

Engagement Policy Implementation Statement (“EPIS”)

Delcam Retirement Benefits Scheme (the “Scheme”)

Scheme Year End – 5 April 2024

The purpose of the EPIS is for us, the Trustees of the Delcam Retirement Benefits Scheme (the “Scheme”), to explain what we have done during the year ending 5 April 2024 to achieve certain policies and objectives set out in the Statement of Investment Principles (“SIP”). It includes:

1. How our policies in the SIP about asset stewardship (including both voting and engagement activity) in relation to the Scheme’s investments have been followed during the year; and
2. How we have exercised our voting rights or how these rights have been exercised on our behalf, including the use of any proxy voting advisory services, and the ‘most significant’ votes cast over the reporting year.

Our conclusion

Based on the activity we have undertaken during the year, we believe that the policies set out in the SIP have been implemented effectively.

In our view, most of the Scheme’s material investment managers were able to disclose good evidence of voting and engagement activity, and the activities completed by our managers align with our stewardship expectations.

We delegate the management of all the Scheme’s assets to our fiduciary manager, Aon Investments Limited (“Aon”). We believe the activities completed by our fiduciary manager to review the underlying managers’ voting and engagement policies, undertaken by Aon aligns with our stewardship expectations. In addition, we are comfortable with the management and the monitoring of ESG integration and stewardship of the underlying managers, including voting rights, has been carried out and implemented effectively on our behalf.

How voting and engagement policies have been followed

The Scheme is invested entirely in pooled funds, and so the responsibility for voting and engagement is delegated to the Scheme's investment managers. We reviewed the stewardship activity of the material investment managers carried out over the Scheme year and in our view, most of the investment managers were able to disclose good evidence of voting and engagement activity. More information on the stewardship activity carried out by the Scheme's investment managers can be found in the following sections of this report.

Ongoing Monitoring

Over the reporting year, investment monitoring takes place on a quarterly basis with monitoring reports being provided to the Trustees by Aon. The reports include ESG ratings and highlight any areas of concern, or where action is required. The ESG rating system is for buy rated investment strategies and is designed to assess whether investment managers integrate responsible investment and more specifically ESG considerations into their investment decision making process. The ESG ratings are based on a variety of qualitative factors, starting with a proprietary due diligence questionnaire, which is completed by the fund manager. Aon's researchers also conduct a review of the investment managers' responsible investment related policies and procedures, including a review of their responsible investment policy (if they have one), active ownership, proxy voting and/or stewardship policies. After a thorough review of the available materials, data and policies, as well as conversation with the investment manager, the lead researcher will award an ESG rating, which is subject to peer review using an agreed reference framework. Ratings will be updated to reflect any changes in a fund's level of ESG integration or broader responsible investment developments.

Over the year, we also received training in a number of areas, including responsible investment, and considerations for endgame strategy; specifically discussing journey planning and buy-in vs buy-out options.

The Stewardship policy

Over the reporting year, the Trustees updated their stewardship policy in the Scheme's Statement of Investment Principles to align with new guidance issued by the DWP. Updates to the stewardship policy had a particular focus on voting and engagement.

The Trustees have reviewed Aon's latest Annual Stewardship Report and believe it shows that Aon is using its resources to effectively influence positive outcomes in the funds in which it invests.

In addition, the Trustees can access Aon's responsible investment insights platform, RI-360i, which offers visibility of data and useful insights into the ESG characteristics of their portfolios. This system was demonstrated to the Trustees at a meeting in September 2023.

The Scheme's stewardship policy can be found in the SIP: [Delcam Retirement Benefits Scheme \(aon.com\)](#)

What is stewardship?

Stewardship is investors using their influence over current or potential investees/issuers, policy makers, service providers and other stakeholders to create long-term value for clients and beneficiaries leading to sustainable benefits for the economy, the environment and society.

This includes prioritising which Environmental Social Governance ("ESG") issues to focus on, engaging with investees/issuers, and exercising voting rights.

Differing ownership structures means stewardship practices often differ between asset classes.

Source: UN PRI

Our fiduciary manager's engagement activity

We delegate the management of the Scheme's assets to our fiduciary manager, Aon. Aon manages the Scheme's assets in a range of funds which can include multi-asset, multi-manager and liability matching funds. Aon selects the underlying investment managers on our behalf.

We delegate monitoring of ESG integration and stewardship of the underlying managers to Aon. We have reviewed Aon's latest annual Stewardship Report and we believe it shows that Aon is using its resources to effectively influence positive outcomes in the funds in which it invests.

Over the year, Aon held several engagement meetings with many of the underlying managers in its strategies. Aon discussed ESG integration, stewardship, climate, biodiversity and modern slavery with the investment managers. Aon provided feedback to the managers after these meetings with the aim of improving the standard of ESG integration across its portfolios.

Over the year, Aon engaged with the industry through white papers, working groups, webinars and network events, as well as responding to multiple consultations.

In 2021, Aon committed to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, with a 50% reduction by 2030 for its fully delegated clients' portfolios and defined contribution default strategies (relative to baseline year of 2019).

Aon also successfully renewed its signatory status to the 2020 UK Stewardship Code, a set of high stewardship standards for asset owners and asset managers which is maintained and assessed by the Financial Reporting Council.

What is fiduciary management?

Fiduciary management is the delegation of some, or all, of the day-to-day investment decisions and implementation to a fiduciary manager. But the trustees still retain responsibility for setting the high-level investment strategy.

In fiduciary management arrangements, the trustees will often delegate monitoring ESG integration and asset stewardship to its fiduciary manager.

Our underlying managers' voting activity

Good asset stewardship means being aware and active on voting issues, corporate actions and other responsibilities tied to owning a company's stock. We believe that good stewardship is in the members' best interests to promote best practice and encourage investee companies to access opportunities, manage risk appropriately, and protect shareholders' interests. Understanding and monitoring the stewardship that investment managers practice in relation to the Scheme's investments is an important factor in deciding whether a manager remains the right choice for the Scheme.

Voting rights are attached to listed equity shares, including equities held in multi-asset funds. We expect the Scheme's equity-owning investment managers to responsibly exercise their voting rights.

Voting statistics

The table below shows the voting statistics for each of the Scheme's material funds with voting rights for the year to 31 March 2024. Managers collate voting information on a quarterly basis. The voting information provided is for the year to 31 March 2024 which broadly matches the Scheme year.

Funds	Number of resolutions eligible to vote on	% of resolutions voted	% of votes against management	% of votes abstained from
LGIM - Multi-Factor Equity Fund	12,190	99.8%	21.1%	0.2%
UBS – Global Emerging Markets Equity Climate Transition Fund	1,653	85.6%	20.7%	0.1%
UBS – Global Equity Climate Transition Fund	12,343	95.0%	12.4%	0.1%

Source: Managers. Please note that the 'abstain' votes noted above are a specific category of vote that has been cast, and are distinct from a non-vote.

Use of proxy voting advisers

Many investment managers use proxy voting advisers to help them fulfil their stewardship duties. Proxy voting advisers provide recommendations to institutional investors on how to vote at shareholder meetings on issues such as climate change, executive pay and board composition. They can also provide voting execution, research, record keeping and other services.

Responsible investors will dedicate time and resources towards making their own informed decisions, rather than solely relying on their adviser's recommendations.

The table below describes how the Scheme's managers use proxy voting advisers.

Managers	Description of use of proxy voting advisers (in the managers' own words)
Legal & General Investment Management (LGIM)	LGIM's Investment Stewardship team uses Institutional Shareholder Service's (ISS) 'ProxyExchange' electronic voting platform to electronically vote clients' shares. All voting decisions are made by LGIM and we do not outsource any part of the strategic decisions. To ensure our proxy provider votes in accordance with our position on ESG, we have put in place a custom voting policy with specific voting instructions.
UBS Global Asset Management ("UBS")	UBS retains the services of Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) for the physical exercise of voting rights and for supporting voting research. UBS retain full discretion when determining how to vote at shareholder meetings.

Source: Managers

Why is voting important?

Voting is an essential tool for listed equity investors to communicate their views to a company and input into key business decisions. Resolutions proposed by shareholders increasingly relate to social and environmental issues.

Source: UN PRI

Why use a proxy voting adviser?

Outsourcing voting activities to proxy advisers enables managers that invest in thousands of companies to participate in many more votes than they would without their support.

Significant voting examples

To illustrate the voting activity being carried out on our behalf, we asked the Scheme's investment managers to provide a selection of what they consider to be the most significant votes in relation to the Scheme's funds. A sample of these significant votes can be found in the appendix.

Our managers' engagement activity

Engagement is when an investor communicates with current (or potential) investee companies (or issuers) to improve their ESG practices, sustainability outcomes or public disclosure. Good engagement identifies relevant ESG issues, sets objectives, tracks results, maps escalation strategies and incorporates findings into investment decision-making.

The table below shows some of the engagement activity carried out by the Scheme's material managers. The managers have provided information for the most recent calendar year available.

Funds	Number of engagements		Themes engaged on at a fund-level
	Fund-level	Firm-level	
LGIM – Multi-Factor Equity Fund	296	2,500	Environment - Climate Impact Pledge; Climate Change Social - Gender Diversity Governance - Remuneration; Board Composition
UBS – Global Emerging Markets Equity Climate Transition Fund	28	471	Environment - Climate Change Social - Human and Labour Rights; Human Capital Management Governance - Remuneration Strategy, Financial & Reporting - Capital Allocation
UBS – Global Equity Climate Transition Fund	183	471	Environment - Climate Change Social - Human Capital Management Governance - Remuneration; Board Effectiveness. - Independence/Oversight Strategy, Financial & Reporting - Capital Allocation
Aegon Asset Management – European Asset Backed Securities ("ABS") Fund	127	528	Environment - Climate Change Governance - Board Effectiveness. - Diversity; Leadership - Chair/CEO; Remuneration Other - General Disclosure
Abrdn – Climate Transition Bond Fund	101	2,008	Governance; Labour Management; Corporate Behaviour Other - Climate; Environment; Corporate
Robeco – Short Dated Credit Fund	28	319	Environment - Climate Change; Natural Resource Use/Impact Social - Human and Labour Rights Governance - Board Effectiveness – Other Other - SDG Engagement
Robeco – Sustainable Development Goals ("SDG") Credit Income Fund	17	319	Environment - Climate Change; Natural Resource Use/Impact Social - Human and Labour Rights Governance - Board Effectiveness. - Other Other - SDG Engagement

Source: Managers.

Data limitations

This report does not include commentary on certain asset classes such as liability driven investments, gilts or cash because of the limited materiality of stewardship to these asset classes. Further, this report does not include the additional voluntary contributions ("AVCs") due to the relatively small proportion of the Scheme's assets that are held as AVCs.

Appendix – Significant Voting Examples

In the table below are some significant vote examples provided by the Scheme's managers. We consider a significant vote to be one which the manager considers significant. Managers use a wide variety of criteria to determine what they consider a significant vote, some of which are outlined in the examples below in the managers' own words:

LGIM – Multi-Factor Equity Fund	Company name	The Toronto-Dominion Bank
	Date of vote	20 April 2023
	Approximate size of fund's/mandate's holding as at the date of the vote (as % of portfolio)	0.04
	Summary of the resolution	Resolution 9 - Disclose Transition Plan Towards 2030 Emission Reduction Goals
	How you voted?	Votes supporting resolution
	Where you voted against management, did you communicate your intent to the company ahead of the vote?	LGIM pre-declared its vote intention for this meeting on the LGIM Blog. As part of this process, a communication was sent to the company ahead of the meeting.
	Rationale for the voting decision	We generally support resolutions that seek additional disclosures on how they aim to manage their financing activities in line with their published targets. We believe detailed information on how a company intends to achieve the 2030 targets they have set and published to the market (the 'how' rather than the 'what', including activities and timelines) can further focus the board's attention on the steps and timeframe involved and provides assurance to stakeholders. The onus remains on the board to determine the activities and policies required to fulfil their own ambitions, rather than investors imposing restrictions on the company.
	Outcome of the vote	Fail
	Implications of the outcome eg were there any lessons learned and what likely future steps will you take in response to the outcome?	LGIM will continue to engage with the company and monitor progress.
	On which criteria have you assessed this vote to be most significant?	Pre-declaration and Thematic – Climate: LGIM considers this vote to be significant as we pre-declared our intention to support. We continue to consider that decarbonisation of the banking sector and its clients is key to ensuring that the goals of the Paris Agreement are met.
UBS – Global Emerging Markets Equity Climate Transition Fund	Company name	Ganfeng Lithium Group Co. Ltd.
	Date of vote	30 November 2023
	Approximate size of fund's/mandate's holding as at the date of the vote (as % of portfolio)	Not provided
	Summary of the resolution	Approve Adoption of the 2023 Employee Stock Ownership Plan
	How you voted?	Votes against resolution
	Where you voted against management, did you communicate your intent to the company ahead of the vote?	No
	Rationale for the voting decision	Full details for the plan and associated proposals have not been disclosed.
	Outcome of the vote	Pass
	Implications of the outcome eg were there any lessons learned and what likely future steps will you take in response to the	We are not planning future steps in regard to the outcome, as the scheme was approved by a majority of shareholders.

UBS – Global Equity Climate Transition Fund	outcome?	
	On which criteria have you assessed this vote to be most significant?	36% of shareholders voted against the plan and associated proposals.
	Company name	The Boeing Company
	Date of vote	18 April 2023
	Approximate size of fund's/mandate's holding as at the date of the vote (as % of portfolio)	Not provided
	Summary of the resolution	Report on Climate Lobbying
	How you voted?	Votes supporting resolution
	Where you voted against management, did you communicate your intent to the company ahead of the vote?	Company not advised prior to meeting
	Rationale for the voting decision	The proposal would further enable shareholders to determine the strength of company policy, strategy and actions in regards to climate change.
	Outcome of the vote	Fail
	Implications of the outcome e.g. were there any lessons learned and what likely future steps will you take in response to the outcome?	Following the significant support for this proposal we shall be monitoring the next steps from the company.
	On which criteria have you assessed this vote to be most significant?	40% of votes cast were in support of this shareholder proposal.

Source: Managers