

W & J Leigh Staff Pension Scheme
("the Scheme")
Statement of Investment Principles

Investment Objective

The Trustee aims to invest the assets of the Scheme prudently to ensure that the benefits promised to members are provided. In setting the investment strategy, the Trustee first considered the lowest risk asset allocation that could be adopted in relation to matching the Scheme's liabilities. The asset allocation strategy selected is designed to achieve a higher return than the lowest risk strategy while maintaining a prudent approach to meeting the Scheme's liabilities.

STRATEGY

The long term **planned asset allocation strategy** chosen to meet the objective above is set out in the table below. The Trustee will monitor the actual asset allocation versus the target weight set out in the table below.

Asset Class	Target Weighting (%)
Equities	45.0
Corporate Bonds	27.5
Index Linked Gilts	27.5

The planned asset allocation strategy was determined with regard to the actuarial characteristics of the Scheme, in particular the strength of the funding position and the liability profile. The Trustee's policy is to make the assumption that equities will outperform gilts over the long term. However, the Trustee recognises the potential volatility in equity returns, particularly relative to the Scheme's liabilities, and the risk that the fund manager does not achieve the targets set. When choosing the Scheme's planned asset allocation strategy the Trustee considered written advice from the investment adviser and, in doing so, addressed the following:

- The need to consider a full range of asset classes.
- The risks and rewards of a range of alternative asset allocation strategies.
- The suitability of each asset class.
- The need for appropriate diversification.

In addition, the Trustee also consulted with the sponsoring employer when setting this strategy.

RISK

The Trustee maintains a 'Statement of Funding Principles' which specifies that the funding objective is to have sufficient assets so as to make provision for 100% of the Scheme's liabilities as determined by an actuarial calculation.

The Trustee recognises that the key risk to the Scheme is that it has insufficient assets to make provisions for 100% of its liabilities ("funding risk"). The Trustee has identified a number of risks which have the potential to cause deterioration in the Scheme's funding level and therefore contribute to funding risk. These are as follows:

- The risk of a significant difference in the sensitivity of asset and liability values to changes in financial and demographic factors ("mismatching risk"). The Trustee and the adviser considered this mismatching risk when setting the investment strategy.
- The risk of a shortfall of liquid assets relative to the Scheme's immediate liabilities ("cash flow risk"). The Trustee and the adviser will manage the Scheme's cash flows taking into account the timing of future payments in order to minimise the probability that this occurs.
- The failure by the fund manager to achieve the rate of investment return assumed by the Trustee ("manager risk"). This risk is considered by the Trustee and the adviser both upon the initial appointment of the fund manager and will be monitored on an ongoing basis thereafter.
- The failure to spread investment risk ("risk of lack of diversification"). The Trustee and the adviser considered this risk when setting the Scheme's investment strategy.
- The possibility of failure of the Scheme's sponsoring employer ("covenant risk"). The Trustee and the adviser considered this risk when setting the investment strategy and consulted with the sponsoring employer as to the suitability of the proposed strategy.
- The risk of fraud, poor advice or acts of negligence ("operational risk"). The Trustee has sought to minimise such risk by ensuring that appropriate indemnity insurance cover is in place, that all advisers and third party service providers are suitably qualified and experienced, and that suitable liability and compensation clauses are included in all contracts for professional services received.
- The risk that environmental, social and governance factors can impact future returns ("risk of ESG factors"). The Trustees acknowledge that ESG factors can have a financially material impact on the future returns on its investments and the Trustees' actions to mitigate these is detailed later in this document.

Due to the complex and interrelated nature of these risks, the Trustee considers the majority of these risks in a qualitative rather than quantitative manner as part of each formal investment strategy review (normally triennially). Some of these risks may also be modelled explicitly during the course of such reviews.

Having set an investment objective which relates directly to the Scheme's liabilities, the Trustee's policy is to monitor, where possible, these risks periodically. The Trustee receives periodic reports showing:

- Performance versus the Scheme investment objective.
- Performance of the individual fund manager versus their respective targets.
- Any significant issues with the fund manager that may impact their ability to meet the performance targets set by the Trustee.

IMPLEMENTATION

Kerr Henderson (Consultants and Actuaries) Limited has been selected as investment adviser to the Trustee. They operate under an agreement to provide a service which ensures the Trustee is fully briefed to take decisions and to monitor those that are delegated. Kerr Henderson (Consultants and Actuaries) Limited are paid on a fixed fee basis reflecting the cost of carrying out the work they undertake for the Scheme. This structure has been chosen to ensure that cost-effective, independent advice is received.

Investment Manager

The Trustees, with guidance from Kerr Henderson (Consultants and Actuaries) Limited, have chosen Legal and General Investment Management (“LGIM”) to be the Fund’s Investment Manager. LGIM is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

LGIM’s investment objectives for each fund are as follows:

Fund Name	Asset Class and Investment Style	Description
L&G All World Equity Index Fund - GBP Hedged	Equities - Passively Manged	The Fund aims to track the performance of the FSTE All-World GBP Hedged Index to within +/- 0.5% p.a. for two out of three years.
L&G AAA-AA-A Corporate Bonds Over 15 Year Index Fund	UK Government Bonds - Passively Managed	The fund aims to track the sterling total return of the iBoxx Non-Gilts (ex-BBB) Over 15 Year Index to within +/- 0.5% p.a. for two out of three years.
L&G Over 5 Year Index- Linked Gilts Index Fund	UK Government Bonds - Passively Managed	The Fund aims to track the sterling total return of the FTSE A Index-Linked (Over 5 Year) Index to within +/- 0.25% p.a. for two out of three years.

The Trustee has delegated all day-to-day decisions about the investments that fall within the mandate, including the realisation of investments, to the relevant fund manager through a written contract. When choosing investments, the Trustee and the fund managers (to the extent delegated) are required to have regard to the criteria for investment set out in the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 (regulation 4). The manager’s duties also include:

- Taking into account social, environmental or ethical considerations in the selection, retention and realisation of investments.
- Voting and corporate governance in relation to the Scheme's assets including taking into account the Institutional Shareholders' Committee

Statement of Principles on the responsibilities of Institutional Shareholders and Agents.

Voting activity

The Trustees review the statements of corporate governance issued by their fund manager and monitor voting activity regularly.

The Trustees' policy is to invest in pooled investment vehicles. It is the Investment Manager that is responsible for the exercise of rights (including voting rights) attaching to these investments.

The Trustees' policy in relation to any rights (including voting rights) attaching to its investments is to exercise those rights to protect the value of the Fund's interests in the investments, having regard to appropriate advice. The Trustees expect the Investment Manager to engage with investee companies (and other relevant persons including, but not limited to, investment managers, issuers/other holders of debt and equity and other stakeholders) on aspects such as performance, strategy, capital structure, management of actual or potential conflicts of interest, risks, corporate governance, social and environmental issues concerning the Trustees' investments. The Trustees believe that such engagement will protect and enhance the long-term value of its investments.

ESG policy

The Trustees' policy towards financially material considerations (including, but not limited to, environmental, social and governance considerations, including climate change) is to monitor the investment manager to whom they delegate this function through investment in pooled index-tracking funds. The investment manager produces regular reports on their engagement with companies on environmental, social and governance considerations.

The Trustees recognise the importance of ESG factors on long term investment performance and both immediate and future downside risks. The Trustees have set an appropriate monitoring framework to ensure the Fund's Investment Manager is regularly reviewed. The monitoring framework is intended to promote greater transparency and improved understanding of the reasons behind performance trends and key risk exposures. The Trustees recognise the importance of regular monitoring of the Investment Manager's performance, remuneration and compliance against ESG policy to ensure that the Fund's assets are being managed appropriately. Regular monitoring and communication with the Investment Manager, with specific reference to ESG factors, will incentivise the Fund's Investment Manager to assess and improve the medium to long-term performance of investee companies, both financial and non-financial.

In addition to performance measures, the Trustees will review the engagement activity of the Investment Manager to ensure that active engagement is taking place where possible to influence positive change in relation to ESG factors within investee companies. The Trustees will also monitor the voting activity of the Investment Manager to ensure votes are being used and are aligned to their views on ESG.

The remuneration of the investment manager is not directly linked to performance, given the absence of performance related fees, or to ESG practices. However, the Trustees will review and replace the investment manager if net of fees investment performance, risk characteristics and ESG practices are not in line with the Trustees' expectations and views.

If the Trustees believe that the Fund's Investment Manager is no longer acting in accordance with the Trustees' policies, including those regarding ESG and engagement with investee organisations to assess and improve their medium to long-term financial and non-financial performance, the Trustees will take the following steps:

- engage with the Investment Manager in the first instance, in an attempt to influence its policies on ESG and stewardship; and
- if necessary, look to appoint a replacement Investment Manager or managers which are more closely aligned with the Trustee's policies and views.

The Trustees believe that these steps will incentivise the investment manager to align its actions with the Trustees' policies and also for it to act responsibly.

The Trustees, with guidance from Kerr Henderson (Consultants and Actuaries) Limited, have chosen to invest in open-ended pooled funds. For these funds, the Trustees' policy is to enter arrangements with no fixed end date. However, the Trustees will seek to enter arrangements where it has the power to terminate these in line with the liquidity of the underlying assets and as agreed in the mandate. The Fund's open-ended investments are weekly dealt. The Trustees will determine whether to terminate such arrangements on an ongoing basis through its regular monitoring of the Investment Manager's performance against objectives. The Trustees may also elect to terminate the arrangement with the Investment Manager when performing ongoing reviews of the suitability of the Fund's asset allocation over time.

Non-financial matters (i.e. the views of the members and beneficiaries including (but not limited to) their ethical views in relation to social and environmental impact and present and future quality of life of the members and beneficiaries of the Scheme) are not taken directly into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments due to the relative size of the Scheme assets, the time and resources available to the Trustees and the fact that assets are mainly invested in index-tracking funds. Non-financial matters include the views of the members and beneficiaries, including their ethical views in relation to the social and environmental impact on their present and future quality of life.

GOVERNANCE

The Trustee is responsible for the investment of the Scheme's assets. The Trustee takes some decisions and delegates others. When deciding which decisions to take and which to delegate, the Trustee has taken into account whether the appropriate training and expert advice in order to take an informed decision has been sought after. The Trustee has established the following decision making structure:

Trustee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor actual returns versus Scheme investment objective.• Set structures and processes for carrying out the role.• Select and monitor planned asset allocation strategy, including ESG considerations and implementation.• Select and monitor direct investments (see below).• Monitor investment advisers and fund manager.• Making ongoing decisions relevant to the operational principles of the Scheme's investment strategy. .	
Investment Adviser <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advise on all aspects of the investment of the Scheme assets, including ESG and implementation.• Advise on this statement.• Provide required training.	Fund Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operate within the terms of this statement and their written contracts.• Comment, where applicable, on the suitability of the indices in their benchmark.• Be responsible for the stewardship of underlying investments

The Pensions Act 1995 distinguishes between investments where the management is delegated to a fund manager with a written contract and those where a product is purchased directly, eg the purchase of an insurance policy or units in a pooled vehicle. The latter are known as **direct investments**.

The Trustee's policy is to review the direct investments and to obtain written advice about them at regular intervals. These include vehicles available for members' AVCs. When deciding whether or not to make any new direct investments the Trustee will obtain written advice and consider whether future decisions about those investments should be delegated to the fund manager.

The written advice will consider the issues set out in the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 and the principles contained in this statement. The regulations require all investments to be considered by the Trustee (or, to the extent delegated, by the fund manager) against the following criteria:

- The best interests of the members and beneficiaries
- Security
- Quality
- Liquidity
- Profitability
- Nature and duration of liabilities
- Tradability on regulated markets
- Diversification
- Use of derivatives
- Foreign exchange risk

The Trustee's investment adviser has the knowledge and experience required under the Pensions Act 1995.

The Trustee expects the fund managers to manage the assets delegated to them under the terms of their contract and to give effect to the principles in this statement so far as is reasonably practicable.

The fund manager is remunerated on a standard fee scale, based on the assets under management. The level of remuneration paid to the fund manager is reviewed regularly by the Trustees against market rates in the context of the Fund's size and complexity to ensure the fund manager's interests are aligned with those of the Fund.

In addition, the fund managers pay commission to third parties on many trades they undertake in the management of the assets and also incur other ad hoc costs. The Trustee receives statements from the fund managers setting out these costs and reviews them regularly with advice from their investment adviser. This is to ensure that the costs incurred are commensurate with the goods and services received.

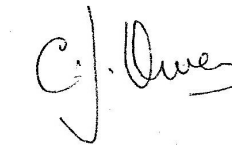
The fund managers are responsible for the custody of the Scheme's assets through their pooled funds. The custodian provides safekeeping of the Scheme's assets and performs the administrative duties, such as the collection of interest and dividends and dealing with corporate actions.

The Trustees also review additional investment management costs and charges (including portfolio turnover costs) on a regular basis, and on the selection of any mandate, to ensure that they are appropriate and competitive for the service being provided. The Trustees monitor the portfolio turnover in the context of what the Trustees believe to be reasonable given the nature of each mandate. By also monitoring performance and associated costs, the Investment Manager is incentivised to consider the impact of portfolio turnover on investment performance.

The Trustee will review this Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) at least every three years and immediately following any significant change in investment policy. The Trustee will take investment advice and consult with the sponsoring employer over any changes to the SIP.

September 2020

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Owen', with a horizontal line under the name.

Name: Chris Owen (Chair of the Trustee)

Date: 17 September 2020

On behalf of the Trustee of the W & J Leigh Staff Pension Scheme