

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus and KID/KIID for the Fund, which contain detailed information on the Fund's characteristics and objectives, before making any final investment decisions. All data as at above date, unless otherwise stated. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Fund ESG Ratings

MSCI ESG Rating™:



Produced by MSCI ESG Research as of 26.01.24.

SFDR Classification

Please see the fund's [Sustainability-related disclosures](#) and [SFDR Pre-contractual Disclosures](#), available on our website, for more information. [Periodic Reports](#) are also available.



Fund Profile

Benchmark

MSCI World Index

Investment Objective

An equity fund investing primarily in global equities which provide a yield above the yield of the benchmark (MSCI World Index). The Fund is actively managed and uses the MSCI World Index as a comparator benchmark only.

Investment Case

Provides global exposure to dividend paying companies. Dividend payers outperform in the long term, dividend growers even more so. Dividend paying companies can protect against inflation over the long term.

Domicile

Ireland

Other Documents

Corporate Documents

- Responsible Investment Policy
- Stewardship Code Report
- Good Governance Policy

Strategy Documents

- Approach to Responsible Investment and ESG
- Why dividends (still) matter
- Approach to Remuneration Paper

Fund Approach to Responsible Investment

ESG Integration



Exclusions¹



Controversial weapons²



Thermal coal³



Tobacco⁴



Voting



Engagement



¹Further details can be found in the fund's [Exclusion Policy](#), available on our website.

²Cluster munitions, landmines, and biological and chemical weapons.

³Companies that generate more than 30% of revenues via thermal coal extraction or thermal coal power generation.

⁴Excludes all tobacco producers and excludes companies that have a revenue contribution of 10% or more from tobacco-related products or services.

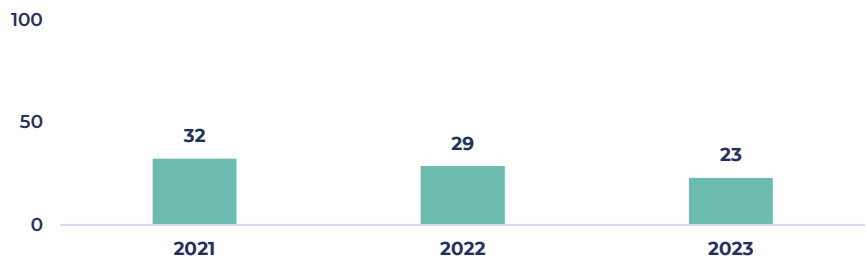
ESG Integration Summary

The investment team use a bottom-up ESG framework, developed in-house, to assess quantitatively the sustainability risk associated with current and potential underlying investments. Using the SASB materiality framework, the investment team have developed a scorecard that is used to evaluate a company based on various industry-specific ESG criteria. 'Materiality' and 'transparency' are two key components of the scorecard: the materiality component ensures the key risk factors to a company's operations are assessed, and the transparency component informs the team of the drivers of ESG scores at a granular level.

The investment team supplement this with a rigorous qualitative review, which features assessments of material risks and opportunities, good governance, executive remuneration, carbon transition, and exposure to negative externalities. Further information is available in the fund's Approach to Responsible Investment and ESG paper, available [here](#).

Fund Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI)* in tCO₂e/\$M revenue

The fund's carbon intensity is measured and reported over time.



Source: Guinness Global Investors, CDP; Coverage: 100% (2021, 2022, 2023).

*The Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) metric is calculated by multiplying the carbon intensity (emissions relative to revenue in millions USD) of each fund holding by its portfolio weight (the value of the holding relative to the total value of the portfolio, excluding cash). Carbon intensity is based on Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Scope 1 emissions are direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the company. Scope 2 emissions are indirect greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of energy purchased by the company (Reference: GHG Protocol). Coverage refers to the percentage of the carbon intensity data available at the date of publication for underlying fund holdings (as a percentage of total assets excluding cash).

Stewardship

Stewardship activities are integral to the investment process applied by the team. We believe that resourcing our stewardship activities with the investment team itself, with dedicated assistance as required, is the best way to ensure effective stewardship. The investment team's ESG incorporation approach often informs their proxy voting and engagement activity. In a spirit of transparency, we disclose fund-level voting and engagement statistics and case studies for calendar year 2023 below.

Voting

The investment team make their own voting decisions based on their own research, supported by proxy voting research from Glass Lewis. All voting is undertaken by the investment team, with oversight provided by our Responsible Investment Committee. In order to vote, some markets require shares to be temporarily immobilised from trading until after the shareholder meeting has taken place (referred to as 'share blocking'). Some other markets require a local representative to be hired, under a Power-of-Attorney (POA), to attend the meeting and vote on our behalf. In such instances, it may sometimes be in clients' best interests to refrain from voting. But in all other circumstances we endeavour to exercise our voting responsibilities on clients' behalf. For more information, please see our Voting Policy, available on our website.

Voting Overview*	
Number of available proposals	604
% voted	84%
% did not vote	16%
Due to shareblocking	59%
Due to lack of POA	41%
% votes in line with management	87%
% votes against management	13%



Votes against management by topic (%)**

● Audit/Financials	17%
● Board Related	38%
● Compensation	26%
● Shareholder proposals	18%

**May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Source: Glass Lewis; Guinness Global Investors (31.01.24)

Voting Case Studies



We raised our concerns around **Schneider Electric's** remuneration structure in late 2022 and continued the dialogue in early 2023. We expressed that we would continue to vote against the motion not to prorate the former CEO's 2022 long-term incentive grant, noting that he had an executive role for 28 out of the 36-month performance period. We believe that prorating equity awards, for the portion of the performance period the executive served, would better align with best practice. At the 2023 AGM, approximately 34% of votes were cast against the CEO 2022 Remuneration vote. Following the release of the 2023 Proxy Votes, we decided to contact the Investor Relations team once more, highlighting the substantial shareholder dissent and encouraging them to implement pro-rating measures going forward.

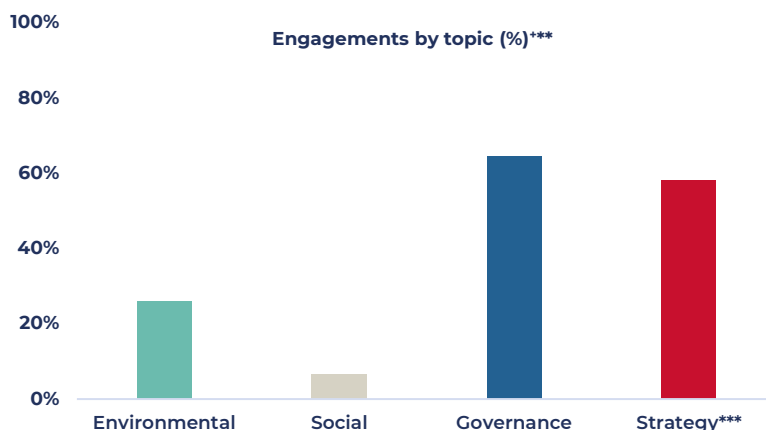


Over two-thirds of shareholders voted against the 2023 **Broadcom** Proxy vote on Remuneration for the second year running. We also voted against this proposal for the second consecutive year. Our primary concerns were regarding quantum of pay for the CEO (which has exceeded \$800m over the last 3 years). Additionally, we noted that Broadcom uses Total Shareholder Return (TSR) with a 100% weighting within its long-term incentive plan (LTIP). We believe the use of TSR as a sole metric is suboptimal, as we view share price appreciation as an output from better operational results rather than a target in itself. We also noted a lack of ESG metric in the structure. After the vote, we contacted management to discuss what, if any, plans they have to incorporate investor feedback.

Engagement

The investment team focused their engagements in 2023 around executive remuneration, seeking to ensure management are incentivised appropriately to deliver high long-term returns on capital. For more information, please see the team's [Approach to Remuneration Paper](#).

Engagement Overview*	
Number of company interactions	35
Number of engagements	31
Engagements by topic	
Environment	26%
Social	6%
Governance	65%
Strategy***	58%



Source (table/graph): Glass Lewis; Guinness Global Investors (31.01.24)

*1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

**In some cases, multiple topics are covered in a single meeting and the totals do not add up to 100%.

***Strategy includes disclosures, opportunities in sustainable products, positive impact, and regulation.

Engagement Case Studies



Sonic Healthcare is an Australian healthcare provider with specialist operations in radiology, pathology, and laboratory services. We initially wrote to the company in 2021, requesting submission to the CDP Climate Change questionnaire, and subsequently contacted the company in 2022 and 2023 with the same request, acting as a 'lead signatory' on behalf of both Guinness Global Investors and a range of other investors participating in the CDP Non-Disclosure Campaign. We were pleased to see Sonic submit to the 2023 CDP climate questionnaire.



During 2023, we met with **Illinois Tool Works (ITW)** Investor Relations in London to discuss corporate strategy and ESG topics. We indicated our desire for the Remuneration Committee to include an ESG metric within the compensation plan. They said they would report back our feedback ahead of discussions for the structure of 2024 plan.

Collaborative engagement



We are a member of **CDP**, which allows us access to environmental data for all companies that report to CDP. Through our membership, we participate in collaborative engagements, such as the **CDP Non-Disclosure Campaign (NDC)**. The NDC aims to drive further corporate transparency around climate change, deforestation and water security, by encouraging companies to respond to CDP's disclosure requests. In 2023, we joined the **CDP Science-Based Targets (SBT) Campaign**, to encourage portfolio companies to commit to and set 1.5°C-aligned science-based targets.

Initiatives

We participate in relevant industry initiatives to promote the proper functioning of markets, responsible investing, and the management of market-wide and systemic risk. Where appropriate, members of the investment team will use initiatives to engage collaboratively with portfolio companies.

External company ratings

Signatory of:



We became signatories to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) in 2019, which provides external assurance on our stewardship approach broken down by activity.

In our latest Assessment Report, published in 2023, we received the following scores:



Policy Governance and Strategy



Direct - Listed Equity - Active Fundamental



Confidence Building Measures

Industry Initiatives



CFA UK's mission is to build a better investment profession by serving the public interest by educating investment professionals, by promoting and enforcing ethical and professional standards and by explaining what is happening in the profession to regulators, policymakers, and the media. A member of the investment team at Guinness is part of the Sustainability Community Champions group.



As the trade body for the UK investment management industry, the **Investment Association (IA)** seeks to represent the industry interests, improve the investment landscape through thematic initiatives, which highlight topics such as diversity and inclusion, and by improving standards and best practice.



The **Independent Investment Management Initiative (IIMI)** aims to contribute effective financial regulation and promote client-centred models of investment management. Our CEO, Edward Guinness sits on the board of IIMI.



We are public supporters of the **Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)**, and we seek to improved climate-related financial disclosure that is consistent, comparable, reliable, and clear to enhance our investment processes.



The **UK Stewardship Code 2020** sets high stewardship standards for those investing money on behalf of UK savers and pensioners. It comprises a set of 12 'apply and explain' Principles for asset managers and asset owners to demonstrate their stewardship role and performance.



The **UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF)** aims to support its members to grow sustainable and responsible finance in the UK. It also seeks to influence policymaking that promotes the growth of sustainable finance. Our Responsible Investment Lead is a member of the Industry Development Committee, and another member of investment team serves on the Membership Committee.

Guinness Global Equity Income

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Documentation The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, the Key Information Documents (KIDs), Key Investor Information Document (KIIDs) and the Application Form, is available in English from www.guinnessgi.com or free of charge from: - the Manager: Waystone Management Company (IE) 4th Floor 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin DO4 A4E, Ireland; or the Promoter and Investment Manager: Guinness Asset Management Ltd, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ. Waystone Management Company (IE) as UCITS Man Co, has the right to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of funds in accordance with the UCITS Directive.

Investor Rights A summary of investor rights in English is available here:

<https://www.waystone.com/waystonepolicies/>

Residency In countries where the Fund is not registered for sale or in any other circumstances where its distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Fund should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients.

NOTE: THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT FOR SALE TO U.S. PERSONS.

Structure & regulation The Fund is a sub-fund of Guinness Asset Management Funds PLC (the "Company"), an open-ended umbrella-type investment company, incorporated in Ireland and authorised and supervised by the Central Bank of Ireland, which operates under EU legislation. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of investing in this Fund, please consult your investment or other professional adviser.

Switzerland This is an advertising document. The prospectus and KIID for Switzerland, the articles of association, and the annual and semi-annual reports can be obtained free of charge from the representative in Switzerland, Reyl & Cie S.A., Rue du Rhône 4, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland. The paying agent is Banque Cantonale de Genève, 17 Quai de l'Île, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland.

Singapore The Fund is not authorised or recognised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS") and shares are not allowed to be offered to the retail public. The Fund is registered with the MAS as a Restricted Foreign Scheme. Shares of the Fund may only be offered to institutional and accredited investors (as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Cap.289)) ("SFA") and this material is limited to the investors in those categories.

Telephone calls will be recorded and monitored.