

Church Army Pension Scheme Implementation Statement Year Ending 31 March 2024

Glossary

ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
Investment Adviser	First Actuarial LLP
Scheme	Church Army Pension Scheme
Scheme Year	1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
SIP	Statement of Investment Principles
UNPRI	United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment

Introduction

This Implementation Statement reports on the extent to which, over the Scheme Year, the Trustees have followed their policy relating to the exercise of rights (including voting rights) attaching to the Scheme’s investments.

In preparing this statement, the Trustees have considered guidance from the Department for Work & Pensions which was updated on 17 June 2022.

Relevant Investments

The Scheme’s assets are invested in pooled funds, none of which include an allocation to equities at the Scheme Year End. The Scheme did hold the Ruffer Total Return Fund for part of the year; however, this was not for most of the year and has therefore been excluded from the voting analysis. As such the investment managers don’t have an entitlement to vote so there were no voting records for the Trustees to analyse.

The Trustees’ Policy Relating to the Exercise of Rights

Summary of the Policy

The Trustees’ policy in relation to the exercise of rights (including voting rights) attaching to the investments is set out in the SIP. The SIP was updated during the Scheme year to reflect changes made to the Scheme’s investment strategy, but wording relating to the exercise of rights was not revised. A summary of this wording is as follows:

- The Trustees believe that good stewardship can help create, and preserve, value for companies and markets as a whole.

- The Trustees invest in pooled investment vehicles and therefore accept that ongoing engagement with the underlying companies (including the exercise of voting rights) will be determined by an investment Manager's own policies on such matters.
- When selecting a fund, the Trustees consider amongst other things, the investment manager's policy in relation to the exercise of the rights (including voting rights) attaching to the investments held within the fund.
- When considering the ongoing suitability of an investment manager, the Trustees (in conjunction with their Investment Adviser) will take account of any particular characteristics of that manager's engagement policy that are deemed to be financially material.
- The Trustees will normally select investment managers who are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI).
- If it is identified that a fund's investment manager is not engaging with companies the Trustees may look to replace that fund. However, in the first instance, the Trustees would normally expect their Investment Adviser to raise the Trustees' concerns with the investment manager.

Has the Policy Been Followed During the Scheme Year?

The Trustees' opinion is that their policy relating to the exercise of rights (including voting rights) attaching to the investments has been followed during the Scheme Year. In reaching this conclusion, the following points were taken into consideration:

- There has been no change to the Trustees' belief regarding the importance of good stewardship.
- The Scheme's invested assets remained invested in pooled funds over the period.
- The Trustees did not select any new funds during the period.
- The investment Manager used by the Scheme are signatories to the UNPRI.

Conclusion

The Trustees are satisfied that, over the course of the Scheme Year, it complied with its policy relating to the exercise of rights (including voting rights) attaching to the investments.

In particular, during the Scheme Year, none of the assets held had any voting rights attached. The Trustees will continue to assess whether this continues to remain the case over the next period and will be mindful of potential managers' voting records should the Scheme need to select additional funds.



12 August 2024

..... Date:

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of the Church Army Pension Scheme