

# **The Stanley Gibbons Holdings PLC Pension and Assurance Scheme Statement of Investment Principles**

As at February 2021

**SPENCE**

# What's inside

Section	Page
Introduction .....	3
Investment Objectives .....	4
Investment Responsibilities .....	5
Setting the Investment Strategy .....	7
Risks .....	11
Compliance .....	13
Appendices .....	14
Appendix 1 .....	15
Appendix 2 .....	18



# Introduction

This Statement of Investment Principles (“the Statement”) has been prepared by the Trustee of the Stanley Gibbons Holdings PLC Pension and Assurance Scheme (“the Scheme”). It has been prepared to comply with Section 35 of the Pensions Act 1995 as amended by the Pensions Act 2004 and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 as amended by subsequent regulations.

This Statement sets out the principles governing decisions about investments for the Scheme and supersedes the previous Statement prepared by the Trustee of the Scheme (“the Trustee”).

In preparing this Statement, the Trustee has:

1. Consulted with the employer Stanley Gibbons Limited (“the Company”), although responsibility for maintaining this Statement and setting investment policy rests solely with the Trustee.
2. Obtained and considered written professional advice and recommendations from Spence and Partners Limited (“Spence”) who are the Trustee’s appointed investment adviser. Spence is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”). It has confirmed to the Trustee that it has the appropriate knowledge and experience to give the advice required by the Pensions Acts.

This Statement has been prepared with regard to the 2001 Myners review of institutional investment (including subsequent updates) and Scheme Funding legislation. The Myners principles are summarised in Appendix 2.

The Trustee will review this Statement at least every three years to coincide with the triennial actuarial valuation or other advice relating to the statutory funding requirements. If there are any significant changes in any of the areas covered by this Statement, the Trustee will review it without further delay. Any changes made will be based on written advice from a suitably qualified individual and will follow on from consultation with the Company.

The Scheme is a defined benefits (“DB”) plan. The Trustee’s investment powers are set out in Clause 3 of the Definitive Deed dated 2 May 1975 and subsequent amending deeds. This Statement is consistent with those powers.

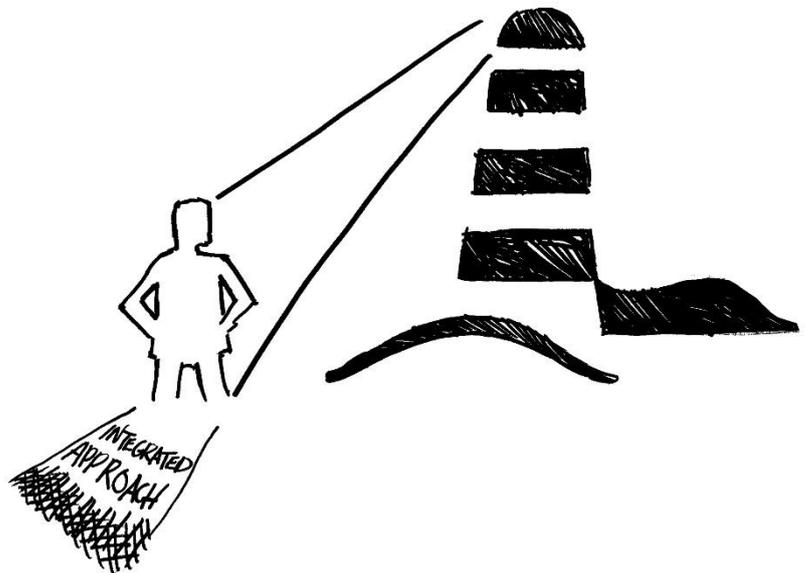


# Investment Objectives

The Trustee's overall investment policy is guided by the following objectives:

1. To ensure that the Scheme's assets and future contributions are invested in such a manner that the benefits due to members and their beneficiaries as defined under the Trust Deed and Rules can be paid from the Scheme as they arise.
2. To set and monitor appropriate benchmarks and performance targets for investment managers.
3. To pay due regards to the interests of the Company in relation to the size, incidence and volatility of its contribution payments.
4. The Trustee has considered the Company's covenant and have taken a long-term view to setting their funding and investment objectives. They are aware of the relationship between the investments held and the funding level of the Scheme liabilities and believe that their investment objectives and the resultant strategy are consistent with the valuation of those liabilities.
5. To fully fund the Scheme on a Technical Provisions basis within 10 years from 30 September 2019.
6. To prevent the Scheme funding level on a Technical Provisions basis falling below 50% within 10 years from 30 September 2019.

The Scheme Actuary has confirmed during the process of revising the investment strategy that the investment objectives and resultant strategy are consistent with the actuarial valuation methodology and assumptions used in the statutory funding objective.



# Investment Responsibilities

## The Trustee

Under the legal documentation governing the Scheme, the power of investment is vested in the Trustee. Therefore, the Trustee is responsible for setting the investment objectives and determining the strategy to achieve those objectives. They set the overall investment target and then monitor the performance of their investment managers against the target. In doing so the Trustee considers the advice of their professional advisers, who it considers to be suitably qualified and experienced for this role.

The duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Regular approval of this Statement and monitoring compliance with this Statement
- ✓ Appointment, removal (where applicable) and review of their investment managers or investment advisor and their performance relative to relevant benchmarks
- ✓ Assessment of the investment risks run by the Scheme
- ✓ Monitoring and review of the asset allocation

## Investment Adviser's duties and responsibilities

The Trustee has appointed Spence as their investment adviser. Spence provides advice when the Trustee requires it and/or when Spence feels it suitable to do so. Areas on which it can provide advice are as follows:

- ✓ Setting investment objectives
- ✓ Determining strategic asset allocation
- ✓ Determining suitable funds and investment managers
- ✓ Managing cashflow

It should be noted that the Trustee retains responsibility for all decisions.

Spence is remunerated on a basis point fee, which is based on the assets of the Scheme. This charge covers all investment services as defined in the investment consulting services contract with Spence.

Any extra services provided by Spence will be remunerated on a time cost or fixed fee basis as agreed with the Trustee.

Spence does not receive any commission or any other payments in respect of the Scheme for investment services that will affect the impartiality of their advice. Any manager discounts (net of Mobius' fee) received, through the use of the investment platform, are passed in full to the Scheme.

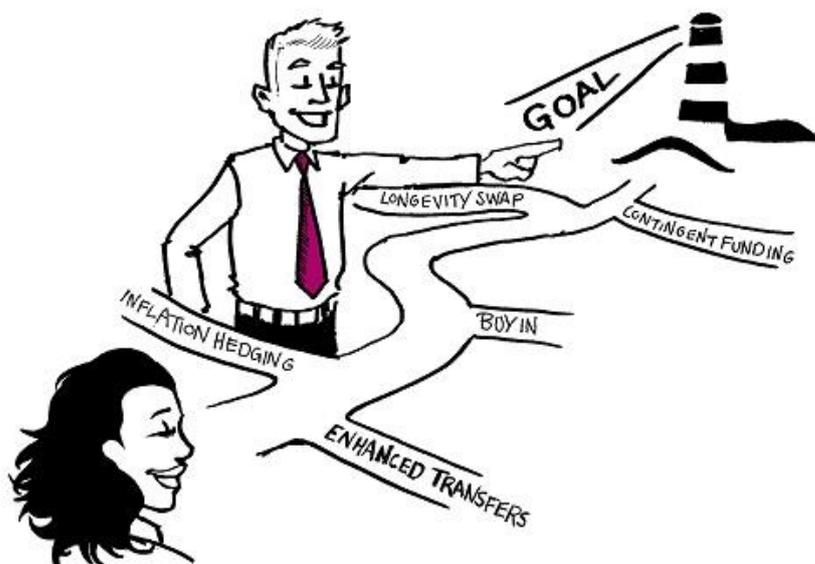
The Trustee is satisfied that this is a suitable adviser compensation structure.

## *Investment Responsibilities cont'd...*

### **Investment Managers' Duties and Responsibilities**

The Trustee, after considering suitable advice, has appointed various managers to manage the assets of the Scheme via the Mobius Life investment platform.

The underlying investment managers are detailed in Appendix 1 of this Statement. These investment managers are authorised and regulated by the FCA and are responsible for stock selection, asset allocation (if managing a multi-asset portfolio) and the exercise of voting rights. All the underlying managers are compensated by fund-based charges on the value of the Scheme's assets that they hold.



# Setting the Investment Strategy

The Trustee has determined their investment strategy after considering the Scheme's liability profile, its own appetite for risk and the views, risk appetite and covenant of the Company. It has also received written advice from its investment adviser.

## Types of Investment

The Scheme's assets are invested on behalf of the Trustee by Mobius Life Limited ("Mobius"), through an investment platform, with underlying investment managers.

The Trustee is permitted to invest across a wide range of asset classes, including but not limited to equities, bonds, cash, property and alternative asset classes. The use of derivatives is as permitted by the guidelines that apply to the pooled funds. The Trustee understands that some asset classes provide a better match to the liabilities than others.

The Trustee will monitor 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.

## Balance between different types of investment

The Scheme invests in assets that are expected to achieve the Scheme's objectives detailed previously. The allocation between the different asset classes is shown in the Appendix 1 of this Statement.

The Trustee has considered the merits of both active and passive management for the different elements of the asset allocation and selected suitable types of management for each asset class. The current managers are shown in Appendix 1.

From time-to-time the Scheme may hold cash and therefore deviate from its strategic or tactical asset allocation in order to accommodate any short-term cashflow requirements or any other unexpected events.

The Trustee may also hold insurance policies which are for the benefit of certain members to match part, or all, of its liabilities.

## Expected Return on Investments

The Trustee has noted the long-run relationships that exist between the returns from different asset classes and have noted the different expected risk/return characteristics of the various asset classes.

In particular, it has noted that equities can be expected to deliver a greater long-run real return (over price inflation) than that expected from fixed interest gilts, index-linked gilts or cash, but that typically equities are the most volatile asset class in terms of market returns on an annual basis.

The Trustee's chosen policy is to achieve a balance between stabilising the Scheme's funding level and pursuing higher expected returns to improve the Scheme's funding level.

## *Setting the Investment Strategy cont'd...*

### **Realisation of Investments**

The Scheme's assets are invested in pooled vehicles, which in turn invest in securities traded on recognised exchanges. The Scheme's investments can generally be readily realised, if necessary.

### **Financially Material Considerations**

The Trustee has considered financially material factors such as environmental, social and governance ('ESG') issues as part of the investment process to determine a strategic asset allocation over the length of time during which the benefits are provided by the Scheme for members. It believes that financially material considerations (including climate change) are implicitly factored into the expected risk and return profile of the asset classes it is investing in.

In endeavouring to invest in the best financial interests of the beneficiaries, the Trustee has elected to invest through pooled funds. The Trustee acknowledges that it cannot directly influence the environmental, social and governance policies and practices of the companies in which the pooled funds invest. However, the Trustee does expect its fund managers and investment adviser to take account of financially material considerations when carrying out their respective roles.

The Trustee accepts that the Scheme's assets are subject to the investment manager's own policy on socially responsible investment. The Trustee will assess that this corresponds with its responsibilities to the beneficiaries of the Scheme with the help of its investment adviser.

An assessment of the ESG and responsible investment policies forms part of the manager selection process when appointing new managers and these policies are also reviewed regularly for existing managers with the help of the investment adviser. The Trustee will only invest with investment managers that are signatories for the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment ('UN PRI') or other similarly recognised standards.

The Trustee will monitor financially material considerations with the advice/guidance from the investment adviser through the following means:

- ✓ Obtain training where necessary on ESG considerations in order to understand fully how ESG factors including climate change could impact the Scheme and its investments;
- ✓ Use ESG ratings information provided by its investment adviser, to assess how the Scheme's investment managers take account of ESG issues; and
- ✓ Request that all of the Scheme's investment managers provide information about their ESG policies, and details of how they integrate ESG into their investment processes, via its investment adviser.

If the Trustee determines that financially material considerations have not been factored into the investment managers' process, it will take this into account on whether to select or retain an investment.

### **Non-Financially Material Considerations**

The Trustee has not considered non-financially material matters in the selection, retention and realisation of investments.

## *Setting the Investment Strategy cont'd...*

### **Stewardship**

The Trustee's policy on the exercise of rights attaching to investments, including voting rights, is that these rights should be exercised by the investment manager on the Trustee's behalf, having regard to the best financial interests of the beneficiaries.

The investment manager should engage with companies to take account of ESG factors in the exercise of such rights as the Trustee believes this will be beneficial to the financial interests of members over the long term. The Trustee will review the investment managers' voting policies, with the help of its investment adviser, and decide if they are appropriate.

The Trustee also expects the fund manager to engage with investee companies on the capital structure and management of conflicts of interest.

If the Trustee, with the advice of the investment adviser, considers that the policies or level of engagement are not appropriate, the Trustee will engage with the investment manager, with the help of its investment adviser, to influence the investment manager's policy. If this fails, the Trustee will review the investments made with the investment manager.

The Trustee has taken into consideration the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code and expects investment managers to adhere to this where appropriate for the investments they manage.

### **Investment Manager Arrangements**

The investment manager arrangements set out in this section are considered in conjunction with advice received from the investment adviser.

#### **Incentives to align investment managers' investment strategies and decisions with the Trustee's policies**

The Scheme invests in pooled funds and so the Trustee acknowledges the funds' investment strategies and that decisions cannot be tailored to the Trustee's policies. However, the Trustee sets its investment strategy and then selects managers that best suits its strategy taking into account the fees being charged, which acts as the fund manager's incentive.

The Trustee uses the fund objective/benchmark as a guide on whether its investment strategy is being followed and monitors this regularly.

#### **Incentives for the investment managers to make decisions based on assessments about medium to long-term financial and non-financial performance of an issuer of debt or equity and to engage with issuers of debt or equity in order to improve their performance in the medium to long-term**

The Trustee selects managers based on a variety of factors including investment philosophy and process, which it believes should include assessing the long term financial and non-financial performance of the underlying company.

The Trustee also considers the managers' voting and ESG policies and how they engage with a company as it believes that these factors can improve the medium to long-term performance of the investee companies.

## *Setting the Investment Strategy cont'd...*

The Trustee will monitor the managers' engagement and voting activity on an annual basis as it believes this can improve long term performance. The Trustee expects its managers to make every effort to engage with investee companies but acknowledges that their influence may be more limited in some asset classes, such as bonds, as they do not have voting rights.

The Trustee acknowledges that in the short term, these policies may not improve the returns it achieves, but do expect those companies with better financial and non-financial performance over the long term will lead to better returns for the Scheme.

The Trustee believes that the annual fee paid to the fund managers incentivises them to do this.

If the Trustee feels that the fund managers are not assessing financial and non-financial performance or adequately engaging with the companies they are investing in, it will use these factors in deciding whether to retain or terminate a manager.

### **How the method (and time horizon) of the evaluation of the fund managers' performance and the remuneration for asset management services are in line with the Trustee's policies**

The Trustee reviews the performance of each fund quarterly on a net of fees basis compared to its objective.

The Trustee assesses the performance periods of the funds, where possible, over at least a 3-5 year period and will always consider this when looking to select or terminate a manager together with other relevant factors other than performance.

The fund managers' remuneration is considered as part of the manager selection process and is also monitored regularly with the help of its investment adviser to ensure it is in line with the Trustee's policies.

### **How the Trustee monitors portfolio turnover costs incurred by the fund managers, and how they define and monitor targeted portfolio turnover or turnover range**

The Trustee monitors the portfolio turnover costs on an annual basis.

The Trustee defines target portfolio turnover as the average turnover of the portfolio expected in the type of strategy the manager has been appointed to manage. This is also monitored on an annual basis.

The Trustee has delegated the responsibility of monitoring portfolio turnover costs and target portfolio turnover to its investment adviser.

### **The duration of the arrangement with the fund managers**

The Trustee plans to hold each of its investments for the long term but will keep this under review.

Changes in investment strategy or change in the view of the fund managers can lead to the duration of the arrangement being shorter than expected.

### **Additional Voluntary Contributions ("AVCs") arrangement**

Some members obtain further benefits by paying AVCs to the Scheme. The liabilities in respect of these AVCs are equal to the value of the investments bought by the contributions. Details of AVC providers and fund options are included in the Appendix to this Statement.

From time-to-time the Trustee reviews the choice of investments available to members to ensure that they remain appropriate to the members' needs.

# Risks

The Trustee is aware and seeks to take account of a number of risks in relation to the Scheme's investments. Under the Pensions Act 2004, the Trustee is required to state their policy regarding the ways in which risks are to be measured and managed. Overall, the Trustee measures and monitors its risks by receiving quarterly monitoring reports which report on the performance of its assets, their managers and the movements in the Scheme's liabilities. The key risks and the policies are as follows:

## **Solvency and mismatching risk**

This is measured through a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the expected development of the assets relative to the liabilities. The risk is managed by setting a scheme specific asset allocation with an appropriate level of risk.

## **Concentration risk**

This is managed through the diversification of the Scheme's assets across a range of different funds with different investment styles and underlying securities, and different investment managers.

## **Investment Manager Risk**

This is assessed as the deviation of actual risk and return relative to that specified in the investment managers' objectives. It is measured by monitoring on a regular basis the actual deviation of returns relative to investment managers' agreed objectives and an assessment of factors supporting the managers' investment process.

## **Sponsor risk**

This is assessed as the ability and willingness of the sponsor to support the continuation of the Scheme and to make good any current or future deficit. This is managed by assessing the interaction between the Scheme and the sponsor's business, as measured by a number of factors including the creditworthiness of the sponsor and the size of the pension liability relative to the sponsor.

## **Liquidity risk**

This is monitored according to the level of cashflows required by the Scheme over a specified time period. The Scheme's administrators will assess the cash requirements to limit the impact of cashflow requirements on the Scheme's investment policy. The risk is managed by having a suitable amount of readily realisable investments and by holding a certain level of cash type assets. The Scheme invests in assets that there are invested in quoted markets and are as readily realisable as the Trustee feels suitable given the Scheme's cashflow position and the expected development of the liabilities.

## **Currency risk**

The Scheme's liabilities are denominated in sterling. The Scheme may gain exposure to overseas currencies by investing in non-sterling assets or via currency investment. Some currency hedging is used to manage this risk.

## *Risks cont'd...*

### **Loss of Investment risk**

There is a risk of loss of investment by each investment manager and potentially the custodian. This includes losses beyond those caused by market movements e.g. losses caused by fraud. The Trustee undertakes regular reviews of the internal controls and processes of the investment managers.

### **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Climate Change Risks**

There is a risk that ESG issues and climate change are not considered as part of the investment process and so may expose the portfolio. This can lead to losses that may not have been factored into any assumptions. The Trustee has considered ESG issues including climate change as part of the investment process.



# Compliance

The Trustee confirms that it has received and considered written advice from Spence on the establishment and implementation of its investment strategy.

The Trustee confirms that it has consulted with the Company regarding their strategy.

Copies of this Statement and any subsequent amendments will be made available to the Company, the investment managers, the Scheme Actuary and the Scheme auditor upon request.

The Trustee will monitor compliance with this Statement at least every three years. This will include a review of the suitability of the investment strategy on an ongoing basis and consideration of the continued suitability of the appointed investment managers.

Signed: Bob Hymas

**Trustee**

**Signed for and on behalf of the Trustee of the Stanley Gibbons Holdings Plc Pension and Assurance Scheme**

Date of Signing: 5 February 2021



# Appendices

# Appendix 1

## Strategic Asset Allocation

The Scheme has a strategic asset allocation as set out in the table below:

Portfolio	Allocation	Control Range	Asset Class	Allocation
Leveraged Liability Driven Investment ("LLDI")	30%	N/A	LLDI	30%
Equity	25%	+/- 5%	World Equity(hedged)*	12.5%
			World Equity (unhedged)	12.5%
Bonds	25%	+/- 5%	UK Corporate Bonds	10%
			Multi Asset Credit	15%
Property	10%	N/A	Property	10%
Diversified Growth Fund ("DGF")	10%	+/- 2%	DGF	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>			<b>100%</b>

\*It should be noted that half of the world equity exposure will be currency hedged.

Note 1: Given the illiquid nature of property, it is not expected that the property allocation will be re-balanced. LLDI will also not be rebalanced in order to maintain a liability hedge ratio.

## Rebalancing and Cashflow Management

The Trustee recognises that the asset allocation of investments will vary over time due to market movements. The Trustee seeks to keep the asset allocation in line with its benchmark but is cognisant of the costs of rebalancing.

Where possible, cash outflows will be met from the income of the Scheme's assets to minimise transaction costs. Where income is insufficient monies will be raised through the sale of assets so as to move the allocation closer to the central benchmark allocation subject to consideration of liquidity issues, transaction costs, market conditions and the speed with which monies are required. Similarly, where cashflows in are received, the money will be invested in such a way as to bring the allocation into line with the central benchmark allocation.

## Appendix 1 cont'd...

### Investment Managers

The Trustee has invested the Scheme's assets through an insurance policy with Mobius. Mobius provides investment administration for the Scheme and so carried out the day to day management of the investment managers.

The table below shows the investment managers that the Trustee has appointed to carry out the day to day management of the assets, as well as the funds that they manage, their benchmarks and relevant objectives.

Investment Manager	Fund	Benchmark	Objective
Legal & General Investment Management	Matching Core Funds	An investible index of gilts and swaps	Hedging
	World Equity Index Fund – GBP Currency Hedged	FTSE World Index – GBP Hedged	Track benchmark within +/- 0.50% p.a. for two years out of three
	World Equity Index Fund	FTSE World Index	Track benchmark within +/- 0.50% p.a. for two years out of three
	Dynamic Diversified Fund	Bank of England Base Rate	+4.50% p.a. gross of fees over a full market cycle
	Investment Grade Corporate Bond Over 15 Year Index Fund	Markit iBoxx £ Non-Gilts All Stocks Index	Track benchmark to within +/- 0.50% p.a. for two years out of three
Columbia Threadneedle	Property Fund	AREF/IPD All Balanced Property Fund Index (Weighted Average)	Outperform benchmark
TwentyFour Asset Management	Strategic Income Fund	LIBOR GBP 3 Month	+4.00% p.a. net of fees over a 1 year period

The investment managers' performance will be monitored on a quarterly basis.

Legal & General Assurance Society Ltd is appointed as provider of AVC services.

## Appendix 1 cont'd...

### Fees

The fee arrangements for the investment managers are summarised below:

Investment Manager	Fund	Annual Management Charge
Legal & General Investment Management	Matching Core Funds	0.240% p.a.
	World Equity Index Fund – GBP Currency Hedged	0.170% p.a.
	World Equity Index Fund	0.140% p.a.
	Dynamic Diversified Fund	0.430% p.a.
	Investment Grade Corporate Bond Over 15 Year Index Fund	0.125% p.a.
Columbia Threadneedle	Property Fund	0.750% p.a.
TwentyFour Asset Management	TwentyFour Strategic Income Fund	0.49% p.a.

Spence are remunerated on a basis point basis (i.e. as a percentage of the Scheme's assets), although additional fees may be agreed for specific projects.

## Appendix 2

The Myners principles as applicable to DB schemes are set out below:

### Principle 1: Effective Decision Making

Trustees should ensure that decisions are taken by persons or organisations with the skills, knowledge, advice and resources necessary to take them effectively and monitor their implementation. Trustees should have sufficient expertise to be able to evaluate and challenge the advice they receive, and manage conflicts of interest.

### Principle 2: Clear Objectives

Trustees should set out an overall investment objective(s) for the fund that takes account of the scheme's liabilities, the strength of the sponsor covenant and the attitude to risk of both the trustees and the sponsor, and clearly communicate these to advisers and investment managers.

### Principle 3: Risk and Liabilities

In setting and reviewing their investment strategy, trustees should take account of the form and structure of liabilities. These include the strength of the sponsor covenant, the risk of sponsor default and longevity risk.

### Principle 4: Performance Assessment

Trustees should arrange for the formal measurement of the performance of the investments, investment managers and advisers. Trustees should also periodically make a formal policy assessment of their own effectiveness as a decision-making body and report on this to scheme members.

### Principle 5: Responsible Ownership

Trustees should adopt, or ensure their investment managers adopt, the Institutional Shareholders' Committee Statement of Principles on the responsibilities of shareholders and agents. A statement of the scheme's policy on responsible ownership should be included in the Statement of Investment Principles (SIP). Trustees should report periodically to members on the discharge of such responsibilities.

### Principle 6: Transparency And Reporting

Trustees should act in a transparent manner, communicating with stakeholders on issues relating to their management of investment, its governance and risks, including performance against stated objectives. Trustees should provide regular communication to members in the form they consider most appropriate (e.g. Statement of Investment Principles as well as Statement of Funding Principles; websites/helplines (for larger schemes); and annual report and accounts).

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