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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of abrdn Private Equity (Europe) Limited (“aPEEL”). If you have questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at +44 131 225 2345. The information contained in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) or any state securities authority.

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

## **Item 2 – Summary of Material Changes**

Since the most recent filing of the ADV Part 2A on July 11 2023, aPEEL has made the following changes to this Brochure:

- The AUM reported in “Item 4 – Advisory Business” was updated to reflect accurate figures as of 31 December, 2023.
- Item 4 updated to reflect that the business no longer manages Infrastructure or Private credit Funds
- Item 4 updated to reflect the proposed sale of the Business to Patria
- “Item 9 – Disciplinary Information” was amended to remove reference to an affiliates regulatory action, as it had occurred more than 10 years ago.



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## Item 4 – Advisory Business

### Our Firm

aPEEL Partners LLP (“aPEEL”, “the Manager”) is indirectly majority owned by abrdn Investment Management Limited (“AIML”). AIML is ultimately wholly owned by abrdn plc. The asset management business of abrdn plc operates under the name abrdn.

In addition to aPEEL, abrdn Inc., abrdn Asia Limited, abrdn Investments Limited, Aberdeen Capital Management LLC, abrdn ETF Securities Advisors LLC and AbdrnAlternative Funds Limited are also subsidiaries of abrdn plc. abrdn Inc., abrdn Asia Limited, abrdn Investments Limited, Aberdeen Capital Management LLC, abrdn ETF Securities Advisors LLC, Aberdeen Standard Alternative Funds, and abrdn Capital Partners LLP, (collectively, “abrdn” or “the Advisers”) are registered as investment advisers with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). In rendering investment advisory services, the Advisers may share resources, including personnel and facilities, and research information. The Advisers may also use the resources of other abrdn plc subsidiaries. The Advisers have entered into Memorandums of Understanding (“MOU”) and have elected to appoint as associated persons certain individuals who are employed by affiliated offshore unregistered advisers. These individuals render portfolio management, research and trading services to the Advisers' clients.

abrdn plc has invested in private equity funds and co-investments since 1973. abrdn Private Equity (Europe) Limited (then, Standard Life Investments (Private Equity) Limited) (“SLIPE”), was created in 1998 to manage the first private equity fund of funds product offered to third party investors.

aPEEL is also authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”) in the United Kingdom.

aPEEL provides both discretionary and non-discretionary investment management services for its clients. aPEEL’s affiliate, Aberdeen Capital Management LLC, offers multi-manager research, selection and portfolio management for private equity, venture capital, real asset investments, and direct investments in infrastructure projects.

### Sale of the Business to Patria

abrdn has announced that it has agreed to sell its AUM European-headquartered Private Equity business to Nasdaq-listed Patria Investments which includes abrdn Capital.

This sale follows on from a strategic review of the Alternatives business, within which we concluded that the capital generated from the sale of certain of our private equity businesses would be better deployed within our core investment businesses. The sale is expected to complete in the first half of 2024. ( [European Private Equity | Patria Investments | abrdn](#) )

### Advisory Services

aPEEL provides investment management services to:

- Limited partnership vehicles (“LPs” or “the Fund” or “Funds”) – pooled vehicles/Funds and segregated mandates.
- Certain non-US clients on a non-discretionary /advisory basis.

The limited partners of the Funds include U.S. and non-U.S. investors. The U.S. limited partners are “Qualified Purchasers” as that term is defined under the U.S. Investment Company Act of 1940 or “Accredited Investors” as defined under the U.S. Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

In providing investment management services to the Funds aPEEL makes investment decisions on behalf of those vehicles. The investment strategy is stated in the legal documentation of each LP. The investment opportunities that aPEEL considers include the following:

- Private equity fund investments (primary and secondary) primarily in Europe and North America
- Selective co-investments alongside aPEEL chosen managers in private companies primarily in Europe and North America

#### Tailoring Services to Client Needs

aPEEL's primary investment objective is to achieve a superior rate of return for its investors, either through capital appreciation, by making fund investments and, where applicable, co-investments.

The investment strategy for each Fund is determined at the time of establishment. There is no opportunity for individual investors to impose client specific restrictions within the pooled vehicles.

#### Model Delivery/Wrap Fee Programs

abrdrn provides non-discretionary investment advice whereby abrdrn provides investment recommendations in to a sponsor or overlay manager which then utilizes all or part of the investment recommendation in managing its clients' account(s). Model delivery programs are often referred to as a Unified Managed Accounts ("UMAs"). aPEEL does not participate in wrap-fee programs.

#### Assets under Management

As of December 31, 2022, aPEEL had approximately \$571M in assets under management (AUM) on a discretionary basis, and approximately \$35M in assets under advisement on a non-discretionary basis, and total assets under management/advisement of approximately \$606Bn.

## Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

The basis of the management fees are described fully in the limited partnership agreements of each vehicle, copies of which are agreed with each limited partner prior to their admission as a limited partner. These amounts are paid by each fund quarterly in advance to the manager. These are calculated on a variety of bases depending upon the product, including (i) drawn/undrawn amounts (ii) amounts invested (iii) total commitment amount (iv) Net Asset Value. Fees for non-discretionary advisory mandates are agreed with the client and included in the advisory agreement. Due to the limitations on liquidity within LPs (as set out in each limited partnership agreement) there are no early redemption provisions for investors.

### Private Market Funds

Investors and prospective investors should review the confidential private placement memorandum, limited partnership agreement and other governing documents (collectively, the “Governing Documents”) of each Private Market Fund in conjunction with this brochure for complete information on the fees and compensation payable with respect to that particular Private Market Fund. “Private Market Funds” include private equity, venture capital, real assets fund of funds, and private credit. Different Private Market Funds and advisory accounts may be subject to different management fees and performance-based compensation arrangements. In certain circumstances, the advisory fees payable to aPEEL by individual investors are negotiable and waived for certain investors. Investors and prospective investors in each Private Market Fund should note that similar advisory services may (or may not) be available from other investment advisers for similar or lower fees.

Preliminary expenses incurred in relation to or in connection with the establishment of the Private Market Funds, including but not limited to travel, legal and regulatory costs, accountancy, printing, postage, and other costs shall be payable to placement agents, brokers and intermediaries which shall be borne by the Manager or its Associates, provided that the aggregate amount of such preliminary expenses for which the Partnership shall be responsible (excluding any applicable VAT thereon for which the Partnership is responsible) shall not exceed the Partnership’s Proportion of the aggregate of \$400,000 and 0.20% of Total Commitments together with any VAT due which shall be payable in addition; and

(b) all expenses, direct or indirect, incurred in relation to the administration and business of the Partnership together with any VAT due which shall be payable in addition thereon, including, without limitation, costs of printing and circulating reports and notices, all introduction and similar fees, Abort Costs, legal fees, the fees and expenses of the Depositary and any custodian or nominee of the Partnership Assets, administrators’, auditors’ and valuers’ fees, registration fees, accounting expenses (including any expenses associated with the preparation of the Partnership’s financial statements and tax returns), fees and expenses incurred in relation to the Advisory Committee, establishment and ongoing fees and expenses of any conduit entity, external consultants’ fees, advertising costs, bank charges, costs of meetings of Investors, insurance costs, borrowing costs, hedging costs, extraordinary expenses (such as litigation), costs of any restructuring of the Partnership or interests in Portfolio Funds, costs associated with compliance with the AIFMD and with any regulations applicable or relating to the Partnership and its operation, taxes, duties, fees and governmental charges incurred by the Partnership and all stamp duties, costs associated with the liquidation of the Partnership and fees of lawyers, auditors, valuers and any external consultants arising in respect of identifying, evaluating, negotiating, acquiring, holding, monitoring, protecting and realising interests in Portfolio Funds; provided that the Partnership shall not be responsible for disbursements in respect of: (i) overheads of the General Partner or of the Manager properly payable by the General Partner from the Management Profit Share including remuneration and expenses paid to their employees, rent and utilities expenditure and costs associated with compliance with the AIFMD and other regulations applicable or relating to the internal operations of the Manager; or (ii) expenses recovered from Portfolio Funds in which the Partnership has made (or proposes to make) an investment; or (iii) any expenses or fees payable to any external consultants in respect of investment management services that the Manager has agreed to provide to the Partnership pursuant to the Management Agreement; of any expenses incurred in relation to the administration of the Partnership.

Neither aPEEL nor any of its affiliates receive any compensation as broker or agent for the sale of securities or other investment products to any Private Market Fund, separate account client or investment advisory client. Please refer to the subsection titled “*Economic Benefits Received from Third Parties*” in Item 14 below for information on other types of compensation that aPEEL may receive with respect to investments by the Private Market Funds or separate account clients.

Factors aPEEL 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, aPEEL's prior relationship with the applicable investor or its affiliates, other investments with aPEEL by the applicable investor or its affiliates, the other terms to which the investor's investment with aPEEL would be subject and the impact such special terms might have on other investors.

We may invest client assets in funds which we or an affiliate may also advise.

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. The existence of such a performance-based fee may create conflicts of interest in the allocation of management time, resources and investment opportunities between different strategies. Additionally, collecting performance-based fees 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 for the same strategy may give rise to potential conflicts of interest. For example, 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.

aPEEL or an affiliate may provide concurrent advisory services to client accounts that are not charged a performance-based fee or allocation by abrdrn’s related persons and client accounts that are charged a performance-based fee or allocation by a related person of abrdrn. aPEEL or an affiliate may also provide concurrent advisory services to private market funds, and/or separate account or investment advisory clients that are charged different performance-based fees or allocations and, in certain cases, aPEEL or an affiliate may only be permitted to take a performance-based fee or allocation from a private market fund, or separate account client or investment advisory client after the applicable investors or client received a preferred return on their committed or contributed capital. Additionally, the General Partner may, in its discretion, agree to special terms regarding carried interest with respect to certain Partners including, without limitation, abrdrn employees, aPEEL affiliates, and certain Limited Partners with significant capital commitments to the Fund. As a result, the potential for abrdrn’s related persons to receive different fees or allocations from performance-based accounts creates a potential conflict of interest with respect to the allocation of investment opportunities because aPEEL may have an incentive to direct the best investment ideas to, or to allocate investments in favor of, the account that pays a more favorable performance fee or allocation.

aPEEL’s policies generally prohibit Portfolio Managers from trading in conflict with themselves – specifically, across same strategy accounts that they manage. Generally, Portfolio Managers are prohibited from taking an “inconsistent position”, or 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 regarding Portfolio Managers’ trading is identified, the Department Head and the Risk & Compliance Department will discuss the conflict and take appropriate corrective action. Risk & 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, aPEEL, 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 Conduct (“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 aPEEL and its affiliates (“Access Persons”). For further detail on aPEEL’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.

aPEEL, or an affiliate, as general partner of certain Private Market Funds or adviser to a separate account or investment advisory client, will typically receive certain allocations or fees calculated and charged based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of the Private Market Fund, separate account client or investment advisory client. These performance-based allocation arrangements comply with Rule 205-3 under the Advisers Act. Any share of profits paid to aPEEL, an affiliate, or the general partners of the Private Market Funds, is separate and distinct from the advisory fees charged by aPEEL for advisory services. In addition to Performance-Based fees paid to the Adviser, the Funds may cover operating and organizational expenses of the Adviser, as detailed in Item 5 above. Please refer to the Governing Documents of the applicable Private Market Fund (or the investment advisory agreement of the applicable separate account client) for complete information on the performance-based compensation arrangements entered into with respect to such client.

To mitigate this potential conflict of interest, investment decisions are made by aPEEL or an affiliate for all private market funds, and separate account and investment advisory clients in accordance with aPEEL’s investment allocation policies. With respect to investment opportunities that are appropriate for more than one client including a Fund and/or a separate account or investment advisory client, the investment allocation policies takes into account multiple criteria, including but not limited to the investment objectives and strategies of each applicable client, differences with respect to the available capital, size, and remaining life of the applicable clients, differences in risk profile at the time the opportunity becomes available, potential conflicts of interest, the nature of the security or the transaction, and current and anticipated market conditions. In the event the investment opportunity is suitable for more than one client, aPEEL will derive an allocation that, over a period of time, is fair and equitable to each applicable client relative to other clients, taking into account all relevant facts and circumstances. Prospective investors should refer to the Governing Documents of the Private Market Funds for more details on investment allocation decisions among the Private Market Funds.

## **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

### Clients

aPEEL manages assets on behalf of:

- Limited partnership vehicles (“LPs”)
- Certain non-US clients on a non-discretionary basis.

aPEEL has a global investor base. Types of investors include pension funds, insurance companies, banks, endowments and other qualified investors. 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. Minimum investments for each LP are described in Part 1 of Form ADV.

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

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

aPEEL follows a systematic, disciplined investment process in which it will originate, analyse, execute, monitor and exit portfolio investments.

aPEEL's due diligence process includes:

- Validation of the merits of the proposed investment, including market research on similar or competing investment opportunities and the overall environment and strategy.
- Quantitative evaluation of the fund manager's track record.
- Extensive reference checks on fund managers.
- Evaluation of the fund manager's team and processes.
- Assessment of the investment's projected returns, risk factors and proposed exit strategies.
- Review and negotiation of key investment terms and investment provisions in order to provide maximum investor protection and value.
- Review of the fund manager's approach to responsible investing and ESG issues
- Evaluation of any potential conflicts of interest.
- Legal and tax due diligence performed by external advisers.
- Instruct independent Operational Due Diligence Review
- Review of the fund manager's processes for monitoring the performance of portfolio companies.

### **Investment Strategy Risks**

Investing in securities involves a substantial degree of risk. An LP may lose all or a substantial portion of its investments and investors in the LPs must be prepared to bear the risk of a complete loss of their investment.

The risks associated with the investment opportunities that aPEEL considers are distinct from those of other investment asset classes. The risk profile of the Funds that aPEEL manages will vary, depending on the specific investment strategy. **Full descriptions of these risks are available within the specific fund documentation.**

Primary drivers of risk are included below:

- The value of assets may go down as well as up.
- Past performance is not indicative of future performance of any strategy.
- Investments in LPs are not freely transferable.
- The success of any strategy depends on the ability of aPEEL to identify, select, execute, and realise appropriate investment opportunities. There is no guarantee that suitable investments can be or will be acquired or that the investments will be successful.
- Changes in the legal, tax, or regulatory regime during the life of the investment may result in adverse effects on earnings. This risk is intensified given the limited ability of investors to redeem investments.
- There may be a significant amount of time before the fund has invested all of its commitments.
- The strategy may employ a limited number of investments such that overall performance could be reduced by the inferior performance of a single investment.
- Constraints on the availability of credit and tightening of credit terms available to borrowers and/or decreased liquidity in the senior debt, second lien and subordinated debt markets may have an adverse impact on the ability of aPEEL or its portfolio investments to acquire or sell portfolio companies.
- Private equity investments are inherently long term; although performance over the life of the fund may be satisfactory, performance in the near term may be poor.
- Highly leveraged transactions, by their nature, are subject to a high degree of financial risk.
- Some investments may be in varying currencies and therefore their value may vary with the relevant exchange rate;

- Changes in legal, tax, accounting and regulatory regimes or their interpretation may occur during the life of the Funds which may have an adverse effect on it or its investments; such changes may make it necessary or desirable to make alterations to the Funds, its structure, service providers, activities and disclosures, any of which may involve additional expense and affect the performance and returns of the Funds;

aPEEL will always endeavour to act in a manner consistent with its fiduciary duty. However, investing in unquoted investments involves risk of loss that the client needs to be prepared to bear.

Below is a summary of material risks associated with aPEEL's 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.

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 entity 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 abrdn 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.

Co-Investment Opportunities – With respect to Private Market Funds, from time to time, aPEEL may, in its sole discretion offer co-investment opportunities to select clients. aPEEL is not expected to offer co-investment with respect to all of a Fund's investments, and may allocate any such opportunities in its sole discretion, including for example, on the basis of contractual rights to co-investments provided to some but not all clients, and the size of investor commitments to the funds, vehicles, and separately managed accounts. The allocation of co-investment opportunities may involve a benefit to aPEEL including, without limitation, fees or carried interest from the co-investment opportunity and capital commitments to other Funds. aPEEL may form committed co-investment vehicles both during and following a Fund's fundraising period to participate alongside a Fund in investment opportunities that aPEEL has determined in good faith exceed prudent diversification levels for such fund. The capital committed to such co-investment vehicles would not be included in the overall size limitation on a Fund's investment program. Further, it is possible that funds managed by aPEEL may compete with each other for the same limited co-investment opportunities.

Competitive Investment Environment – The activity of identifying, completing and realizing infrastructure, and private equity 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 abrdn, it is possible that we may hold or trade the same securities and instruments as our underlying fund managers in which we or an affiliate 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.

Concentration Risk – A strategy that concentrates in companies in a specific industry means that its performance will be closely tied to the performance of a particular market segment. Concentration in these companies may present more risks than if it were broadly diversified over numerous industries and sectors of the economy. A downturn in these companies would have a larger impact on the portfolio than once that does not concentrate in such companies. At times, the performance of these companies will lag the performance of other industries or the broader market as a whole

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 Lines – The general partner may utilize a capital call line of credit to fund investments and to pay expenses and other liabilities. Although the general partners intend to use each Fund's capital call line of credit primarily for administrative convenience to reduce the overall number of capital calls from the limited partners and avoid having excess cash on hand, each Fund's net IRR may be higher than it would be in the absence of such capital call line of credit, since each Fund's net IRR may be based on the time limited partner contributions are actually made and use of the capital call line of credit will delay such contributions. The Funds (and indirectly its partners) will bear any interest expense, fees or other cost in connection with such capital call line of credit.

The capital call line of credit may provide the lender with certain rights, which the general partner expects to include, among others, the right to call capital from the partners in the event of a default and, in the event of failure by a limited partner to fully fund its capital contributions to the Funds when due, the right to exercise certain default remedies directly against such limited partner.

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

Cyber Security Risk – aPEEL, like all companies, may be susceptible to operational and information security risks. In general, cybersecurity incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events (arising from external or internal sources) that may cause aPEEL to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption, physical damage to a computer or network system or lose operational capacity. Breaches in cyber security include, but are not limited to, infection by malicious software, such as malware or computer viruses or gaining unauthorized access to digital systems, networks or devices that are used to service aPEEL's operations (e.g., through "hacking," "phishing" or malicious software coding) or other means for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption. Cyber security failures or breaches of aPEEL or its service providers or the issuers of securities in which aPEEL invest have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of aPEEL'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. aPEEL and its clients could be negatively impacted as a result. . In addition, work-from-home arrangements by the Fund, aPEEL or their service providers could increase all of the above risks, create additional data and information accessibility concerns, and make aPEEL or their service providers susceptible to operational disruptions, any of which could adversely impact their operations. Furthermore, aPEEL may be an appealing target for cybersecurity threats such as hackers and malware.

Deposit Bank Risk - Fund assets may be exposed to risks facing the fund's depository banks. These may be pronounced in regional and foreign banks, or smaller banks without the same government regulations or backing. As a result, such institutions may be more susceptible to the risk of default. The laws of certain countries may place limitations on the ability to recover assets if a non-U.S. bank, agent or depository becomes insolvent or enters bankruptcy. If a fund's depository bank defaults, there is no guarantee that the fund's assets on deposit with the bank becomes accessible in the short term, and can be permanently lost to the extent it is uninsured.

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 are speculative and may hurt investment performance. The potential benefits to be derived from the portfolio's options, futures and derivatives strategy are dependent upon the portfolio managers' ability to discern pricing inefficiencies and predict trends in these markets, which decisions could prove to be inaccurate

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 a fund or client is otherwise exposed, and the following additional risks:

- **Speculative Exposure Risk** – To the extent that a derivative or practice is not used as a hedge, the portfolio is directly exposed to its risks. Gains or losses from speculative positions in a derivative may be much greater than the derivative's original cost. For example, potential losses from writing uncovered call options and from speculative short sales are unlimited.
- **Hedged Exposure Risk** – Losses generated by a derivative or practice used for hedging purposes should be substantially offset by gains on the hedged investment. However, while hedging can reduce or eliminate losses, it can also reduce or eliminate gains.
- **Correlation Risk** – Portfolios are exposed to risk that changes in the value of a hedging instrument will not match those of the investment being hedged.

**Counterparty Risk** – Derivative transactions depend on the creditworthiness of the counterparty and the counterparty's ability to fulfill its contractual obligations.

**Other Derivatives Risks** – Fixed income derivatives are subject to interest rate risk. In addition, certain derivatives may be subject to illiquid securities risk, mispricing or valuation complexity, market risk and management risk. The Adviser may need to sell securities at inopportune times to satisfy margin or payment obligations under derivatives investments. Changes in regulation relating to the use of derivatives and related instruments could potentially limit or impact the portfolio's ability to invest in derivatives, limit the Advisers' ability to employ certain strategies that use derivatives and/or adversely affect the value of derivatives and performance

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.

Distressed Investments – aPEEL funds may directly and indirectly 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. Distressed securities generally trade significantly below "par" or full value because investments in such securities and debt of distressed issuers or issuers in default are considered speculative. 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.

Early Termination of Portfolio Funds – The governing documents of some underlying portfolio funds are expected to include provisions that would enable the general partner, the manager, or a percentage in interest of the limited partners to terminate such portfolio funds prior to the end of their respective stated terms. Early termination of a portfolio fund may result in (i) the Funds receiving distributions of immature or illiquid securities or (ii) the Funds' inability to invest all of its committed capital as anticipated, either of which could have a material adverse effect on the performance of the Funds. Moreover, a portfolio fund may, among other things, in certain circumstances be permitted to terminate the Funds' interest in such portfolio fund.

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.

Environmental Risk– In addition to Force Majeure incidences, infrastructure-related issuers can have substantial environmental impacts. Ordinary operations or operational accidents may cause major environmental damage, which could cause infrastructure-related issuers significant financial distress, substantial liabilities for environmental cleanup and restoration costs, claims made by neighboring landowners and other third parties for personal injury and property damage, and fines or penalties for related violations of environmental laws or regulations. Infrastructure-related issuers may not be able to recover these costs from insurance. Failure to comply with environmental laws and regulations may trigger a variety of administrative, civil and criminal enforcement measures, including the assessment of monetary penalties, the imposition of remedial requirements, and the issuance of orders enjoining future operations. Voluntary initiatives and mandatory controls have been adopted or are being discussed both in the United States and worldwide to reduce emissions of “greenhouse gases” such as carbon dioxide, a by-product of burning fossil fuels, and methane, the major constituent of natural gas, which many scientists and policymakers believe contribute to global climate change. These measures and future measures could result in increased costs to certain companies in which we may invest.

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.

Foreign (Non-U.S.) Risk – Foreign countries in which the Adviser may invest may have markets that are less liquid, less regulated and more volatile than U.S. markets. The value of a portfolio’s investments may decline because of factors such as unfavorable or unsuccessful government actions, reduction of government or central bank support and political or financial instability. To the extent a portfolio focuses its investments in a single country or only a few countries in a particular geographic region, economic, political, regulatory or other conditions affecting such country or region may have a greater impact on performance relative to a more geographically diversified fund.

Fund of Funds- aPEEL or affiliates may acquire minority ownership interests in asset managers whose funds are held in our funds-of-funds (“FoF”) or certain clients with similar mandates may invest. Conflicts of interests may arise if a FoF or client mandate is invested in a fund managed by an underlying fund manager in which aPEEL or an affiliate owns a minority interest. With this relationship, there is the potential for fees to be directly or indirectly collected by affiliated funds and advisors. abrdn has implemented information barriers and controls to mitigate the conflict of interest should a FoF or client ever be invested in a fund managed by an asset manager where an affiliate also has a minority ownership interest.

General Partner Risk – Governing Documents often limit the circumstances under which a general partner, manager and their affiliates can be held liable to a fund. 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.

Impact of the AIFM Directive - Directive 2011/61/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 on Alternative Investment Fund Managers and amending Directives 2003/41/EC and 2009/65/EC and Regulations (EC) No 1060/2009 and (EU) No 1095/2010 (the “AIFM Directive”) entered into force on



July 21, 2011, and took effect on July 22, 2013. The AIFM Directive applies to (a) alternative investment fund managers (each, an “AIFM”) established in the European Economic Area (“EEA”) who manage EEA or non-EEA alternative investment funds (each, an “AIF”), (b) non-EEA AIFMs who manage EEA AIFs, and (c) non-EEA AIFMs who market their AIFs within the EEA. European secondary implementing legislation has now been adopted, and individual EEA member states were required to have implemented the AIFM Directive into domestic law by July 22, 2013. Although the AIFM Directive only governs the marketing of AIF interests to professional investors, EEA member states may impose the same or stricter conditions on the marketing of AIF interests to “retail” investors, including some high net worth individuals. EEA member states may also impose stricter conditions on the marketing of non-EEA AIFs, such as the Fund, which may potentially limit the General Partner’s ability to market the Fund in the EEA or increase the costs borne by the Fund in doing so.

The AIFM Directive, related European and national legislation and interpretive rules present the potential for additional compliance costs being borne by the Fund (and therefore by the Limited Partners), and adverse impact on the operating flexibility of abrdn and the General Partner and the ability of the Fund to source deals because of many of the AIFM Directive’s provisions. The AIFM Directive imposes operational requirements that will restrict Aberdeen, the General Partner and the Fund from engaging in certain activities and impose certain other requirements that may restrict their operations (including the ability of the General Partner and Aberdeen to market the Fund in the EEA) and increase the operating expenses of the Fund. For example, the AIFM Directive imposes disclosure and reporting requirements to both investors and regulators. abrdn and the General Partner may be required to provide to regulators, among other things, information regarding the liquidity of the Fund’s assets and information regarding the Fund’s risk profile and leverage, if any, on an ongoing basis. aPEEL and the General Partner may also be required to provide to regulators information regarding the main categories of assets in which the Fund has invested.

Further, aPEEL and the General Partner may be restricted from marketing certain products in the EEA, unless, among other things, relevant U.S. regulators have signed cooperation agreements for the purpose of systemic risk oversight with the relevant EEA competent authority in each EEA member state in which a fund is proposed to be marketed. The General Partner reserves the right to restructure a fund and the arrangements associated with the operation and management of and investment with the Fund to take account of the requirements or impact of the AIFM Directive on the subject matter of this Memorandum.

**Inflation/ Deflation Risk** – Inflation risk is the risk that the real value (i.e., nominal price of the asset adjusted for inflation) of assets or income from investments will be less in the future because inflation decreases the purchasing power and value of money (i.e., as inflation increases, the real value of assets can decline). Inflation rates may change frequently and significantly as a result of various factors, including unexpected shifts in the domestic or global economy and changes in monetary or economic policies (or expectations that these policies may change). Investments may not keep pace with inflation, which would adversely affect the real value of shareholders’ investment. This risk is greater for fixed-income instruments with longer maturities.

Deflation risk is the risk that prices throughout the economy decline over time. Deflation may have an adverse effect on the creditworthiness of issuers and may make issuer default more likely, which may result in a decline in the value of a portfolio’s assets.

**Insurance Risk** – When investing in private markets, there are additional risks that might not present themselves as compared to traditional asset classes. While the assets 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.

**Inside Information** – From time to time, we may come into possession of material, non-public information concerning an entity in which an account has invested, or proposes to invest. Possession of that information may limit our ability to buy or sell securities of the entity on behalf of a client.

**Issuer Risk** – The value of an investment 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.

**Legal, Tax, 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.

**Limited Capacity Opportunities** – We manage assets for multiple portfolios that may from time to time have overlapping investment mandates. Where an investment opportunity is of limited capacity, an allocation process will need to ensure each of the competing accounts is treated equitably over time in determining whether an account may participate and to what extent.

**Liquidity Risk** – In certain situations, it may be difficult or impossible to sell an investment in an orderly fashion at an acceptable price. This includes investors in funds that may lock them up, possibly for multiple years. Investors in such funds must be able to bear the risk of investment for an extended period of time.

**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 Risk** – The Advisers and portfolio managers apply their own investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions and there can be no guarantee that these decisions will achieve the desired results. In addition, the Adviser may select securities that underperform the relevant market or other funds with similar investment objectives and strategies

**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.

Our funds of funds will seek to obtain diversification by investing with a number of different investment managers with diverse strategies. However, since our funds will allocate their assets to the multiple investment managers who make their trading decisions independently, it is possible that various underlying managers may take substantial positions in the same security or group of securities at the same time.

Private Market Funds and clients will directly invest in portfolio funds managed by third-party managers that may or may not be affiliated with us and over which we do not exercise control. Therefore our Funds will not have an active role in the day-to-day management of the underlying portfolio funds. Underlying managers may not be registered as investment advisers with the U.S. SEC and their funds may not be registered as investment companies. Moreover, our funds will generally not have an opportunity to evaluate the specific investments made by underlying funds. As a result, the return of our funds will depend in large part on the performance of these unrelated third-party managers.

**Multiple Levels of Fees and Expense Risk** – Fund-of-funds and multiple manager strategies will generally incur certain fees at two levels: the funds 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.

No Voluntary Withdrawal – Voluntary withdrawals from the Funds are not permitted, except in the limited instances set forth in the Fund agreements. As a result, limited partners will generally not be able to liquidate their investments in the Funds prior to the end of each Fund’s term. A withdrawing limited partner may not be entitled to immediate payment for its interest. Any withdrawal of a limited partner may reduce the amount of capital available for investment or other activities.

Non-Discretionary Account Risk – There may be circumstances where aPEEL provides positive advice in writing concerning an underlying fund or manager, but a non-discretionary client chooses not to act on that advice. aPEEL may or may not have made a discretionary investment in or with the underlying fund or manager for its discretionary clients. If, subsequently, aPEEL’s opinion of such underlying fund or manager changes and aPEEL decides to redeem from the underlying fund or manager on behalf of its discretionary clients, aPEEL 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 aPEEL to make investments in or with underlying funds or managers.

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.

Parallel Funds – The general partner may form parallel funds or similar structures for limited partners of the Funds with special tax or regulatory needs. It is the intention of the general partner that any such structures will participate, either directly or indirectly, in each investment made by the Funds on a pro rata basis. However, in certain circumstances, it is possible that a parallel fund will not be permitted to invest in each investment made by the Funds or will be unable to make such investment because the general partner decides that making such investment is not in the best interests of the Funds (i.e. the limited partners in the aggregate). As such, it is possible that not all investments will be made among the Funds and its related parallel funds, alternative investment vehicles or similar structures on a pro rata basis.

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.

Portfolio Company Risks – Portfolio funds and SPVs in which the Funds will invest in portfolio companies that involve a high degree of business or financial risk. The portfolio companies may be start-ups or in an early stage of development or have operating losses or significant variations in operating results and may be engaged in rapidly changing business with products subject to a substantial risk of obsolescence. Such investments may be experiencing, or may be expected to experience, financial difficulties that may never be overcome. In addition, such investments, may require substantial additional capital to support their operations, to finance expansion or to maintain their competitive position, or may otherwise have a weak financial condition.

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.

In our funds of funds, we will have no ability to assess the accuracy of the valuations received from an underlying investment manager. Furthermore, the net asset values or other valuation information received by us from such underlying investment managers will typically be estimated, subject to revision through the end of each underlying fund’s annual audit. Revisions to the gain and loss calculations will be an ongoing process, and no net capital appreciation or depreciation figure can be considered final until the annual audit of each underlying fund is completed.

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 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 unless otherwise allowed 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. Investors may at times be restricted from redemption from certain of our private funds.

Secondary Investments – There is no established market for purchasing or selling existing portfolio fund interests (“Secondary Interests”) on the secondary market and although there has been an increasing volume of sales of Secondary Interests, no liquid market is expected to develop. Moreover, the market for Secondary Interests has been evolving and is likely to continue to evolve. It is possible that competition for appropriate investment opportunities may increase, thus reducing the number of investment opportunities available to the Funds and adversely affecting the terms upon which investments can be made. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that some of the Funds will be able to identify sufficient investment opportunities or that they will be able to acquire Secondary Interests on attractive terms. In addition, in the cases where the Funds acquire an interest in a portfolio fund in a secondary transaction, the Funds may acquire contingent liabilities of the seller of the interest.

Sustainable Investing Risk – abrdn’s ESG strategy could cause it to perform differently compared to funds that do not have such strategy. ESG considerations may be linked to long-term rather than short-term returns. The criteria related to the abrdn’s ESG strategy, including the exclusion or inclusion of securities of companies in certain industries, sectors, regions or countries, may result in a portfolio forgoing opportunities to buy certain securities when it might otherwise be advantageous to do so, or selling securities for ESG reasons when it might be otherwise disadvantageous for it to do so. ESG investing is qualitative and subjective by nature. Securities of companies with ESG practices may shift into and out of favor depending on market and economic conditions. The definition of “impact investing” will vary according to an investor’s beliefs and values. There is no guarantee that the Advisers’ definition of impact investing, security selection criteria or investment judgment will reflect the beliefs or values of any particular investor. In addition, there is a risk that the companies identified as appropriate for investment in ESG strategies by the Adviser do not operate as expected when addressing ESG issues. There are significant differences in interpretations of what it means for a company to have positive ESG characteristics. While the Adviser believes its definitions are reasonable, the portfolio decisions it makes may differ with other investors’ or advisers’ views.

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.

Underlying Manager Risk – Private Market Funds and clients will directly invest in portfolio funds managed by third-party managers that may or may not be affiliated with us and over which we do not exercise control. Therefore our funds will not have an active role in the day-to-day management of the underlying portfolio funds. Underlying managers may not be registered as investment advisers with the U.S. SEC and their funds may not be registered as investment companies. Moreover, our funds will generally not have an opportunity to evaluate the specific investments made by underlying funds. As a result, the return of our funds will depend in large part on the performance of these unrelated third-party managers.

Underlying funds in which our Private Market Funds and clients invest are generally subject to the same risks disclosed elsewhere in this brochure.

## **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

There are no other legal or disciplinary events relating to abrdn that would be material to the evaluation of our management.

## **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 affiliated with various U.S.-registered investment advisers, broker-dealers 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.

In executing trades on behalf of our clients, we may use the resources of our abrdn 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.

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.

### Investment Advisers

In rendering investment advisory services, we may use the resources of additional investment adviser subsidiaries of abrdn plc. These affiliates have entered into personnel sharing arrangements 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 (abrdn Inc., in the US, abrdn Asia Limited in Singapore, Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited and Aberdeen Standard Alternative Funds Limited in the United Kingdom) and a number of unregistered foreign entities under our personnel sharing procedures.

In executing trades on behalf of our clients, we may use the resources of our abrdn 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.

### Limited Partnerships or Similar Private Funds

We sponsor and serve as investment adviser to several private funds organized as limited partnerships, limited liability companies or non-U.S. entities. aPEEL and its affiliates may also serve as the general partner or managing member of these private investment vehicles.

Our affiliates also serve as investment adviser to certain private funds and provide investment management services to limited partnership vehicles with U.S. investors. These funds may be domiciled in the U.S., as in the case of a Delaware partnership, or outside the U.S., as in the case of a Cayman corporation.

### Participation in Privately Offered Investment Vehicles

abrdn, its affiliates, officers and employees may participate individually in privately offered investment vehicles in which clients are solicited to invest. aPEEL may act as adviser or general partner (or in a similar capacity) to these investment vehicles, may receive management fees, and may participate in any profits generated by these investment vehicles. Participation by affiliates, officers and employees in such investments on such terms and the receipt of such compensation may be an incentive for such employees to devote an

increased amount of time to the management of such vehicles to the detriment of other client account or investment vehicles. abrdn has policies and procedures in place to mitigate this conflict.

#### Other Material Relationships

Principals and employees of abrdn 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 abrdn 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 abrdn 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 funds of funds, aPEEL may select other investment advisers for its clients. Certain of abrdn'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 Fund to reduce the management fees paid to abrdn.

#### Business Alliances

Our strategic partnerships and associate businesses play a vital role in our global distribution model as an effective way to reach clients in key markets around the world. The following summary provides an overview of our more significant business alliances:

##### *Phoenix*

In February 2021, abrdn announced the reshape and refocus of the existing relationship with Phoenix so that both companies can be strong independent partners for the next 10 years, focused on growing their own respective businesses and growing their partnership in asset management. To this end, abrdn sold the Standard Life brand to Phoenix Group which simplifies and clarifies the original sale of our Standard Life long-term insurance business. abrdn currently owns 10.43% of Phoenix Group.

##### *Virgin Money*

On August 1, 2019, abrdn announced the completion of the joint venture between Virgin Money UK PLC ("Virgin Money") and Aberdeen Asset Management PLC (now abrdn Holdings Limited). The joint venture was formed by the sale by Virgin Money to abrdn of 50 per cent (less one share) of Virgin Money Unit Trust Managers Limited ("VMUTM") which will offer investments and pensions propositions. The joint venture combines Virgin Money's brand, scale, and retail distribution expertise with abrdn's market-leading investment solutions and asset management technology and digital expertise. On February 13th 2024, abrdn and Virgin Money entered into a definitive agreement in relation to the sale of 50% of VMUTM by abrdn to Virgin Money. Completion will take place on April 1st, 2024. abrdn and VMUTM will concurrently enter into a new investment management agreement for a renewed period of 3 years.

##### *Heng An Standard Life*

Heng An Standard Life (HASL) is a life insurer owned 50% by abrdn plc and based in Tianjin, China. It is not a listed company. It was formed in 2003 as a joint venture between Standard Life plc and Tianjin TEDA International ("TEDA"). TEDA is the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area; it is the state owned Tianjin economic enterprise board. HASL has 10 provincial branches across 8 provinces and sales offices over 80 cities and offers a comprehensive suite of health, life and savings products. Assets are predominantly managed by HASL's in-house investment team. In July 2020 HASL purchased an insurance

subsidiary in Hong Kong from abrtn plc. In January 2021 HASL was granted permission to open a pensions insurance company in China.

#### *Finimize*

In October 2021, abrtn plc acquired Finimize, a digital content provider, publishing a daily financial newsletter to subscribers. In February 2022, abrtn's Research Institute was absorbed into Finimize, to combine Finimize's technology and external reach with the Research Institute's research to generate meaningful insights for their customers. Finimize will continue to operate as an independent brand and insights platform.

#### *Archax*

In August 2022, abrtn bought a 9.51% stake in Archax, a UK-based digital asset exchange. Archax provides access to blockchain-based digital assets and is the first digital securities exchange to be approved by the FCA with permissions covering trading, custody and brokerage. abrtn's strategic partnership with Archax allows investors to access investment opportunities through digital securities, connect to existing offerings in a new way through tokenisation and facilitate a shift towards greater operating efficiencies through the adoption of new technologies like blockchain.



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

### Code of Ethics and Personal Trading

From time to time, abrdn 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 Conduct (the Access Person Code of Conduct, herein 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 (as defined in the Code) placed in reportable accounts. The Code restricts the purchase and sale by Access Persons for their 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. This blackout period does not apply to transactions in certain large cap securities of a de minimis value.

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 Risk & 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 the Code on an annual basis. Any employee who violates the Code may be subject to verbal or written warnings and censures, monetary sanctions, disgorgement, suspensions or dismissal, among other punitive actions.

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 entertainment, 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 abrdn at (215) 405-5700.

### 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 and/ otherwise disclosed. Potential conflicts may arise from new products or services, operational changes, new reporting lines and market developments.

### Gifts and Entertainment

We have policies and procedures in place which prohibit employees from accepting gifts, entertainment 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, entertainment 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 entertainment cannot occur if the value and/or the frequency of the gift or entertainment are deemed excessive or extravagant. The policies impose specific dollar restrictions and require compliance approval of gifts and entertainment.

### 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.

Our abrdn affiliates may recommend clients other products offered by aPEEL or our affiliates. If we recommend our own products and services through our Solutions or advisory services offering, it may appear that our interest in selling the product or service could conflict with the client's expectation. In each instance where we direct clients into an abrdn -managed product or strategy, we will obtain client consent.

Our 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, abrdn 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.

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.

#### 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 abrdn, 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 abrdn 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.

#### Insider Trading Policy and Use of Expert Networks

We have adopted an insider trading policy in accordance with Section 204A of the Advisers Act, which establishes procedures to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by abrdn, 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 abrdn 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 abrdn 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 abrdn or our affiliates request material non-public information, abrdn shall have no obligation or responsibility to disclose such information to, or use such information for the benefit of, any person (including clients), even if failure to do so would be detrimental to the interests of such person. In this connection, abrdn has adopted policies governing the treatment of material non-public information, and established procedures reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by abrdn and our personnel. Under the policy, abrdn employees are not permitted to use material non-public information obtained by any department or affiliate of abrdn 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 referenced herein.

abrdn 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. abrdn 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.

#### Other Conflicts of Interest

From time to time, clients or certain financial intermediaries may approach abrdn 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 to ensure that charitable contributions are not made for the purpose of influencing business and a Political Contributions Policy, which places restrictions on firm and employee political contributions. None of abrdn'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"). Additionally, employees are 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.

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 not bring abrdn into disrepute and has s considered appropriately in terms of actual or potential conflicts.

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

## **Item 12 – Brokerage Practices**

### Discretionary Brokerage

With regard to the Private Market Funds in which aPEEL clients invest, securities are generally purchased directly from the issuer or general partner, without the assistance of a broker-dealer and without the payment of a brokerage commission. The advice and investment activity conducted with regards to private market funds generally relates to privately offered securities in partnerships or similar relevant structures. We may invest in private market funds which are marketed to abrdn by placement agents; either the fund or the third-party manager bears the associated placement agent fees. With regard to securities distributed from the underlying funds in which aPEEL clients invest, aPEEL has discretion to select a broker-dealer to effect securities transactions. In selecting broker-dealers to effect securities transactions, aPEEL seeks to obtain best execution by considering factors including, but not limited to, execution quality, price, the level of service offered, reliability, experience in liquidating distributions from private equity funds and other such factors as the CCO deems relevant and beneficial to the applicable aPEEL clients.

### 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.

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

On September 12, 2017, abrdn announced it would absorb all research costs directly (i.e., pays for research from its profits and losses) to coincide with the new MiFID II legislation which went into effect on January 3, 2018. As a result, abrdn has been paying “execution only” commission rates since the start of 2017. abrdn does not engage in commission sharing arrangements or “soft dollars”.

### Brokerage for Client Referrals

We may use solicitation agreements. We do not consider, in selecting or recommending broker-dealers, whether we or an affiliate have a relationship with a broker-dealer or third party, or whether we or an affiliate receive client referrals from a broker-dealer or third party. A client may direct us to use the services of a particular broker-dealer in executing transactions for that client’s account. In some cases, the directed broker may have recommended our firm as a manager for that account. As stated previously, it is possible that such an account may suffer adverse effects from this direction, depending on market conditions.

### Directed Brokerage

With regard to the funds of private market funds in which clients invest, securities are generally purchased directly from the issuer or general partner, without the assistance of a broker-dealer and without the payment of a brokerage commission. With regard to securities distributed from the underlying funds in which aPEEL clients invest, aPEEL has discretion to select a broker-dealer to effect securities transactions. In selecting broker-dealers to effect securities transactions, SLCapital seeks to obtain best execution by considering factors including, but not limited to, execution quality, price, the level of service offered, reliability, experience in liquidating distributions from private market funds and other such factors as aPEEL deems relevant and beneficial to the applicable clients. Broker-dealers utilized by aPEEL are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

We may have certain accounts that were referred to us through the recommendation of third parties, including consultants that may also be broker-dealers, or may have certain pre-existing financial arrangements or relationships with a particular broker-dealer. Clients obtained from these third parties may instruct us to direct some or all of their brokerage transactions to the third party's broker-dealers, or we may otherwise allocate brokerage to these or related broker-dealers. As stated previously, in situations where the client has directed us to direct trades to a particular broker, the client must forfeit best execution and should understand that we will only enter into such arrangements on a "best efforts" basis. We may also buy from such third parties certain services or products used in our investment advisory business (such as software or research publications) or pay registration or other fees toward or otherwise assist in sponsoring such third parties' industry forums, seminars or conferences. We do not use client commissions to pay for these services

#### 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. To the extent a trade error in a client account results in a gain, we allow the client to keep the benefit, unless the gain offsets a loss in connection with a single transaction or occurrence or a series of related transactions, in which case any such gains and losses are netted unless prohibited by applicable regulation or a specific agreement with the client. In general, compensation is expected to be limited to direct monetary losses and will not include any amounts that abrdn deems to be speculative or uncertain, nor will it cover investment losses not caused by the error.

#### 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.

When a potential cross trade involves a Fund or account that has a significant beneficial ownership by abrdn or its affiliates and control persons, it will be considered whether this transaction should be treated as a principal transaction under abrdn's procedures (and separate criteria would apply), rather than as a cross trade. Under abrdn'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.

For fund of fund products, we could in some instances 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 abrdn. Each of these cross transaction is affected at "fair value," which is generally the Net Asset Value of the underlying fund. abrdn receives no compensation (other than its management fee and incentive fee), directly or indirectly, for effecting a particular cross transaction. Although abrdn 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.

#### Aggregation and 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. aPEEL's allocation policy takes into account multiple criteria,

including (but not limited to) the investment objectives and strategies of each applicable client, differences with respect to the available capital, size, and remaining life of the applicable clients, differences in risk profile at the time the opportunity becomes available, potential conflicts of interest, and the nature of the security or the transaction, and current and anticipated market conditions. All investment allocations are approved internally by the relevant Investment Committee(s) and/or Allocation Committee(s), as applicable.

Although aPEEL does not often trade in public securities for the Private Market Funds, in certain circumstances aPEEL will, to the extent possible, generally place a combined order for two or more Private Market Funds and/or separate account clients engaged in the purchase or sale of the same security if, in its good faith determination, joint execution would be consistent with its duty to seek best execution, consistent with the terms of the participating Private Market Funds' Governing Documents and participating separate account clients' investment advisory agreements, and otherwise in the best interest of the participating clients.

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. aPEEL 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 aPEEL 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 transactions for an account are not aggregated with other orders, including 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. Aggregation and netting of trades may disproportionately benefit some accounts relative to other accounts due to the relative amount of savings obtained.

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 aPEEL 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 aPDRN advises a non-discretionary client not to invest in an underlying fund or manager, but in which aPDRN 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 aPEEL's advice, and even if aPEEL provides a favorable opinion on that underlying fund or manager, aPDRN 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 aPEEL acts with discretion and for which aPDRN 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 aPDRN for its discretionary accounts, aPEEL will apply procedures that are designed to create a fair result under the circumstances.

### **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

The investments held by each client are subject to continuous review by aPEEL. This is undertaken through regular interaction with the fund managers, on-site visits, active representation on the advisory boards and attendance at all the formal annual/semi-annual meetings for the fund manager. aPEEL operates a ‘point’ and ‘shadow’ investment responsibility system so there is always someone who can attend and meaningfully contribute to all meetings with managers.

aPEEL provides (as a minimum) the following reports to all investors within the LPs:

- Quarterly capital statements
- Quarterly managers reports
- Annual audited financial statements

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

abrdn may receive non-research services from broker-dealers that effect transactions in connection with abrdn's investment advice. Notwithstanding, abrdn does not select or recommend brokers based on these non-research services

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 regulatory requirements

In connection with investments made by certain Funds, separate account clients, or investment advisory clients, abrdn or certain employees of abrdn may, from time to time, receive directors' fees, consulting fees, monitoring fees, investment banking fees, transaction fees and/or other remuneration. To mitigate potential conflicts of interest, abrdn may offset all or a portion of such benefits against advisory fees payable (i) by the applicable Private Market Fund to abrdn in accordance with such Private Market Fund's Governing Documents and (ii) to abrdn pursuant to agreements entered into with separate account or investment advisory clients. Investors should refer to the Governing Documents of the applicable Private Market Fund for complete information on the calculation of advisory fees charged to such Fund and applicable fee offsets.



## Item 15 – Custody

We do not act as a custodian for client assets. However, there are some situations where we may be deemed to have custody over client accounts.

We are deemed to have custody of certain U.S. unregistered pooled funds advised by abrnn for which we or an affiliate serve as managing member or general partner. For all U.S. unregistered pooled funds, we will meet the “audit approach” of the Custody Rule, which includes:

- engaging a Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”) accountant to conduct an audit on an annual basis;
- ensuring the auditor engagement letter includes representation that the accountant is a member of PCAOB; and
- ensuring that audited financial statements (prepared in accordance with GAAP) are distributed within 120 days of each fund’s fiscal year-end (or within 180 days for private funds that are funds of funds).

In the event that a U.S. unregistered pooled fund liquidates, we will:

- engage a PCAOB accountant to conduct a liquidation audit, and
- distribute the audited financials promptly upon completion of the audit.

If investors in the unregistered pooled funds do not receive audited financial statements in a timely manner (as described above), then they should contact abrnn immediately.

In addition, we may be deemed to have custody in certain situations in which clients may grant us the authority to debit their custody accounts for advisory fees and capital calls, and clients may also request that we forward client instructions to private placement fund custodians with regard to client subscription and withdrawal requests. abrnn does not take physical custody of clients’ assets and other than custody relating to its authority to debit client accounts previously described and custody relating to the management of U.S unregistered pooled funds; abrnn does not have custody of client. assets and ensures that all clients’ assets are maintained with qualified custodians that distribute account statements to clients at least quarterly.

## **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 abrdn and a client have entered into a non-discretionary arrangement, abrdn 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

Due to the nature of the investments in the Funds, it is not expected that aPEEL would have instance to vote proxies on shares publicly offered where clients appoint aPEEL to vote proxies on their behalf. Policies have been established to vote these proxies in the best interests of our clients.

We employ ISS as a service provider to facilitate electronic voting.. We require ISS to provide recommendations based on our own set of custom parameters tailored to abrdn's views and approach, but remain conscious that all voting decisions are our own on behalf of our clients. We consider ISS's recommendations and those based on our custom parameters as input to our voting decisions and expect to typically vote consistent with ISS recommendations but may vote contrary to these recommendations when we believe doing so is in the best interest of our clients.

In order to make proxy voting decisions, an abrdn analyst assesses the resolutions at general meetings in our active investment portfolios. This analysis will be based on our knowledge of the company, but will also make use of the custom and standard recommendations provided by ISS as described above. The product of this analysis will be a final voting decision instructed through ISS and applied to all funds for which abrdn have been appointed to vote.

There may be certain circumstances where aPEEL may take a more limited role in voting proxies. We will not vote proxies for client accounts in which the client contract specifies that aPEEL 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, aPEEL custom recommendations provided by ISS will be used to automatically apply 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 aPEEL from exercising our voting authority.

We recognize that there may be situations in which we vote at a company meeting where we encounter a conflict of interest. Such situations include:

- Where a portfolio manager owns the holding in a personal account.
- An investee company that is also a segregated client.
- An investee company where an Executive Director or Officer of our company or that of abrdn plc or another affiliate is also a Director of that company.
- An investee company where an employee of aPEEL, abrdn plc, or an affiliate or subsidiary is a Director of that company.
- A significant distributor of our products.
- Any other companies which may be relevant from time to time

We have adopted procedures within our proxy voting process to identify where a conflict exists. These procedures are designed to ensure that our voting decisions are based on our client's best interests and are not impacted by any conflict.

abrdn may direct clients to participate in or opt-out of class actions when we have the authority to do so. In other instances, abrdn may provide a client with the appropriate holdings and trade information to enable the client to participate or opt-out of the class action at the client's discretion. abrdn has adopted policies and procedures that govern participation in class actions relating to client investing activities.

Clients may obtain a free copy of aPEEL's proxy voting policies and procedures and/or proxy voting records for their account by contacting us at (215) 405-5700. abrdn publishes Stewardship Principles, which describe our approach to investment analysis, shareholder engagement and proxy voting across companies worldwide. These are published on our website.

Clients that have not granted aPEEL 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 abrdn'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.