

Police Federation of England and Wales Retirement Benefits Scheme

Statement of Investment Principles

Date prepared: June 2024

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Choosing investments	3
3. Investment objectives	3
4. Kinds of investments to be held	4
5. The balance between different kinds of investments	4
6. Risks	4
7. Expected return on investments	6
8. Realisation of investments	6
9. Financially material considerations, non-financial matters, the exercise of voting rights and engagement	6
10. Policy on arrangements with asset managers	6
11. Agreement	8
Appendix 1 Note on investment policy of the Scheme as in relation to the current Statement of Investment Principles	9
1. The balance between different kinds of investment	9
2. Choosing investments	10
3. Fee agreements	11
4. Investments and disinvestments	11
Liability Driven Investment	11
Appendix 2 Financially Material considerations, non-financially material considerations, the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities	12
1. Financially material considerations	12
2. Non-financially material considerations	13
3. The exercise of voting rights	13
4. Engagement activities	13

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This is the Statement of Investment Principles prepared by the Trustee of the Police Federation of England and Wales Retirement Benefits Scheme ('the Scheme'). This statement sets down the principles which govern the decisions about investments that enable the Scheme to meet the requirements of:
 - the Pensions Act 1995, as amended by the Pensions Act 2004; and
 - the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 as amended by the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations 2010.
 - the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment and Modification) Regulations 2018.
 - the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment) Regulations 2019.
- 1.2. In preparing this statement the Trustee has consulted the Police Federation of England & Wales, the Principal Employer, and obtained advice from Barnett Waddingham LLP, the Trustee's investment consultants. Barnett Waddingham is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and licensed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries for a range of investment business activities.
- 1.3. This statement has been prepared with regard to the 2001 Myners review of institutional investment (including subsequent updates), and Scheme Funding legislation.
- 1.4. The Trustee will review this statement at least every three years or if there is a significant change in any of the areas covered by the statement.

2. Choosing investments

- 2.1. The Trustee's policy is to set the overall investment target and then monitor the performance of their manager against that target. In doing so, the Trustee considers the advice of their professional advisers, who they consider to be suitably qualified and experienced for this role.
- 2.2. The day-to-day management of the Scheme's assets is delegated to Legal & General Investment Management ("LGIM"). The investment manager is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, and is responsible for stock selection and the exercise of voting rights.
- 2.3. The Trustee reviews the appropriateness of the Scheme's investment strategy on an ongoing basis. This review includes consideration of the continued competence of the investment manager with respect to performance within any guidelines set. The Trustee will also consult the employer before amending the investment strategy.

3. Investment objectives

- 3.1. The Trustee has discussed key investment objectives in light of an analysis of the Scheme's liability profile as well as the constraints the Trustee faces in achieving these objectives. As a result, the Trustee's main investment objectives are:
 - to ensure that the Scheme can meet the members' entitlements under the Trust Deed and Rules as they fall due;

- to manage the expected volatility of the returns achieved in order to control the level of volatility in the Scheme's required contribution levels;
- to minimise the long-term costs of the Scheme by maximising the return on the assets whilst having regard to the above objectives.

3.2. The Trustee is aware of the relationship that exists between the particular investment portfolio that is held and the level of funding of the Scheme's liabilities. The Trustee has obtained exposure to investments that they expect will meet the Scheme's objectives as best as possible.

4. Kinds of investments to be held

- 4.1. The Scheme is permitted to invest in a wide range of assets including equities, bonds, cash, property and alternatives.
- 4.2. The Trustee monitors from time-to-time the employer-related investment content of their portfolio as a whole and will take steps to alter this should they discover this to be more than 5% of the portfolio. Typically this check is carried out annually by the Scheme's auditors.

5. The balance between different kinds of investments

- 5.1. The Scheme invests in assets that are expected to achieve the Scheme's objectives. The allocation between different asset classes is contained within the Appendix to this Statement.
- 5.2. The Trustee considers the merits of both active and passive management for the various elements of the portfolio and may select different approaches for different asset classes. The current arrangements are set out in the Appendix to this Statement.
- 5.3. The Trustee is aware that the appropriate balance between different kinds of investments will vary over time and therefore the Scheme's asset allocation will be expected to change as the Scheme's liability profile matures.

6. Risks

- 6.1. The Trustee has considered the following risks for the Scheme with regard to their investment policy and the Scheme's liabilities, and considered ways of managing/monitoring these risks:

Risk versus the liabilities	The Trustee will monitor and review the investment strategy with respect to the liabilities in conjunction with each actuarial valuation. The investment strategy will be set with consideration to the appropriate level of risk required for the funding strategy as set out in the Scheme's Statement of Funding Principles.
Covenant risk	The creditworthiness of the employer and the size of the pension liability relative to the employer's earnings are monitored on a regular basis. The appropriate level of investment risk is considered with reference to the strength of the employer covenant.
Solvency and mismatching	This risk is addressed through the asset allocation strategy and ongoing triennial actuarial valuations. The Trustee is aware that the asset allocation required to minimise the volatility of the solvency position may be different from that which would minimise the volatility on the Scheme's funding basis.
Asset allocation risk	The asset allocation is detailed in the Appendix to this Statement and is monitored on a regular basis by the Trustee.
Investment manager risk	The Trustee monitors the performance of each of the Scheme's investment manager on a regular basis in addition to having meetings with each manager from time to time as necessary, usually on an annual basis. The Trustee has a written agreement with each investment manager, which contains a number of restrictions on how each investment manager may operate.
Governance risk	Each asset manager is expected to undertake good stewardship and positive engagement in relation to the assets held. The Trustee monitors these and will report on the managers' practices in their annual Implementation Statement.
ESG/Climate risk	The Trustee has considered long-term financial risks to the Scheme and ESG factors as well as climate risk are potentially financially material and will continue to develop their policy to consider these, alongside other factors, when selecting or reviewing the Scheme's investments in order to avoid unexpected losses.
Concentration risk	Each investment manager is expected to manage broadly diversified portfolios and to spread assets across a number of individual shares and securities.
Liquidity risk	The Scheme invests in assets such that there is a sufficient allocation to liquid investments that can be converted into cash at short notice given the Scheme's cashflow requirements. The Scheme's administrators assess the level of cash held in order to limit the impact of the cashflow requirements on the investment policy.
Currency risk	The Scheme's liabilities are denominated in sterling. The Scheme may gain exposure to overseas currencies by investing in assets that are denominated in a foreign currency or via currency management.

**Loss of
investment**

The risk of loss of investment by each investment manager and custodian is assessed by the Trustee. This includes losses beyond those caused by market movements (e.g. default risk, operational errors or fraud).

7. Expected return on investments

- 7.1. The Trustee has regard to the relative investment return and risk that each asset class is expected to provide. The Trustee is advised by their professional advisors on these matters, who they deem to be appropriately qualified experts. However, the day-to-day selection of investments is delegated to the Scheme's investment manager.
- 7.2. The Trustee recognises the need to distinguish between nominal and real returns and to make appropriate allowance for inflation when making decisions and comparisons.
- 7.3. In considering the expected return from investments, the Trustee recognises that different asset classes have different long-term expected returns and expected volatilities relative to the liabilities.
- 7.4. Having established the investment strategy, the Trustee monitors the performance of each investment manager against an agreed benchmark as frequently as appropriate according to market conditions and the Scheme's funding position. The Trustee meets the Scheme's investment manager as frequently as is appropriate, normally on an annual basis, in order to review performance.

8. Realisation of investments

- 8.1. The Trustee has delegated the responsibility for buying and selling investments to the investment manager. The Trustee has considered the risk of liquidity as referred to above.
- 8.2. Ultimately, the investments will all have to be sold when the Scheme's life comes to an end. In this situation, the Trustee is aware of the fact that the realisable value of some investments, were there to be a forced sale, might be lower than the market value shown in the Scheme accounts.

9. Financially material considerations, non-financial matters, the exercise of voting rights and engagement

- 9.1. The Trustee has set policies in relation to these matters. These policies are set out in the Appendix.

10. Policy on arrangements with asset managers

Incentivising alignment with the Trustee's investment policies

- 10.1. Prior to appointing an investment manager, the Trustee discusses the investment manager's approach to the management of ESG and climate related risks with the Scheme's investment consultant, and how their policies are aligned with the Trustee's own investment beliefs.

- 10.2. When appointing an investment manager, in addition to considering the investment manager's investment philosophy, process and policies to establish how the manager intends to make the required investment returns, the Trustee also considers how ESG and climate risk are integrated into these. If the Trustee deems any aspect of these policies to be out of line with their own investment objectives for the part of the portfolio being considered, they will consider using another manager for the mandate.
- 10.3. The Trustee carries out a strategy review at least every three years where they assess the continuing relevance of the strategy in the context of the Scheme's membership and their aims, beliefs and constraints. The Trustee monitors the investment manager's approach to ESG and climate related risks on an annual basis.
- 10.4. In the event that an investment manager ceases to meet the Trustee's desired aims, including the management of ESG and climate related risks, using the approach expected of them, their appointment may be terminated. The investment manager has been informed of this by the Trustee.
- 10.5. Investment manager ESG policies are reviewed in the context of best industry practice and feedback will be provided to the investment manager.

Incentivising assessments based on medium to long term, financial and non-financial considerations

- 10.6. The Trustee is mindful that the impact of ESG and climate change has a long-term nature. However, the Trustee recognises that the potential for change in value as a result of ESG and climate risk may occur over a much shorter term than climate change itself. The Trustee acknowledges this in their investment management arrangements.
- 10.7. When considering the management of objectives for an investment manager (including ESG and climate risk objectives), and then assessing their effectiveness and performance, the Trustee assesses these over a rolling timeframe. The Trustee believes the use of rolling timeframes, typically 3 to 5 years, is consistent with ensuring the investment manager makes decisions based on an appropriate time horizon. Where a fund may have an absolute return or shorter term target, this is generally supplementary to a longer term performance target. In the case of assets that are actively managed, the Trustee expects this longer term performance target to be sufficient to ensure an appropriate alignment of interests.
- 10.8. The Trustee expects the investment manager to be voting and engaging on behalf of the Scheme's holdings and the Scheme monitors this activity within the Implementation Statement in the Scheme's Annual Report and Accounts.

Method and time horizon for assessing performance

- 10.9. The Trustee monitors the performance of their investment manager over medium to long term periods that are consistent with the Trustee's investment aims, beliefs and constraints.
- 10.10. The Scheme invests predominantly in pooled funds. The investment manager is remunerated by the Trustee based on the assets they manage on behalf of the Trustee.
- 10.11. The Trustee believes that this fee structure, enables the investment manager to focus on long-term performance.
- 10.12. The Trustee asks the Scheme's investment consultant to assess if the asset management fee is in line with the market when the manager is selected, and the appropriateness of the annual management charges are considered regularly as part of the review of the Statement of Investment Principles.

Portfolio turnover costs

- 10.13. The Trustee acknowledges that portfolio turnover costs can impact on the performance of their investments. Overall performance is assessed as part of the quarterly investment monitoring process.
- 10.14. During the investment manager appointment process, the Trustee may consider both past and anticipated portfolio turnover levels. When underperformance is identified, deviations from the expected level of turnover may be investigated with the investment manager concerned if it is felt they may have been a significant contributor to the underperformance. Assessments reflect the market conditions and peer group practices. The Trustee acknowledges that for some asset classes, such as LDI, a higher turnover of contracts such as repurchase agreements, can be beneficial to the fund from both a risk and cost perspective.

Duration of arrangement with asset manager

- 10.15. For the open-ended pooled funds in which the Scheme invests, there are no predetermined terms of agreement with the investment manager.
- 10.16. The suitability of the Scheme's asset allocation and its ongoing alignment with the Trustee's investment beliefs is assessed every three years, or when changes deem it appropriate to do so more frequently. As part of this review the ongoing appropriateness of the investment manager, and the specific funds used, is assessed.

11. Agreement

- 11.1. This statement was agreed by the Trustee, and replaces any previous statements. Copies of this statement and any subsequent amendments will be made available to the employer, the investment manager, the actuary and the Scheme auditor upon request.

Adopted by the Trustee of the Police Federation of England and Wales Retirement Benefits Scheme on 28 June 2024

Appendix 1 Note on investment policy of the Scheme in relation to the current Statement of Investment Principles

1. The balance between different kinds of investment

The Scheme has a strategic asset allocation as set out in the table below, which has been agreed after considering the Scheme's liability profile, funding position, expected return of the various asset classes and the need for diversification.

Asset class	Benchmark (%)
Diversified Growth Funds	15.0
Absolute Return Bond Funds	25.0
Corporate Bonds	20.0
Liability Driven Investments & Cash	40.0

Rebalancing

The Trustee recognises that the asset allocation of investments in different asset classes will vary over time as a result of market movements. The Trustee seeks to maintain a balance between maintaining the asset allocation in line with its benchmark and limiting the costs of rebalances.

Hedging levels

The target interest rate and inflation hedging levels for the investment strategy are set out below:

	Target (%)
Interest rate hedging (% of total Technical Provisions liabilities)	100
Inflation hedging (% of total Technical Provisions liabilities)	100

2. Choosing investments

The Trustee has appointed LGIM to carry out the day-to-day investment of the Scheme.

The investment benchmarks and objectives for each fund are given below:

Investment Manger	Fund	Benchmark	Objective
LGIM	Dynamic Diversified Growth Fund	Bank of England base rate + 4.5% p.a.	Provide long-term investment growth through dynamic exposure to a diversified range of asset classes in line with the benchmark.
	Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index Fund - All Stocks	Markit iBoxx £ Non-Gilts Index	To track the benchmark to within +/-0.5% p.a. for two years out of three.
	Absolute Return Bond Fund (SONIA + 1.5% target)	ICE BofA SONIA 3-Month Constant Maturity Total Return Index	Outperform the benchmark by 1.5% p.a. over a rolling three year period (before fees).
	LDI – Matching Core funds	Gilt and Swap composite index.	Protect against changes in real and nominal interest rates.
	Sterling Liquidity Fund	Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA)	Track the benchmark.

The performance of LGIM will be monitored as frequently as the Trustee considers appropriate in light of the prevailing circumstances. The monitoring takes into account both short-term and long-term performance.

3. Fee agreements

The fee arrangements with the investment manager are summarised below:

Investment manager	Fund	Ongoing Charges (%)
LGIM	Dynamic Diversified Growth Fund	0.510% per annum
	Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index Fund - All Stocks	0.150% per annum
	Absolute Return Bond Fund (SONIA + 1.5% target)	0.300% per annum
	LDI – Matching Core funds	0.290% per annum
	Sterling Liquidity Fund	0.125% per annum

In addition to the annual fees shown above, the Scheme also pay a flat annual scheme charge of £1,000 per annum to LGIM.

The Trustee has appointed Barnett Waddingham LLP to advise on investment matters. Barnett Waddingham normally agree fixed fees for specific tasks although may be remunerated on a time-cost basis.

4. Investments and disinvestments

Investments will normally be made so as to move the non-LDI assets more in line with their target asset allocation. The Scheme’s cash flow requirements are expected to be met by the employer’s contributions. Where this is insufficient, the Trustee will disinvest from their non-LDI investments in order to move the actual allocation in line with the target allocation.

Liability Driven Investment

The Trustee has instructed LGIM to manage an LDI mandate on the behalf of the Scheme through their investment in the Matching Core Fund pooled range; with the intention of maximising the interest rate and inflation hedge ratios as a proportion of the Scheme’s liabilities.

In order to manage the amount of leverage within the funds, LGIM will inform the Trustee of the amount of any required cash collateral call or payout.

In the event of a cash collateral call (requiring the Scheme to top up the investment in the LDI funds), LGIM will automatically disinvest from the Sterling Liquidity Fund. If this is insufficient, LGIM will disinvest from the Absolute Return Bond Fund, followed by the Dynamic Diversified Growth Fund.

In the event that cash collateral payouts are made from the LDI funds, LGIM will automatically pay these amounts directly into the Sterling Liquidity Fund. The Trustee will then consider on a case by case basis whether to rebalance the overall asset allocation.

Appendix 2 Financially Material considerations, non-financially material considerations, the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities

1. Financially material considerations

The Trustee believes that environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) factors are potentially financially material over the life of the Scheme and therefore have a policy to consider these, alongside other factors, when selecting or reviewing the Scheme’s investments. The Trustee will be reliant on the information presented by the investment manager and their investment advisors regarding the extent to which the investment manager allows for ESG in making their investment decisions. Furthermore, an investment manager’s excellence in this area will not take precedence over other factors, including (but not limited to) historical performance or fees.

Following discussions with the Scheme’s investment consultant and consideration of data and trends, the Trustee has agreed that the impact of climate change may be financially material for the Scheme. In addition, the Trustee expects their relevant asset managers to be able to evidence their stewardship activity in this area which the Trustee will monitor annually, for example, by considering the voting and engagement activity of the asset managers. Therefore, this is also an area which the Trustee believes they can meaningfully monitor progress and engage with their asset managers over time. The Trustee recognises that the Scheme has exposure to multiple systemic risks but have chosen climate change as their current stewardship priority. The Trustee will periodically review the stewardship priorities of the Scheme to ensure they remain appropriate.

In preparing this Statement the Trustee has also considered the Employer’s Code of Ethics.

The Trustee has elected to invest the Scheme’s assets through pooled funds. The choice of underlying funds is made by the Trustee after taking advice from their investment consultant. The Trustee, and the managers of the underlying funds, take into account ESG factors (including climate change risks) in their decisions in relation to the selection, retention and realisation of investments.

The Trustee takes those factors into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments as follows:

Selection of investments: assess the investment managers’ ESG integration credentials and capabilities, including stewardship, as a routine part of requests for information/proposals as well as through other regular reporting channels.

Retention of investments: Developing a robust monitoring process in order to monitor ESG considerations on an ongoing basis by regularly seeking information on the responsible investing policies and practices of the investment managers.

Realisation of investments: The Trustee will request information from investment managers about how ESG considerations are taken into account in decisions to realise investments.

The Trustee will also take those factors into account as part of their investment process to determine a strategic asset allocation, and consider them as part of ongoing reviews of the Scheme's investments.

2. Non-financially material considerations

The Trustee does not take into account the views of Scheme members and beneficiaries in relation to ethical considerations, social and environmental impact, or present and future quality of life of the members and beneficiaries of the Scheme in the selection, retention and realisation of investments.

3. The exercise of voting rights

The Trustee's policy on the exercise of rights attaching to investments, including voting rights, and in undertaking engagement activities in respect of the investments is that these rights should be exercised by the investment manager on the Trustee's behalf. In doing so, the Trustee expects that the investment manager will use their influence as major institutional investors to exercise the Trustee's rights and duties as shareholders, including where appropriate engaging with underlying investee companies to promote good corporate governance, accountability and to understand how those companies take account of ESG issues in their businesses.

The Trustee will monitor and engage with the investment manager about relevant matters (including matters concerning an issuer of debt or equity, including their performance, strategy, capital structure, management of actual or potential conflicts of interest, risks, social and environmental impact and corporate governance), through the Scheme's investment consultant.

The investment manager will be asked to provide details of their stewardship policy and engagement activities on at least an annual basis. The Trustee will, with input from their investment consultant, monitor and review the information provided by the investment manager. Where possible and appropriate, the Trustee will engage with their investment manager for more information and ask them to confirm that their policies comply with the principles set out in the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code.

4. Engagement activities

The Trustee acknowledges the importance of ESG and climate risk within their investment framework. When delegating investment decision making to their investment manager they provide their investment manager with a benchmark they expect the investment manager to either follow or outperform. The investment manager has discretion over where in an investee company's capital structure it invests (subject to the restrictions of the mandate), whether directly or as an asset within a pooled fund.

The Trustee is of the belief that ESG and climate risk considerations extend over the entirety of a company's corporate structure and activities, i.e. that they apply to equity, credit and property instruments or holdings. The Trustee also recognises that ESG and climate related issues are constantly evolving and along with them so too are the products available within the investment management industry to help manage these risks.

The Trustee considers it to be a part of their investment managers' roles to assess and monitor developments in the capital structure for each of the companies in which the managers invest on behalf of the Scheme or as part of the pooled fund in which the Scheme holds units.

The Trustee also considers it to be part of their investment managers' roles to assess and monitor how the companies in which they are investing are managing developments in ESG related issues, and in particular climate risk, across the relevant parts of the capital structure for each of the companies in which the managers invest on behalf of the Scheme.

Should an investment manager be failing in these respects, this should be captured in the Scheme's regular performance monitoring.

The Scheme's investment manager is granted full discretion over whether or not to invest in the Principal Employer's business. Through their consultation with the Principal Employer when setting this Statement of Investment Principles, the Trustee has made the Principal Employer aware of their policy on ESG and climate related risks, how they intend to manage them and the importance that the pensions industry as a whole, and its regulators, place on them.

The Scheme's investment consultant is independent and no arm of their business provides asset management services. This, and their FCA Regulated status, makes the Trustee confident that the investment manager recommendations they make are free from conflict of interest.

The Trustee expects the investment manager to have a conflict of interest policy in relation to their engagement and ongoing operations. In doing so the Trustee believes they have managed the potential for conflicts of interest in the appointment of the investment manager and conflicts of interest between the Trustee/investment manager and the investee companies.

In selecting and reviewing their investment manager, where appropriate, the Trustee will consider the investment manager's policies on engagement and how these policies have been implemented.