

# Sustainability-related disclosures

## Mercer UK Credit Fund



### PRE-CONTRACTUAL DISCLOSURE OF A FUND THAT PROMOTES E/S CHARACTERISTICS

This document provides you with information about this fund in relation to the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. It is not marketing material. The information is required by law to help you understand the sustainability characteristics and/or objectives and risks of this fund. You are advised to read it in conjunction with other relevant documentation on this fund so you can make an informed decision about whether to invest.

#### Summary

The Sub-Fund seeks to promote environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of Article 8 of the SFDR.

#### No sustainable investment objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective a sustainable investment.

#### Environmental and social characteristics of the financial product

The Sub-Fund seeks to promote environmental characteristics, within the meaning of Article 8 of the SFDR, namely to seek to mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing the potential carbon footprint of the Sub-Fund.

The Sub-Fund seeks to promote social characteristics within the meaning of Article 8 of the SFDR by avoiding investment in companies that (i) are involved in the manufacture, distribution or sales of controversial weapons such as landmines, cluster munitions, chemical and biological weapons, nuclear weapons and (semi) automatic civilian firearms; or (ii) manufacture tobacco products or generate more than 50% of their revenue from tobacco distribution or sales.

## Investment Strategy

The investment objective of the Sub-Fund is to provide income and capital growth.

The Sub-Fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing in bonds and fixed income securities which are primarily denominated in Sterling.

The Investment Manager does not typically select investments directly; instead, it selects and combines specialist investment managers to manage segments of the portfolios of the Sub-Funds. The Investment Manager believes that enhanced outcomes may be achieved from the assessment by its Sub-Investment Managers of ESG risks and opportunities in security selection and portfolio construction, acknowledging that the degree of relevance or materiality varies between asset classes.

The Sub-Fund seeks to avoid exposure to, in the opinion of the Investment Manager and/or Sub-Investment Manager(s), the worst carbon emitters with the lowest carbon transition potential, being those companies:

- whose carbon emissions intensity exceed 3,000 tonnes/ m\$USD revenue; or
- that generate more than 1% of their revenue from (i) thermal coal extraction; (ii) arctic drilling; or (iii) oil tar sand mining

The Investment Manager (or its delegate) is required to follow good governance standards in the selection of securities for investment. The Sub-Fund uses third party data providers to identify companies that are deemed to be in breach of United Nations Global Compact principles (including companies breaching United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises). An engagement and escalation framework is in place, seeking to remedy breaches within an acceptable time-frame. If the Investment Manager (or its delegate) deems the likelihood of the remediation within an acceptable time-frame low, such companies may be added to the list of exclusions.

More information available in the Sustainability Policy on <https://investment-solutions.mercer.com/europe/ie/en/our-funds/responsible-investment.html>

## Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The Adverse Sustainability Impacts that may be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

**Governance:** Poor Corporate Governance, Poor Gender Diversity

**Climate and Other Environmental Impacts:** High Carbon Intensity Profile, Negative Contribution to Climate Transition Pathway, Revenue Exposure to Pollutants

**Social Impact, Respect for Human Right, and Anti-Corruption:** Revenue from Controversial Weapons, Revenue from Civilian Firearms, Revenue from Tobacco, Revenue from Gambling, Poor Gender Diversity, Adverse Impact on the UN Sustainable Goals.

The structure and mechanisms for monitoring of Adverse Sustainability Impacts is inclusive of, but not limited to:

- Pre-trade evaluation of the impact of investment decisions on sustainability factors and the sustainability characteristics of the fund.
- Post-trade continuous evaluation – managed through governance committees, engagement and reporting.

- Ongoing efforts to refine processes, enhance analysis and align with market best practice and regulatory guidance.

## Methodology

The Sub-Fund seeks to achieve its environmental characteristic by avoiding exposure to, in the opinion of the Investment Manager, the worst carbon emitters with the lowest carbon transition potential. In this regard, and in addition to the exclusions listed in the “Approach to Integrating Sustainability Risks and to Sustainable Investment” section of the Prospectus, the Sub-Fund seeks to avoid investing in companies:

- whose scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions intensity are in excess of 3,000 tonnes/ m\$USD revenue, being, in the opinion of the Investment Manager, the worst carbon emitters, unless the Investment Manager’s proprietary analysis of such companies indicates strong carbon transition potential;
- that generate more than 1% of their revenue from (i) thermal coal extraction; (ii) arctic drilling; and/or (iii) oil tar sand mining

The above exclusions are implemented and monitored in accordance with the “Approach to Integrating Sustainability Risks and to Sustainable Investment” section of the Prospectus.

## Data sourcing and processing

The Sub-Fund will use third party data providers including MSCI and ISS. We also liaise with a market leading data aggregator to ensure bottom up analysis of all holdings and data processing.

## Limitations to methodologies and data

Data quality and coverage have various challenges across different countries and regions. Some data may be modelled rather than reported data and data from some companies may be delayed. In addition, not all self-reported data is independently verified.

## Engagement policies

The Manager and Investment Manager believes active and engaged shareholders have a greater chance of ensuring company management acts in ways that are aligned with shareholder interests.

Stewardship can also provide investors with an opportunity to enhance the value of companies and markets and to acquire additional information, which can enhance the investment decision-making process. The Stewardship Policy can be found here: <https://investment-solutions.mercer.com/europe/ie/en/our-funds/responsible-investment.html>

In most instances, corporate engagement implementation is delegated to the appointed sub-investment managers, who are encouraged to engage with portfolio companies on material sustainability risks, adverse sustainability impacts and other ESG issues with the aim of improving long-term risk adjusted returns and the stability of financial markets.

Mercer may also elect to participate, as appropriate, in collaborative industry engagement initiatives related to the identified engagement priorities, or other topics that are considered aligned with the best interests of investors.

Stewardship is monitored by seeking disclosure from the sub-investment managers, including through its annual manager engagement survey and will report to its investors on its the voting and engagement activity and monitoring processes of the sub investment managers on at least an annual basis.

## Important Notices

© 2022 Mercer LLC. All rights reserved. References to Mercer shall be construed to include Mercer LLC and/or its associated companies.

This document is issued by Mercer Global Investments Europe Limited ("MGIE") which is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland under the European Union (Markets in Financial Instruments) Regulations 2017, as an investment firm. Registered office: Charlotte House, Charlemont Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Registered in Ireland No. 416688. Directors: Sylvia Cronin, Michael Dempsey, Tom Geraghty, Abhishek Krishan, Carol Ann McMahon, Deborah Mintern and Vincent Sheridan.

This document contains confidential and proprietary information of Mercer and is intended for the exclusive use of the parties to whom it was provided by Mercer. Its content may not be modified, sold or otherwise provided, in whole or in part, to any other person or entity, without Mercer's prior written permission. The document is for professional investors only. The findings, ratings and/or opinions expressed herein are the intellectual property of Mercer and are subject to change without notice. They are not intended to convey any guarantees as to the future performance of the investment products, asset classes or capital markets discussed. Mercer's ratings do not constitute individualized investment advice.

Mercer UK Credit Fund is a sub-fund of Mercer PIF Fund plc (the Company), an Irish domiciled Professional Investor designated investment company umbrella fund authorised and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. A Prospectus is available for the Company and can be obtained from <https://investment-solutions.mercer.com/#generalfundinformation> and is available in English. Full information on associated risks can be found in the Prospectus. The sub-funds of the Company are currently notified for marketing into a number of EU Member States under AIFMD. Mercer Global Investments Management Limited, the AIFM, can terminate such notifications for any share class and/or sub-fund of the Company at any time using the process contained in Article 32a of AIFMD.

Past performance does not predict future returns. Past experience nor the current situation are necessarily accurate guides to the future growth in value or rate of return. The value of your investments and any income from it may fall as well as rise and you may receive back less than the amount invested. There is also a currency risk involved in investing in assets which are in a foreign currency.

Changes in exchange rates may have an adverse effect on the value price or income of the product. The levels and basis of, and relief from, taxation can change. Where the information refers to a particular tax treatment, such tax treatment depends on the individual circumstances of each client and may be subject to change in the future. Mercer does not provide tax or legal advice. You should contact your tax advisor, accountant and/or attorney before making any decisions with tax or legal implications. For the most recent approved ratings of an investment strategy, and a fuller explanation of their meanings, contact your Mercer representative. Any forecasts made are not a reliable indicator of future performance.

This material does not constitute advice or an offer or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell securities, commodities and/or any other financial instruments or products or constitute a solicitation on behalf of any of the investment managers, their affiliates, products or strategies that Mercer may evaluate or recommend. No investment decision should be made based on this information without first obtaining appropriate professional advice and considering your circumstances.

For policy on conflicts of interest and other corporate policies, please see <https://investment-solutions.mercer.com/global/all/en/investment-solutions-home/corporate-policies.html>. All data as at dates specified and source is Mercer unless otherwise stated. This document may contain information on other investment management firms. Such information may have been obtained from those

investment management firms and other sources. Mercer research documents and opinions on investment products (including product ratings) are based on information that has been obtained from the investment management firms and other sources. Mercer makes no representations or warranties as to the accuracy of the information presented and takes no responsibility or liability (including for indirect, consequential or incidental damages), for any error, omission or inaccuracy in the data supplied by any third party.

Please see the following link for information on indexes:

<https://www.mercer.com/content/dam/mercer/attachments/private/nurture-cycle/gl-investment-management-index-definitions-mercer.pdf>