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22 December, 2016

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Limited (“AAMAL”). If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact AAMAL at (+65) 6395-2700. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) or by any state securities authority.

AAMAL is a registered investment adviser. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an adviser provides you with information which may help you determine whether to hire or retain an adviser.

Additional information about AAMAL is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

## Item 2 – Summary of Material Changes

- 1) Hugh Young stepped down as Global Head of Equities and took on a wider role within Aberdeen providing oversight for our expanded and strengthened traditional asset classes, Property and Fixed Income, as well as our Active Equity business.

Devan Kaloo has been promoted to succeed Hugh as Global Head of Equities. Devan has been the Head of Global Emerging Markets, responsible for the London based Global Emerging Markets Equity Team, which manages Latin America and EMEA Equities, and also has had oversight of the Global Emerging Markets Equity Team with input from the Asia team based in Singapore. Devan joined Aberdeen in 2000 working for the Asian portfolio team before becoming responsible for the Asian ex Japan region as well as regional portfolios within emerging market mandates and technology stocks. Previously, Devan worked for Martin Currie on the North American desk before transferring to the global asset allocation team and then Asian portfolios. Devan graduated with a MA (Hons) in Management and International Relations from The University of St Andrews and holds a postgraduate diploma in Investment Analysis from The University of Stirling.

- 2) On May 27, 2015, Aberdeen PLC announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire FLAG Capital Management, LLC (FLAG), a manager of private equity and real asset solutions with offices in Stamford CT, Boston, MA, and Hong Kong. This acquisition is in line with Aberdeen's strategy to strengthen and grow its global alternatives platform and solutions provision via multi-manager coverage of hedge funds, property and private market allocations, infrastructure investments and pan-alternative capabilities. FLAG's well-established private equity teams in the U.S. and Asia will help broaden Aberdeen's private markets solutions activity within the alternatives arena.

The acquisition of FLAG is completed on September 1, 2015.

- 3) Aberdeen PLC completed its acquisition of Advance Emerging Capital Limited on 29 December 2015.

Advance Emerging Capital becomes Aberdeen Emerging Capital; a wholly owned subsidiary of Aberdeen Asset Management PLC based in our London office, and also part of the broader Alternatives business. As a result of the AEC acquisition, Aberdeen now manages 33 closed end funds with aggregate assets under management of approximately £8 billion. The deal also provides Aberdeen with the opportunity to expand our offering globally, across a wider range of additional strategies within the fund of closed end funds sector, when combined with the broader Aberdeen Alternatives capability.

- 4) On January 12, 2016, Aberdeen PLC announced the completion of its acquisition of Parmenion Capital Partners LLP and its sister company, Self Directed Holdings Limited (together "Parmenion"), based in Bristol. The acquisition is part of Aberdeen's strategy to capitalise on advancements in financial technology platforms and to become a leader in using technology to provide investors with portfolios appropriate to their needs, whilst also growing its Investment Solutions business.

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## **Item 4 – Advisory Business**

### Our Firm

AAMAL is headquartered in Singapore and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aberdeen Asset Management PLC (“Aberdeen PLC”). Aberdeen PLC was formed in 1983 via a management buyout and has been listed on the London Stock Exchange since 1991. AAMAL has been registered with the SEC as an investment adviser since 2003. We share personnel, research and other resources with affiliated investment advisers of Aberdeen PLC.

### Advisory Services

Our business is predominantly the active management of financial assets, using first-hand research to make our investment decisions. Active investment spans equities, fixed income securities, and property. We have also developed a solutions business that can blend our abilities across different asset classes to provide tailored investment outcomes to meet specific client needs. This can incorporate skills in both quantitative equities and alternatives.

Our investment expertise is delivered through both segregated and pooled products – allowing us to serve a range of clients from institutions to private investors. We offer investment advisory services with regard to investments in both domestic and global securities to a variety of clients, insurance products, and pooled funds, including investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (“1940 Act”). We provide a variety of asset management capabilities, including:

- managing or sub-advising various open-end or closed-end investment companies registered under 1940 Act;
- offering professional money management services for separately managed accounts, which include providing continuous advice to clients based on individual needs concerning the investment of funds and related activities including, but not limited to trading, cash management, and recordkeeping;
- providing investment services to international open-end and closed-end funds, as well as various private or institutional mandates sourced globally;
- offering investment services to certain limited partnerships and similar private funds;
- offering segregated and pooled vehicles focusing on European, or other global property mandates;
- offering global and regional fund of funds products (hedge fund, private equity, venture capital, real assets and property); and
- customizing solutions for clients seeking specific exposure or risk/return characteristics within their alternative investment allocations.

We also offer investment advisory services to separate account and/or investment advisory clients seeking to make investments in private investment funds.

We also serve as a manager of manager, in which circumstance we hire sub-advisers to provide day-to-day securities selection. We are responsible for selecting sub-advisers and determining the portion of a fund’s assets to be allocated to each sub-adviser. Sub-advisers are generally chosen on the basis of some or all of the following selection criteria established by Aberdeen: an analysis of the sub-adviser’s performance during various time periods and market cycles, the sub-adviser’s reputation, experience, training and investment philosophy, process and policies, the sub-adviser’s operational strength and resources, whether the sub-adviser has an identifiable track record and/or the degree to which the sub-adviser has a personal investment in the investment program.

### Our Investment Process

Our business is predominantly the active management of financial assets, using first-hand research to make our investment decisions. Active investment spans equities, fixed income securities and property, sharing resources and a common investment approach. We have also developed a solutions business that can blend our abilities across different asset classes to provide tailored investment outcomes to meet specific client needs. This can incorporate skills in both quantitative equities and alternatives. Our investment expertise is delivered through both segregated and pooled products – allowing us to serve a range of clients from institutions to private investors.

### Tailoring Services to Client Needs

We use a team-based approach to investment management. We typically manage client accounts on discretionary basis; however we will manage client accounts on a non-discretionary basis subject to client instruction. Clients have the ability to identify individual security restrictions, or other requested restrictions, they desire on their accounts. Accounts are managed in accordance with the objectives, mandates, or restrictions documented by the client and our services are tailored to each individual client's requirements. These are generally included as part of the client's written advisory contract but may be furnished as a separate investment policy statement. It is our policy that all necessary information and other instructions are obtained and verified with supporting documents such as trust agreements, discretionary agreements, and power of attorney forms, if applicable, so that we can ensure that client investment recommendations are suitable in light of each client's needs, financial circumstances and investment objectives. Files are created and maintained that demonstrate the basis for these recommendations. The advisory or sub-advisory fee is subject to negotiation and is fully disclosed to clients.

### Model Delivery/UMA

AAMAL may provide non-discretionary investment advice whereby AAMAL provides investment recommendations in the form of a model portfolio to a Sponsor or overlay manager which then utilizes all or part of the model in managing its clients' accounts. Model delivery programs are often referred to as a Unified Managed Accounts ("UMAs").

In such programs, the Sponsor typically charges the client a comprehensive fee, inclusive of the advisory fee charged by AAMAL together with the fee for all other services being provided by the Sponsor. The Sponsor generally executes client portfolio transactions on behalf of Aberdeen and provides custodial services for the client's assets. Except for execution charges for certain transactions executed away from the Sponsor, clients pay a single, all-inclusive (or "wrap") fee charged by the Sponsor based on the value of the client's account assets for asset management, trade execution, custody, performance monitoring and reporting through the Sponsor. The wrap fee often, but not always, includes the advisory fees charged by AAMAL and other participating managers through the program.

The Sponsor typically assists the client in defining the client's investment objectives based on information provided by the client, aids in the selection of one or more investment managers to manage the client's account, and periodically contacts the client to ascertain whether there have been any changes in the client's financial circumstances or objectives that warrant a change in the management of the client's assets. In certain Wrap Programs, the Sponsor contracts with other investment advisers to perform these services. In a Wrap Program, the Sponsor pays the investment advisers, such as AAMAL, a fee based on the assets of clients invested in the applicable strategy in the Wrap Program. In certain cases, AAMAL may instead be paid fees based on the size of the total Wrap Program assets under management. AAMAL may retain a portion of the wrap program fee when it participates as manager in wrap program arrangements.

Wrap fee accounts and other client accounts following a strategy with the same name managed by the same portfolio management team may be managed differently. For example, the Sponsor may impose investment restrictions or administrative requirements upon us in managing accounts that could cause those accounts to be managed differently from other client accounts in the same strategy managed by the same portfolio management team that were not subject to those restrictions or requirements. For example, if a Wrap Fee Program sponsor or client imposes investment restrictions on an account which prohibits investment in a security that is held in the selected strategy, the security may not be replaced with a comparable security and the client's account may be overweight other positions or hold a larger cash position than other clients in that strategy.

Please also see the "Fees and Compensation" and "Brokerage Practices" items of this Brochure for more information on differences between wrap program arrangements and other types of client accounts.

### Assets under Management

As of September 30, 2016, AAMAL has \$65,952,921,842 in assets under management, \$65,850,925,681 of these assets are managed on a discretionary basis, while \$101,996,161 are managed on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 – Fees and Compensation**

Aberdeen's advisory fees generally depend on the services being provided according to the schedule agreed to by the client and included in their investment management agreement. Fee arrangements will vary by client, and are based on a number of different factors, including investment mandate, services performed, and account size. Fees and allocations may be fixed, fixed plus performance or performance only. Please refer to Item 6 of this Brochure for additional information about performance-based fees. Generally, fees are paid monthly or quarterly in arrears based on assets outstanding at the close of each month, quarter or the average of the months within a quarter, or in advance based on assets outstanding at the end of prior month or quarter. AAMAL will either invoice clients for these fees, or in certain situations deduct these fees from the client's custody account. In some instances, fee schedules are negotiable and can vary depending on a variety of factors such as the client, size of the account and the investment strategy selected.

All advisory arrangements may be terminated by either party upon prior written notice, according to the termination provisions outlined in the investment management agreement. If a contract is terminated, all advisory fees are subject to pro-rata adjustment based upon the date of termination. Upon termination of the agreement, any prepaid, unearned fee will be promptly refunded, and any earned, unpaid fees will be due and payable.

The following are our standard segregated and/or commingled account fee schedules. However, fees and other compensation are negotiated in certain circumstances, and arrangements with any particular client may vary.

### Subadvised Mutual Funds and Other Pooled Vehicle Fees

We serve in a sub-advisory capacity for Singapore and offshore investment companies both registered and unregistered that are managed by third parties. Fees for such services are negotiated with the manager, and may be set forth in the fund's registration statement or other similar offering document.

### Collective Investment Trust Fees

We serve as investment adviser to Collective Investment Trusts ("CIT") and receive a management fee from the trustee for such services. The trustee fee rates paid by investors in these collective funds may be equal to, exceed, or be lower than fees for other similarly managed products. Additionally, the trustee may separately negotiate "side letters" with certain investors without applying terms negotiated with such investors, including terms relating to fees, to all investors in the CIT in accordance with applicable law.

### Wrap Programs

AAMAL may participate in arrangements where it provides a model portfolio to clients but does not exercise investment discretion or trade in the account, including, but not limited to, those with unified managed accounts ("UMAs") of Wrap Program Sponsors. AAMAL's actual fees, minimum fees, and minimum account sizes may be negotiable, and in arrangements where it provides a model portfolio, may be lower than those for providing investment advisory services where it has full discretion, depending on the circumstances.

Payment of a bundled asset-based wrap fee may or may not produce accounting, bookkeeping, or income tax results better than those resulting from the separate payment of securities commissions and other execution costs on a trade-by-trade basis and advisory fees.

With respect to SMA programs for which Aberdeen is not the Sponsor, the Sponsor's Program Brochure generally contains information on minimum account sizes and fees payable to the Sponsor and participating investment managers. Accordingly, AAMAL's fees for managing SMA program accounts may be lower than those for providing investment advisory services outside the SMA program. Program fee paid by clients covers trading charges only when transactions are executed through the Sponsor or its affiliates. To the extent that trades are "stepped-out" to broker-dealers other than the Sponsor (or executed away from the Sponsor), additional fees may be incurred by the client.

Clients should contact their program Sponsor for more information on the fees payable to Aberdeen in connection with such program.

Factors AAMAL may consider in negotiating fees or other terms to which any investor may be subject may include, without limitation, the nature of the services required, the extent of reporting or other administrative services required, the type of assets invested, the amount of assets invested, AAMAL's prior relationship with the applicable investor or its affiliates, other investments with AAMAL by the applicable investor or its affiliates, the other terms to which the investor's investment with AAMAL would be subject and the impact such special terms might have on other investors.

AAMAL may have different fee schedules for products and services offered in other jurisdictions outside of Singapore.

We examine fee ranges and average fees using comparative universes. We strive to offer competitive fees that are at or below average of our comparative universe. Terms are negotiated on a case by case basis.

In addition to the advisory fees discussed above, clients may incur additional fees related to the services we provide. Clients may incur the fees and expenses charged by the custodian of client assets managed by us, as well as brokerage and other transaction costs associated with securities trades that we order on behalf of the assets in a client account.

We occasionally invest client assets in shares of open-end and closed-end investment companies and unregistered commingled funds which we or an affiliate may also advise. As a shareholder of a fund, a client may be subject to advisory fees (and other expenses) at the fund level in addition to fees charged to the advised account. To the extent that we invest client assets in affiliated funds, we will ensure that clients are not double-charged advisory fees.

For an additional discussion of brokerage and other transaction costs, please refer to Item 12 - Brokerage Practices of this Brochure.

## **Item 6 – Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management**

We sometimes enter into agreements for performance-based fees with qualified clients. This may result in instances in which a portfolio manager concurrently manages accounts with different fee structures for the same strategy. This is referred to as “side-by-side” portfolio management and, in these instances, we will not determine allocations based on whether we are participating in a trade or on the fee structure of the managed accounts participating in the trade. Furthermore, we may seed investment vehicles and make co-investments along with clients invested in property funds, direct property investments, or other private fund investments.

The potential management of different types of accounts and accounts with different fee arrangements (“side-by-side” management) may give rise to potential conflicts of interest. Registered funds, for example, generally pay management fees based on a fixed percentage of assets under management, while separate accounts and private funds potentially may have more varied fee structures, including performance-based incentives. Where performance is good, performance-based fee clients may be charged fees higher than the industry standard. We may have a material incentive to favor certain, more lucrative accounts over those that may be less lucrative. Additionally, we may have a material incentive to favor accounts in which we, or our affiliates, have significant proprietary interest. For example, we have an incentive to allocate better-performing securities to those accounts subject to performance fees rather than to those which are not. These performance fees may also incentivize the portfolio manager to take riskier positions than would have otherwise been initiated. Additionally, the calculation of performance fees is based upon a number of factors both within and out of our control. To mitigate these conflicts, we have adopted policies and procedures to ensure that investment decisions are made based in the best interests of our clients and without consideration of our financial interests.

To address such potential conflicts of interest, Aberdeen has adopted procedures and policies designed to:

- Identify practices that may potentially favor actively managed accounts in which an Investment Manager has an ownership and/or a greater pecuniary interest over actively managed accounts in which the Investment Manager has no ownership and/or a lesser pecuniary interest;
- Prevent the Investment Manager and Covered Persons (as defined in Aberdeen’s Code of Ethics, discussed below) from inappropriately favoring some clients over others;
- Detect potential violations of such policies and procedures;
- Provide a process to review requests for waivers; and
- Promptly resolve any actual violations detected.

Portfolio Managers cannot trade in conflict with themselves – specifically, across same strategy accounts that they manage. Portfolio Managers are prohibited from taking an ‘inconsistent position’ or placing an ‘inconsistent order’ in or for same strategy accounts that they manage without prior approval from the Department Head, provided such position does not represent a conflict of interest. Generally, Portfolio Managers are prohibited from holding the same security long in some accounts and short in others, unless they are materially underweight in a long only account that must hold that security at some level for benchmark tracking purposes (as this would not appear to represent a conflict of interest). Portfolio Managers may, however make different investment decisions for the same security or credit for different strategies they manage, as appropriate.

In the event that a potential conflict of interest is identified, the Department Head and the Compliance Department will discuss the conflict and take appropriate corrective action. Compliance will also review the procedures in such instances to ensure that they are appropriately crafted to identify similar future conflicts of interest.

From time to time, Aberdeen, its directors, officers, employees or affiliates (“affiliated persons”) may, directly or indirectly, have interests in securities owned by or recommended to our clients. As these situations may represent a potential conflict of interest, we have adopted a Code of Ethics (“Code”) in compliance with the requirements of Rule 17j-1 adopted under the 1940 Act and Sections 204A and 206 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the “Advisers Act”), to govern personal transactions by directors, officers, and advisory personnel of Aberdeen (“Access Persons”). For further detail on Aberdeen’s Code, please refer to Item 11 of this Brochure.



We also monitor for conflicts by implementing “best execution” trading procedures and reviewing account allocation and performance.

## **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

### Clients

Our client base comprises a variety of institutional clients, including corporate plans, non-profit organizations, public plans, governments, private investors, multi-employer plans, financial institutions, intermediaries, sub-advised funds and pooled investment vehicles, encompassing both affiliated and unaffiliated U.S. and non-U.S. registered funds and U.S. and non-U.S. unregistered funds, among others. The requirements for opening any account will vary depending on the type of product and type of client. We have minimum account size requirements for certain accounts which may be waived at our discretion. Please refer to Item 5 of this Brochure for additional information on minimum account size requirements.

### Privacy Policy

We recognize and respect the privacy concerns of our customers. We are strongly committed to protecting the privacy of client information and will not disclose any non-public personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone, except as permitted by law. In order to service your account and effect your transactions, we may provide your personal information to our affiliates and to financial service providers that assist us in servicing your account and have a need for such information, such as a broker-dealer, custodian or administrator. We may also provide client information to a third party in situations where clients have given us consent to do so, at the request of a regulator or where we are required to disclose the information by law or regulation. We require third-party service providers and financial institutions with which we have joint marketing arrangements to protect the confidentiality of your information and to use the information only for the purposes for which we disclose the information to them. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal standards to guard your non-public personal information. We have adopted privacy policies and procedures that are designed to prevent the unauthorized disclosure and use of client non-public personal information.

## **Item 8 – Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

### **Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies**

We utilize various investment approaches when managing discretionary client accounts and providing recommendations to non-discretionary clients. We have described below the various methods of analysis and investment strategies, as well as the primary risks associated with the investment strategies.

### **Equities**

Our investment process dates back to the 1980s and is applied globally. Our main strength as an investment manager results from adherence to our investment process and our team-based decision making framework..

Key features:

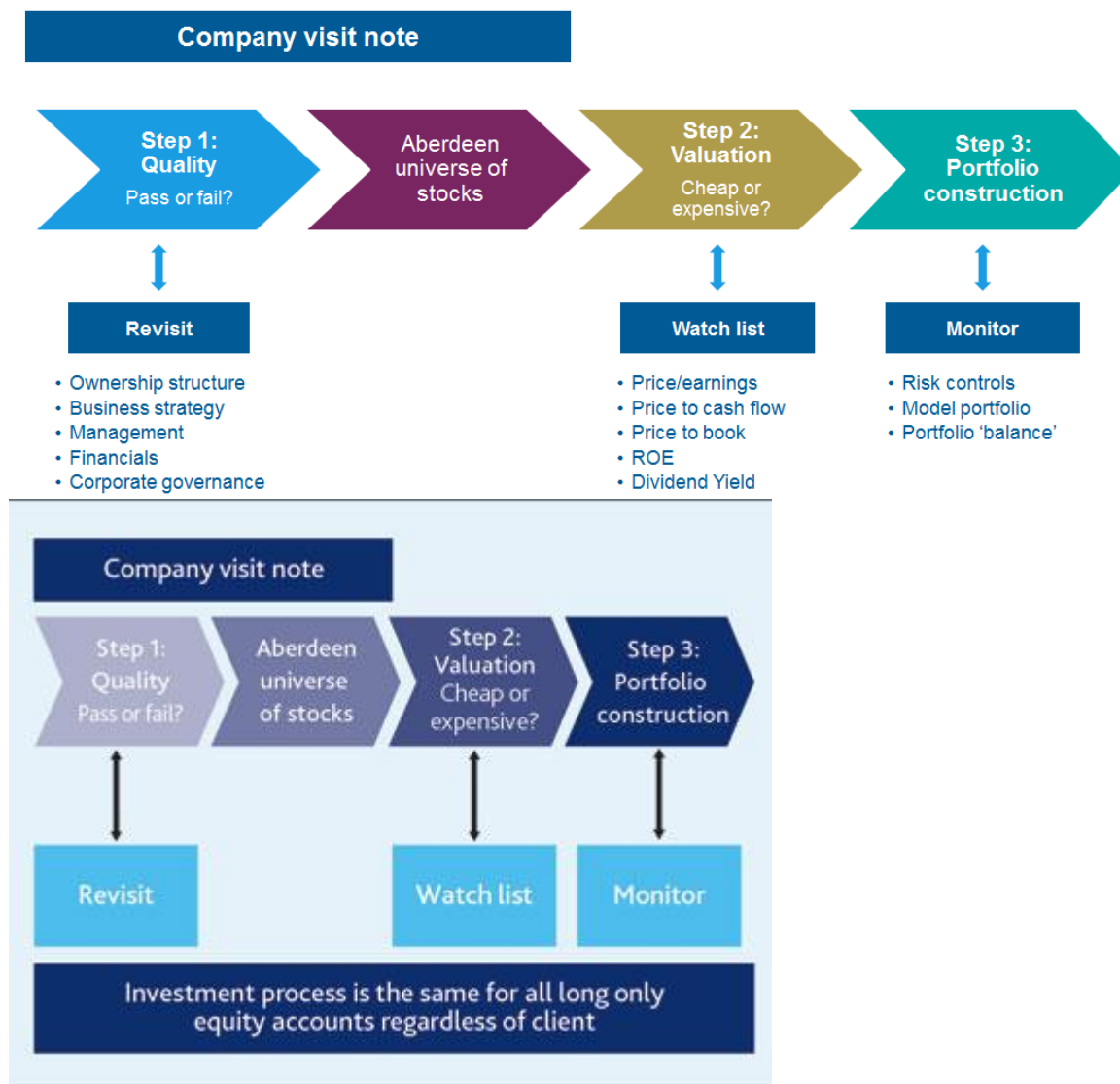
- First-hand research is cornerstone of investment process
- Stock selection based on Quality/Value criteria
- Strong emphasis on Corporate Governance
- Independent, not benchmark driven
- Buy and hold – we are owners of companies, not just investors

### **Investment philosophy**

We believe, given the inefficiency of markets, that competitive long-term returns are achieved by identifying high quality stocks at attractive valuations and holding them for the long term. It is our belief that sound fundamentals drive stock prices over time. We employ a fundamental bottom-up investment approach based upon a rigorous and disciplined proprietary research effort which originates with direct company due diligence visits.

We hold absolute return to be of the utmost importance over the long term and are benchmark-aware, but not benchmark-driven. This benchmark independent stance is borne from our belief that indices do not provide meaningful guidance to the prospects of a company nor its inherent worth. We do not equate the quality of a company with either market capitalization or index membership. As such, indices do not serve as a starting point for portfolio construction and we are comfortable taking decisive positions away from the benchmark.

## Investment Process



Company meetings are the bedrock of our stock-picking philosophy and process. We place enormous importance on our access to management. The depth of our analysis allows us to know our companies thoroughly and it is essential to continue to monitoring a company with repeat visits in order to satisfy criteria for inclusion in the portfolio. Embedded in this process is a focus on downside risks.

We never buy a stock without our equity managers having first interacted with company management and written detailed notes analyzing the company completed. We estimate a company's worth in two stages, first quality and then price.

Quality is defined in reference to management, business focus, balance sheet, and corporate governance. We establish whether the business is run in the interests of all shareholders equitably. Additionally, we prefer companies that have the resilience to do well in a downturn, for example, avoiding those that have over-leveraged balance sheets.

Price is calculated relative to key financial ratios, market, peer group, and business prospects. One of our key investment disciplines is to avoid over-paying. Determining what we are willing to pay for a given stock is a major objective of our research process.

Portfolios are constructed to maximize their level of exposure to the most attractive companies filtered from the stock selection process. We follow a traditional buy-and-hold strategy.

### Team approach

We employ over 115 equity investment professionals globally. Our investment teams work in a truly collaborative fashion; all team members have both portfolio construction and research responsibilities. Teams work in an open plan format in an effort to foster communication amongst all members. We do not believe in having star managers, instead preferring to have both depth and experience within the team. Depth of team members allows us to perform the diligent research required by our process. The experience of our senior managers provides the confidence needed for us to take a long-term view.

### **Fixed Income**

Aberdeen's Asian Fixed Income team manages portfolios that deploy strategies in three key disciplines: interest rate, currencies and credit. The investment process has its foundations in fundamental research (macroeconomic/sovereign and credit), which complements the team's market analysis culminating in market forecasts over a medium-term investment horizon across three key risk scenarios. This research and forecasts are an integral part of the active strategy development and investment management.

### Credit

Aberdeen's process relies on the three key functions of Research, Relative Value, and Risk Management. With respect to our credit research, the key emphasis is on risk management which not only extends to how much credit risk is in the portfolio, but also avoiding lending to companies we don't confidently understand. The focus of our security research is establishing a level of conviction in the underlying credit. We assess not only the credit worthiness of an issuer, but the additional complexities such as the jurisdictions, legal and operating environments in which the issuers operate. Management quality, corporate governance and deal structure are also key areas of focus in establishing conviction and filtering out 'un-investable' credits – work supported by our regional corporate governance team, our structuring/insolvency specialists and our very experienced regional equity team.

In addition to the bottom up security analysis and selection, we emphasise the necessity to quantify, analyse and manage the macro/top-down allocation to the credit. We think carefully about how much overall credit risk is appropriate for the portfolio as well as the allocation of credit within representative well defined sectors. Our research efforts here, draws on macroeconomic/sovereign and market analysis of the team; country wide and sector wide credit fundamentals and the credit cycle; as well as broader market valuations. Along with the central case view, we develop material risk scenarios to better understand the level of risks around our central case view.

### Macro

Aberdeen conducts investment activity in local rates, currencies and hard currency sovereigns, implementing the two cornerstones of the Aberdeen investment philosophy: We are fundamentally driven investors, and believe that fundamentals are the key determinant of value over the long run; and we believe market inefficiencies cause deviations from fundamental value providing opportunities to adding value through an active investment approach. Core to our investment process are three key disciplines: Research, Relative Value, and Risk Management.

Our rigorous fundamental analysis is based on structured country research and supplemented by local resource. Thus it is used to identify the idiosyncratic factors, complemented by an assessment of the correlations between factors.

Research is framed in a disciplined, consistent (medium-term) time horizon and common risk assessment with regular global interactions and disseminated in a uniform format. Research and investment activity is integrated; investment professionals perform on-the-ground analysis. Our investment professionals are insightful and critical, prepared to challenge consensus when appropriate. We use scenario-based forecasts to convey expectations and risks, and to facilitate objective asset allocation. Idea generation draws from our global macro resources and other investors in the equity, credit and multi-asset teams.

Our process uses our forward looking risk adjusted assessments to identify relative value across the global opportunity set. Ideas are tested with reference to our forecasts and, importantly, the most likely risks. Market access and liquidity are considered for all opportunities, informing the relative value decision.

We make decisions with the intention to deliver superior risk adjusted excess returns. Identifying, measuring and managing risk is integral to the entire investment process and portfolio construction. This is achieved in a number of ways: our teams are well resourced; scenario analysis gives us a framework for expressing risks; we are critical, and apply common sense and judgement to quantitative results; the sizing and scale of our positions are commensurate to targeted performance and risk/return trade-off; we use position analytics and attribution; and we have a sense of ownership and accountability – responsibility is distributed throughout the portfolio team.

### **Alternative Investments**

Alternatives include multi-manager investments in liquid strategies (such as hedge funds); private markets (such as private equity and venture capital) and real assets (such as property).

#### **Multi-Manager Alternatives:**

Through our Alternatives fund portfolios, we seek to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns. We do this through a focus on robust fundamental research. We have structured our multi manager alternatives business around three investment desks: hedge funds, private equity and property. Each desk focusses on strategy research, manager selection and portfolio management in its area. Our goal is to fully understand the dynamics of different alternative strategies, sub-strategies and asset classes and to excel in identifying the best in-class managers.

We aim to deliver attractive risk-adjusted returns by identifying and understanding the dynamics and characteristics of various alternative investment strategies, along with their associated risks, and allocating to them within our clients' portfolios according to each portfolio's objectives and constraints. We review our opinions continually and, over time, we adjust allocations to reflect our evolving thinking on the investment environment. We have integrated risk management at manager selection and portfolio analytics stages and we manage risk using a combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques.

Identifying best in class managers requires diligent analysis of a combination of factors, including investment style, performance, volatility, and investment and operational infrastructure. Our manager selection philosophy is based on proactive sourcing and in-depth analysis, through which we seek to identify quality and build high conviction views. Through our proactive sourcing, we actively seek alternative investment opportunities, many of which may not be widely available. We seek well-resourced and specialist/niche managers with expertise in defined segments such as a particular geography or sector, and a track record over different market cycles. Our in-depth analysis helps us identify attractive investment opportunities and effectively negotiate with fund managers. With our emphasis on quality, we prioritize investment performance and high-quality service in both our work and the work of managers we select. Regardless of the attractiveness of a proposition, however, we will not typically invest in funds for which we cannot conduct a full risk assessment.

We believe our systematic approach to screening, combined with a bottom-up, qualitative focus allows us to select higher-quality managers from a wide universe. This approach is complemented by our top-down strategic allocation process, which considers investment themes and drivers and their impact on the various stages, geographies and sectors of the markets in which we invest. The allocation process provides us with an objective portfolio construction framework and, when combined with directed research within the team, identifies investment themes, opportunities and hazards. For liquid strategies, we apply further quantitative rigor into our analysis and optimization in portfolio construction. This is done in conjunction with the portfolio analytics team in our Investment Solutions division.

Each of the multi-manager alternative investments desks operates its own Investment Committee where manager selection recommendations are considered for approval and strategy views are discussed and agreed. Each investment team undertakes thorough due diligence and provides detailed reports to the relevant committee when seeking such approvals. These approvals feed into our global buy list of third party alternative managers and funds. When considering private market investments (e.g. private equity and private real estate funds) each fund goes through a number of screening stages, with the assistance of various

proprietary systems, including deal-flow, fund cash-flow modeling and portfolio analysis, before being considered for approval by the relevant Investment Committee.

All investments require the support of our independent the operational due diligence team, who conduct a detailed assessment of the operational infrastructure of any fund in which we recommend investment.

Where client portfolios invest across multiple investment styles, an overarching Pan-Alternatives Investment Committee oversees allocations and ratifies recommendations.

## **Quantitative Strategies**

### **Passive Strategies**

The investment process starts with establishing the relevant benchmark index to track and a tracking error tolerance for a fund. This will determine the indexing strategy used to manage a fund. We will employ a full index replication strategy whereby the fund holds almost all the index constituents in the same proportions as the index.

### **Active Quantitative Strategies**

However, for active portfolios with an out-performance target, we utilize an optimized strategy that constructs a model portfolio using a statistical risk model to maximize our quantitative in-house alpha in conjunction with a target tracking error. The goal of this approach is to build a model portfolio in an optimal way in terms of certain constraints—for example, expected risk and return.

Once constructed by either strategy, the portfolio must be maintained at all times to ensure that it tracks the index or its model within tight parameters. The portfolio performance is monitored daily to ensure that it is in line with the relevant index and tracking error limits, and the structure of the portfolio in terms of stocks, weights and other factors are also compared to the index/model. This monitoring process brings together portfolio and index/model data in a format, allowing comparison of performance and weights variances and minimizing turnover and trading costs.

## **Aberdeen Solutions & Multi-Asset**

Aberdeen Solutions (AS) has been designed to bring together the full array of activities from across the entire Investment Division, encouraging greater communication and coordination between groups, while also improving the client-centric focus of the business overall. The overriding remit of AS is to guide clients on their investment journey, helping to solve the myriad of complex issues clients face in designing, implementing and achieving their investment objectives. By maintaining a flexible operating model and a holistic focus, AS is able to serve as a single centre of excellence within the firm, employing a client-centric approach while working as a close partner to some of the firm's largest and most sophisticated clients. The teams within Aberdeen Solutions are:

### **Economic & Thematic Research**

The team is responsible for developing Aberdeen's strategic research to be utilised across all investment departments, as well as to support our clients' growing need to identify longer-term thematic opportunities, for example, insurance clients leveraging our long-term investment return assumptions ('LTIR') in setting their strategic benchmarks.

### **Client Portfolio Management**

The focus of this team is on the specific design and builds of client solutions either specific to certain asset classes or across multiple asset classes, as client needs require. Covering all aspects of wealth, insurance, pensions and sovereign clients globally, this team is responsible for our large and complex mandates.

### **Portfolio Construction/Risk Modelling and Systematic Asset Solutions**

This team focuses on the development of optimisation and risk budgeting techniques to allow the investment departments to construct efficient portfolios, and to deliver the most complex solutions in a robust framework for AS; allowing our clients, including those operating under heavy regulatory investment restrictions, to work confidently with us.

In addition, this team also focuses on the development of systematic quantitative frameworks to generate asset allocation decisions on traditional and alternative asset classes. Establishing a clear framework for the development of advanced and enhanced strategies within AS and actively working with underlying investment departments as appropriate.

#### Manager Research and Selection

This team focuses on providing our clients a broad 'bench' of third-party managers, with a focus on high conviction ideas. This capability supports our fund of funds and manager of manager portfolios, and allows AS to build a broad range of complex solutions for clients incorporating asset classes and fund strategies where Aberdeen does not have the internal direct investment capability. The team will continue to develop a closer working partnership with our other award winning multi-manager research teams (hedge funds, private equity, closed end funds and property) across the Investment Division.

#### Liability Driven Investments

This team focuses on working with AS clients on a wide-range of Liability Driven Investment (LDI) requirements given the growing demand across pensions, insurance as well as new areas for LDI such as wealth.

The Multi-Asset business is split into two distinct approaches:

#### Diversified Multi Asset

The Diversified Multi-Asset (DMA) investment team focuses on maximising the great growth potential we see for this approach and the associated outcome oriented pooled funds. The DMA investment approach is built upon our strategic asset allocation framework and medium term return expectations, which the DMA team utilises to build portfolios incorporating a wide range of diversifying assets, including many alternative investment strategies.

#### Tactical Asset Allocation

The Tactical Asset Allocation (TAA) investment team provides greater focus and more timely decision making in order to deliver tactical investment ideas for our largest mandates. TAA mandates are designed to add value to client portfolios by taking active views versus core benchmarks in traditional asset classes and risk exposures. This process leverages resources and investment expertise from across the firm. The TAA investment team is responsible for synthesizing these inputs into cross asset views and deploying these tactical views across the core TAA mandates in an efficient manner.

#### Multi-Asset Portfolio Implementation

To ensure efficient day-to-day portfolio management and implementation of investment views across all Multi-Asset mandates and portfolios. The team will maintain key aspects of day-to-day cash management, portfolio management activities and trade implementation.

#### Multi-Asset Asia Pacific

This team focuses on developing of global products and portfolios for Asian based clients, as well as Asia Pacific biased products for global investors.

#### Aberdeen Direct Property

The approach to investment in property reflects the general approach that Aberdeen adopts across all asset classes but is adapted for the particular needs of property. Within property, our approach further reflects our beliefs, understanding and approach to risk management in a property portfolio. At its core are the following aspects:

- We can manage risk, we cannot manage market returns
- We follow a process which does not allow distraction from long-term goals
- We build high-conviction portfolios, bottom up
- We invest on the basis of quality first, then price



Our investment process is designed consistently to meet our investors' and funds' objectives. Whilst our investors' and funds' objectives may be set out in terms of a required return, it is our role to explain, communicate and manage the risks that we believe are commensurate with such a return objective. It is therefore paramount that we understand our investors' or funds' objectives and tolerance for risk before implementing our investment process. We gain such an understanding through regular, clear and open communication directly with our investors or with the appropriate decision-making body. The (re-)confirmation of the parameters within which we operate the mandate is made explicit, at least annually and in written form. This must include:

- A summary of the adopted investment plan
- Our view on the potential returns available from already-invested equity and newly-invested equity
- Our view on fundamental value in the market
- Our view of the potential risks in the market
- If applicable, our view on the role of debt in the portfolio
- Any constraints on the portfolio (due to size, investor requirements etc.,) which may impact performance
- The risk and opportunities of the individual investments in the current portfolio

Our investment process has three phases; 1) the allocation; 2) selection; 3) and management of risk. The fund management team is central to the operation of the process, supported by the wider property team, group support and external consultants as appropriate. We set an investment plan that provides a risk budget aligned with our investors' and funds' tolerance for risk and our view on the absolute value available in the market from various investment decisions. We implement an investment plan through the identification of appropriate risks to form part of an overall risk budget, holding, selling and buying as appropriate. We manage the bundle of risks within the portfolio on a day-to-day basis to maximize the return given those risks or to change those risks to exploit market circumstance.

The selection of investments for acquisition or sale is carried out by a team with the Fund Manager taking final responsibility within the framework set out by the investment plan. This team will most often include, at least:

- the fund management team
- transactions
- asset management
- research and strategy, and
- treasury (where debt is included)

This team-based approach ensures that we gather our collective wisdom at the point of first introduction and as we carry out the underwriting and acquisition or sale process through to the management of risk phase. Potential investments are screened by the investment management team in two phases; quality first, then price. The first phase, quality phase is at a deals screening meeting coordinated by the regional head of transactions. The second phase emphasizes investment risk for those investments that have already passed through the quality screen and ultimately determine the pricing of that risk.

Quality is defined as the ability for a property to deliver a durable income stream with the potential for growth. Factors influencing this are shown in the following chart. We do not define quality as a brand new building in a prime location. Properties must be fit of purpose in their market and be able to generate a durable income stream with the potential for the long term growth of that income. Once an investment has passed through the quality screen, it can then be assessed for its investment risk.

Each asset is assigned a risk premium based upon the team's view of location, durability of income, tenant quality, building specification and tenure. An additional risk premium is produced where debt is utilized.

A pro forma is used for both due diligence checking and for presentation of investment decisions to the investment committee. These are standard across the direct property business and regularly reviewed to include or exclude particular features as deemed necessary.

## **Investment Strategy Risks**

As with any investment, there is no guarantee that a portfolio will achieve its investment objective. Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. However, clients should be aware that not all of the risks listed below will pertain to every account as certain risks may only apply to certain strategies. It is not possible to identify all of the risks associated with investing and the particular risks applicable to a client account will depend on the nature of the account, its investment strategy or strategies and the types of securities held. Given the volume of new rules and regulations in the industry, we are continuously reviewing the application of our risks.

While we seek to manage accounts so that risks are appropriate to the strategy, it is often not possible or desirable to fully mitigate risks. Any investment includes the risk of loss and there can be no guarantee that a particular level of return will be achieved. Clients and other investors should understand that they could lose some or all of their investment and should be prepared to bear the risk of such potential losses. Clients and other investors should read carefully all applicable informational materials and offering/governing documents, including offering memorandums and prospectuses prior to retaining Aberdeen to manage an account or investing in any Aberdeen investment product.

Clients and other investors should be aware that while Aberdeen does not limit its advice to particular types of investments, mandates may be limited to certain types of securities or to the recommendation of investment advisers or managed funds, and may not be diversified. The accounts managed by Aberdeen are generally not intended to provide a complete investment program for a client or investor. Clients and other investors are responsible for appropriately diversifying their assets to guard against the risk of loss.

Below is a summary of the material risks associated with our significant strategies and methods of analysis. Not all possible risks are described below.

**Allocation Risk** – The allocation among different investment opportunities may have a significant effect on a portfolio's value when one of these investments is performing more poorly than others. There will be transaction costs which may be significant over time because both the direct investments and derivative positions will be adjusted periodically to reflect our view of market and economic conditions. In addition, there is a risk that certain allocation decisions may not achieve the desired results and, consequently, a portfolio may incur losses.

**Bank Loans** – Bank loans include floating and fixed rate debt obligations. Floating rate loans are debt obligations issued by companies or other entities with floating interest rates that reset periodically. Floating rate loans are secured by specific collateral of the borrower and are senior to most other securities of the borrower (e.g., common stock or debt instruments) in the event of bankruptcy. Floating rate loans are often issued in connection with recapitalizations, acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, and refinancing. Floating rate loans are typically structured and administered by a financial institution that acts as the agent of the lenders participating in the floating rate loan. Floating rate loans may be acquired directly through the agent, as an assignment from another lender who holds a direct interest in the floating rate loan, or as a participation interest in another lender's portion of the floating rate loan.

**Borrowing Risk** – Borrowing creates leverage. The use of leverage may subject investments to additional risk and could magnify losses. It also adds to any given portfolio expenses, and at times could effectively force a portfolio to sell securities when it otherwise might not want to do so.

**Business Continuity Risk** – We have adopted a business continuity plan to maintain critical functions in the event of a partial or total building outage affecting our offices or a technical problem affecting applications, data centers or networks. The plan is designed to limit the impact on clients from any business interruption or disaster, including those related to third party service providers. Nevertheless, our ability to conduct business may be curtailed by a disruption in the infrastructure that supports our operations and the regions in which our offices are located. While Aberdeen and its service providers have established business continuity plans in the event of, and risk management systems to prevent, such incidents, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified.

Business and Regulatory Risk – Legal, tax and regulatory changes may occur in the future that may adversely affect investors. The effects of any future regulatory change are impossible to predict and could have substantial adverse effects on both investors and investment strategies.

Cash Flow Risk – The yields available from equity investments in real estate depend in large part on the amount of income generated and expenses incurred. If the investments do not generate revenues sufficient to meet operating expenses, including debt service, tenant improvements, leasing commissions and other capital expenditures, clients may be required to fund or borrow additional amounts to cover fixed costs, and the cash flow of such client account (and, with respect to investment funds, its ability to make distributions to shareholders) will be adversely affected. Although each client will be investing in a range of investments, all real estate investments are speculative in nature and the possibility of partial or total loss of capital exists.

Changes in Underlying Managers – It is expected that in the instance of the redemption of assets or termination of an underlying manager, the resultant assets and cash proceeds will be invested with a replacement underlying manager. This could result in increased turnover rates and higher corresponding brokerage fees and commissions.

Competitive Investment Environment – The activity of identifying, completing and realizing venture capital, private equity and real assets investments is highly competitive and involves a high degree of uncertainty. We may, at times, be in competition with other funds and managers with similar investment objectives for the acquisition of the same targets. This may have adverse effects on investment objectives and returns and, at times, may result in not being able to enter, even partially, into a targeted investment position.

Conflicts of Interest – Due to the structure of Aberdeen, it is possible that we may hold or trade the same securities and instruments as our underlying fund managers in which we invest. Additionally, we may utilize similar techniques and strategies as those adopted by our underlying fund managers. As a result, we may directly or indirectly compete with our underlying managers and investment vehicles on an “arm’s length” basis. In the event that knowledge of a conflict of interest does arise, we will endeavor to ensure that it is resolved fairly and at arm’s length.

Convertible Bond Arbitrage – Underlying fund managers may engage in convertible bond arbitrage and the positions intended to offset one another may not move as expected. In addition to the risks associated with fixed income, these types of strategies have risks associated with equity investments. Although the underlying fund manager is expected to hedge all equity exposure, there can be no assurance that such exposures won’t exist or that such hedges will be effective.

Concentration Risk – The risk that if a portfolio concentrates its investments in issuers within the same country, state, industry or economic sector, an adverse economic, business or political development may affect the value of the portfolio’s investments more than if its investments were not so concentrated.

Convertible Securities Risk - The value of a convertible security will vary based on the perceived value of the equity security underlying the convertible security. Convertible securities are frequently issued with a call feature that allows the issuer to choose when to redeem the security, which could result in the accounts being forced to redeem, convert, or sell the convertible security under circumstances unfavorable to the accounts. In addition, if the value of the equity security underlying the convertible security declines enough, the convertible security is more likely to be valued as a debt security and subject the accounts to the risks of debt securities as described herein.

Counterparty Risk – A portfolio may be exposed to the credit risk of counterparties with which, or the brokers, dealers, custodians and exchanges through which, it deals in connection with the investment of its assets, whether engaged in exchange-traded or off-exchange transactions.

Credit/Default Risk – An issuer or guarantor of a fixed income security, or the counterparty to a derivatives or other contract, may be unable or unwilling to make timely payments of interest or principal, or to otherwise honor its obligations. The issuer or guarantor may default, causing a loss of the full principal amount of a security. The degree of risk for a particular security may be reflected in its credit rating. There is the possibility that the credit rating of a fixed income security may be downgraded after purchase, which

may adversely affect the value of the security. Investments in fixed income securities with lower ratings tend to have a higher probability that an issuer will default or fail to meet its payment obligations.

Credit Spread Risk – Changes in credit spreads will affect the value of financial instruments. Credit spreads represent the credit risk premiums required by market participants for a given credit quality. When credit spreads widen, the value of investments in fixed income securities tend to fall and this decrease in value may not be offset by higher income from new investments. Credit spreads can be driven by macroeconomic factors as well as issue specific factors.

Cross-Class Liabilities – If the investment vehicle held by an underlying manager offers multiple share classes, there is the potential that losses in a share class not held may have an adverse effect on its NAV.

Currency Hedging Risks – There can be no guarantee or assurance that any attempt to protect against adverse currency movements will be successful. As such, hedging transactions may result in a poorer overall performance and any realized loss resulting from these currency hedging strategies may also affect the level of redemptions required of our underlying managers. In extreme circumstances, this may result in the concentration of the underlying manager's investments in less liquid or illiquid investments.

Currency Risk – Fluctuations in currency exchange rates may negatively affect the value of your portfolio's investments or reduce its returns.

Cyber Security Risk – Aberdeen, like all companies, may be susceptible to operational and information security risks. Breaches in cyber security include, among other behaviors, stealing or corrupting data maintained online or digitally, denial of service attacks on websites, the unauthorized release of confidential information or various other forms of cyber-attacks. Cyber security failures or breaches of Aberdeen or its service providers or the issuers of securities in which Aberdeen invest have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of Aberdeen's clients to transact business, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. Aberdeen and its clients could be negatively impacted as a result.

Debt Securities Risk - Debt securities in which an account may be invested may be unrated or lower-rated, and may have a risk profile closer to that of an equity security. Compared to other debt securities, those issues with the lowest investment-grade ratings (often called "junk bonds") are considered to have speculative characteristics. Debt securities that are below investment grade or unrated generally are considered predominately speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal according to the terms of the obligation and, therefore, carry greater investment risk, including the possibility of default and bankruptcy. They are likely to be less marketable and more adversely affected by economic downturns than high-quality debt securities. The accounts may invest in debt securities without considering the maturity of the instrument. Debt securities have varying levels of sensitivity to changes in interest rates. In general, the price of a debt security can fall when interest rates rise and can rise when interest rates fall. Securities with longer maturities can be more sensitive to interest rate changes. Therefore, changes in interest rates both in the U.S. and outside the U.S. may affect the accounts' debt investments unfavorably.

Depository Receipts – Depository receipts may be issued in a sponsored program, where an issuer has made arrangements to have its securities traded in the form of depository receipts, or in an unsponsored program, where the issuer may not be directly involved. The holders of depository receipts that are unsponsored generally bear various costs associated with the facilities, while a larger portion of the costs associated with sponsored depository receipts are typically borne by the foreign issuers. Investments in unsponsored depository receipts may be subject to the risks that the foreign issuer may not be obligated to cooperate with the U.S. depository, may not provide additional financial and other information to the depository or the investor, or that such information in the U.S. market may not be current. The depository of an unsponsored facility frequently is under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the issuer of the deposited securities or to pass through the voting rights to facility holders with respect to the deposited securities. Available information concerning the issuers may not be as current for unsponsored depository receipts and the prices of unsponsored depository receipts may be more volatile than would be the case if the receipts were sponsored by the issuers.

Derivatives Risk – Derivatives are financial instruments that have a value which depends upon, or is derived from, the value of something else, such as one or more underlying securities, pools of securities, options, futures, indexes or currencies. Derivatives may be illiquid, difficult to price, and leveraged so that small changes may produce disproportionate losses for your portfolio, and may be subject to counterparty risk to a greater degree than more traditional investments. Because of their complex nature, some derivatives may not perform as intended. As a result, your portfolio may not realize the anticipated benefits from a derivative it holds or it may realize losses.

Gains or losses involving derivative instruments may be substantial, because a relatively small price movement in the underlying security(ies), instrument, currency or index may result in a substantial gain or loss. Derivatives will typically increase exposure to the principal risks to which the Fund is otherwise exposed, and the following additional risks:

- Counterparty credit risk – A counterparty to the derivative instrument becomes bankrupt, insolvent, enters administration, liquidates or otherwise fails to perform its obligations due to financial difficulties, and the Fund may obtain no recovery of its investment or may only obtain a limited recovery, and any recovery may be delayed.
- Hedging risk – derivative instruments used to hedge against an opposite position may offset losses, but they may also offset gains.
- Correlation risk – There may be an incomplete correlation between the hedge and the opposite position, which may result in increased or unanticipated losses.
- Liquidity risk – An instrument may be difficult or impossible to sell or terminate, which may cause the client to be in a position to do something we would not otherwise choose, including accepting a lower price for the derivative instrument, selling other investments or forgoing another, more appealing investment opportunity.
- Leverage risk – Losses from the derivative instrument may be greater than the amount invested in the derivative instrument.

Deterioration of Market Conditions – In the case of extreme and continued market disruptions, attractive investment returns may be adversely affected. Continued market disruption or deterioration of market conditions and uncertainty could result in decreases in the market values of existing or potential investments. Additionally, liquidity may be affected, resulting in the inability to sell or liquidate investments at favorable times or prices. These circumstances may adversely impact the ability to meet investment objectives.

Dilution Levy Risk – Investment in underlying funds may subject the investor to dilution levies, which are fees charged by fund managers on investors buying and selling units in a fund. These fees may be applied at any combination of the purchase and sale of a unit and may have adverse effects on the returns of the investment.

Distressed Investments – Underlying fund managers may invest in securities and obligations of companies that are experiencing financial or business difficulties, including companies involved in bankruptcy or other reorganization and liquidation proceedings. These investments involve a substantial degree of risk and may not compensate investors adequately for the risks they assume. Due to the degree of complexity and unpredictability of bankruptcy and other insolvency proceedings, investors may be adversely affected.

Due Diligence Process – The due diligence process that we intend to undertake may not reveal all material facts or circumstances. Any due diligence process involves subjective analysis and there can be no assurance that this process will reveal all issues related to the potential allocation of assets to underlying fund managers.

Effect of Substantial Redemptions –Occasionally, shareholders may make large redemptions or purchases of shares of the Fund-of-Funds in which it is invested, which may cause the Fund to have to sell securities or invest additional cash. These transactions may adversely affect the Fund-of-Funds' performance and increase transaction costs. In addition, large redemption requests may exceed the cash balance of the Fund-of-Funds and result in credit line borrowing fees and/or overdraft charges to the Fund until the sales of portfolio securities necessary to cover the redemption request settle.

Event Arbitrage – Arbitrage opportunities may exist in securities which are subject to tender offers, exchange offers, mergers, liquidations, reorganizations, bankruptcies or other extraordinary corporate transactions. Although it is expected that the underlying fund managers hedge such exposures, there can be no guarantee that these hedges will either be in place or be effective.

Emerging Markets Risk – Foreign investment risk may be particularly high if a portfolio invests in emerging market securities that are economically tied to countries with developing economies. These securities may present market, credit, currency, liquidity, legal, political and other risks different from, or greater than, the risks of investing in developed foreign countries.

Equity Securities Risk – Equity securities represent an ownership interest, or the right to acquire an ownership interest, in an issuer. Equity securities also include, among other things, preferred stocks, convertible stocks and warrants. The values of equity securities, such as common stocks and preferred stocks, may decline due to general market conditions which are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. They may also decline due to factors which affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry. Equity securities generally have greater price volatility than fixed income securities. Your portfolio at any point in time may be worth less than the amount that you invested, even after taking into account the reinvestment of dividends and distributions. Regardless of how well an individual investment performs, if financial markets go down, you could lose money.

Focus Risk – A portfolio which invests a larger percentage of its assets in a relatively small number of issuers may be subject to greater risks than a more diversified account. That is, a change in the value of any single investment held by a portfolio may affect the overall value of the account more than it would affect an account that holds a greater number of investments.

Foreign (Non-U.S.) Risk – A portfolio's investments in securities of non-U.S. issuers may involve more risk than those of U.S. issuers. The prices of these securities may fluctuate more widely and may be less liquid due to adverse market, economic, political, regulatory or other factors.

Forward Commitment Risk – When a portfolio engages in when-issued, delayed delivery or forward commitment transactions (e.g., “to be announced” securities or TBAs), the portfolio relies on the counterparty to consummate the sale. Failure to do so may result in the strategy missing the opportunity to obtain a price or yield considered to be advantageous. Such transactions may also have the effect of leverage on the strategy and may cause it to be more volatile. Additionally, these transactions may create a higher portfolio turnover rate.

Forward Foreign Currency Contracts – We may enter into forward foreign currency contracts, which are types of derivative contracts whereby we may agree to buy or sell on behalf of a client a country's currency at a specific price on a specific date, usually 30, 60, or 90 days in the future for a specific exchange rate on a given date. These contracts may, however, fall in value due to foreign market downswings or foreign currency value fluctuations. A fund or client may enter into forward foreign currency contracts for investment purposes, for risk management (hedging) purposes, and to increase flexibility, depending on the mandate. A fund's or client's investment of hedging strategies may be unable to achieve their objectives. These risks are in addition to the general “Derivatives Risks” described above.

Futures Contracts – We may enter into futures contracts on behalf of client accounts, including currency, bond, commodity, index and interest rate futures, for investment purposes, for risk management (hedging) purposes, and to increase flexibility. The volatility of futures contracts prices has been historically greater than the volatility of stocks and bonds. The liquidity of the futures markets depends on participants entering into off-setting transactions rather than making or taking delivery. To the extent participants decide to make or take delivery, liquidity in the futures market could be reduced. In addition, futures exchanges often impose a maximum permissible price movement on each futures contract for each trading session. A client's account may be disadvantaged if it is prohibited from executing a trade outside the daily permissible price movement.

General Partner Risk – Governing documents often limit the circumstances under which a general partner, manager and their affiliates can be held liable to a real estate fund or a private fund, generally. As a result, investors may have a more limited right of action in certain cases than they would otherwise have in the absence of this provision.

Growth Investing Risk – As a category, growth stocks may underperform value stocks (and the stock market as a whole) over any period of time. Because the prices of growth stocks are based largely on the expectation of future earnings, growth stock prices can decline rapidly and significantly in reaction to negative news about such factors as earnings, the economy, political developments, or other news.

High Yield Risk – Portfolios that invest in high yield securities, lower-rated or unrated securities, may be subject to greater levels of credit and liquidity risk than accounts that do not invest in such securities. These securities are considered predominately speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments. An economic downturn or period of rising interest rates could adversely affect the market for these securities and lead to liquidity risk. If the issuer of a security is in default with respect to interest or principal payments, an account may lose its entire investment.

Inflation-Indexed Bond Risk – Any rise in interest rates may cause inflation-indexed bonds to decline in price, hurting the portfolio's performance. If interest rates rise owing to reasons other than inflation, the portfolio's investment in these securities may not be fully protected from the effects of rising interest rates. The performance of any bonds that are indexed to non-U.S. rates of inflation may be higher or lower than those indexed to U.S. inflation rates. A portfolio's actual returns could fail to match the real rate of inflation.

Initial Public Offering ("IPO") Risk – Prices of securities bought in an IPO may rise and fall rapidly, often because of investor perceptions rather than economic reasons.

Insurance Risk – When owning or managing properties, there are additional risks that might not present themselves as compared to traditional asset classes. While the properties may in some cases be insured, this is no way an insurance of investment or principal and there are various uninsured and/or uninsurable risks that are present (such as natural disaster) and therefore investment carries greater risk of loss.

Interest Rate Risk – Changes in interest rates will affect the value of a portfolio's investments in fixed income securities. When interest rates rise, the value of investments in fixed income securities tend to fall, and this decrease in value may not be offset by higher income from new investments. Interest rate risk is generally greater for fixed-income securities with longer maturities or durations.

Inverse Floating Rate Securities Risk – The interest payment received on inverse floating rate securities ("inverse floaters") generally will decrease when short-term interest rates increase. Inverse floaters are derivatives that involve leverage and could magnify a client's gains or losses.

Investment Company and Exchange-Traded Fund ("ETF") Risk – An investment in an investment company or ETF involves substantially the same risks as investing directly in the underlying securities. An investment company or ETF may not achieve its investment objective or execute its investment strategy effectively, which may adversely affect your portfolio's performance. A portfolio must pay its pro-rata portion of an investment company's or ETF's fees and expenses. Shares of a closed-end investment company or ETF may trade at a premium or discount to the net asset value of its portfolio securities.

Issuer Risk – The value of a security may decline for a number of reasons which directly relate to the issuer, such as management performance, financial leverage and reduced demand for the issuer's goods or services, as well as the historical and prospective earnings of the issuer and the value of its assets.

Key Person Risk – Underlying funds are generally reliant on certain key investment personnel employed in managing assets. Termination, disability, death, or departure of key personnel could adversely affect the underlying fund and its performance.

Liquidity Risk – In certain situations, it may be difficult or impossible to sell an investment in an orderly fashion at an acceptable price.

Managed Futures Strategy/Commodities Risk – Exposure to the commodities markets (including financial futures markets) through investment in managed futures programs may cause greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. Prices of commodities and related contracts may fluctuate significantly over short periods for a variety of reasons, including changes in interest rates, supply and demand relationships and balances of payments and trade; weather and natural disasters; and governmental, agricultural, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies. The commodity markets are subject to temporary distortions and other disruptions. U.S. futures exchanges and some foreign exchanges have regulations that limit the amount of fluctuation in futures contract prices which may occur during a single business day. Limit prices have the effect of precluding trading in a particular contract or forcing the liquidation of contracts at disadvantageous times or prices.

Management Risk – We will apply our investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for your portfolio, but there is no guarantee that our techniques will produce the intended results. For research or investment techniques that incorporate or rely upon quantitative models, there is no guarantee that these mathematical models will generate accurate forecasts, reduce risks or otherwise produce the intended results.

Market Capitalization Risk (Small-, Mid- and Large-Cap Stocks Risk) – To the extent an investment emphasizes small-, mid-, or large-cap stocks, it takes on the associated risks. At any given time, any of these market capitalizations may be out of favor with investors. Compared to small- and mid-cap companies, large-cap companies may be less responsive to changes and opportunities, but their returns have sometimes led those of smaller companies, often with lower volatility. The stocks of small- and mid-cap companies may fluctuate more widely in price than the market as a whole, may be difficult to sell when the economy is not robust or during market downturns, and may be more affected than other types of stocks by the underperformance of a sector or during market downturns. In addition, compared to large-cap companies, small- and mid-cap companies may depend on a more limited management group, may have a shorter history of operations, and may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources. There may also be less trading in small- or mid-cap stocks, which means that buy and sell transactions in those stocks could have a larger impact on a stock's price than is the case with large-cap stocks.

Market Risk – The value of a portfolio's assets will fluctuate along with the markets. The value of your investments may decline, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably, simply because of economic changes or other events that affect large portions of the market.

Mortgage-Related and Other Asset-Backed Securities Risk – Mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities often involve risks that are different from or more acute than risks associated with other types of debt instruments. Generally, rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of fixed rate mortgage-related securities, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. Consequently, in a period of rising interest rates, if an account holds mortgage-related securities, it may exhibit additional volatility. This is known as extension risk. In addition, adjustable and fixed rate mortgage-related securities are subject to prepayment risk. When interest rates decline, borrowers may pay off their mortgages sooner than expected. This can reduce the returns of an account because the account may have to reinvest that money at the lower prevailing interest rates. A portfolio's investments in other asset-backed securities are subject to risks similar to those associated with mortgage-related securities, as well as additional risks associated with the nature of the assets and the servicing of those assets.

Multi-Jurisdictional Investment – The investments we make may be subject to a variety of jurisdictions, each of which may have unique economic, political, social, cultural, business and labor environments, laws, regulations, accounting practices and business customs. These differences may be considerable and no single method of investment can be applied uniformly or be expected to produce uniform results.

Multi-Manager Investing Risk – A strategy's relative performance is subject to the investment decisions made by each underlying fund or manager. The performance of a small number of underlying funds or managers could affect overall performance. Additionally, underlying funds may compete with one another from time to time for the same positions in the market and may potentially hold opposite positions in the



same securities. Consequently, there can be no assurance that a diversification strategy implemented will be successful.

Multiple Levels of Fees and Expense Risk – Fund –of-fund and multiple manager strategy will generally incur certain fees at two levels: the fund of funds vehicle and the underlying funds themselves. These fees potentially include both management and performance fees, which may increase the expense of the strategy, thus affecting investor returns. Additionally, investor returns may be adversely affected during periods in which there are overall portfolio losses due to the potential that performance fees may be earned by one or more of the underlying portfolio managers.

Municipal Securities Risk – A portfolio may be impacted by events in the municipal securities market. Negative events, such as severe fiscal difficulties, an economic downturn, unfavorable legislation, court rulings or political developments, or reduced monetary support from the federal government, could hurt a portfolio's performance.

Non-Discretionary Account Risk – There may be circumstances where Aberdeen provides positive advice in writing concerning an underlying fund or manager, but a non-discretionary client chooses not to act on that advice. Aberdeen may or may not have made a discretionary investment in or with the underlying fund or manager for its discretionary clients. If, subsequently, Aberdeen's opinion of such underlying fund or manager changes and Aberdeen decides to redeem from the underlying fund or manager on behalf of its discretionary clients, Aberdeen may or may not inform its non-discretionary advisory clients of the decision to redeem. Therefore, advisory clients should not rely on stale advice from Aberdeen to make investments in or with underlying funds or managers. Aberdeen recommends that non-discretionary advisory clients request that investment advice provided by Aberdeen concerning an underlying fund or manager be refreshed after the passage of 30 days. Aberdeen cannot be held responsible for investments made with managers or underlying funds after such point in the event it has not been requested to refresh its advice/due diligence.

Non-Diversification Risk – A portfolio may invest in securities of a relatively few issuers. Therefore, the performance of one or a small number of holdings can affect a portfolio's overall performance.

Operational Risk – A portfolio may suffer a loss arising from shortcomings or failures in internal processes, people or systems, or from external events. This risk can arise from many factors ranging from routine processing errors to potentially costly incidents related to, for example, major systems failures.

Options – In order for a call option to be profitable, the market price of the underlying security must rise sufficiently above the exercise price to cover the premium and transaction costs. These costs will reduce any profit that might have realized had it bought the underlying security at the time it purchased the call option. For a put option to be profitable, the market price of the underlying security must decline sufficiently below the exercise price to cover the premium and transaction costs. By using put options in this manner, an account will reduce any profit it might otherwise have realized from appreciation of the underlying security by the premium paid for the put option and by transaction costs. If a put option is sold, there is a risk that we may be required to buy the underlying asset at a disadvantageous price. If a call option is sold, there is a risk that we may be required to sell the underlying asset at a disadvantageous price. If an account sells a call option on an underlying asset that an account owns and the underlying asset has increased in value when the call option is exercised, the account will be required to sell the underlying asset at the call price and will not be able to realize any of the underlying asset's value above the call price.

Political and Economic Risk – Economic and/or political instability could lead to legal, fiscal and regulatory changes or the reversal of legal, fiscal, regulatory and/or market reforms.

Pricing Risk – If market conditions make it difficult to value some investments, we may internally value these investments using more subjective methods such as fair value pricing. In these cases, the value determined for an investment could differ from the value realized upon such investment's sale.

Real Estate Risk – We will be subject to the risks inherent in the ownership, operation, repositioning and development of real estate and real estate-related businesses and assets. These risks include, but are not limited to, the burdens of ownership of real estate property; general and local economic conditions; the

supply and demand for properties; the competition for real estate assets; energy and supply shortages; fluctuations in the average occupancy and room rates for hotel properties; the financial resources of tenants, buyers and sellers; changes in building, environmental and other laws and/or regulations; changes in real estate property tax rates; changes in interest rates and the availability of mortgage funds which may render the sale or refinancing of properties difficult or impracticable; negative developments in the economy that depress travel activity; environmental liabilities; contingent liabilities on disposition of assets; uninsured or uninsurable casualties; natural disasters, terrorist attacks; and war and other factors which are beyond our control. There is no assurance that there will be a ready market for resale of investments because investments will generally not be liquid. Illiquidity may result from the absence of an established market for the investments, as well as legal or contractual restrictions on their resale by our firm or our investments.

Repurchase Agreements Risk – In the instance that an underlying fund manager enters into a repurchase agreement for a security, there can be no guarantee that the transferee of the securities in the agreement will not default. Therefore, any investment of the sort bears the risk of default of the transferee.

Restrictions on Transfer and Illiquidity of Shares – The shares held in private Funds, including funds of hedge funds and the underlying funds are generally not registered under any securities laws and, therefore, cannot be resold in a public market. Consequently, investors do not have the right to withdraw their investment other than in accordance with the prescribed redemption procedures of the underlying funds. These redemption procedures may be suspended due to certain circumstances that could further affect withdrawals. This potential illiquidity of shares could adversely affect NAV and result in delays in receiving redemptions.

Short Sale Risk – Short sales are subject to special risks. A short sale involves the sale by an account of a security that it does not own with the hope of purchasing the same security at a later date at a lower price. An account may also enter into a short position through a forward commitment or a short derivative position through a futures contract or swap agreement. If the price of the security or derivative has increased during this time, then the account will incur a loss equal to the increase in price from the time that the short sale was entered into plus any premiums and interest paid to the third party. Therefore, short sales involve the risk that losses may be exaggerated, potentially losing more money than the actual cost of the investment.

Short Term Trading Risk – Short-term trading may result in increased turnover, higher than normal brokerage commissions (including soft commissions) and other expenses.

Swaps/Contracts for Differences – Swaps/Contracts for Differences involve greater risks than direct investment in the underlying securities, because swaps are subject to the risks related to “Derivatives” described above, including counterparty credit risk. These transactions or instruments are also subject to the particular risk that they could result in losses if the underlying asset or reference does not perform as anticipated. In a total return swap or contract for differences transaction, one party agrees to pay the other party an amount equal to the total return of a defined underlying asset (such as an equity security or basket of such securities) or a non-asset reference (such as an index) during a specified period of time. In return, the other party would make periodic payments based on a fixed or variable interest rate or on the total return from a different underlying asset or non-asset reference. Such transactions can have the potential for unlimited losses.

Tax Risk – Tax laws and regulations applicable to an account are subject to change, and unanticipated tax liabilities could be incurred by investors as a result of such changes. Investors should consult their own tax advisers to determine the potential tax-related consequences of investing.

Valuation Risk – The lack of active trading markets may make it difficult to obtain an accurate price for a security held in a portfolio.

Value Investing Risk – As a category, value stocks may underperform growth stocks (and the stock market as a whole) over any period of time. Value investing attempts to identify companies that a portfolio manager believes to be undervalued. Value stocks typically have prices that are low relative to factors such as earnings, cash flow or dividends. A value investing style may perform better or worse than equity portfolios that focus on growth stocks or that have a broader investment style.

## **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of AAMAL or the integrity of AAMAL's management. We have no information applicable to this Item.

## **Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

We are committed to providing clients with service of the highest quality and we are guided by the principle that we act in the best interests of our clients. Nevertheless, there are circumstances where client interests conflict with our interests or the interests of other clients. Some of these conflicts of interest are inherent to our business. We have policies and procedures that are designed to ensure that we are always acting in the best interests of our clients.

We are a wholly owned subsidiary of Aberdeen PLC, a global financial services company. We are affiliated with various U.S. investment advisers, a broker-dealer and pooled investment vehicles, among other financial entities. We occasionally may engage in business activities with some or all of these companies, subject to our policies and procedures governing how we handle conflicts of interest. We may use our affiliates to provide other services to our clients to the extent permitted under applicable law.

We provide advice for numerous clients. We may advise some clients or take actions for them that differ from recommendations or actions taken for other clients. We are not obligated to recommend to clients any investments that we may recommend to or purchase or sell for other clients. Our employees regularly share information, perceptions, advice and recommendations about market trends, the valuations of individual securities, and investment strategies, except where prohibited by ethical walls established by us or by applicable law or regulation. Persons associated with us may have investments in securities that are recommended to clients or held in client accounts, subject to compliance with our policies regarding personal securities trading.

We do not serve, or have an application pending to serve, as commodity trading adviser, a futures commission merchant or a commodity pool operator for clients.

### Investment Companies

We serve as an investment adviser and administrator for a number of U.S. registered investment companies. We also serve as a sub-adviser for various other U.S. registered investment companies.

### Investment Advisers

In rendering investment advisory services, we may use the resources of additional investment adviser subsidiaries of Aberdeen PLC. These affiliates have entered into a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) with us pursuant to which investment professionals from each affiliate may render portfolio management, research or trading services to our clients. We may share personnel, research and other resources with our affiliated U.S. registered investment advisers (Aberdeen Asset Management Inc. (“AAM Inc”) in the United States, Aberdeen Asset Management Ltd. (“AAM Aus”) in Australia and Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited (“AAML”) in the United Kingdom) under our personnel sharing procedures. Additionally, Aberdeen Capital Management, LLC (“Aberdeen Capital” or “ACM”) and Arden Asset Management, LLC (“Arden”) are wholly owned subsidiaries of AAM Inc and each is a registered investment adviser with the SEC.

In executing trades on behalf of our clients, we may use the resources of our Aberdeen PLC affiliates. These affiliates have entered into a global trading agreement pursuant to which professionals from each affiliate may execute trades on behalf of our clients. The use of affiliates to execute trades under the global trading agreement does not alter or change the entity making investment decisions for the client accounts.

### Other Positions

Principals and employees of Aberdeen may serve as officers, advisors, directors or provide comparable management functions for public companies and/or portfolio companies in which clients directly or indirectly invest, as well as for investment institutions that may invest in Aberdeen funds. In addition, such principals and employees may provide other services to public companies and/or portfolio companies and may receive compensation in connection therewith. Principals and employees of Aberdeen may be provided access to confidential information relating to public companies and/or portfolio companies in which clients may directly or indirectly invest. As a result, clients may, under certain circumstances, be prohibited for a period of time from engaging in transactions with respect to the securities of such public companies and/or portfolio companies, which prohibition may have an adverse effect on clients.

#### Selection or Recommendation of Other Advisers

As a manager of fund-of-funds, Aberdeen may select other investment advisers for its clients. Certain of Aberdeen's principals, employees and/or related persons may be invited to serve on the advisory boards of the underlying Private Equity Funds in which clients invest to provide advice on certain conflicts of interest and other matters pertaining to such Private Equity Funds. There may be instances where such persons are asked to vote on issues taking the needs of all investors in such Private Equity Funds into account. Additionally, such persons may receive compensation for such services. Any such compensation will be applied to the appropriate Private Equity Fund to reduce the management fees paid to Aberdeen.

#### Business Alliances

Aberdeen PLC has entered into a business and capital alliance with Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation ("MUTB"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. ("MUFG"), a Japanese banking institution listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Under the terms of the business alliance, MUTB has agreed to promote certain of our products in the Japanese institutional marketplace. The agreement gives MUTB exclusive rights to distribute selected products to Japanese institutional investors. The products include emerging market equities, global equities, and global fixed income. As of September 30, 2016, MUTB own between 15 and 20% of the outstanding shares of Aberdeen PLC on an undiluted basis and under the terms of the capital alliance Mr. Akira Suzuki was appointed as a non-executive director of Aberdeen PLC.

As a result of the Aberdeen's acquisition of Scottish Widows Investment Partnership in 2014, Aberdeen has entered into a long-term strategic relationship with Lloyds Banking Group plc ("Lloyds"). This strategic relationship operates across Lloyds' Wealth, Insurance, Commercial Banking and Retail businesses and is expected to result in a stronger asset management offering for customers. As of September 30, 2016, Lloyds Bank holds 129,033,779 shares (9.79%) of the issued share capital of AAM PLC directly. In addition, Lloyds Bank has an existing indirect shareholding of approximately (0.722%) by virtue of AAM PLC shareholdings currently being held by various other subsidiaries within the Lloyds Banking Group plc taking the total shareholding to 10.51%.

## **Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading**

### Code of Ethics and Personal Trading

From time to time, Aberdeen or our directors, officers, employees or affiliates may, directly or indirectly, have interests in securities owned by or recommended to our clients. These situations may represent a potential conflict of interest, so we have adopted a Code of Ethics (the “Code”), in accordance with Rule 204A-1 of the Adviser’s Act, to govern personal transactions by our directors, officers, and employees (“Access Persons”) in order to ensure that their interests do not conflict with the interests of our clients.

The Code mitigates potential conflicts of interest by requiring, among other things, pre-clearance of transactions in Reportable Securities placed in reportable accounts (as defined in the Code). The Code restricts the purchase and sale by Access Persons for their own accounts of Reportable Securities, which have been purchased or sold for funds or clients within specified time limits. Except under certain limited circumstances, Access Persons may not engage in a personal transaction in a Reportable Security for which an order for a fund or client is pending or within seven (7) calendar days before or after execution of a client order. Provided that there are no open orders for Clients in these securities, this blackout period does not apply to: 1) the treasury securities issued by G8 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom and United States) as well as Brazil; 2) shares of stock of a company listed on the S&P 500 Index or the FTSE 100 Index; 3) shares of an exchange traded fund based on an exchange-traded fund (ETF) that tracks the S&P 500 Index or the FTSE 100 Index; and 4) government-guaranteed bonds available only to individual investors.

Access Persons are subject to reporting obligations, including completing quarterly transaction and annual holdings reports. Access Persons are required to direct their brokers to send copies of all brokerage confirmations and statements to their local Compliance Department. Alternatively, Access Persons can have the information sent by the broker via electronic feed, if available. Our procedures recognize that some Access Persons either reside in countries or maintain brokers where such statements are not regularly issued or available, and therefore these individuals are exempt from providing quarterly statements within a specific time period. In such circumstances, brokerage statements or their equivalent holdings reports must be provided as available. Employees must fully acknowledge the terms of Aberdeen’s compliance manual, which include the Code, on an annual basis. Any employee who violates the Code may be subject to verbal or written warnings and censures, monetary sanctions, disengagement, suspensions or dismissal.

Additionally, the Code includes provisions for employees relating to the confidentiality of client information, a prohibition on insider trading, a rumors policy, dollar restrictions on the value of accepted gifts and hospitality, and requires that certain outside business activities are approved in advance.

Clients or prospective clients may request a free copy of the Code by contacting AAMAL at (+65) 6395-2700.

### Our Approach to Potential Conflicts of Interest

Various parts of our brochure discuss potential conflicts of interest that arise from our asset management business model. We disclose these conflicts due to the fiduciary relationship we have with our clients. Where potential conflicts of interest arise from our fiduciary activities, we take steps to mitigate, or at least disclose, them. Conflicts arising from fiduciary activities that we cannot avoid are mitigated through written policies and procedures. Potential conflicts may arise from new products or services, operational changes, new reporting lines and market developments.

### Gifts and Hospitality

We have policies and procedures in place, including the Code, which prohibit employees from accepting gifts, hospitality and other things of material value that may create a conflict of interest or give the appearance of a conflict of interest. Additionally, our employees may not offer gifts, hospitality or other things of material value that could be viewed as attempting to unduly influence the decision-making of any client or other business partner. In general, our policies dictate that giving and receiving gifts or participating in hospitality cannot occur if the value and/or the frequency of the gift or hospitality are deemed excessive or extravagant. The policies impose specific dollar restrictions and require compliance approval of gifts and

hospitality. Additional restrictions regarding gifts apply to our employees who are registered representatives of our affiliated broker-dealer.

#### Participation or Interest in Client Transactions

Potential conflicts of interest may exist if an investment adviser or one of its related persons buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which the Adviser or a related person has a material financial interest. We may recommend to clients that they buy or sell shares of an investment company or other investment product in which we have some financial interest by serving as adviser or sub-adviser to a fund or other product. Some of the investment companies, including private funds, are subject to a performance-based incentive fee. Employees providing advice to these funds may also hold interests in such performance-based funds and may also provide investment advisory services with respect to similarly managed accounts that are not subject to performance fees.

We may manage private funds and sub-advised investment companies similarly in that we may buy or sell the same securities for both the private funds and sub-advised funds. These transactions must be consistent with our trade allocation procedures so that no fund is favored over any other fund. In addition, and only in accordance with our policies and procedures, employees are permitted to invest in securities (including those recommended to clients) for their own accounts.

AAMAL's officers or directors may sit on the boards, and board committees, of publicly traded clients. In addition, employees may buy or sell securities for a client where we may have a material interest in a security or issuer of a security. A material interest could include owning a security, office, directorship, significant contract, interest or relationship which is likely to affect the person's judgment. In these cases, AAMAL or our employees could benefit from the success of a client's investments because of our interest in the security or issuer of the security. We maintain procedures to mitigate these potential conflicts.

#### Adviser for Multiple Accounts

We serve as investment adviser or sub-adviser to client accounts, including registered investment companies. Consistent with our fiduciary obligations, we may give advice with respect to funds or accounts we manage that may differ from action taken by our firm on behalf of other funds or accounts. We are not obligated to recommend, buy or sell—or to refrain from recommending, buying or selling—any security that any of AAMAL, our affiliates or our Access Persons, may buy or sell for their own accounts or for the accounts of any other client. Any company associated with AAMAL that wishes to purchase or sell securities of the types purchased for clients may do so only in a manner consistent with our fiduciary obligations. We are not obligated to refrain from investing in securities held by funds or accounts it manages, except if the investments violate the Code.

#### Market Conduct Policy and Use of Expert Networks

We have adopted a Market Conduct Policy in accordance with Section 204A of the Advisers Act, which establishes procedures to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by AAMAL, our officers, directors and employees. Any officer, director or employee who fails to observe the insider trading policy risks serious sanctions, including dismissal and personal liability.

From time to time, employees of AAMAL may obtain, either voluntarily or involuntarily, material non-public information that is not available to other investors or other confidential information which, if disclosed, would likely affect an investor's decision to buy, sell or hold a security. Such information may be provided from various possible sources including upon execution of a non-disclosure agreement, as a result of serving on the board of directors of a portfolio company or serving on ad hoc or official creditors' committees. Under applicable law, employees are generally prohibited from disclosing or using such information for their personal benefit or for the benefit of any other person, regardless of whether that person is an Aberdeen client.

Accordingly, should an employee receive, either voluntarily or involuntarily, material non-public information with respect to an issuer, it may be prohibited from communicating such information to, or using such information for the benefit of, clients, which could limit the ability of clients to buy, sell or hold investments and can also result in an underlying security or investment being priced inconsistently across clients. Even if AAMAL or our affiliates request material non-public information, AAMAL shall have no

obligation or responsibility to disclose such information to, or use such information for the benefit of, any person (including AAMAL clients), even if failure to do so would be detrimental to the interests of such person. In this connection, AAMAL has adopted an Market Conduct Policy, which establishes procedures reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by AAMAL and our personnel. Under the Market Conduct Policy, AAMAL employees are not permitted to use material non-public information obtained by any department or affiliate of AAMAL in the course of its business activities or otherwise, in effecting purchases and sales in securities transactions for our clients or for their personal accounts. Consequently, we may not be able to engage in investment activity that they would otherwise take were they not in receipt of such information, even if a failure to act on such information may ultimately be detrimental to our clients. In addition, use of such information would also be prohibited by the Policies.

Aberdeen may utilize expert network services to obtain market, sector, company or other information. There may be an inherent conflict of interest in such arrangements as the experts are financially incented to provide information to justify their position within the network. Aberdeen has policies and procedures in place to deal with such conflicts as well as risk of receiving inside information via the use of expert network services.

#### Charitable Contributions

From time to time, clients or certain financial intermediaries may approach AAMAL to request that we make contributions to certain charitable organizations. Because our contribution may result in the financial intermediary or our employees or representatives recommending us or our affiliated investment advisers' products to their underlying clients, the solicitation or contribution raises potential conflicts of interest. Consequently, we maintain procedures for the review of the dollar amount and frequency for these types of charitable contributions.

#### Political Contributions

None of AAMAL's funds or assets may be contributed to any U.S. political candidate or political party. This ban includes contributions to U.S. political action committees ("PACs").

Financial contributions and non-financial contributions, such as gifts, subscriptions, or anything of value, (together "Contributions") made to certain U.S. political campaigns may raise potential conflicts of interest because of the ability of certain office holders to direct business to AAMAL.

Employees are therefore prohibited from making Contributions to any person running for or holding a U.S. city, county, state or other municipality-related position. This prohibition includes Contributions to U.S. city, county, state or other municipality-related PACs. Employees are permitted to make contributions to persons holding or campaigning for a federal position as long as such person does not also hold a city, county or state position however, Employees may not allow present or anticipated business relationships of AAMAL to be a factor and must seek approval from AAMAL's Compliance Department before soliciting such Contributions. Additionally, Contributions to federal PACs are permissible. In both cases, approval from AAMAL's Compliance Department must be received before making a Contribution. Employees are prohibited from doing indirectly what they cannot do directly and, as such, cannot funnel payments through third parties, including, for example, consultants, attorneys and/or family members, as a means to circumvent the Political Contributions policy. The solicitation and coordination restrictions relate only to fundraising activities and would not prevent advisers and their covered employees from expressing support for candidates in other ways, such as volunteering their time.

Employees are permitted to solicit U.S. political contributions for federal elections as long as such person does not also hold a city, county or state position.

Any federal political Contributions made or solicited by employees should be viewed as personal. Therefore, employees should never represent themselves as employees of AAMAL when participating in these activities (e.g., the use of AAMAL's letterhead for correspondence regarding these contributions is prohibited). Under Rule 206(4)-5 of the Advisers Act, the Advisers will ensure that any third party solicitor used to solicit government clients are a "Regulated Person" as defined by the Rule.



#### Directorships and Outside Business Activities

Access Persons are permitted to serve on the boards of directors of non-profit organizations such as educational institutions, charitable foundations or other civic organizations. Access Persons are not permitted to serve on the board of directors of any publicly traded company without prior authorization. Authorization is generally based upon a determination that the board service would be consistent with the interests of the firm and the clients under their management.

In general, all Access Persons' Outside Business Activities are tracked and reviewed by AAMAL's Compliance Department to ensure they do not conflict with the duty that we owe to clients.

#### Material Non-Public Information

Our investment personnel, in the course of research or other related activities, may from time to time acquire confidential or material, non-public information that may prevent AAMAL from purchasing or selling particular securities for certain clients. Consequently, certain clients could realize a positive or negative impact to overall performance. We maintain policies and procedures for handling material, non-public information.

#### Initial Account Funding

We may purchase and sell securities for accounts funded with our own assets, which also is known as "seed capital." These accounts are intended to establish a performance history for a new or potential product or service. We may earn a profit on our seed capital investments.

## Item 12 – Brokerage Practices

### Broker-Dealer Selection and Best Execution

We have established policies and procedures designed to assess and monitor the broker-dealers selected to execute client transactions. We do not adhere to a rigid formula in making the selection of a broker-dealer for portfolio transactions, but rather weigh a combination of certain factors. When selecting a broker-dealer for client transactions, we look at price, transaction costs, reasonableness of commissions, speed, efficiency, knowledge of particular securities, likelihood of execution and settlement, size and type of transaction, settlement capabilities, reputation, nature and any other consideration relevant to the best execution of that order. In selecting broker-dealers and in effecting portfolio transactions we seek to obtain best execution. Steps associated with seeking best execution are: (1) determining each client's trading requirements; (2) selecting appropriate trading methods, venues, and agents to execute the trades under the circumstances; (3) evaluating market liquidity of each security and taking appropriate steps to avoid excessive market impact; (4) maintaining client confidentiality and proprietary information inherent in the decision to trade; and (5) reviewing the results on a periodic basis. We review the above criteria on an ongoing basis.

When selecting or recommending for client transactions, a broker or service provider, we will consider, among other things, the following:

- Professional reputation;
- Ability to provide clear, impartial and expert advice;
- Understanding of and presence in the relevant market; and
- Potential for or actual conflicts of interest.

We may, at a client's direction, also direct a broker to execute a trade and "step out" a portion of the trade and/or commission to another broker that provides brokerage or research-related services to Aberdeen. The use of step out transactions may result in information about our trading activity being disclosed to other trading firms and investors who may seek to take advantage of this information.

If a client requires preauthorization of trades, such trades may not be commingled or "batched" for purposes of execution with orders for the same securities for other accounts we manage. Therefore, such trades may be executed subsequent to the trades executed for other accounts we manage and at different prices and commission rates which may be better or worse than the rates received for batched trades.

We may use Electronic Communications Networks ("ECN") or Alternative Trading Systems ("ATS") to execute when, in our judgment, the use of an ECN or ATS may result in equal or more favorable overall executions for the transactions.

With respect to non-discretionary model delivery accounts (including UMA accounts), we will deliver model changes subsequent to commencing trading on behalf of our discretionary accounts. Model changes are typically delivered on a security by security basis. The timing of such delivery is determined by AAMAL and will depend on the anticipated market impact of trading. Market impact includes, but is not limited to, factors such as liquidity and price impact. When minimal market impact is anticipated, we typically deliver security level model changes after such time when approximately two-thirds of our full discretionary order has been executed. Although we anticipate delivering model changes of such securities after approximately two-thirds of the discretionary order has been executed, we may deliver model changes prior to or substantially after two-thirds have been executed depending on prevailing market conditions and trader discretion. With respect to securities for which we anticipate a more significant market impact, we intend to withhold model deliver changes until such time when the entire discretionary order has been fully executed. Anticipated market impact on any given security is determined at the sole discretion of AAMAL based on prior market experience and current market conditions. Actual market impact may vary significantly from anticipated market impact. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, we may provide order instructions simultaneously or prior to completion of trading for other accounts if the trade represents a relatively small proportion of the average daily trading volume of the particular security or other instrument.

Aberdeen does not trade for non-discretionary model delivery clients. Because model changes may be delivered to non-discretionary model clients prior to the completion of Aberdeen's discretionary account

trading, Aberdeen may compete against these clients in the market when attempting to execute its orders for its discretionary accounts. As a result, our discretionary clients may experience negative price and liquidity impact due to multiple market participants attempting to trade in a similar direction on the same security.

Timing delays or other operational factors associated with the implementation of trades may result in non-discretionary and model delivery clients receiving materially different prices relative to other client accounts. This may create performance dispersions within accounts with the same or similar investment mandate.

#### Commission Rates

We seek to minimize the expenses incurred for effecting portfolio transactions to the extent consistent with the interests and policies of our clients. However, we will not select broker-dealers solely on the basis of “posted” commission rates. We will not always seek in advance competitive bidding for the most favorable commission rate applicable to any particular portfolio transaction. Although we generally seek competitive commission rates, we will not necessarily pay the lowest commission. Transactions may involve specialized services on the part of the broker-dealer involved, resulting in higher commissions.

The reasonableness of commissions is based on the broker-dealer’s ability to provide professional services, best execution and research, which will help us in providing investment management services to clients. As long as best execution is achieved, we may use a broker-dealer who provides useful research even though a lower commission may be charged by a broker-dealer who offers no research services.

Fixed income trades are placed based on best price and execution as determined by our review of solicited bids/offers. We may contact several companies in soliciting any bid/offer. Potential avenues of execution are placed in competition with one another to the extent reasonably possible whenever the portfolio managers look to buy or sell a bond. One of our measures of achieving best execution is executing a transaction with a qualified and capable counterparty that bids or offers the most favorable price under the circumstances. When buying or selling fixed income securities in dealer markets, we may prefer to deal directly with market-makers in the securities. We will typically effect these trades on a net basis, and will not pay the market-maker any commission, commission-equivalent or markup/markdown other than the “spread.” A “spread” is the difference between the price paid (or received) by our firm and the price received (or paid) by the market-maker in trades with other broker-dealers or other customers. Brokers through whom we execute trades may receive compensation from exchanges, market-makers and other intermediaries related to orders routed by the broker to those intermediaries.

In appointing a broker or service provider for client transactions, we will consider the proposed level of fee given, among other things:

- The scope of activities to be undertaken in relation to the client transaction;
- Local market rates for the activities to be undertaken in relation to the client transaction; and
- The ability to deliver the transaction in a timely fashion and in the best interest of the client.

#### Research and Soft Dollar Benefits

We may obtain research products and execution services from broker-dealers that may be used to execute client transactions as well as through commission sharing arrangements. As Aberdeen places high focus on internal research, external research obtained through soft dollars or otherwise constitutes a relatively small percentage of the overall analysis conducted.

When appropriate, under discretionary authority and consistent with our duty to obtain best execution, we may execute transactions for client accounts with broker-dealers who provide us with research and brokerage products. The brokerage commissions used to acquire research in these arrangements are known as “soft dollars,” which can also include “commission sharing arrangements.” SEC regulations provide a “safe harbor” which allows an investment adviser to pay for research and brokerage services with the commission dollars generated by client account transactions. Consistent with this, and obtaining best execution, brokerage commissions on client portfolio transactions may be allocated to broker-dealers in recognition of research services furnished by them, as well as for services rendered in the execution of orders by such broker-dealers. If we utilize soft dollars to acquire research, it may be used to service the accounts of our subsidiaries in cases where the subsidiaries have agreed to share research. We have the incentive to execute

transactions with, and pay commissions to, broker-dealers who provide us with brokerage and research. When client commissions are used, we receive an inherent benefit because we do not have to produce or pay for research on our own. We will determine in good faith that the value of services received is reasonable in relation to the commissions paid.

Broker-dealers typically provide a bundle of services including research and execution of transactions. The research provided can be either proprietary (created and provided by the broker-dealer, including tangible research products as well as access to analysts) or third-party (created by a third party but provided by broker-dealer). We may use soft dollars to acquire either type of research.

The receipt of research in exchange for soft dollars benefits our firm by allowing us, at no cost, to supplement our own research and analysis activities, and to receive the views and information of individuals and research employees of other securities firms. Research and brokerage services acquired with soft dollars may include reports on the economy, industries, sectors and individual companies or issuers.

The determination and evaluation of the reasonableness of brokerage commissions paid in connection with portfolio transactions are based primarily on the professional opinions of the persons responsible for the placement and review of such transactions. These opinions are formed on the basis of, among other things, the experience of these individuals in the securities industry and information available to them concerning the level of commissions being paid by other investors of comparable size and type. We may select broker-dealers based on our assessment of their ability to provide quality executions and our belief that the research, provided by such broker-dealers may benefit client accounts. Accordingly, broker-dealers that we select may be paid commissions for effecting portfolio transactions for client accounts in excess of amounts other broker-dealers would have charged for effecting similar transactions. This is done if we have determined, in good faith, that such amounts are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research provided by those broker-dealers, viewed either in terms of a particular transaction or our overall duty to our discretionary accounts.

Consistent with obtaining best execution, brokerage commissions on account portfolio transactions may be directed to broker-dealers in recognition of research provided by them, as well as for services rendered in the execution of orders by such broker-dealers. Research obtained with soft dollars may not be utilized for the specific account that generated the soft dollars and every research service may not be used to service every account we manage. In determining whether a service or product qualifies as research or brokerage, we evaluate whether the service or product provides us lawful and appropriate assistance in carrying out our investment decision-making responsibilities. We do not usually attempt to allocate the relative costs or benefits of research among client accounts because we believe that, in the aggregate, the research received benefits clients and assists us in fulfilling our overall duty to clients.

We generally do not enter into any agreement or understanding with any broker-dealer who would obligate us to direct a specific amount of brokerage transactions or commissions in return for research. To the extent that we choose to obtain a particular product, we may use our available soft dollar credits and pay cash to make up any difference. Further, if the product or service is a “mixed-use” item (products or services that provide both research and non-research benefits), we may use soft dollars for the research portion and pay cash for the non-research portion. Some funds or clients that we manage may have their own soft dollar policies which may differ, in some respects, from our procedures. We will use good faith judgment in making mixed-use allocation decisions.

While our policy is to seek best execution, we may select a broker for a portion of our trades which charges higher transaction costs if we determine in good faith that the cost is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research provided. Despite these potential conflicts, we believe that we are able to negotiate costs on client transactions that are competitive and consistent with our policy to seek best execution. In addition, we do not enter into agreements or understandings with any brokers regarding the placement of securities transactions because of the research they provide.

#### Directed Brokerage

We do not routinely recommend, request or require that any client execute transactions through any specific broker or service provider. However, we occasionally receive requests from clients to direct a portion or all of the commissions earned on their account through a specific broker-dealer in order to generate a benefit for

the client under such terms and arrangements as the client may negotiate with the particular broker or dealer. Where a client has directed the use of a particular broker-dealer, we may not be in a position to freely negotiate commission rates or spreads, to obtain volume discounts, or to select broker-dealers on the basis of best execution. In situations where the client has directed us to direct trades to a select broker, the client must forfeit best execution and should understand that we will enter into such arrangements on a “best efforts” basis. If a client directs us to use a particular broker-dealer for a transaction, it will not be commingled or “batched” for purposes of execution with orders for the same securities for other accounts we manage. Client-directed transactions may result in higher commissions, greater spreads, or less favorable net prices than might be the case if we were empowered to freely negotiate commission rates or spreads, or to select broker-dealers on the basis of best execution. It is AAMAL’s policy to accept these requests only under certain circumstances.

#### Trade Errors and Corrections

In the event that we cause a trade error, our policy states that we ensure that the error is resolved in the best interests of the client. This means that trades are adjusted as needed in order to put the client account in such a position as if the error had never occurred. We review all trade errors to ensure they are resolved timely and accurately and that they do not indicate a recurrent pattern. In correcting trade errors, we or the party responsible for the error will bear the cost of correcting the error. Trade errors resulting in losses to client accounts will be reversed and the account compensated accordingly. Any gains resulting from trade errors discovered after settlement will be credited to the client account.

Sub-advisers are responsible for their own execution of trades, and are therefore not covered under Aberdeen’s Trade Error Policy. Sub-advisers are, however, expected to have sufficient policies and procedures with regards to trade error management that are in line with Aberdeen’s policy. AAMAL will, when appropriate, review sub-adviser trade error policies and procedures and periodically review with the sub-advisers whether any trade errors were resolved in conformity with policies and procedures disclosed to the Adviser.

#### Cross-Trades

We may cross-trade between and among certain client accounts in accordance with our written cross-trading procedures. We will only consider engaging in cross-transactions to the extent permitted by applicable law and will, to the extent required by law, obtain the necessary client consents. Clients may revoke their consent for agency cross-transactions at any time.

For Fund of Fund products, we may arrange for a transaction between two or more of the Funds, in which one Fund buys an interest in an underlying fund or other investment from, or sells such investment to, another Fund managed by Aberdeen. Each of these cross transaction is affected at “fair value,” which is generally the Net Asset Value of the underlying fund. Aberdeen receives no compensation (other than its management fee and incentive fee), directly or indirectly, for effecting a particular cross transaction. Although Aberdeen will receive no compensation for cross transactions, underlying funds may assess customary transfer fees or commissions in connection with any such cross transaction. Cross transactions may inure to the benefit of the selling and buying Funds. Avoidance of redemption fees, taking on aged positions with the avoidance of soft and hard lock-ups, and the preservation of high water marks, are examples of other value added benefits that can inure to the benefit of the buying or selling Funds when applicable.

When a potential cross transaction involves a Fund or account that has a significant beneficial ownership by Aberdeen or its affiliates and control persons, it will be considered whether this transaction should be treated as a principal transaction under Aberdeen’s procedures (and separate criteria would apply), rather than as a cross transaction. Under Aberdeen’s procedures, cross transactions are not permitted from or to any Fund or other account deemed to comprise “plan assets” pursuant to regulations under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or to or from a Registered Fund, without consideration of additional regulatory restrictions or approvals that are required by applicable law.

#### Foreign Exchange (“FX”) Transactions

We may execute currency transactions on an active basis through our currency trading desk, except where market restrictions in some emerging currencies exist and execution for trade settlement is arranged by the

custodian directly. In addition, certain of our asset management clients may direct their currency trades to their custodian banks for execution via standing instructions, and in such cases as well as in the case of restricted emerging currencies, we may not know the precise execution time of the FX trade and cannot influence the exchange rates applied to these trades.

#### Aggregation and Allocation

We may, to the extent appropriate, permissible and/or feasible, aggregate multiple client orders for the purchase or sale of the same security to achieve best execution. In the instance that the same security is bought or sold for a number of clients at approximately the same time, orders may also be aggregated. Due to the possibility of a price variation among executed transactions throughout the trading period, an “averaging” procedure is utilized, when possible. This procedure allocates securities to those clients participating in the order on a pro-rata basis (subject to rounding) at the average execution price of the purchases and sales attributable to a given block, unless otherwise directed by the client or deemed inappropriate for best execution. If pro-rata allocations are deemed inappropriate, we may implement either rotational or random allocations, provided the result is fair access over time to trading opportunities for all eligible accounts.

In the instance that an order is not completed on the same trading day, the partial fill will be allocated pro-rata among participating clients, unless otherwise directed or deemed inappropriate for best execution. Any unexecuted orders will continue until either the block order is complete or all component orders have been cancelled. If remaining positions are too small to satisfy the minimum order amount, we may decide to allocate the remaining shares to those accounts which did meet the minimum. We may also decide to allocate remaining shares to those accounts for which orders would be completed as a result of the allocation.

We seek to allocate opportunities to all clients in a consistent, fair manner. In accordance with our written policies and procedures, we may take special considerations when deciding on allocations, provided they are deemed fair and equitable to all clients. These special considerations may include—but are not limited to—cash flow changes; specialized investment objectives or restrictions of a particular client; specific bond trades; directed brokerage; limit orders; market restrictions; lot size; open bulk orders (market-to-market); new portfolio fundings; fungibility of certain security types; or new issuance allocations (debt or equity). Allocations may also take into consideration factors such as the particular market restrictions, size, nature, identity, or number of positions in a client’s portfolio, concentration and size of holdings, industry and sector exposure, purchase cost and cash availability, ability to obtain meaningful position sizes, liquidity, investment imbalances, prior participation in similar opportunities, limitations on the availability of an investment, special needs, trading considerations, whether the allocation would result in an account receiving an amount lower than the typical transaction size or an “odd lot”; and other factors. In addition, AAMAL may exclude certain accounts from an allocation if the size of the allocation would not satisfy certain minimum size thresholds established by AAMAL, a client, or by the issuer itself for operational reasons. Periodic reviews of client and account performance are conducted to ensure that trade allocations occur fairly and equitably over time, even though a specific trade may have the appearance or the effect of benefiting one account as against another when viewed in isolation.

Inevitably, not all clients, including clients with similar investment strategies, can participate in every investment opportunity, and clients who do participate in an investment cannot always participate to the same degree. AAMAL may determine that a limited supply of a particular opportunity or investment or other factors noted above may preclude the participation of some clients in a particular investment opportunity or trade. Similarly, when AAMAL determines to exit a position for some clients, other clients may not always participate, may not participate at the same time, or may not participate to an equal degree.

Where AAMAL manage advisory accounts through a Wrap Program, transactions will generally not be aggregated for those accounts with other types of accounts, nor will AAMAL elect block treatment for those accounts. However, trades for different Wrap Programs may be aggregated, or block treatment may be elected, to the extent that the programs utilize the same executing broker-dealer or other counterparty.

Where transactions for an account are not aggregated with other orders, including wrap fee accounts and directed brokerage accounts, or not netted against orders for the account or other accounts, the account may not benefit from a better price, lower commission rate, or lower transaction cost.

Aberdeen does not typically aggregate orders for its hedge funds clients. For such clients we seek to allocate transactions and opportunities among the various accounts in a manner we believe to be as equitable as possible over time, considering each account's objectives, programs, limitations and capital available for investment. Any potential conflicts are brought to the attention of Aberdeen's Hedge Fund Investment Committee in order to resolve them in an equitable and fair fashion. We apply the same general principles equally to decisions on which underlying funds or managers would be suitable to be recommended for non-discretionary advisory clients as for making decisions to invest for discretionary clients. However, since Aberdeen does not have discretion over allocation decisions in non-discretionary accounts, it is likely that the actual allocations will differ as between discretionary and non-discretionary accounts. In addition, there may be situations where we provide non-discretionary advice concerning an underlying fund or manager where there is no discretionary account for which the underlying fund or manager is suitable (or where there is no cash available in the discretionary account to make an investment) or vice versa. There may also be situations where Aberdeen advises a non-discretionary client not to invest in an underlying fund or manager, but in which Aberdeen does make an investment for its discretionary accounts. Finally, there may be situations where an advisory client sources an underlying fund or manager and asks for Aberdeen's advice, and even if Aberdeen provides a favorable opinion on that underlying fund or manager, Aberdeen may not invest in an underlying fund or manager for a variety of reasons. The results of any of these scenarios could, and it should be expected will, reasonably result in a divergence in performance between and among the various accounts over which Aberdeen acts with discretion and for which Aberdeen provides non-discretionary advice.

In order to avoid conflicts arising from limited capacity available for investment in or with an underlying fund or manager that is identified as suitable for investment by both an advisory client and by Aberdeen for its discretionary accounts, Aberdeen will apply procedures that are designed to create a fair result under the circumstances.

## **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

### Account Review Process

We strive to ensure compliance with a client's investment guidelines consistent with our fiduciary responsibility to manage an account in the best interest of our clients, and we aim to complete reviews on an ongoing and continuous basis. An account may be reviewed immediately to the extent that information concerning economic or market conditions, individual companies or industries could affect the account. Reviews of accounts also occur when investment strategies and objectives are changed by a client. Our relationship managers work closely with the fund management teams to ensure that each client's guidelines are implemented, where applicable. Depending on the asset class and account type, we employ a various methods of pre- and/or post-trade controls and monitoring techniques through automated or manual procedures to ensure that portfolios are managed in accordance with client-specific guidelines or restrictions as well as applicable regulatory requirements and internal policies. Periodic reviews may also be undertaken to ensure compliance with client investment guidelines. We have policies and procedures in place to address any investment guideline breaches.

### Reports to Clients

We provide each client with written monthly or quarterly market and investment reports, which include cash balance, transaction records, position reports and account valuation. Additional reports may be provided upon a client's request. Wrap Program clients receive reports periodically from the Sponsor.



#### **Item 14 – Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

Our advisory services are marketed both directly by the firm and through referrals by clients and consultants. We will make cash payments to third-party solicitors for client referrals. Each solicitor must enter into a written agreement with our firm and provide each prospective client with a copy of our Form ADV Part 2 and a disclosure of the terms of the solicitation arrangement, which includes the nature of the relationship. Where applicable, cash payments for client solicitations will be structured to comply fully with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3 under the Advisers Act.

In no event will we compensate a third-party solicitor for a referral if that solicitor serves as a sponsor, decision-maker or fiduciary of any pension or profit-sharing plan. We may engage and compensate entities to provide prime brokerage and other services (including client account statement preparation) to client accounts.

In addition, other third parties may provide certain shareholder servicing and/or distribution support services in connection with the sale of shares of our mutual funds or other funds that we service. These third parties may do so either directly or through intermediaries (i.e., broker-dealers) and may, in some instances, refer clients into such funds. These third parties (and the intermediaries through whom the funds are available) may receive cash compensation for these services out of our own resources.

Our firm, or our affiliates, may be compensated in connection with the sale of shares of either our mutual funds or other funds that either entity services. In addition, our sales and client service employees' compensation may be linked to sales goals relating to the sale of our mutual funds.

## **Item 15 – Custody**

We do not act as a custodian for client assets.

Clients typically receive statements from their account custodians at least quarterly and are encouraged to compare statements received from us with statements received from their client account custodians. Clients should carefully review their custodian statements to ensure they reflect the appropriate activity in their account. If there are differences between a client's custodian statement and an AAMAL account statement, or if a client has not received their account custodian statement, they are instructed to contact their client service representative.

## **Item 16 – Investment Discretion**

Depending upon the terms of an investment management agreement entered into with each client, we may have discretionary authority to make the following determinations without client consultation or consent prior to effecting each transaction:

- the securities that are to be bought or sold;
- the total amount of the securities to be bought or sold;
- the broker-dealer through whom securities are to be bought or sold; and
- the commission rates at which securities transactions for client accounts are effected.

We exercise discretion in a manner consistent with the stated investment objectives for a particular client account. We may accept advisory accounts with limited discretion or where investments are client-directed pursuant to an investment management agreement. We may also be limited in the type or quantity of securities purchased or held due to certain regulatory or internal compliance restrictions. Client investment guidelines and restrictions must be provided to us in writing. Unless Aberdeen and a client have entered into a non-discretionary arrangement, Aberdeen generally is not required to provide notice to, consult with, or seek the consent of its clients prior to engaging in transactions. Please refer to Item 4 of this Brochure for additional information on clients' ability to tailor investment guidelines.

## Item 17 – Voting Client Securities

Clients have the option to vote their proxies themselves or to authorize AAMAL to vote proxies on their behalf. We have established policies for voting these proxies in the best interests of our clients. When voting on proxies in active investment portfolios, we generally rely on our own in-house research and analysis. In the instance of a conflict, we may cross-reference our voting decision against a third-party service provider recommendation while still taking the decision ourselves, fully in clients' best interests. For funds managed by a sub-adviser, we may delegate to the sub-adviser the authority to vote proxies; however, the sub-adviser will be required to either follow our policies and procedures or to demonstrate that their policies and procedures are consistent with ours, or otherwise implemented in the best interest of clients. For other portfolios, responsibility for deciding how shares will be voted resides with the relevant portfolio management team. Any portfolio manager with knowledge of a personal conflict of interest (e.g., a family member on a company's management team) shall disclose that conflict and may be required to recuse him/herself from the proxy voting process. In the event there is a material conflict of interest identified by a portfolio manager, decisions on how to vote will be escalated to a corporate governance specialist and/or the regional desk head. The regional desk head is responsible for fully documenting the conflict of interest as well as the portfolio manager's rationale for a vote.

There may be certain circumstances where AAMAL may take a limited role in voting proxies. We will not vote proxies for client accounts in which the client contract specifies that AAMAL will not vote. We may abstain from voting a client proxy if the voting is uneconomic or otherwise not in clients' best interests. For companies held only in passively managed portfolios we have established voting templates which automatically applies our voting approach; we have scope to intervene to test that this delivers appropriate results, and will on occasions intrude to apply a vote more fully in clients' best interests. If voting securities are part of a securities lending program, we may be unable to vote while the securities are on loan. However, we have the ability to recall shares on loan or to restrict lending when required, in order to ensure all shares have voted. In addition, certain jurisdictions may impose share-blocking restrictions at various times which may prevent AAMAL from exercising our voting authority.

We recognize that there may be a potential conflict of interest if we vote on a security in which a portfolio manager owns the holding in a personal account. Similarly, there may be a potential conflict if we vote on securities of publicly traded clients or if we vote on a security that a director of Aberdeen PLC or our mutual funds have an interest. Another conflict may exist if we have a business relationship with (or are actively soliciting business from) either a company soliciting the proxy or a third party that has a material interest in the outcome of a proxy vote. In order to avoid any perceived or actual conflict of interests, we have established procedures to escalate decision-making so as to ensure that our voting decisions are based on our clients' best interests and are not the product of a conflict.

Clients may obtain a free copy of AAMAL's proxy voting policies and procedures and/or proxy voting records for their account by contacting us at (+65) 6395-2700. Aberdeen's corporate governance guidelines, known as our Stewardship Principles, is the framework we use for investment analysis, shareholder engagement and proxy voting across companies worldwide. There are published on our website at <http://www.aberdeen-asset.com/doc.nsf/Lit/CorporateGovernanceGroupPrinciples>

Clients that have not granted AAMAL voting authority over securities held in their accounts will receive their proxies in accordance with the arrangements they have made with their service providers.

## **Item 18 – Financial Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about Aberdeen's financial condition. We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients. In addition, we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

## APPENDIX A - Fee Schedules

The following are our standard segregated and/or commingled account fee schedules. However, fees and other compensation are negotiated in certain circumstances, and arrangements with any particular client may vary.

Strategy	Minimum Account Size	Fee Schedule
Asia Pacific Equities (Regional, Single Country and Property Share)	Segregated -\$75 million * Commingled- \$5 million	1.00%
Asia Pacific Small Cap Equity	Commingled- \$5 million**	1.25%
Emerging Market Equities	Segregated -\$100 million*** Commingled- \$5million***	1.00%
Emerging Markets Small Cap Equity	Segregated -\$75 million*** Commingled- \$5 million***	1.25%
Japanese Equity	Segregated - \$50 million* Commingled- \$5 million	0. 60%
Japanese Small Cap Equity	Segregated - \$75 million* Commingled- \$5 million	0. 70%
Asian Fixed Income	Segregated - \$50 million	0. 40%
Emerging Markets Fixed Income (Core, Corporate, Local Currency & Plus)	Segregated- \$50 million	0.60%
Aberdeen Solutions (Alternatives, Investment Solutions, and Quantitative Strategies)	Negotiable	Negotiable
Direct Property	Negotiable	Based on a percentage of the (1) total capital committed by a client for property investments or (2) capital committed to property investments or (3) capital drawn for property investments or (4) market value (net asset value) of a client's portfolio.

- \* Segregated investments in Asia Pacific (including and ex-Japan) are closed to new business.
- \*\* Segregated investments in Asian Smaller Companies are at the discretion of AAMAL.
- \*\*\* Capacity constrained. New business is at the discretion of investment team.