 2022.

Lesley-Ann is currently Global Head of Pensions and Retirement, Client Group. She joined Schroders in 2011 and has more than 30 years of industry experience.

As CEO of SUTL, Lesley-Ann is responsible for the conduct of the business and plays a key role in the decision-making process. She also supports the Chair in carrying out his regulatory duties.

Anna O'Donoghue

Global Head of Product Development and Governance



Anna O'Donoghue is an executive director of SUTL and joined the board in September 2022.

Anna is currently Global Head of Product Development and Governance at Schroders and she has an executive MBA. She joined Schroders in 2019 and has more than 20 years of industry experience.

Paul Chislett

Chief Financial Officer, Schroders Capital



Paul Chislett is an executive director of SUTL and joined the board in 2013.

Paul is currently Chief Financial Officer, Schroders Capital. Paul is a chartered management accountant with more than 20 years of industry experience.

Stephen Reedy

Head of EMEA Operations Hub



Stephen Reedy is an executive director of SUTL and joined the board in December 2019.

Stephen is currently Head of EMEA Operations Hub at Schroders, providing operational services across the region. He joined Schroders in 2019 and is a chartered accountant with more than 25 years of industry experience.

Paul Truscott

Head of Product Development, UK and Europe



Paul Truscott is an executive director of SUTL and joined the board in July 2019.

Paul is currently Head of Product Development, UK and Europe at Schroders. He joined Schroders in 1991 and is a chartered management accountant with more than 30 years of industry experience.

Independent Non-Executive Directors

Calum Thomson

Independent Non-Executive Director



Calum Thomson is an independent non-executive director of SUTL and was appointed to the board in July 2017. Calum is a former Senior Audit Partner at Deloitte LLP and currently holds a number of non-executive directorships within the investment industry. He has more than 25 years of industry experience.

Our independent non-executive directors bring an external perspective to support our executive directors and undertake a key role providing independent oversight and challenging the approach taken where necessary.

Howard Williams

Independent Non-Executive Director



Howard Williams is an independent non-executive director of SUTL and was appointed to the board in February 2018.

Howard worked for 23 years at JP Morgan Asset Management where he was the Chief Investment Officer and Head of Global Equities. He has more than 35 years of industry experience.

Our independent non-executive directors bring an external perspective to support our executive directors and undertake a key role providing independent oversight and challenging the approach taken where necessary.

Introduction

Throughout this report, the Schroder Unit Trusts Limited (SUTL) board, will be referred to as 'we'.

Who is the report designed for?

This annual Assessment of Value report is aimed at individuals who invest in our UK domiciled wealth management funds or their advisers. It outlines each fund's assessment and concludes on whether we believe that we have demonstrated value.

How should you use it?

We recommend that you take time to read the 'Seven areas' section to understand how we have made our assessment, which has been conducted using data as at 30 June 2023.

Our conclusions on each fund are set out separately in each individual fund's report.

The report complements other fund documentation such as the Factsheet and the Key Investor Information Document (KIID).

The document is interactive; please use the Contents page to navigate your way around it.

We have included a glossary at the back of the document to define the technical terms which some investors may not be familiar with.

Where we write 'share class' in the report, it is to be understood as meaning unit/share class as applicable to the relevant fund.

The combined report of funds in scope for this assessment can be found [here](#).

What will the report tell you?




The FCA has asked us to look at seven specific areas when assessing the value we deliver to our investors:

- 1. Performance** – has the fund performed in line with expectations?
- 2. Quality of service** – are we meeting expectations on the service we deliver?
- 3. Authorised fund manager costs** – are the fees charged to the fund reasonable and appropriate?
- 4. Comparable market rates** – how do our fees compare against competitors?
- 5. Economies of scale** – do our funds benefit from cost savings as they grow?
- 6. Comparable services** – how do the fees we charge your fund compare with what we charge clients for similar products?
- 7. Classes of shares or units** – are you in the most appropriate type of share or unit?

Please follow the [link here](#) to find the detail of the regulation in COLL 6.6.21.

What do the icons used throughout the report represent?

We have used iconography to help you understand the outcome of our assessment of each area.

-  Where an area has this icon, we believe that the fund is demonstrating value in that area.
-  Where an area has this icon, we have concluded that the fund is demonstrating value in that area. However, our initial quantitative review indicated that further qualitative analysis was required before we could conclude that the fund is demonstrating value. We believe the combination of these reviews should provide you with a comprehensive conclusion.
-  Where an area has this icon, we recognise that the fund is not demonstrating value in that area consistently. We have completed a further review and shared the outcomes with you.

What to do if you have any questions

You can contact us at wmteam@cazenovecapital.com if you have any further questions. You may wish to discuss your questions with your usual Cazenove Capital contact.

The seven areas (1/2)

1. Performance



We think clients can reasonably expect funds to meet their investment objectives, albeit with the knowledge that they are not guaranteed. To give us an indication of how well a fund is doing this, we assess the returns of each share class over the performance period, which is the length of time over which we expect the fund to deliver its investment objective. If we've given a range of time, then for the purposes of this report we look at the upper end of the range.

For example, if the range is three-to-five years, we assess the delivery of the investment objective over five years. We acknowledge that sometimes funds will underperform their investment objective given their particular investment style. We consider a number of measures over that time period to make a judgement on whether or not the investment objectives are being met, including specific levels of income or volatility (the fluctuation of performance). For further information on fund level performance, please refer to your fund report on [page 11](#).

2. Quality of service



Several elements contribute to the service we offer all of our clients. We assess whether we are delivering each of these well enough to create value for our clients. We assess whether key aspects of fund operations have met or exceeded the rigorous internal and external standards that have been set for them. These standards, known as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), enable Schroders to provide both accurate and timely financial reporting to both our clients and the regulators.

The strength of our investment process is validated by independent external rating agencies. The Fitch Investment Management Quality Rating (IMQR) considers our Investment Process, Investment Resources, Risk Management, Investment Performance and Company and Client Servicing. We also review our own governance around liquidity and risk management to ensure that the policies and procedures we have in place are robust and fit for purpose. This provides us with a holistic view of the client experience. We use external metrics from third parties such as Research in Finance to assess our clients' experience. For further information on fund level quality of service, please refer to your fund report on [page 11](#).

3. Authorised fund manager costs



We review every cost component of the Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF) at a share class level, this includes a detailed assessment of our management, administration and 'other' costs (see the glossary for a definition of the OCF). We then compare these costs against what we charge our investors, this is to ensure that they are appropriate, while at the same allowing us to: remain a well-capitalised business, continue to operate during stress scenarios, continue to innovate and develop new products.

Schroders moved to an "all-in fee" called the Schroders Annual Charge (SAC) after the first Assessment of Value, this is to make charging structures simpler and easier to understand. This means that clients will pay a single fee which will be set with reference to the OCF. For further information on fund level AFM costs, please refer to your fund report on [page 11](#).

4. Comparable market rates



We use an independent third party to assess the amount we charge our investors at a share class level by comparing the price of our funds against the price of peers in the relevant Investment Association (IA) Sector (where applicable). As the investment approach of funds in an IA Sector can vary, we also assess each fund against a customised peer group (where applicable).

The funds in the customised peer groups are selected by an independent third party on the basis that they are more directly comparable than other funds in the IA Sector. For further information on fund level comparable market rates, please refer to your fund report on [page 11](#).



The seven areas (2/2)

5. Economies of scale



We assess whether there are potential economies of scale in the fund and whether or not these have been achieved in practice. If that is the case, we then consider whether that benefit is being reflected in lower charges for clients. Every fund can, in theory, benefit from economies of scale but whether or not your fund does will depend on the overall fund size. A fund can generate economies of scale as it grows. This is because we are able to manage larger funds more efficiently, meaning that our costs of managing the fund decrease as the size of the fund grows.

We have determined that funds generally generate meaningful economies of scale when a fund grows to assets under management of £1 billion, although this can vary depending on the type of investments that we manage for you. We have therefore determined that it is appropriate that we share some of these savings with you. For further information on fund level economies of scale, please refer to your fund report on [page 11](#).



6. Comparable services

We manage money for a range of different clients all over the world including individuals, charities, pension schemes and large institutions, some of that money is managed in the same way as your fund. Where this is the case, we have compared different types of clients and the services that they receive in relation to the fees that we charge on your fund. This is to ensure they are reasonable and appropriate. For further information on fund level comparable services, please refer to your fund report on [page 11](#).

7. Classes of shares or units



We review the charges across all share classes in your fund and look at all the share classes that serve broadly the same purpose and compare those charges. Our aim is that our clients are invested in the share class that is the best price for them, given how they are investing and the features they are looking for. We now conduct a semi-annual automatic conversion for investors that have had their advisor removed. This automation is carried out every May and November. For further information on fund level classes of shares or units, please refer to your fund report on [page 11](#).



The Assessment of Value report lifecycle

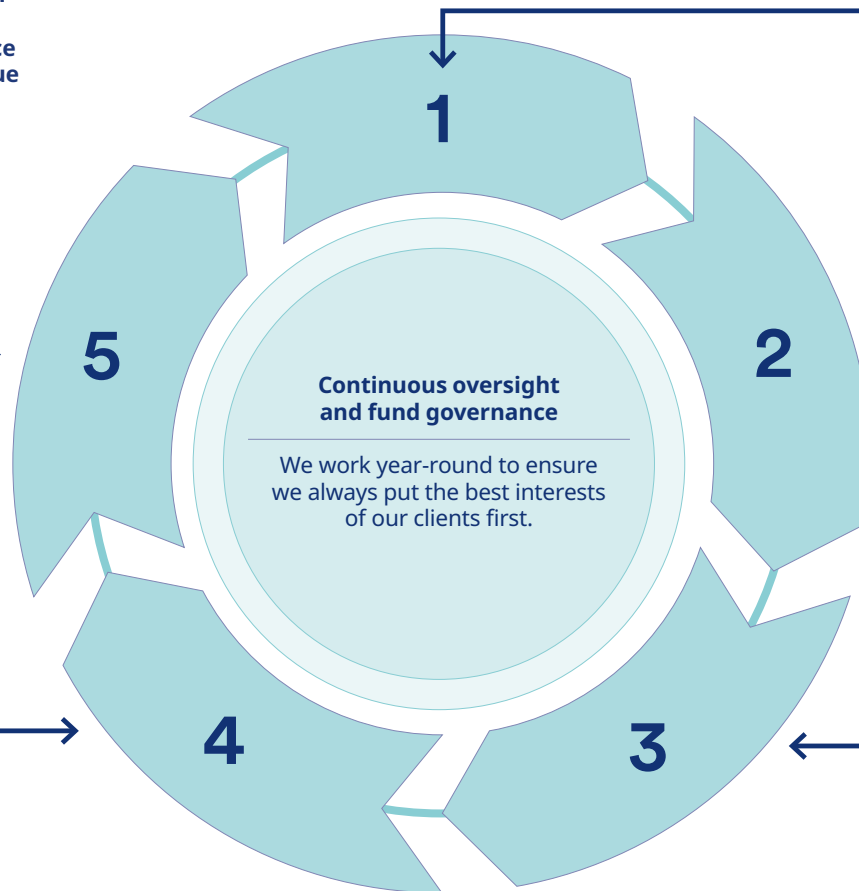
On this page we share the key governance steps taken to produce our annual Assessment of Value report. Additionally, we describe our rigorous fund governance and oversight model; although the Assessment of Value is an annual process, we review the value we deliver to our investors throughout the year.

5. Publish report

After robust evaluation and challenge, we publish the Assessment of Value report externally on our website or make it available on request for clients and investors to view. We publish this report for our core Asset Management funds in April every year and for our Wealth Management funds in October every year.

4. SUTL board

Each step of the Assessment of Value methodology is comprehensively reviewed and validated by the SUTL board. Their role includes reviewing, challenging and validating each individual recommended fund assessment outcome approved by the Product Governance Committee. These outcomes and proposed remedial actions are presented to the SUTL board by the Product Governance Team.



1. Governance inputs

We use an independent third party, Broadridge, to provide data on performance and charges and to construct customised fund peer groups. Additionally, multiple internal teams – including Client Group, Finance, Fund Operations, Investment, Compliance, Legal, Risk and Marketing – provide input to the assessment process.

2. Risk and Performance Committees

The risk and performance of each fund is reviewed every quarter at a formal Committee. Currently, there are 17 of these Committees across Schroders covering every asset class.

3. Product Governance Committee (PGC)

The Product Governance Committee appraises the seven areas for each fund and share class, and subsequently determines the recommended assessment outcome for the SUTL board. This process draws on the experience of key stakeholders from across the business. The Product Governance Committee also periodically review underperforming funds as do the Risk and Performance Committees.

“A key part of our role as independent non-executive directors is to engage in constructive discussions which challenge the delivery of value. To put clients’ best interests first is something to be reassessed continuously throughout the year”

Calum Thomson and Howard Williams, Independent Non-Executive Directors

How to read your fund page

To assist you in finding your way around the individual fund pages we have created the following guide to highlight the key areas.

Your fund reports

You should review the reports for each fund that you are invested in and decide whether you feel the product is still suitable for your needs and delivering what you expected from it.

Overall conclusion

Our conclusions on each fund are set out separately in each individual fund's report. Each area is considered separately for every fund and is given equal weighting. This contributes to an overall assessment as to whether or not we believe that we have delivered value to our clients. This incorporates both qualitative information as well as quantitative data.

Actions

Where this report identifies that certain funds are not demonstrating value consistently, we have completed a further review and shared the remedial actions that we have taken, or plan to take, to address the issues we have identified.

The seven areas

We have explained our analysis for each of the seven assessment criteria in these sections.

Performance data

Here you can find the fund's performance data, typically a factsheet or Key Investor Information Document (KIID), up to the reference date of 30 June 2023 or earlier. To get the latest performance data, please visit the Schroders' Fund Centre and refer to the Documents section for your fund.

Navigation

You can click this icon which is situated at the top right of each page to return back to the contents page.

The screenshot shows the 'Schroder Managed Wealth Portfolio' assessment page. At the top right, there is a Schroders logo and a navigation icon. The page is divided into several sections, each with a heading and a progress indicator (circles):

- Investment objective**: The fund aims to achieve capital growth and income of inflation (as measured by the UK Consumer Price Index) plus 3.5% per annum (after fees have been deducted) over a five to seven year period by investing in a diversified range of assets and markets worldwide. This cannot be guaranteed and your capital is at risk.
- Overall conclusion**: Taking into account all seven areas included in the assessment of value, we believe that the fund is demonstrating value overall. We have summarised our assessment of each area as it relates to this fund separately below.
- 1. Performance**: Performance commentary: The fund (Z Acc units) returned 4.1% per annum over the last seven years in comparison to the CPI objective of CPI 3.5% which returned 7.3% per annum. It has performed ahead of its comparator ARC Balanced benchmark which returned 3.2%. The fund seeks to produce a return above inflation. Given there are no assets available which directly track inflation, we invest using a strategic asset allocation model which we believe should produce the targeted return over the investment period. The portfolio is diversified across asset classes including fixed income, equities, alternatives and cash. Under normal market conditions, this should deliver the target over the recommended performance period. Over shorter periods performance may diverge from the 'inflation plus' objective. Over the five-to-seven year period, the equities held have provided strong absolute returns. The performance has benefited from our decision to reduce exposure to the UK in favour of international markets, including the US, which have significantly outperformed. The performance of fixed income assets over the period has proved a significant headwind for the fund. Over the seven year period, UK government bonds have weighed on returns. We have been significantly underweight bonds compared to our strategic asset allocation, favouring diversifying assets. These have helped provide diversification and positive returns over the period. We have confidence in the fund's investment strategy and in Schroders' ability to deliver on its investment objective in the future.
- 2. Quality of service**: We have assessed key service areas relating to our fund operations, our investment process and our client experience. External providers concluded that we have a mature and effective framework for fund oversight and reporting of risks. The value of our communications are validated by Research in Finance. We also looked at our liquidity management process, as well as fund complaints and breaches. Through all our metrics we have concluded that we provide value to our clients. For more detail on how we completed this assessment, please refer to the 'Seven areas' section in the front of this report.
- 3. Authorised fund manager costs**: We reviewed every cost component of the Schroders Annual Charge (SAC) at a share class level. We concluded that in relation to each charge, the costs of providing the service to which the charge relates are reasonable and appropriate. For more detail on how we completed this assessment, please refer to the 'Seven areas' section in the front of this report.
- 4. Comparable market rates**: Due to the bespoke nature of this fund it is not comparable to a IA sector peer group or Broadridge comparison group and therefore has no peer group that we can compare the fund's charges against.
- 5. Economies of scale**: The fund you invest in is currently not large enough (defined as fund assets under management greater than £1 billion) to realise economies of scale. Therefore it does not benefit from meaningful cost savings achieved from size. However, we will continue to assess this and will notify you if the position changes.
- 6. Comparable services**: Due to the bespoke nature of this fund, there is no service offered which can act as a direct comparison.
- 7. Classes of shares or units**: We have looked at charges across all of the share classes in our funds and converted you to a cheaper share class if appropriate. Where there are no other share classes that broadly serve the same purpose as the one you are currently in, we have not made any changes to your holding.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the following information:

- 5 The assessment has been completed using data as at 30/06/2023
- Key: ○○○ Demonstrating value ○○○ Completed a further review, demonstrating value ○○○ Completed a further review, not demonstrating value consistently

Assessment period

Our assessment is carried out using data as at 30 June 2023.

Schroder Managed Wealth Portfolio

Investment objective

The fund aims to achieve capital growth and income of inflation (as measured by the UK Consumer Price Index) plus 3.5% per annum (after fees have been deducted) over a five to seven year period by investing in a diversified range of assets and markets worldwide. This cannot be guaranteed and your capital is at risk.

Overall conclusion

Taking into account all seven areas included in the assessment of value, we believe that the fund is demonstrating value overall. We have summarised our assessment of each area as it relates to this fund separately below. For more detail on how we completed this assessment, please refer to the 'Seven areas' section in the front of this report.

1. Performance

Performance commentary: The fund (Z Acc units) returned 4.1% per annum over the last seven years in comparison to the CPI objective of CPI plus 3.5% which returned 7.3% per annum. It has performed ahead of its comparator ARC Balanced benchmark which returned 3.2%. The fund seeks to produce a return above inflation. Given there are no assets available which directly track inflation, we invest using a strategic asset allocation model which we believe should produce the targeted return over the investment period. The portfolio is diversified across asset classes including fixed income, equities, alternatives and cash. Under normal market conditions, this should deliver the target over the recommended performance period. Over shorter periods performance may diverge from the 'inflation plus' objective. Over the five-to-seven year period, the equities held have provided strong absolute returns. The performance has benefited from our decision to reduce exposure to the UK in favour of international markets, including the US, which have significantly outperformed. The performance of fixed income assets over the period has proved a significant headwind for the fund. Over the seven year period, UK government bonds have weighed on returns. We have been significantly underweight bonds compared to our strategic asset allocation, favouring diversifying assets. These have helped provide diversification and positive returns over the period.

We have confidence in the fund's investment strategy and in Schroders' ability to deliver on its investment objective in the future.

2. Quality of service

We have assessed key service areas relating to our fund operations, our investment process and our client experience. External providers concluded that we have a mature and effective framework for fund oversight and reporting of risks. The value of our communications are validated by Research in Finance. We also looked at our liquidity management process, as well as fund complaints and breaches. Through all our metrics we have concluded that we provide value to our clients.

3. Authorised fund manager costs

We reviewed every cost component of the Schroders Annual Charge (SAC) at a share class level. We concluded that in relation to each charge, the costs of providing the service to which the charge relates are reasonable and appropriate.

4. Comparable market rates

Due to the bespoke nature of this fund it is not comparable to a IA sector peer group or Broadridge comparison group and therefore has no peer group that we can compare the fund's charges against.

5. Economies of scale

The fund you invest in is currently not large enough (defined as fund assets under management greater than £1 billion) to realise economies of scale. Therefore it does not benefit from meaningful cost savings achieved from size. However, we will continue to assess this and will notify you if the position changes.

6. Comparable services

Due to the bespoke nature of this fund, there is no service offered which can act as a direct comparison.

7. Classes of shares or units

We have looked at charges across all of the share classes in our funds and converted you to a cheaper share class if appropriate. Where there are no other share classes that broadly serve the same purpose as the one you are currently in, we have not made any changes to your holding.

Glossary of Terms

Absolute return

An asset's standalone return (gain or loss) over time. It is not being compared to anything else such as a benchmark or another asset.

Active management

The management of investments based on active decision-making rather than with the objective of replicating the return of an index. The manager aims to beat the market through research, analysis and their own judgement.

AFM (Authorised Fund Manager)

The AFM is responsible for the overall management of the fund and may appoint an investment manager to invest money on behalf of clients. An authorised investment fund is one that is authorised and regulated by the UK financial regulator, the FCA. *Please also see FCA definition.*

Alternative asset

An investment outside of the traditional asset classes of equities, bonds and cash. Alternative investments include property, hedge funds, commodities, private equity, and infrastructure.

AMC (Annual Management Charge)

Following the introduction of the Schroders Annual Charge, AMC has been replaced by SAC. *Please see SAC definition.*

Assessment of Value

The FCA requires managers of UK funds to publish an annual report demonstrating how they are providing value to investors in their funds.

Asset allocation

The apportionment of a portfolio's assets between asset classes and/or markets. For example, a fund may hold a combination of shares, bonds and cash. The weightings given vary according to the investment objective and the investment outlook.

Asset class

Broad groups of different types of investments. The main investment asset classes are equities, bonds and cash. Non-traditional asset classes are known as alternative investments.

Benchmark

A standard (usually an index or a market average) against which an investment fund's performance is measured. *Please also see comparator benchmark and target benchmark definitions.*

Bond

A way for governments and companies (the issuers of the bond) to borrow money for a certain amount of time. A typical arrangement would be in exchange for an upfront payment from an investor, the issuer will make periodic interest payments to the investor and then repay the initial investment amount at the end of the bond's term (its maturity).

Business cycle

Also referred to as the "economic cycle". Essentially it describes how business activity goes up and down over time. There are four stages of the business or economic cycle: expansion, slowdown, recession and recovery.

Bottom-up (investment style)

Investment based on analysis of microeconomic variables, whereby individual companies' history, management, and potential are considered more important than general market or sector trends (as opposed to top-down investing).

Capital growth

The increase in the value of an asset or investment over time.

Capital risk

The potential loss of all or part of an investment.

Cazenove Capital

A long-established wealth manager which is part of the Schroders group.

Conservative (investment style)

Prioritises the preservation of capital over market returns by investing in lower-risk securities.

Comparator benchmark

A standard (usually an index or a market average) against which an investment fund's performance is compared to.

Covid-19

The name given by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to the illness caused by the coronavirus illness which was first recorded in 2019.

CPI (Consumer Price Index)

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures how much prices of consumer goods and services change over a period of time. For example, if CPI is 2.5% for the 12 months ending January 2020, this means that on average, the price of consumer goods will be about 2.5% higher than they were in January 2019. *Please also see Inflation definition.*

Domicile (e.g. a UK-domiciled fund)

A fund's domicile is essentially its country of residence. It determines how a fund is to be treated from a tax perspective much as the domicile (i.e. permanent home) determines what tax legislation applies. Schroders has a range of unit trust funds that are UK-domiciled while the Schroder International Selection Fund range is domiciled in Luxembourg.

Duration

A measure of a bond investment's sensitivity to changes in interest rates. The longer the duration, the more sensitive it is. Calculating duration for a fixed income investment such as a bond is a complicated sum. It takes into account the current value of the bond, the coupon or interest payment, the book cost, and the number of years the bond has left to run. Put simply, the higher the duration number the higher the potential return (and the greater the risk).

Economic cycle

Also referred to as the "business cycle". *Please also see Business cycle definition.*

Glossary of Terms

Emerging markets

Countries that have rapidly growing economies and may be going through the process of industrialisation. This is compared to developed markets which have already undergone this process and are considered to be already economically advanced.

Equities

Also known as shares or stocks, this represents a share in the ownership of a company.

ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance)

ESG represents environmental, social and governance considerations and covers issues such as climate change, energy use, labour standards, supply chain management and how well a company is run.

ETF (Exchange-Traded Fund)

ETFs usually track an underlying index and trade just as a normal stock would on an exchange. ETFs can track stocks in a single industry or an entire index of equities.

Factor (investment style)

An approach that involves targeting specific drivers of return across asset classes.

FCA (Financial Conduct Authority)

The FCA regulates the UK's financial markets. Its objective is to ensure that relevant markets function well - for individuals, for business and for the economy as a whole.

FTSE All Share

A price-weighted index comprising of approximately 650 of the top UK publicly listed companies.

Fundamental analysis

The process of identifying stocks that are undervalued by looking at the underlying investment.

Growth (investment style)

Companies perceived as stable growers that investors are willing to pay a premium for on the basis of their future growth prospects.

Earnings are expected to increase at an above-average rate compared to their industry sector or the overall market.

Hedge fund

A collective name for funds targeting absolute returns through investment in financial markets and/or applying non-traditional portfolio management techniques. Hedge funds can invest using a broad array of strategies, ranging from conservative to aggressive.

IA (Investment Association) sector

As published by the Investment Association, the IA sectors divide the fund universe to reflect the asset type, industry sector, or geographic regions funds are invested in. There are over 35 IA sectors. These are there to help navigate the large universe of funds in the UK and include some offshore (EU) funds. The sectors divide up the funds into smaller groups, to allow like-for-like comparisons between funds in one or more sectors, for instance to look at performance and fund charges.

Index (investment style)

A passive investment strategy that seeks to replicate the returns of a benchmark index.

Inflation

A measure of the increase in prices of goods and services over time.

Investment universe

The range of stocks in which a portfolio can invest.

KIID (Key Investor Information Document)

A two-page document that summarises a fund's investment objective, key risks, ongoing charges figure (*please see OCF definition*) and past performance. It is required for funds that come under EU law and is designed to allow comparability across funds.

Large cap

Please see Market capitalisation definition.

Liquidity

The ease with which an asset can be sold for cash. An asset can be described as illiquid if it takes a long time to sell, such as property, or if it is difficult to find someone willing to buy it.

Long/short (investment style)

A strategy, used primarily by hedge funds, that involves taking long positions (buying a holding) in stocks that are expected to increase in value and short positions (borrowing a stock and selling it in the hope of repurchasing it at a lower price to return to the stock lender) in stocks that are expected to decrease in value.

Macroeconomic

Refers to the behaviour and drivers of an economy as a whole. Factors include inflation, unemployment, etc. as opposed to microeconomic which is the behaviour of small economic units, such as individual consumers or households.

Market capitalisation

A measure of a company's size, calculated by multiplying the total number of shares in issue by the current share price. Companies are commonly grouped according to size, such as small cap, mid cap, large cap or all cap. There is no consensus on the definition of these groupings and they may vary from fund to fund depending on the country of investment.

Mid cap

Please see Market capitalisation definition.

MSCI (Morgan Stanley Capital International)

An investment research firm that provides stock indices, portfolio risk and performance analytics, and government tools.

Multi Asset

An investment which contains a combination of asset classes, creating a group or portfolio of assets.

Nominal return

A value which has not been adjusted for inflation.

OCF (Ongoing Charges Figure)

The OCF is made up of the Schroders Annual Charge (SAC), the administration charge and 'other' costs. The administration fee includes directly attributable costs, such as Transfer Agency costs and Fund Accounting fees, and allocated costs to support functions, such as Finance, Tax, Risk, Audit, Legal and Compliance.

Glossary of Terms

Overweight

When a portfolio or fund has a greater percentage weighting in an asset class, sector, geographical region or stock than the index or benchmark against which it is measured.

Passive management

A style of investment management that aims to replicate the performance of a set benchmark.

Peer group

A group of funds that may be compared with one another, often for performance purposes. A peer group will usually be based on the fund's investment scope.

Performance period

The length of time over which we expect the fund to deliver its investment objective.

Qualitative analysis

The use of subjective judgment and information that cannot be represented by numbers (such as a company's culture) to evaluate an investment.

Quality (investment style)

Companies with higher profitability and perceived to be stable over time relative to their peers. Quality is measured by its profitability, stability, financial strength, sales growth and governance.

Quantitative analysis

Quantitative is often better understood as "numerical". It is used to identify and target the underlying factors responsible for the outperformance of some financial assets over others.

RDR (Retail Distribution Review)

A Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) initiative that aims to provide greater clarity about different types of financial services available. It also seeks to improve transparency around the costs and fees associated with financial advice. The amount of risk capital set by legislation or local regulators, which companies must hold against any difficulties such as market or credit risks.

Real return

The return generated by an investment, having been adjusted for the effects of inflation. For example, an investment grew in value by 5% return over one year, and the rate of inflation was 2%, the real return would be 3%.

Risk-adjusted return

A technique to measure the returns from an investment that takes into account the degree of risk that must be accepted in order to achieve it.

Risk-free rate

The rate of return over a specified period of time on an investment with zero risk.

RPI (Retail Price Index)

The Retail Price Index (RPI) measures how much prices of consumer goods and services change over a period of time. RPI is a measure of inflation and takes the exact same premise as CPI; however, it also includes housing costs. RPI has been deemed an inferior measure to CPI. *Please also see Inflation definition.*

S&P 500

A stock market index that tracks the average performance of the top 500 listed US companies.

Schroder Investment Management (Schroders)

Schroders is a global investment manager. It actively manages investments for a wide range of institutions and individuals, to help them meet their financial goals.

Schroders Annual Charge (SAC)

A single all-in-fee charged to the funds which includes the previously separated Annual Management Charge (AMC), administration fee and most of the other fees that are normally charged. It excludes the extraordinary legal/tax fees and third party fund manager costs.

Share class

A way to differentiate between different types of shares. For companies, this may mean that some shares have voting rights while others do not. Within a fund, the different share classes may represent different ways of paying the investor the income from the fund, different fees and expenses or different base currencies. For example, a fund will often have an "accumulation" share class and an "income" share class. With the former, any income produced will be automatically reinvested back into the fund (more shares will be bought in the fund). With the income share class, income can either be received as a regular payment or reinvested.

Small cap

Please see Market capitalisation definition.

SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average)

The interest rate paid by financial institutions during periods when the markets are closed.

Stress test

The process of testing the resilience of institutions and investment portfolios against possible worst case future financial situations.

SustainEx

The Schroders in-house research tool which is designed to quantify the positive contributions and negative impacts companies have on society. By examining both current profits and potential externalities through a common monetary lens, SustainEx aligns social and environmental impact with investment risk.

Target benchmark

A standard (usually an index or a market average) which an investment fund's performance aims to match or exceed.

TER (Total Expense Ratio)

Following the introduction of KIIDs, TERs have been replaced with OCFs. *Please see OCF definition.*

Thematic (investment style)

Investing according to a chosen investment theme. For example, an investor with a "health and wellness" focus will likely only consider funds that invest in healthy food brands or those companies focused on developing new vaccines.

Top-down (investment style)

An investment strategy which finds the best sectors or industries to invest in, based on analysis of the corporate sector as a whole and macroeconomic trends such as GDP and CPI to determine investment decisions (as opposed to bottom-up investing).

Glossary of Terms

Total return

The total return of an investment is the combination of any capital appreciation (or depreciation) plus any income from interest or dividends. It is measured over a set period, and is given as a percentage of the value of the investment at the start of that period.

Underweight

When a portfolio or fund has a lower percentage weighting in an asset class, sector, geographical region or stock than the index or benchmark against which it is measured.

Unit class

Unit classes are a way to differentiate between different types of units in a unit trust. Where we write 'share class' in the report, it is to be understood as meaning unit/share class as applicable to the relevant fund. *Please also see Share class definition.*

Unit trust

A type of open-ended pooled investment vehicle, or fund, which is structured as a trust. It is split up into equal portions called "units" which belong to the unitholder. The money paid for the units goes into a pool with other investors' money which an investment manager uses to buy financial instruments on behalf of the unitholders, with the aim of generating a return for them.

Value (investment style)

A style of investing that involves buying securities that are trading at a significant discount to their true value in the belief that over time, the asset's relatively low price will rise to more accurately reflect the intrinsic value of the business. Value is measured by a company's cash flows, dividends, earnings and assets.

Volatility

A statistical measure of the fluctuations in a security's price or particular market. For example, a highly volatile share experiences greater changes in price than other investments. High volatility is taken as an indication of higher risk.

Yield

A measure of the income return earned on an investment. In the case of a share, the yield is the annual dividend payment expressed as a percentage of the market price of the share. For property, it is the rental income as a percentage of the capital value. For bonds, the yield is the annual interest as a percentage of the current market price.



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