

Volex Executive Pension Scheme

Statement of Investment Principles

Barnett Waddingham LLP

April 2025

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1. Introduction

1.1. This is the Statement of Investment Principles (the “Statement”) prepared by Volex Executive Pension Scheme Trustee Limited (“the Trustee”) acting as Trustee of the Volex Executive Pension Scheme (“the Scheme”). This Statement sets down the principles which govern the decisions about investments that enable the Scheme to meet the requirements of:

- the Pensions Act 1995, as amended by the Pensions Act 2004;
- the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 as amended by the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations 2010;
- the Occupational Pension Schemes (Charges and Governance) Regulations 2015 and incorporates changes as required by the Pension Protection Fund (Pensionable Service) and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment and Modification) Regulations 2018; and
- the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment) Regulations 2019.

1.2. In preparing this Statement the Trustee has consulted Volex plc, (“the Employer”), and obtained advice from Barnett Waddingham LLP, the Trustee’s investment consultants. Barnett Waddingham is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

1.3. This Statement has been prepared with regard to the 2001 Myners review of institutional investment (including subsequent updates).

1.4. The Trustee will review this Statement at least every three years or if there is a significant change in any of the areas covered by the Statement or the demographic profile of members.

1.5. The investment powers of the Trustee is set out in Clause 19 of the Definitive Trust Deed and Rules, dated 6 August 2010. This Statement is consistent with those powers.

2. Choosing investments

2.1. The Trustee’s policy is to set the overall investment target and then monitor the performance of its managers against that target. In doing so, the Trustee considers the advice of its professional advisers, who it considers to be suitably qualified and experienced for this role.

2.2. The day-to-day management of the Scheme’s assets is delegated to one or more investment managers. The Scheme’s investment managers are detailed in Appendix 1 of this Statement. The investment managers are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, and are responsible for stock selection and the exercise of voting rights.

2.3. The Trustee reviews the appropriateness of the Scheme’s investment strategy on an ongoing basis. This review includes consideration of the continued competence of the investment manager with respect to its performance within any guidelines set. The Trustee will also consult the Employer before amending the investment strategy.

3. Investment objectives

- 3.1. The Trustee has discussed key investment objectives in light of an analysis of the Scheme's liability profile as well as the constraints the Trustee faces in achieving these objectives. As a result, the Trustee's main investment objectives are:
- to ensure that the Scheme can meet the members' entitlements under the Trust Deed and Rules as they fall due;
 - to achieve a long-term positive real return;
 - to manage the expected volatility of the returns achieved in order to control the level of volatility in the Scheme's required contribution levels;
 - to invest in assets of appropriate liquidity which will generate income and capital growth to meet, together with new contributions from the Employer, the cost of current benefits which the Scheme provides;
 - to reduce the risk of the assets failing to meet the liabilities over the long term;
 - to minimise the long-term costs of the Scheme by maximising the return on the assets whilst having regard to the above objectives.
- 3.2. The Trustee is aware of the relationship that exists between the particular investment portfolio that is held and the level of funding of the Scheme's liabilities. The Trustee has obtained exposure to investments that it expects will meet the Scheme's objectives as best as possible.

4. Kinds of investments to be held

- 4.1. The Scheme is permitted to invest in a wide range of assets including equities, bonds, cash, property and alternatives.
- 4.2. The Trustee monitors from time to time the Employer-related investment content of their portfolio as a whole and will take steps to alter this should they discover this to be more than 5% of the portfolio. Typically, this check is carried out annually by the Scheme's auditors.

5. The balance between different kinds of investments

- 5.1. The Scheme invests in assets that are expected to achieve the Scheme's objectives. The allocation between different asset classes is contained within Appendix 1 of this Statement.
- 5.2. The Trustee considers the merits of both active and passive management for the various elements of the portfolio and may select different approaches for different asset classes. The current arrangements are set out in Appendix 1 of this Statement.
- 5.3. From time to time the Scheme may hold cash and therefore deviate from its strategic or tactical asset allocation in order to accommodate any short-term cashflow requirements or any other unexpected items.
- 5.4. The Trustee is aware that the appropriate balance between different kinds of investments will vary over time and therefore the Scheme's asset allocation will be expected to change as the Scheme's liability profile matures.

6. Risks

6.1. The Trustee has considered the following risks for the Scheme with regard to its investment policy and the Scheme's liabilities, and considered ways of managing/monitoring these risks:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Risk versus the liabilities | The Trustee will monitor and review the investment strategy with respect to the liabilities in conjunction with each actuarial valuation. The investment strategy will be set with consideration to the appropriate level of risk required for the funding strategy as set out in the Scheme's Statement of Funding Principles. |
| Covenant risk | The creditworthiness of the Employer and the size of the pension liability relative to the Employer's earnings are monitored on a regular basis. The appropriate level of investment risk is considered with reference to the strength of the Employer covenant. |
| Solvency and mismatching | The risk is addressed through the asset allocation strategy and ongoing triennial actuarial valuations. The Trustee is aware that the asset allocation required to minimise the volatility of the solvency position may be different from that which would minimise the volatility on the Scheme's funding basis. |
| Asset allocation risk | The asset allocation is detailed in Appendix 1 of this Statement and is monitored on a regular basis by the Trustee. |
| Investment manager risk | The Trustee monitors the performance of each of the Scheme's investment managers and meets with the Scheme's investment managers as frequently as is appropriate in order to review performance. The Trustee has a written agreement with each investment manager, which contains a number of restrictions on how each investment manager may operate. |
| Governance risk | Each asset manager is expected to undertake good stewardship and positive engagement in relation to the assets held. The Trustee will monitor these behaviours and report on the managers' practices in its annual Implementation Statement. |
| ESG/ climate risk | The Trustee will consider long-term financial risks to the Scheme, including Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") factors and climate risk when making investment decisions. This is covered in more detail in Appendix 2. |
| Concentration risk | Where appropriate, each investment manager is expected to manage broadly diversified portfolios and to spread assets across a number of individual shares and securities. |
| Liquidity risk | The Scheme invests in assets such that there is a sufficient allocation to liquid investments that can be converted into cash at short notice given the Scheme's cashflow requirements. The Scheme's administrators assess the level of cash held in order to limit the impact of the cashflow requirements on the investment policy. |
| Currency risk | The Scheme's liabilities are denominated in sterling. The Scheme may gain exposure to overseas currencies by investing in assets that are denominated in a foreign currency or via currency management. Currency hedging can be employed to manage the impact of exchange rate fluctuations. |
| Loss of investment | The risk of loss of investment by each investment manager and custodian is assessed by the Trustee. This includes losses beyond those caused by market movements (e.g. default risk, operational errors or fraud). The Trustee undertakes an annual review of the internal controls and processes of each of the investment managers. |

7. Expected return on investments

- 7.1. The Trustee has regard to the relative investment return and risk that each asset class is expected to provide. The Trustee is advised by their professional advisors on these matters, who it deems to be appropriately qualified experts. However, the day-to-day selection of investments is delegated to the investment managers.
- 7.2. The Trustee recognises the need to distinguish between nominal and real returns and to make appropriate allowance for inflation when making decisions and comparisons.
- 7.3. In considering the expected return from investments, the Trustee recognises that different asset classes have different long-term expected returns and expected volatilities relative to the liabilities.
- 7.4. Having established the investment strategy, the Trustee monitors the performance of each investment manager against an agreed benchmark as frequently as appropriate according to market conditions and the Scheme's funding position. The Trustee meets the Scheme's investment managers as frequently as is appropriate in order to review performance.

8. Realisation of investments

- 8.1. The Trustee has delegated the responsibility for buying and selling investments to the investment managers. The Trustee has considered the risk of liquidity as referred to above.
- 8.2. Ultimately, the investments will all have to be sold when the Scheme's life comes to an end. In this situation, the Trustee is aware of the fact that the realisable value of some investments, were there to be a forced sale, might be lower than the market value shown in the Scheme accounts.

9. Financially material considerations, non-financially material considerations, the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities

- 9.1. The Trustee has set policies in relation to these matters, which are set out in Appendix 2.

10. Policy on arrangements with asset managers

Incentivising alignment with the Trustee's investment policies

- 10.1. Prior to appointing an investment manager, the Trustee discusses the investment manager's approach to the management of ESG and climate-related risks with the Scheme's investment consultant, and how their policies are aligned with the Trustee's own investment beliefs.
- 10.2. The Trustee carries out a strategy review, typically every three years, where it assesses the continuing relevance of the strategy in the context of the Scheme's membership and its aims, beliefs and constraints.
- 10.3. In the event that an investment manager or fund ceases to meet the Trustee's desired aims, including the management of ESG and climate-related risks, using the approach expected of them, the appointment will be reviewed.
- 10.4. Investment managers' ESG policies are reviewed in the context of best industry practice and feedback will be provided to the investment manager.

Incentivising assessments based on medium to long term, financial and non-financial considerations

- 10.5. The Trustee is mindful that the impact of ESG and climate change has a long-term nature. However, the Trustee recognises that the potential for change in value as a result of ESG and climate risk may occur over a much shorter term than climate change itself. The Trustee acknowledges this in their investment management arrangements.
- 10.6. When considering the management of objectives for an investment manager (including ESG and climate risk objectives), and then assessing their effectiveness and performance, the Trustee assesses these over a rolling timeframe. The Trustee believes the use of rolling timeframes, typically three to five years, is consistent with ensuring the investment manager makes decisions based on an appropriate time horizon. Where a fund may have an absolute return or shorter-term target, this is generally supplementary to a longer-term performance target. In the case of assets that are actively managed, the Trustee expects this longer-term performance target to be sufficient to ensure an appropriate alignment of interests.
- 10.7. The Trustee expects investment managers to be voting and engaging on behalf of the Scheme's holdings and it will monitor this activity within the Implementation Statement in the Scheme's Annual Report and Accounts. The Trustee does not expect ESG considerations to be disregarded by the investment managers in an effort to achieve any short-term targets.

Method and time horizon for assessing performance

- 10.8. The Trustee monitors the performance of its investment managers over medium to long-term periods that are consistent with the Trustee's investment aims, beliefs and constraints.
- 10.9. The Scheme invests exclusively in pooled funds. The investment managers are remunerated by the Trustee based on the assets they manage on behalf of the Trustee. As the funds grow, due to successful investment by the investment manager and/or through market movements, they receive more, and as values fall they receive less.
- 10.10. The Trustee believes that this fee structure enables the investment manager to focus on long-term performance without worrying about short-term dips in performance significantly affecting their revenue.

- 10.11. The Trustee asks the Scheme's investment consultant to assess if the asset management fee is in line with the market when the manager is selected. The appropriateness of the annual management charges is considered regularly as part of the review of the Statement of Investment Principles.

Portfolio turnover costs

- 10.12. The Trustee acknowledges that portfolio turnover costs can impact on the performance of their investments. Overall performance is assessed as part of the quarterly investment monitoring process. When underperformance is identified, deviations from the expected level of turnover may be investigated with the investment manager concerned if it is felt they may have been a significant contributor to the underperformance. Assessments reflect the market conditions and peer group practices. The Trustee acknowledges that for some asset classes, such as Liability Driven Investment ("LDI"), a higher turnover of contracts such as repurchase agreements can be beneficial to the fund from both a risk and cost perspective.
- 10.13. During the investment manager appointment process, the Trustee may consider both past and anticipated portfolio turnover levels.

Duration of arrangement with asset manager

- 10.14. For the pooled funds in which the Scheme invests, there are no predetermined terms of agreement with the investment managers.
- 10.15. The suitability of the Scheme's asset allocation and its ongoing alignment with the Trustee's investment beliefs is assessed typically every three years, or when changes deem it appropriate to do so more frequently. As part of this review the ongoing appropriateness of the investment managers, and the specific funds used, are assessed.

11. Agreement

- 11.1. This Statement was agreed by the Trustee and replaces any previous statements. Copies of this Statement and any subsequent amendments will be made available to the Employer, the investment managers, the Actuary and the Scheme auditor upon request.

Signed:

Date

On behalf of Volex Executive Pension Scheme Trustee Limited

Appendix 1 Note on investment policy of the Scheme in relation to the current Statement of Investment Principles dated April 2025

1. The balance between different kinds of investment

The Scheme has a strategic asset allocation which has been agreed after considering the Scheme's liability profile, funding position, expected return of the various asset classes and the need for diversification.

The Scheme invests in the following Legal & General Investment Management ("LGIM") funds:

- Liability Driven Investment ("LDI") assets, namely:
 - LGIM Matching Core Real Long Fund
 - LGIM Matching Core Real Short Fund
 - LGIM Matching Core Fixed Short Fund
 - LGIM Single Stock Gilt Funds
 - LGIM Single Stock Index-Linked Gilt Funds
- LGIM Absolute Return Bond Fund
- LGIM Absolute Return Bond Plus Fund
- LGIM Future World Net-Zero Buy and Maintain Credit Fund

The Scheme's investment portfolio has been set to target interest rate and inflation hedge ratios of 100% of total liabilities. However, the Trustee recognises that the allocation of investments within the investment portfolio, and the actual hedge ratios, will change over time as a result of market movements. The Trustee will monitor the asset allocation and hedge ratios relative to their targets and make decisions to rebalance as appropriate in the context of the overall investment strategy and prevailing market conditions at the time.

2. Choosing investments

The Trustee has appointed the following investment manager to carry out the day-to-day investment of the Scheme's invested assets:

- Legal and General Investment Management ("LGIM")

The Trustee also has an AVC contract with Scottish Widows for the receipt of members' Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs). The arrangement is reviewed from time to time.

The investment manager and AVC provider are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The investment benchmarks and objectives for each Fund are given below:

| Fund | Benchmark | Objective |
|---|---|--|
| LGIM Future World Net-Zero Buy and Maintain Credit Fund | No official benchmark | To produce a return derived from capital growth and income through investment in credit markets |
| LGIM Matching Core Real Long Fund | Bespoke liability profile benchmark valued on both swap and gilt curves | No official outperformance target but would expect performance at least in line with the better performing of gilts and swaps over the long-term |
| LGIM Matching Core Real Short Fund | Bespoke liability profile benchmark valued on both swap and gilt curves | No official outperformance target but would expect performance at least in line with the better performing of gilts and swaps over the long-term |
| LGIM Matching Core Fixed Short Fund | Bespoke liability profile benchmark valued on both swap and gilt curves | No official outperformance target but would expect performance at least in line with the better performing of gilts and swaps over the long-term |
| LGIM Absolute Return Bond Fund | No official benchmark | To provide exposure to credit markets through physical bond holdings, and to preserve value over the course of a credit cycle. |
| LGIM Absolute Return Bond Plus Fund | No official benchmark | To exceed the ICE BofA USD 3-Month Deposit Offered Rate Constant Maturity Index – GBP Hedged by 3.5% p.a. over a rolling three-year basis. |
| LGIM Single Stock Gilt Funds | Respective gilt benchmarks | To perform in line with the benchmark. |
| LGIM Single Stock Index-Linked Gilt Funds | Respective index-linked gilt benchmarks | To perform in line with the benchmark. |

The performance of the investment managers will be monitored as frequently as the Trustee considers appropriate in light of the prevailing circumstances.

The AVC arrangement is reviewed from time to time.

3. Investment and disinvestments

The Scheme's protection portfolio is designed to target a hedge of approximately 100% of the interest rate and inflation risk of the Scheme's liabilities on a gilt flat basis.

Any investments or disinvestments involving the hedging assets, including the leveraged LDI funds, gilts, index-linked gilts, and buy and maintain credit, will affect the level of interest rate and inflation hedging. Therefore, through the normal course of events, cashflow management transactions will not be made using the hedging assets unless a change in the hedging level is required, or under other circumstances at the Trustee's discretion.

Consequently, in the normal course of events any investments or disinvestments should typically be made to and from the LGIM Absolute Return Bond Fund. Where the LGIM Absolute Return Bond Fund is insufficient to meet the required disinvestment amount, the balance should be taken from the LGIM Absolute Return Bond Plus Fund, although the Trustees ultimately have discretion from where any disinvestments should be taken.

Appendix 2 Financially material considerations, non-financially material considerations, the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities

1. Financially material considerations

The Trustee considers that factors such as environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) issues (including but not limited to climate change) may be financially material for the Scheme over the length of time during which the benefits provided by the Scheme for members need to be funded to a level which would allow the benefits to be bought out with an insurer. This is likely to be not less than five years from the date of this Statement of Investment Principles.

The Trustee has elected to invest the Scheme's assets through pooled funds. The choice of underlying funds is made by the Trustee after taking advice from their investment consultant. The Trustee will be reliant on the information presented by their investment advisors and investment managers regarding the extent to which an investment manager allows for ESG in making their investment decisions. The Trustee takes those factors into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments as follows:

Selection of investments: Assessing the investment managers' ESG integration credentials and capabilities, including stewardship, as a routine part of requests for information/proposals as well as through other regular reporting channels.

Retention of investments: Developing a process in order to monitor ESG considerations on an ongoing basis by regularly seeking information on the responsible investing policies and practices of the investment managers.

Realisation of investments: The Trustee will request information from investment managers about how ESG considerations are taken into account in decisions to realise investments.

The Trustee will also take those factors into account as part of their investment process to determine a strategic asset allocation, and consider them as part of ongoing reviews of the Scheme's investments.

The Trustee will continue to monitor and assess ESG factors, and risks and opportunities arising from them, as follows:-

- The Trustee directors will obtain regular training on ESG considerations in order to understand fully how ESG factors including climate change could impact the Scheme and its investments;
- The Trustee will use any ESG ratings information available within the pensions industry or provided by its investment consultant to assess how the Scheme's investment managers take account of ESG issues; and
- Through its investment consultant, the Trustee will request that all of the Scheme's investment managers provide information about their ESG policies, and details of how they integrate ESG into their investment processes on an annual basis.

2. Non-financially material considerations

The Trustee does not take into account the views of Scheme members and beneficiaries in relation to ethical considerations, social and environmental impact, or present and future quality of life of the members and beneficiaries of the Scheme (referred to as "non-financial matters" in the relevant Regulations) in the selection, retention and realisation of investments.

3. The exercise of voting rights

The Trustee's policy on the exercise of rights attaching to investments, including voting rights, and in undertaking engagement activities in respect of the investments is that these rights should be exercised by the investment managers on the Trustee's behalf. In doing so, the Trustee expects that the investment managers will use their influence as major institutional investors to exercise the Trustee's rights and duties as shareholder, including where appropriate engaging with underlying investee companies to promote good corporate governance and accountability, and to understand how those companies take account of ESG issues in their businesses.

The Trustee will monitor and engage with the investment managers about relevant matters (including matters concerning an issuer of debt or equity, including their performance, strategy, capital structure, management of actual or potential conflicts of interest, risks, social and environmental impact and corporate governance), through the Scheme's investment consultant.

Investment managers will be asked to provide details of their stewardship policy and engagement activities on at least an annual basis. The Trustee will, with input from their investment consultant, monitor and review the information provided by the investment managers. Where possible and appropriate, the Trustee will engage with its investment managers for more information and ask them to confirm that their policies comply with the principles set out in the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code.

4. Engagement activities

The Trustee acknowledges the importance of ESG and climate risk within their investment framework. When delegating investment decision making to their investment managers, they provide their investment managers with a benchmark they expect the investment managers to either follow or outperform. The investment manager has discretion over where in an investee company's capital structure it invests (subject to the restrictions of the mandate), whether directly or as an asset within a pooled fund.

The Trustee is of the belief that ESG and climate risk considerations extend over the entirety of a company's corporate structure and activities, i.e. that they apply to equity, credit and property instruments or holdings. The Trustee also recognises that ESG and climate-related issues are constantly evolving and along with them so too are the products available within the investment management industry to help manage these risks.

The Trustee considers it a part of its investment managers' roles to assess and monitor developments in the capital structure of each of the companies in which the managers invest on behalf of the Scheme or as part of the pooled fund in which the Scheme holds units.

The Trustee also considers it part of its investment managers' role to assess and monitor how the companies in which they are investing are managing developments in ESG-related issues, and in particular climate risk, across the relevant parts of the capital structure for each of the companies in which the managers invest on behalf of the Scheme.

The Scheme's investment managers are granted full discretion over whether or not to invest in the Principal Employer's business. Through its consultation with the Principal Employer when setting this Statement of Investment Principles, the Trustee has made the Principal Employer aware of its policy on ESG and climate-related risks, how it intends to manage them and the importance that the pensions industry as a whole, and its regulators, place on them.

The Scheme's investment consultant is independent, and no arm of their business provides asset management services. This, and their FCA-regulated status, make the Trustee confident that the investment manager recommendations the consultant makes are free from conflict of interest.

The Trustee expects all investment managers to have a conflict of interest policy in relation to their engagement and ongoing operations. In doing so the Trustee believes it has managed the potential for conflicts of interest in the appointment of the investment manager and conflicts of interest between the Trustee/investment manager and the investee companies.

In selecting and reviewing its investment managers, where appropriate, the Trustee will consider investment managers' policies on engagement and how these policies have been implemented.