# FRANKE SISSONS LIMITED PENSION SCHEME ENGAGEMENT POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT Financial Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

#### Introduction

This statement sets out how, and the extent to which, the engagement policy in the Statement of Investment Principles ('SIP') produced by the Trustee, has been followed during the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. This statement has been produced in accordance with The Pension Protection Fund (Pensionable Service) and Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment and Modification) Regulations 2019 and the guidance published by the Pensions Regulator.

#### **Trustee Investment Objectives**

The Trustee believes it is important to consider the policies in place in the context of the investment objectives they have set. The Trustee's primary objective is to invest the Scheme's assets in the best interest of the members and beneficiaries, and in the case of a potential conflict of interest between the members and beneficiaries and the Company, in the sole interest of the members and beneficiaries. Within this framework, the Trustee has agreed a number of secondary objectives to help guide it in its strategic management of the assets and control of the various risks to which the Scheme is exposed. The Trustee's secondary objectives are as follows:

- To ensure that the Trustee can meet the obligations which have been promised to the beneficiaries of the Scheme by the Company;
- To operate funding and investment strategies in a coordinated approach. Variation in the funding position (in particular improvements) may be reflected in the level of risk in the investment strategy.
- To achieve a return that matches or exceeds the specified benchmark return within the invested asset classes (see section 6.1.1 of the Statement of Investment Principles) and is compatible with the level of risk considered appropriate.
- To pay due regard to the Company's interest in the size and incidence of contribution payments and to avoid significant volatility in the deficit reduction contributions.
- To avoid significant volatility in the pension expense reported in the Company's accounts.

Given the nature of the Scheme's liabilities, the investment time horizon of the Scheme is potentially long-term (i.e. several decades), although opportunities for risk transfer (e.g. by purchase of bulk annuities) could reduce the time horizon materially.

#### **Investment Strategy**

During the course of the financial year, the Trustee de-risked the Scheme's investment strategy following significant improvement in the Scheme's funding position. The growth-bond split changed from 60%- 40% to 15%-85%.

#### **Statement of Investment Principles**

The Scheme's Statement of Investment Principles was last updated in May 2023. The changes made to the Statement reflect the de-risked investment strategy as noted above.

# Policy on ESG, Stewardship and Climate Change

The Trustee believes that good stewardship and environmental, social and governance ("ESG") issues may have a financially material impact on investment risk and return outcomes, and that good stewardship can create and preserve value for companies and markets as a whole. The Trustee also recognises that long-term sustainability issues, particularly climate change, present risks and opportunities that increasingly may require explicit consideration. The Trustee has taken into account the expected time horizon of the Scheme when considering how to integrate these issues into the investment decision making process.

The Trustee has given the appointed investment manager full discretion in evaluating ESG issues, including climate change considerations, and exercising voting rights and stewardship obligations attached to the Scheme's investments.

The Scheme's voting rights are exercised by its investment manager in accordance with their own corporate governance policies and current best practice, including the UK Corporate Governance Code and UK Stewardship Code. This applies to both equity and debt investments, as appropriate, and covers a range of matters including the issuers' performance, strategy, capital structure, management of actual or potential conflicts of interest, risks, social and environmental impact and corporate governance.

The Trustee will monitor investment manager engagement activity (such as voting) at least annually.

The Trustee has not set any investment restrictions on the appointed investment manager in relation to particular products or activities, but may consider this in the future.

The Trustee will not consider the ESG policies of Additional Voluntary Contributions provider(s) and associated investment funds as these are a small proportion of total assets.

# Engagement

In the year to 31 December 2022, the Trustee has not engaged with the Scheme's investment manager, Legal and General Investment Management (LGIM) on matters pertaining to ESG, stewardship or climate change. Although, LGIM presented to the Trustee on the 22 July 2021 meeting, where LGIM confirmed they are looking to provide more information on ESG in its quarterly performance reports. In the meeting, LGIM described the actions they were taking in terms of voting on resolutions from asset managers, using their scale to influence other decision makers and manage conflicts of interest.

It is noted that the investment manager remains highly rated on its ESG approach.

The Trustee shall review the stewardship and ESG policies of the investment manager on an ongoing basis.

### **Voting Activity**

The Trustee has delegated its voting rights to the investment manager, principally through being invested in pooled funds (noting that in this case, votes are cast on behalf of the pooled fund not the Trustee, who do not own the underlying assets directly). The Trustee does not use the direct services of a proxy voter and over the 12 months the Trustee has not actively challenged its managers on voting activity.

The investment manager is expected to provide voting summary reporting on at least an annual basis. The investment manager has been asked to confirm key voting activity on behalf of the Trustee (or in relation to

the pooled funds in which the Trustee invests), over the year to 31 December 2022 and have responded as below.

The Trustee notes that best practice in developing a statement on voting and engagement activity is evolving and will take on board industry activity in this area before the production of next year's statement.

The table below sets out a summary of the key voting activity over the financial year. For the purposes of this document, the Trustee has reported on the voting activity of the funds held during most of the reporting period, including funds the Scheme has since disinvested from.

# LGIM

All voting decisions are made by LGIM's Investment Stewardship team and they do not outsource any part of the strategic decisions. LGIM uses the electronic voting platform of Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (ISS) and also their recommendations to augment their own research and tools. LGIM also uses Institutional Voting Information Services (IVIS) for its research on UK Companies to supplement research provided by ISS.

In determining significant votes, LGIM's Investment Stewardship team takes into account the criteria provided by the Pensions & Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) guidance. This includes but is not limited to:

- High profile vote which has such a degree of controversy that there is high client and/ or public scrutiny;
- Significant client interest for a vote: directly communicated by clients to the Investment Stewardship team at LGIM's annual Stakeholder roundtable event, or where there is a significant increase in requests from clients on a particular vote;
- Sanction vote as a result of a direct or collaborative engagement;
- Vote linked to an LGIM engagement campaign, in line with LGIM Investment Stewardship's 5-year ESG priority engagement themes.

Fund		Vot	tes cast	Significant Votes Example	
	Votes in total	Votes in favour of the management	Votes against management endorsement	Abstentions	
UK Equity (5% Capped) Passive	10,686	94.44%	5.56%	0.00%	<i>Glencore Plc:</i> a vote "against" was cast on the approval of the climate progress report. <i>Informa Plc:</i> a vote "against" was cast on the re-election of several directors, contrary to management recommendation.
North America Equity Index and North America Equity Index - GBP Hedged	8,416	65.16%	34.78%	0.06%	McDonald's Corporation: a vote "for" was cast on a report on public health costs of antibiotic use and impact on diversified shareholders. Meta Platforms, Inc.: a vote "for" was cast on requiring an independent board chair, against management recommendation.
Europe (ex UK) Equity Index and Europe (ex UK) Equity Index - GBP Hedged	10,296	81.43%	18.10%	0.48%	LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE: a vote "against" was cast on the re-election of Director Bernard Arnault. Amundi SA: a vote "against" was cast on the approval of company's climate transition plan.
Japan Equity Index and Japan Equity Index - GBP Hedged	6,255	88.49%	11.49%	0.02%	Tokyo Electric Power Co. Holdings, Inc.: a vote "for" was cast to amend articles to require disclosure of asset resilience to a Net Zero by 2050 Pathway. <i>Mitsubishi Corp.:</i> a vote "for" was cast to amend articles to disclose greenhouse gas

# emission reduction targets aligned with goals of Paris Agreement.

Asia Pacific (ex Japan) Developed Equity Index and Asia Pacific (ex Japan) Developed Equity Index - GBP Hedged	3,592	71.58%	28.40%	0.03%	Mapletree Logistics Trust: a vote "against" was cast in the approval to adopt a Report of the Trustee, Statement by the Manager, and Audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report. Insurance Australia Group Ltd: a vote "against" was cast in the election of Tom Pockett as Director.
World Emerging Markets Equity Index	35,615	78.88%	18.84%	2.28%	Meituan: a vote "against" was cast on the election of Director Wang Xing. China Pacific Insurance (Group) Co., Ltd.: a vote "against" was cast on the approval of a report of the board of directors as the company was deemed to not meet minimum standards with regards to climate risk management.
FTSE RAFI Developed 1000 Equity Index	22,067	79.12%	20.68%	0.19%	Chevron Corporation: a vote "against" was cast on the election of Director Michael K. Wirth. Apple Inc.: a vote "for" was cast on the approval of a report on civil rights auditAlphabet Inc.: a vote "for" was cast on the approval of a report on physical risks of climate change.
Dynamic Diversified	98,208	77.63%	21.71%	0.67%	Prologis, Inc.: a vote "against" was cast on the election of Director Hamid R. Moghadam. <i>Consolidated Edison, Inc.:</i> a vote "against" was cast on the election of Director Michael W. Ranger.