

Stewart Investors Global Emerging Markets Leaders Fund

The fund aims to achieve capital growth over the long term (at least five years).

The fund invests in equity or equity related securities of companies of large and mid-capitalisation that are incorporated or listed in emerging markets, or those of companies listed on developed market exchanges where a majority of their activities take place in emerging market countries. The fund invests in companies that are positioned to contribute to, and benefit from the sustainable development of the countries in which they operate.

The manager invests with capital preservation in mind, meaning it defines risk as losing client money, rather than deviation from a benchmark index. This prudent style may lag in very strong liquidity-driven or momentum-led markets and may perform well when due recognition is given to companies with quality management teams, good long-term growth prospects and sound balance sheets.

From March 2022, there was a change in management of this fund within Stewart Investors to a team who manage global emerging markets sustainability strategies. The Stewart Investors Global Emerging Markets Leaders Sustainability Fund merged into the Stewart Investors Global Emerging Markets Leaders Fund on the 14 July 2023.

The fund has the following share classes:

Share class	Launch date	AUM £	AMC %	OCF %	Overall rating	Performance	Quality of service	Classes of units	AFM costs	Economies of scale	Comparable market rates	Comparable services
Class A (Acc) GBP	01-Dec-03	81,715,503	1.30	1.40%								
Class B (Acc) GBP	01-Dec-03	372,511,767	0.65	0.76%								
Class B (Inc) GBP	01-Sep-16	5,177,196	0.65	0.80%								
Class B (Acc) USD	24-Jan-23	808	0.65	0.79%								
Class Z (Acc) GBP	30-Jun-23	20,378,476	0.00	0.10%								

Performance

We have assessed performance considering absolute return, relative return and the performance in negative markets for each share class that are, aligned with the investment objective and proposition of the fund.

All share classes are rated Red for performance, the Fund Board will continue to closely monitor the performance of these share classes.

The Class B (Acc) USD and the Class Z (Acc) GBP were not subjected to the tests as the appropriate maturity was not reached in order to test the outcome of the investment objective of the fund over the minimum recommended investment term.

Quality of service

In assessing quality of service, we have reviewed the investment proposition of the fund and found that it was run in accordance with the investment team's philosophy and purpose.

We have reviewed proxy voting and corporate engagement and found that the fund adheres to First Sentier Investors' Principles and Policy for Responsible Investment and Stewardship.

We have reviewed our governance functions, how we oversee fund liquidity, compliance breaches, and complaint handling to ensure that investors receive the appropriate support when needed.

We have also reviewed the information that is available to investors on monthly factsheets and found that it provides appropriate information on the characteristics of the fund and share classes. We seek to continuously develop our support to investors and tailor it to their needs.

In addition, in relation to Stewart Investors a summary of the sustainability assessment for each investee company is published on the portfolio explorer tool on the Stewart Investors' website stewartinvestors.com.

All share classes are rated Green for quality of service.

Classes of units

We are satisfied that differences in OCF between share classes are reasonable taking into account the differing levels of service offered.

All share classes are rated Green for classes of units.

AFM costs

We have reviewed the AMC of the primary share class to ensure that it is in line with the value provided through investment returns.

All share classes are rated Green for AFM costs because the application of costs between share classes is fair and reasonable and reflects differing levels of service for each class.

Economies of scale

The AMC of the Class B shares reflects pricing that is set for the investment strategy as a whole and considers the expected capacity of the strategy.

First Sentier's UK Fund Board limits the overall investor cost by capping additional expenses at a maximum of 0.20%. This serves to ensure that the OCF an investor pays is no higher than 0.20% above the AMC.

The additional expense cap prevents investors from suffering large third-party costs when the share class has low levels of AUM, while allowing investors to benefit from economies of scale as AUM increases.

Based on our assessment all share classes are rated Green for economies of scale.

Comparable market rates

We have compared the OCF of each share class against a relevant peer group and all of their OCFs are below the median.

Based on our assessment each share class is rated Green for comparable market rates.

Comparable services

Based on our assessment the share classes are rated Green for comparable services, as the fees charged are comparable to other funds and mandates of the same investment strategy and similar size.

Overall rating

The Class B (Acc) USD and the Class Z (Acc) GBP are rated Green and are providing value to investors. The Class A (Acc) GBP, Class B (Acc) GBP and the Class B (Inc) GBP are rated Amber and have opportunities for improvement and the Fund Board continually assess these.