

THE TAP UK RETIREMENT BENEFITS
PLAN
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT
PRINCIPLES

SEPTEMBER 2023

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Statement of Investment Principles (“the Statement”) has been prepared by the Trustees of the TAP (UK) Retirement Benefits Plan (“the Plan”) in accordance with Section 35 of the Pensions Act 1995, as amended, and its attendant Regulations.

The Statement outlines the principles governing the investment policy of the Plan and the activities undertaken by the Trustees to ensure the effective implementation of these principles.

In preparing the Statement, the Trustees have consulted the Sponsoring Employer, although they affirm that no aspect of their strategy is restricted by any requirement to obtain the consent of the Sponsoring Employer.

The Trustees will review the Statement formally at least every three years to coincide with the triennial Actuarial Valuation or other actuarial advice relating to the statutory funding requirements. Furthermore, the Trustees will review the Statement without delay after any significant change in investment policy. Any changes made to the Statement will be based on written advice from a suitably qualified individual and will follow consultation with the Principal Employer.

2 INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

The Trustees' primary investment objective for the Plan is to achieve an overall rate of return that is sufficient to ensure that assets are available to meet all liabilities as and when they fall due.

In doing so, the Trustees also aim to maximise returns at an acceptable level of risk taking into consideration the circumstances of the Plan.

The Trustees have also received confirmation from the Scheme Actuary during the process of revising the investment strategy that their investment objectives and the resultant investment strategy are consistent with the actuarial valuation methodology and assumptions used in the Statutory Funding Objective.

3 INVESTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1. TRUSTEES' DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for setting the investment objectives and determining the strategy to achieve the objectives. They carry out their duties and fulfil their responsibilities as a single body.

The duties and responsibilities of the Trustees include, but are not limited to, the following tasks and activities:

- The regular approval of the content of the Statement
- The appointment and review of investment managers and investment adviser
- The assessment and review of the performance of each investment manager
- The setting and review of the investment parameters within which the investment managers can operate
- The assessment of the risks assumed by the Plan at total Plan level and manager by manager
- The approval and review of the asset allocation benchmark for the Plan
- The compliance of the investment arrangements with the principles set out in the Statement

3.2. INVESTMENT ADVISER'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees have appointed Mercer Limited ("Mercer") as the investment adviser to the Plan. Mercer provides advice as and when the Trustees require it, as well as raising any investment-related issues, of which it believes the Trustees should be aware. Matters on which Mercer expects to provide advice to the Trustees include the following:

- Setting of investment objectives
- Determining investment strategy and asset allocation
- Determining an appropriate investment structure
- Liaising with investment managers to determine funds that are suitable to meet the Trustees' objectives
- Setting cashflow management (investment and withdrawal) policies (see Appendix 2)

The Trustees may seek advice from Mercer with regard to both strategic and tactical investment decisions (see Section 4 - Investment Strategy); however, they recognise that they retain responsibility for all such decisions, including those that concern investments and disinvestments relating to cashflows (see Appendix 2). Mercer may be proactive in advising the Trustees regarding tactical investment decisions; however, there is no responsibility placed on Mercer to be proactive in all circumstances.

The Trustees monitor the performance of the Plan's investment managers against their benchmarks.

Section 3.3 describes the responsibilities of the investment managers of the Plan.

Mercer will be remunerated primarily on a time-cost basis.

In particular, Mercer does not receive commission or any other payments in respect of the Plan that might affect the impartiality of their advice.

The Trustees are satisfied that this is the most appropriate adviser remuneration structure for the Plan.

Mercer is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA").

3.3. ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS

The Trustees, after considering appropriate investment advice, have appointed professional, authorised investment managers to manage the assets of the Plan.

The Trustees are long-term investors and do not look to change the investment arrangements on a frequent basis. For the invested funds, there is no set duration for the manager appointments. The Trustees will retain an investment manager unless there is a strategic change to the overall strategy that no longer requires exposure to that asset class or manager.

Investment managers are appointed based on their capabilities and, therefore, their perceived likelihood of achieving the expected return and risk characteristics required for the asset class being selected for.

The Trustees look to their investment consultant for their forward looking assessment of a manager's ability to outperform over a full market cycle. This view will be based on the consultant's assessment of the manager's idea generation, portfolio construction, implementation and business management, in relation to the particular investment fund that the Plan invests in. Mercer's manager research ratings assist with due diligence and questioning managers during presentations to the Trustees and are used in decisions around selection, retention and realisation of manager appointments.

If the investment objective for a particular manager's fund changes, the Trustees will review the fund appointment to ensure it remains appropriate and consistent with the trustees' wider investment objectives.

As the Trustees invest in pooled investment vehicles they accept that they have no ability to specify the risk profile and return targets of the manager, but appropriate mandates can be selected to align with the overall investment strategy.

The details of investment managers appointed by the Plan are set out in Appendix 3, together with the details of each manager's mandate.

In particular, the underlying investment managers are responsible for all decisions concerning the selection and de-selection of the individual securities within the portfolios they manage.

In the case of multi-asset mandates (if applicable), the underlying investment managers are responsible for all decisions concerning the allocation to individual asset classes and changes in the allocations to individual asset classes.

All of the investment managers appointed by the Plan are authorised and regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority ("PRA"), or the FCA or both.

The underlying investment managers are remunerated by ad valorem charges based on the value of the assets that they manage on behalf of the Plan. None of the underlying managers in which the Plan's assets are invested have performance based fees which could encourage the manager to make short term investment decisions to hit their profit targets.

The Trustees therefore consider that the method of remunerating fund managers is consistent with incentivising them to make decisions based on assessments of medium to long-term financial and non-financial performance of an issuer of debt or equity. By encouraging a medium to long-term view, it will in turn encourage the investment managers to engage with issuers of debt or equity in order to improve their performance in the medium to long-term.

The Trustees believe that this is the most appropriate basis for remunerating managers.

3.4. SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A summary of the responsibilities of all relevant parties, including the Scheme Actuary and the Plan administrators, so far as they relate to the Plan's investments, is set out at Appendix 4.

4 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

4.1. SETTING INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Trustees have determined their investment strategy after considering the Plan's liability profile and requirements of the Statutory Funding Objective, their own appetite for risk, the views of the Principal Employer on investment strategy, the Principal Employer's appetite for risk, and the strength of the Principal Employer's covenant. The Trustees have also received written advice from their investment adviser.

The basis of the Trustees' strategy is to divide the Plan's assets between a "growth" portfolio, comprising equities and a "stabilising" portfolio, comprising assets such as corporate and government bonds. The growth-stabilising allocation is set with regard to the overall required return objective of the Plan's assets, which is determined by the funding objective and funding level. Thus, the Trustees regard the basic distribution of the assets to be appropriate for the Plan's objectives and liability profile. The initial and framework allocations are set out in Appendix 1.

The Trustees have established a benchmark allocation to each asset class within each strategic asset allocation, which is set out in Appendix 1.

In respect of the investment of contributions and any disinvestments to meet member benefit payments, the Trustees have decided on a structured approach to rebalance the assets in accordance with their overall strategy. This approach is set out in Appendix 2.

4.2. INVESTMENT DECISIONS

The Trustees distinguish between three types of investment decisions: strategic, tactical and stock-level.

Strategic Investment Decisions

These decisions are long-term in nature and are driven by an understanding of the objectives, needs and liabilities of the Plan.

The Trustees take all such decisions themselves. They do so after receiving written advice from their investment adviser and consulting with the Principal Employer. Examples of such decisions and of tasks relating to the implementation of these decisions include the following:

- Setting investment objectives
- Determining the split between the growth and the stabilising portfolios
- Determining the allocation to asset classes within the growth and stabilising portfolios
- Determining the Plan benchmark
- Reviewing the investment objectives and strategic asset allocation

Tactical Investment Decisions

These decisions are short-term and based on expectations of near-term market movements. Such decisions may involve temporarily deviating from the strategic asset allocation and may require the timing of entry into, or exit from, an investment market or asset class.

These decisions are the responsibility of the Trustees. However, where such decisions are made within a pooled fund, they are the responsibility of the investment manager of the fund.

Stock Selection Decisions

All such decisions are the responsibility of the investment managers of the pooled funds in which the Plan is invested.

4.3. TYPES OF INVESTMENTS TO BE HELD

The Trustees are permitted to invest across a wide range of asset classes, including, but not limited to, the following:

- UK and overseas equities
- UK and overseas government bonds, fixed and inflation-linked
- UK and overseas corporate bonds
- Convertible bonds
- Property
- Commodities
- Hedge Funds
- Private equity
- High yield bonds
- Emerging market debt
- Diversified growth
- Liability driven investment products
- Cash

All the funds in which the Plan invests are pooled and unitised. The use of derivatives is permitted by the guidelines that apply to the pooled funds. Details relating to the pooled funds can be found in Appendix 3.

4.4. FINANCIALLY MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Trustees understand that they must aim to consider all factors that have the ability to impact the financial performance of the Plan's investments over the appropriate time horizon. This includes, but is not limited to, environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors.

The Trustees recognise that ESG factors, such as climate change, can influence the investment performance of the Plan's portfolio and it is therefore in members' and the Plan's best interests that these factors are taken into account within the investment process.

As noted earlier, the Plan's assets are invested in pooled funds. The Trustees accept the fact that they have very limited ability to influence the ESG policies and practices of the companies in which their managers invest. The Trustees will therefore rely on the policies and judgement of their investment managers.

The Trustees consider how ESG, climate change and stewarding are integrated within the processes of their appointed investment managers on a periodic basis.

4.5. NON-FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Trustees only consider factors that are expected to have a financial impact on the Plan's investments. Non-financial considerations, such as ethical views, are not implemented in the current investment strategy.

4.6. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND VOTING POLICY

The Trustees have concluded that the decision on how to exercise voting rights should be left with their investment managers, who will exercise these rights in accordance with their respective published corporate governance policies. These policies, which are provided to the Trustees from time to time, take into account the financial interests of shareholders and should be for the Plan's benefit.

Where the Trustees are specifically invited to vote on a matter relating to corporate policy, the Trustees will exercise their right in accordance with what they believe to be the best interests of the majority of the Plan's membership.

4.7. STEWARDSHIP

The Trustees, in conjunction with their advisers, will monitor the performance, strategy, risks, ESG policies and corporate governance of the investment managers. In particular, the Trustees will monitor:

- The performance of the investment manager / fund relative to its stated performance objective(s). Whilst performance over all time periods will be considered, the focus will be on the medium to long-term performance of the investment manager / fund. Where performance has failed to meet expectations and/or the Mercer Manager Research Team's views on the future expectations of performance has changed, the underlying investment manager / fund would be replaced with a suitable alternative;
- Performance of the overall strategy relative to the investment objective. Where performance has underperformed the objective, the Trustees must understand the reasons for the underperformance and, where appropriate, make any necessary changes to the strategy;
- It is recognised that the level of investment risk will change from one period to the next due to factors out with their control, e.g. general market movements. The level of risk will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that the Plan is not undertaking an excessive level of risk and that these risks are balanced appropriately;
- The ESG and Stewardship policies of the underlying investment manager will be reviewed on a regular basis. As the Plan invests in pooled funds, the Trustees recognise that its ability to influence the stewardship policies of the underlying investment manager is limited. As such, any changes to the Trustees view on these matters, or a change in the stewardship policies of the investment manager, could potentially result in the investment manager being replaced. The Trustees monitor the investment adviser's ESG ratings to highlight the investment manager's capabilities in this area. The Trustees produce and publish an Implementation Statement annually, which includes detail on stewardship and voting activity.

5 RISK

Under the Pensions Act 2004, the Trustees are required to state their policy regarding the ways in which risks are to be measured and managed. These are set out below.

Solvency Risk and Mismatching Risk

- These are measured through a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the expected development of the assets relative to the liabilities.
- These are managed by setting a scheme-specific strategic asset allocation with an appropriate level of risk.

Manager Risk

- This is assessed as the expected deviation of the prospective risk and return, as set out in the managers' objectives, relative to the investment policy.
- It is measured by monitoring the actual deviation of returns relative to the objective and factors supporting the managers' investment process.

Liquidity Risk

- This is monitored according to the level of cashflows required by the Plan over a specified period.
- It is managed by holding an appropriate amount of readily realisable investments. The Plan's assets are invested in pooled funds which are readily realisable.

Political Risk

- This is measured by the level of concentration in any one market leading to the risk of adverse influence on investment values arising from political intervention.
- It is managed by regular reviews of the investments and through investing in funds which give a wide degree of diversification.

Environmental

- This risk that improper, or inadequate, consideration of environmental factors could lead to adverse investment performance and / or reputational damage to the Plan.
- The day to day management of environmental risk is the responsibility of the companies in which the Plan's underlying managers have invested. Given the Trustee is invested in pooled funds the Trustee will rely on the investment manager to ensure that these companies have sufficient procedures and processes in place in order to mitigate this risk as far as is reasonably possible.

Social

- This is the risk that social factors are not properly considered within the investment decision making process. Social risks can arise both within and external to a company, e.g. internal factors could include workplace health & safety whilst external factors may include a company's impact on the area surrounding their place of business.
- The day to day management of social risk is also the responsibility of the companies in which the Plan's underlying managers invest. It is the responsibility of the investment manager to ensure that these companies have sufficient procedures and processes in place in order to mitigate these risks as far as is reasonably possible.

Corporate Governance Risk

- This is assessed by reviewing the Plan's investment managers' policies regarding corporate governance.

- It is managed by delegating the exercise of voting rights to the managers, who exercise this right in accordance with their published corporate governance policies. Summaries of these policies are provided to the Trustees from time to time and take into account the financial interests of the shareholders, which should ultimately be to the Plan's advantage.

Sponsor Risk

- This is assessed as the level of ability and degree of willingness of the sponsor to support the continuation of the Plan and to make good any current or future deficit.
- It is managed by assessing the interaction between the Plan and the sponsor's business, as measured by a number of factors, including the creditworthiness of the sponsor and the size of the pension liability relative to the sponsor. Regular updates on employer covenant are provided to the Trustees by senior staff of the sponsor.

Legislative Risk

- This is the risk that legislative changes will require action from the Trustees so as to comply with any such changes in legislation.
- The Trustees acknowledge that this risk is unavoidable but will seek to address any required changes so as to comply with changes in legislation.

Credit Risk

- This is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.
- The Trustees acknowledge that the assessment of credit risk on individual debt instruments is delegated to the investment manager. The Trustees will however ensure that they are comfortable with the amount of risk that the Plan's investment manager takes.

Market Risk

- This is the risk the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises of the following three types of risk:

Currency Risk

- This is the risk that occurs when the price of one currency moves relative to another (reference) currency. In the context of a UK pension plan, the plan may be invested in overseas stocks or assets, which are either directly or indirectly linked to a currency other than Sterling. There is a risk that the price of that overseas currency will move in such a way that devalues that currency relative to Sterling, thus negatively impacting the overall investment return.
- The Trustees acknowledge that currency risk is delegated to the underlying investment managers where the manager is responsible for the decision of whether or not to hedge.

Interest rate risk

- This is the risk that an investment's value will change due to a change in the level of interest rates. This affects debt and LDI instruments more directly than growth instruments.
- The Trustees acknowledge that the interest rate risk related to individual debt instruments, and particularly LDI, is managed by the underlying investment managers through a combination of strategies, such as diversification, duration and yield curve management, and hedging via swaps, particularly where LDI is involved.

Other Price risk

- This is the risk that principally arises in relation to the return-seeking portfolio, which invests in equities, equities in pooled funds, equity futures, hedge funds, private equity and property.
- The Trustees acknowledge that a Plan can manage its exposure to price risk by investing in a diverse portfolio across various markets.

6 MONITORING OF INVESTMENT ADVISER AND MANAGERS

6.1. INVESTMENT ADVISER

The Trustees continually assess and review the performance of their adviser in a qualitative way.

6.2. INVESTMENT MANAGERS

The Trustees receive quarterly reports on the performance of the underlying funds from their appointed investment managers, which presents performance information over 3 months, 1 year and 3 years. The reports show the absolute performance, performance against each fund's benchmark and its stated target performance (over the relevant time period) on a net of fees basis. It also provides returns of market indices so that these can also be used to help inform the assessment of the underlying managers' performance. The Trustees' focus is on long-term performance but will put a manager 'on watch' if there are short-term performance concerns.

6.3. PORTFOLIO TURNOVER COSTS

Portfolio turnover costs mean the costs incurred as a result of the buying, selling, lending or borrowing of investments.

The Trustees do not currently monitor portfolio turnover costs for the funds in which the Plan is invested, although note that the performance monitoring which they receive is net of all charges, including such costs.

The Trustees are also aware of the requirement to define and monitor targeted portfolio turnover and turnover range.

Given that the Plan invests in a range of pooled funds, many of which invest across a wide range of asset classes, the Trustees do not have an overall portfolio turnover target for the Plan.

The Plan's investment manager provides reporting to the Trustees annually at Plan year-end that is aligned to the Cost Transparency Initiative, which includes information on portfolio turnover costs.

7 CODE OF BEST PRACTICE

The Trustees note that in March 2017, the Pensions Regulator released 'Investment Guidance for Defined Benefit Pension Schemes'.

The Trustees are satisfied that the investment approach adopted by the Plan is consistent with the guidance so far as it is appropriate to the Plan's circumstances.

The Trustees meet with their investment adviser on a regular basis, monitoring developments both in relation to the Plan's circumstances and in relation to evolving guidance, and will revise the Plan's investment approach if considered appropriate.

8 COMPLIANCE

The Plan's Statement of Investment Principles and annual report and accounts are available to members on request.

A copy of the Plan's current Statement plus Appendices is also supplied to the Principal Employer, the Plan's investment managers, the Plan's auditors and the Scheme Actuary.

This Statement of Investment Principles, taken as a whole with the Appendices, supersedes all previous versions and was approved by the Trustees on

APPENDIX 1: ASSET ALLOCATION BENCHMARK

The Plan's initial strategic asset allocation benchmark is set out below.

Asset Class	Benchmark Asset Allocation
Growth Assets	10.0%
Global Equities	10.0%
Stabilising Assets	90.0%
All Stocks Corporate Bonds	50.0%
Fixed-Interest Gilts	20.0%
Index-Linked Gilts	20.0%
Total	100.0%

The policy for rebalancing and investment / disinvestment of cashflows is set out in Appendix 2.

Appendix 3 provides information about the funds in which the assets are invested.

APPENDIX 2: CASHFLOW AND REBALANCING POLICY

Where possible, cash outflows will be met from cash balances held by the Plan and from disinvestment from the Plan's passively managed investments in order to minimise transaction costs.

Rebalancing will be done periodically to bring the actual asset allocation back towards the Plan's central benchmark asset allocation, as set out in Appendix 1.

The Trustees will review the cashflow policy from time to time to ensure that it remains appropriate, taking into account changes in the Plan's cashflow requirements.

For avoidance of doubt, this Statement will not be revised purely in relation to a change in cashflow policy.

APPENDIX 3: INVESTMENT MANAGER INFORMATION

The Plan invests with Legal and General Investment Management (“LGIM”)

The tables below show the details of the mandate with the fund manager.

Manager / Fund	Benchmark	Objective	Dealing Frequency	IFRS Class	Fund Management Fees
Global Equity Fixed Weights 50:50 Index Fund	50% FTSE All-Share Index and 50% FTSE overseas equity indices as follows: 17.50% in North America 17.50% in Europe (ex UK) 8.75% in Japan 6.25% in Asia Pacific (ex Japan)	Track the benchmark	Weekly	2	Up to £2.5m 0.165% £2.5m to £10m 0.155% £10m to £25m 0.140% £25m to £50m 0.115% £50m onwards 0.095%
AAA-AA-A Corporate Bond All Stocks Index	Markit iBoxx £ Non-Gilts (ex-BBB) Index	Track the benchmark to within +/-0.5% p.a. for two years out of three	Weekly	2	Up to £5m 0.150% £5m to £10m 0.125% £10m to £30m 0.100% £30m onwards 0.080%
5 to 15 Year Gilts Index Fund	FTSE Actuaries UK Conventional Gilts 5-15 Years Index	Track the benchmark to within +/-0.25% p.a. for two years out of three	Weekly	2	Up to £5m 0.100% £5m to £10m 0.075% £10m to £30m 0.050% £30m onwards 0.030%
Over 5 Year Index-Linked Gilts Fund	FTSE Actuaries UK Index-Linked Gilts Over 5 Years Index	Track the benchmark to within +/-0.25% p.a. for two years out of three	Weekly	2	Up to £5m 0.100% £5m to £10m 0.075% £10m to £30m 0.050% £30m onwards 0.030%

APPENDIX 4: RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES

TRUSTEES

The Trustees' responsibilities include the following:

- Reviewing at least triennially, and more frequently if necessary, the content of this Statement, in consultation with the investment adviser, and modifying it if deemed appropriate
- Reviewing the investment strategy following the results of each actuarial review, in consultation with the investment adviser and Scheme Actuary
- Appointing the Investment Managers and custodian (if required)
- Assessing the quality of the performance and processes of the Investment Managers by means of regular reviews of investment returns and other relevant information, in consultation with the investment adviser
- Consulting with the principal employer regarding any proposed amendments to this Statement
- Monitoring compliance of the investment arrangements with this Statement on a continuing basis

INVESTMENT ADVISER

The investment adviser's responsibilities include the following:

- Participating with the Trustees in reviews of this Statement of Investment Principles
- Advising the Trustees, at their request, on the following matters:
 - Through consultation with the Scheme Actuary, how any changes within the Plan's benefits, membership, and funding position may affect the manner in which the assets should be invested
 - How any significant changes in the Investment Managers' organisation could affect the interests of the Plan
 - How any changes in the investment environment could present either opportunities or problems for the Plan
- Undertaking project work, as requested, including:
 - Reviews of asset allocation policy
 - Research into and reviews of Investment Managers
- Advising on the selection of new managers and/or custodians

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

The investment managers' responsibilities include the following:

- Providing the Trustees on a quarterly basis (or as frequently as required) with a statement and valuation of the assets and a report on their actions and future intentions, and any changes to the processes applied to their portfolios
- Informing the Trustees of any changes in the internal performance objectives and guidelines of any pooled fund used by the Plan as and when they occur
- Having regard to the need for diversification of investments, so far as appropriate for the particular mandate, and to the suitability of investments
- Giving effect to the principles contained in the Statement as far as is reasonably practicable

SCHEME ACTUARY

The Scheme Actuary's responsibilities include the following:

- Liaising with the investment adviser regarding the suitability of the Plan's investment strategy given the financial characteristics of the Plan
- Assessing the funding position of the Plan and advising on the appropriate response to any shortfall
- Performing the triennial (or more frequent, as required) valuations and advising on the appropriate contribution levels

ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator's responsibilities include the following:

- Ensuring there is sufficient cash available to meet benefit payments as and when they fall due
- Paying benefits and making transfer payments
- Investing contributions not required to meet benefit payments with the Investment Managers according to the Trustees' instructions.