

# Global Corporate Bond Sustainable and Responsible Investment Fund

Invest for a better future

Q1 2022

**Standard Life** 

## **The Standard Life Global Corporate Bond Sustainable and Responsible Investment Fund invests fully in the Aberdeen Standard SICAV – Global Corporate Bond Sustainable and Responsible Investment Fund.**

It seeks to generate long-term growth from capital gains and the reinvestment of income generated by investing predominantly in global investment grade corporate bonds. The fund is actively managed by abrdn who may also invest in government bonds, sub-investment grade corporate bonds, debt-related securities, convertible bonds and other bonds (for example, supranational, government-backed and index-linked bonds) issued worldwide. Non-euro denominated assets held in the fund will generally be hedged back to euros.

Investment in all Debt and Debt-Related Securities will follow abrdn's "Sustainable and Responsible Investment" process whereby ratings are awarded to both sectors and issuers.

The value of investments within the fund can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed – you may get back less than you pay in. The Fund and its holdings may use derivatives for the purpose of efficient portfolio management, reduction of risk or to meet its respective investment objective if this is permitted and appropriate. The euro value of overseas assets held in the fund may rise and fall as a result of exchange rate fluctuations.

This fund is currently rated four out of seven on the ESMA risk scale, one being the lowest and seven being the highest. This rating may change if the volatility of the assets in which the fund invests changes.

This fund has an Annual Management Charge of 0.90%.

## **Why invest in the Standard Life Global Corporate Bond Sustainable and Responsible Investment Fund?**

### **Investing for a better future**

This fund aims to invest in bonds from companies that have a lower carbon footprint and lower risks to people and the planet than similar companies in the same industry.

### **You can align your investments with your values**

Sustainable Responsible Investing allows you to show your commitment as a responsible investor. There's no reason why you can't align your values of having a positive impact on the world with aiming to generate a financial return over the long term.

### **Avoid companies that do not adopt sustainable practices**

By investing in companies that are transparent in their sustainable and responsible practices and goals, you're sending a powerful message to companies with no sustainability agenda that their business is not worth investing in.

**Warning: If you invest in this fund you may lose some or all of the money you invest**

**Warning: This investment may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates**

**Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up**

## Who is the fund suitable for?

### Consider this fund if you

- are interested in investing in companies that aim to have a lower carbon footprint than similar companies in their industry and have a positive impact on society and the environment
- can take risk with your capital
- are seeking the potential for long term capital appreciation
- have an investment horizon of at least five years

### This fund may not be suitable if you

- don't want to take any risk with your capital
- are not prepared to accept periods of losses due to the volatile nature of corporate bond markets
- have specific ethical or moral investing requirements
- have an investment horizon of less than five years

## Why abrdn for Socially Responsible Investing?

The scale and resources of abrdn mean their investment management team has superior access to the companies that they research – they really get to know a business before deciding to invest in a company.

This helps ensure that the companies that the fund invests in have meaningful socially responsible business practices – for the ultimate benefit of our environment and society.

Manages **€554 billion** of investor money, **€40.0 billion** in **sustainability-driven funds**

**50 specialists**  
dedicated to sustainable investing

**Strong engagement** with the companies they invest in so that they can understand the business better and encourage best practice when it comes to sustainable and responsible business practices

Almost **30-year track history** of incorporating ESG criteria into their investment approach

Source: abrdn, June 2021

## Assessing sustainable and responsible businesses

abrdn use the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact as part of their assessment when selecting companies to invest in. These principles set out the minimum, fundamental responsibilities for companies and how they operate in areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

This fund will exclude companies that do not comply with The Ten Principles, tobacco manufacturers, and companies having direct involvement in the development and production of controversial weapons.

## The Ten Principles are:

Human rights	
<b>Principle 1</b>	Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
<b>Principle 2</b>	make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
Labour	
<b>Principle 3</b>	Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
<b>Principle 4</b>	the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
<b>Principle 5</b>	the effective abolition of child labour; and
<b>Principle 6</b>	the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
Environment	
<b>Principle 7</b>	Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
<b>Principle 8</b>	undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
<b>Principle 9</b>	encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.
Anti-corruption	
<b>Principle 10</b>	Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Source: [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org), September 2020

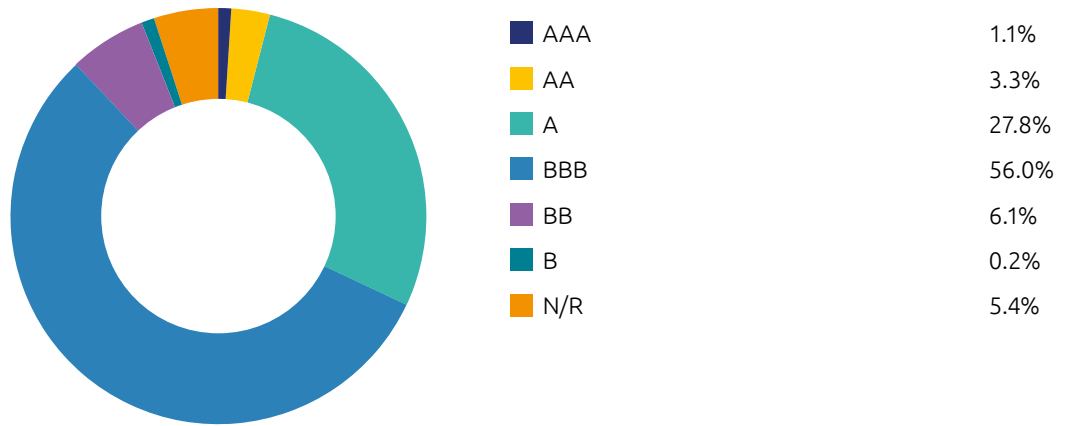
In addition, companies will generally be excluded where they are operating in sectors classified as medium or high risk by abrdn, and are awarded a lower than average sustainability rating by their Sustainable and Responsible Investment process in areas of climate change, human rights, environment, labour issues and business ethics.

High risk sector	Medium risk sector	Low risk sector
Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Automobile</li><li>• Construction materials</li><li>• Mining</li><li>• Unconventional oil and gas</li><li>• Gas and electricity utilities</li></ul>	Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Banks</li><li>• Real estate</li><li>• Food distributors</li><li>• Healthcare services</li><li>• Industrial machinery</li></ul>	Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IT consulting</li><li>• Advertising</li><li>• Leisure products</li><li>• Renewable electricity</li><li>• Home furnishings</li></ul>

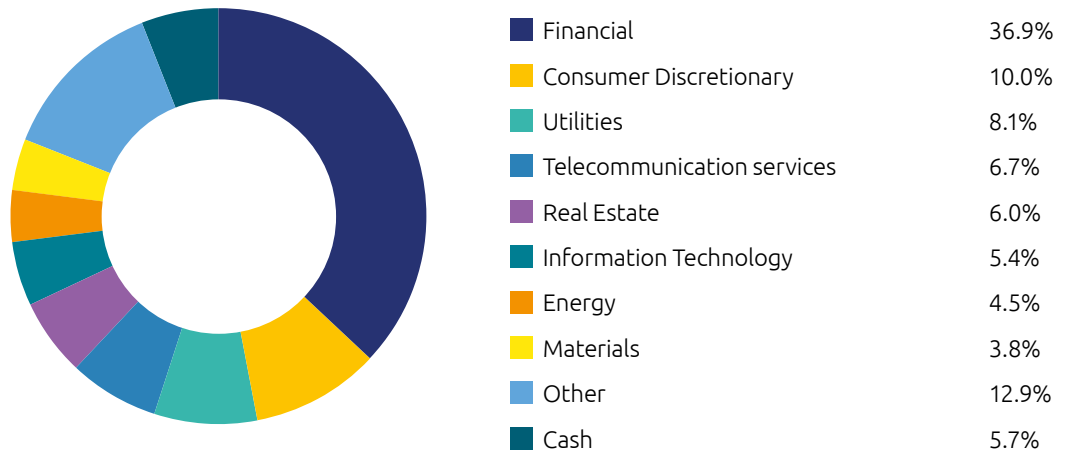
Source: abrdn, 30 September 2020

## Underlying fund information as at March 2022

### Credit quality allocation

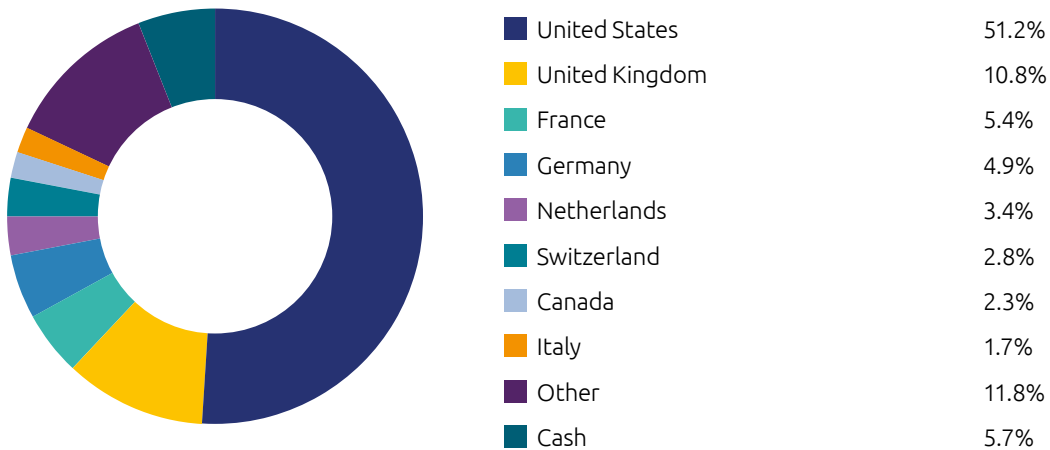


### Sector allocation



Source: abrdn, 31 March 2022

## Country allocation



Source: abrdn, 31 March 2022

Top 10 holdings	% of fund
Bank of America Corp 2.592% 2031	1.2
HSBC Hldgs 4.25% 2024	1.0
Bank of America 7% 2028	0.9
Citigroup 3.2% 2026	0.9
JPMorgan Chase & Co 2.522% 2031	0.8
AbbVie 3.2% 2026	0.8
Morgan Stanley 4.431% 2030	0.7
American Tower Corp 3.95% 2029	0.7
Bank of America 7.75% 2038	0.7
Citigroup 5.875% 2042	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.4</b>

Source: abrdn, 31 March 2022

## Is ESG integrated into the investment process?

The Standard Life Global Corporate Bond Sustainable and Responsible Investment Fund invests in predominantly global investment grade corporate bonds. Investment in all bonds follows abrDN "Sustainable and Responsible Investment" process whereby ratings are awarded to both sectors and issuers. abrDN also use the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact as part of their assessment when selecting companies to invest in. These principles set out the minimum, fundamental responsibilities for companies and how they operate in areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. The Fund will exclude companies that do not comply with the Ten Principles, tobacco manufacturers, and companies having a direct involvement in the development of controversial weapons. In addition, companies will generally be excluded where they are operating in sectors classified as medium or high risk by abrDN, and are awarded a lower than average sustainability rating by their Sustainable and Responsible Investment process in areas of climate change, human rights, environment, labour issues and business ethics.

abrDN integrates sustainability risks and opportunities into its research, analysis and investment decision-making processes. They believe that the consideration of sustainability risks and opportunities can have a material impact on long-term returns for investors.

abrDN's ESG integration requires, in addition to its inclusion in the investment decision making process, appropriate monitoring of sustainability considerations in risk management, portfolio monitoring, engagement and stewardship activities. They also engage with policymakers on ESG and stewardship matters.

Combining the integration of sustainability risks and opportunities with broader monitoring and engagement activities may affect the value of investments and therefore returns.

Further information on abrDN's ESG integration approaches by asset classes can be found at [www.abrDN.com/Ireland](http://www.abrDN.com/Ireland) under "Sustainable Investing".

## Additional risk factor:

**Applying ESG and sustainability criteria in the investment process may result in the exclusion of securities in which the Fund might otherwise invest. Such securities could be part of the benchmark against which the Fund is managed, or be within the universe of potential investments. This may have a positive or negative impact on performance and may mean that the Fund's performance profile differs to that of funds which are managed against the same benchmark or invest in a similar universe of potential investments but without applying ESG or sustainability criteria.**

**Furthermore, the lack of common or harmonised definitions and labels regarding ESG and sustainability criteria may result in different approaches by managers when integrating ESG and sustainability criteria into investment decisions. This means that it may be difficult to compare funds with ostensibly similar objectives and that these funds will employ different security selection and exclusion criteria. Consequently, the performance profile of otherwise similar funds may deviate more substantially than might otherwise be expected. Additionally, in the absence of common or harmonised definitions and labels, a degree of subjectivity is required and this will mean that a fund may invest in a security that another manager or an investor "would not."**

## Important things to consider

All investment involves risk. This Fund offers no guarantee against loss or that the Fund's objective will be attained. This is not a guaranteed or capital protected product. There are risks to your capital should you choose to invest in this fund.

Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance and future performance is not guaranteed.

The value of investments within the Fund and the income from them can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed – an investor may get back less than they paid in.

The Fund may use derivatives for the purpose of efficient portfolio management, reduction of risk or to meet its respective investment objective.

The value of overseas assets held in the Fund may rise and fall as a result of exchange rate fluctuations.

The Fund could lose money if an entity (counterparty) with which it does business becomes unwilling or unable to honour its obligations to the Fund.

In extreme market conditions, some securities may become hard to value or sell at a desired price. This could affect the Fund's ability to meet redemptions in a timely manner.

The Fund could lose money as the result of a failure or delay in operational processes and systems including but not limited to third party providers failing or going into administration.

Inflation reduces the buying power of your investment and income.

Investors in the Fund may buy and sell units on any normal business day.

## You should also be aware of the following risk factors

### Fixed income (bonds)

The Fund invests in securities which are subject to the risk that the issuer may default on interest or capital payments.

Bonds are affected by changes in interest rates, inflation and any decline in creditworthiness of the bond issuer. While the Fund invests predominantly in investment grade corporate bonds there is always a risk that the bond issuers may not be able to pay the income as promised or could fail to repay the capital amount used to purchase the bond. Where a bond market has a low number of buyers and/or sellers, it can be hard to sell particular bonds at an anticipated price and/or in a timely manner.

The Fund invests in high yielding bonds which carry a greater risk of default than those with lower yields.

The Fund invests in mortgage and asset-backed securities (which may include collateralised loan, debt or mortgage obligations (respectively Collateralized Loan Obligations (CLOs), Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs) or Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs)). These are subject to prepayment and extension risk and additional liquidity and default risk compared to other credit securities.

The Fund invests in convertible securities and contingent convertible securities (CoCos). Convertible securities are investments that can be changed into another form upon certain triggers. As such, they can exhibit credit, equity and fixed interest risk. Contingent convertible securities (CoCos) are similar to convertible securities but have additional triggers which mean that they are more vulnerable to volatile price movements, can become less liquid and can result in substantial/and or total losses of the bond value.

The Fund invests in emerging markets bonds which tend to be more volatile than mature markets and the value of investments could move sharply up or down. Emerging markets or less developed countries may face more political, economic or structural challenges than developed economies.

### Use of derivatives

The Fund may use investment techniques (including Derivatives) to seek to protect and enhance the value of the Fund and to manage the Fund's risks. Derivatives, such as futures, options and swaps, are linked to the rise and fall of other assets. In other words, they "derive" their price from another asset. They can generate returns when share prices and/or indices fall.

Investing in derivatives carries the risk of reduced liquidity, substantial loss and increased volatility in adverse market conditions, such as a failure amongst market participants. The use of derivatives may result in the Fund being leveraged (where economic exposure and thus the potential for loss by the Fund exceeds the amount it has invested) and in these market conditions the effect of leverage will be to magnify losses.

Financial derivative instruments used by the Fund may be on indices which may provide exposure to companies that do not meet the Sustainable and Responsible Investment process or the other stock selection criteria of the Fund.

The Fund does not make extensive use of derivatives.



## Switching your funds, transferring or cashing in

You may be one of many investors in a fund. Sometimes in exceptional circumstances:

- we may change the pricing basis of a fund to reflect cashflows in and out. If it's a property based fund, due to the high transaction charges associated with the assets, this can result in a significant movement of the fund price
- we may also wait before we carry out your request to switch your funds, transfer or cash in your policy. This delay could be up to a month. But for some funds, the delay could be longer, for example, if it's a property based fund, it may be up to 12 months because property and land can take longer to sell

If we have to delay switching, transferring or cashing in, we'll use the fund prices on the day the transaction takes place – these prices could be very different from the prices on the day you made the request.

These are processes which aim to maintain fairness between those remaining invested and those leaving a fund.

**At certain times, and when you cash in your policy, there's likely to be tax payable, depending on the policy type you invested in, and your personal circumstances.**



A decision to invest in this product should not be based solely on information provided in this document. Please talk to your financial adviser for more information or if you need an explanation of the terms used.

For more information on our funds, please visit [www.standardlife.ie/funds](https://www.standardlife.ie/funds)

## Find out more

Talk to your financial adviser. They'll give you the information you need. Also, you can call us or visit our website.

## Call us on (01) 639 7000

Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded to protect both you and us and help with our training. Call charges will vary.

[www.standardlife.ie](https://www.standardlife.ie)

Standard Life International dac is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Standard Life International dac is a designated activity company limited by shares and registered in Dublin, Ireland (408507) at 90 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, D02 F653.

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