

## Deep Sea Seals Pension Scheme

### Statement of Investment Principles (“SIP”)

#### **Purpose of this Statement**

This SIP has been prepared by the Trustees of the Deep Sea Seals Pension Scheme (the “Scheme”). This statement sets out the principles governing the Trustees’ decisions to invest the assets of the Scheme.

The Scheme’s investment strategy is derived from the Trustees’ investment objectives. The objectives have been taken into account at all stages of planning, implementation and monitoring of the investment strategy.

#### **Governance**

The Trustees of the Scheme make all major strategic decisions including, but not limited to, the Scheme’s asset allocation and the appointment and termination of investment managers. When making such decisions, and when appropriate, the Trustees take proper written advice. The Trustees’ investment advisers, KPMG LLP, are qualified by their ability in, and practical experience, of financial matters, and have the appropriate knowledge and experience. The investment advisers’ remuneration may be a fixed fee or based on time worked, as negotiated by the Trustees in the interests of obtaining best value for the Scheme.

#### **Investment objective**

The Trustees’ ultimate objective is to invest assets of the Scheme to meet members’ benefits as and when they fall due. The Scheme’s funding target is specified in the Statement of Funding Principles, and the Scheme’s funding position will be reviewed annually to assess the position relative to the funding target and whether the investment policy remains appropriate to the Scheme’s circumstances.

The Scheme’s current asset allocation is expected to return around 2.4% per annum above the return on UK Government bonds, which are considered to move in a similar fashion to the calculated value of the Scheme’s liabilities. It is expected that the expected return will reduce over time as the Trustees have agreed to target self-sufficiency as a secondary funding target.

#### **Investment strategy**

The Scheme’s present strategy is to invest according to the following broad asset allocation:

Asset Class	Proportion %	Expected Return (relative to fixed interest gilts) %
Diversified Growth	29	3.5
Equity-linked Bonds	16	4.0
Liability Driven Investments	25	0.0
Diversified Credit	30	2.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.4</b>

The expected returns shown in the above table represent the long-term expectations of the respective asset classes as a whole, based on KPMG's asset class assumptions as at 30 June 2019.

The above investment strategy was derived from consideration of the nature and duration of the Scheme's liabilities, the risks of investing in the various asset classes, the implications of the strategy for the level of contributions required to fund the Scheme, and also the strength of the sponsor's covenant. The Trustees considered the merits of a range of asset classes before making any decisions.

The Trustees recognise that the investment strategy is subject to risk, in particular the risk of a mismatch between the performance of the assets and the calculated value of the liabilities. This risk is monitored by regularly assessing the funding position and the characteristics of the assets and liabilities. The risk is managed by investing in assets which are expected to perform in excess of the liabilities over the long term, and also by investing in a suitably diversified portfolio of assets with the aim of minimising (as far as possible) volatility relative to the liabilities. The assets of the Scheme consist predominantly of investments admitted to trading on regulated markets.

Over time the existing asset allocation will deviate from the broad asset allocation above. Any rebalancing decisions should be taken with reference to the advice provided by the Scheme's investment advisors. The Trustees do not intend to rebalance the LDI allocation due to the hedging objective taking precedence over physical allocation, except for when additional cash is required to support the LDI mandate or when the LDI mandate generates excess cash that can be used in other parts of the portfolio.

The Trustees accept that the investment strategy will not provide a perfect hedge against the Scheme's liabilities as there are many factors such as life expectancy that cannot be controlled by investment strategy.

The investments are made through a platform provider, who acts as the investment manager. With advice, the Trustees will select underlying funds from the platform to implement the chosen strategy. The platform provider will be responsible for:

- Investing in the chosen underlying funds in the proportions agreed by the Trustees, adjusted as necessary from time to time;
- Providing the Trustees with quarterly asset valuations and performance information;
- Providing any initial asset transition plan for the investment consultant to review;
- Asset rebalancing and meeting cashflow requirements.

The Trustees have appointed Mobius Life (Mobius) as the platform provider.

### **Investment mandates**

The Trustees will give careful consideration to appoint the most appropriate managers to manage the assets of the Scheme. The fund managers are regulated under the Financial

Services and Markets Act 2000.

The Trustees have selected underlying funds on the Mobius platform from BlackRock Investment Management UK (BlackRock), Investec Wealth & Investment (Investec), Insight Investments (Insight), BMO Global Asset Management (BMO) and J.P. Morgan Asset Management (JP Morgan) to manage the Scheme's assets.

*BlackRock: Diversified Growth*

The diversified growth mandate is invested with BlackRock in the Dynamic Diversified Growth (DDG) Fund and makes up 14.5% of the Scheme's total strategic allocation.

*Investec: Diversified Growth*

The diversified growth mandate is invested with Investec in the Diversified Growth Fund and makes up 14.5% of the Scheme's total strategic allocation.

*Insight: Liability Driven Investment Portfolio*

In order to reduce the risk created by differences in sensitivity to interest rate and inflation changes between the Scheme's assets and liabilities, the Trustees invest in a Liability Driven Investment mandate. The aim of this part of the Scheme's portfolio is to reduce the volatility in the funding level as measured on the Technical Provisions basis.

The assets currently invested in the Liability Driven Investment mandate provide a hedge of around 70% of the Scheme's interest rate and inflation exposure as measured on the Technical Provisions basis.

*BMO: Equity-linked Bonds*

The equity-linked bond fund allocation is invested with BMO in the Overseas Equity-Linked UK Inflation Fund and makes up 16% of the Scheme's total strategic allocation. This fund also contributes to the overall hedging in the Scheme.

The assets currently invested in the equity-linked bond mandate provide a hedge of around 20% of the Scheme's interest rate and inflation exposure as measured on the Technical Provisions basis.

*JP Morgan: Diversified Credit*

The diversified credit fund allocation is invested with JP Morgan in the Unconstrained Bond Fund and makes up 30% of the Scheme's total strategic allocation.

All decisions about the day-to-day management of the assets have effectively been delegated to the investment managers. The delegation includes decisions about:

- Selection, retention and realisation of investments including taking into account all financially material considerations in making these decisions;
- The exercise of rights (including voting rights) attaching to the investments;
- Undertaking engagement activities with investee companies and other stakeholders, where appropriate.

The Trustees take investment managers' policies into account when selecting and monitoring managers. The Trustees also take into account the performance targets the investment managers are evaluated on. The investment managers are expected to exercise powers of investment delegated to them, with a view to following the principles contained within this statement, so far as is reasonably practicable.

As the Scheme's assets are invested in pooled vehicles, the custody of the holdings is arranged by the investment manager.

### **Investment Manager Monitoring and Engagement**

The Trustees monitor and engage with the Scheme's investment managers and other stakeholders on a variety of issues. Below is a summary of the areas covered and how the Trustees seek to engage on these matters with investment managers.

Areas for engagement	Method for monitoring and engagement	Circumstances for additional monitoring and engagement
Performance, Strategy and Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Trustees receive a quarterly performance report which details information on the underlying investments' performance, strategy and overall risks, which are considered at the relevant Trustee meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are significant changes made to the investment strategy.</li> <li>• The risk levels within the assets managed by the investment managers have increased to a level above and beyond the Trustees' expectations.</li> <li>• Underperformance vs the performance objective over the period that this objective applies.</li> </ul>
Environmental, Social, Corporate Governance factors and the exercising of rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Trustees receive information from their investment advisers on the investment managers' approaches to engagement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The manager has not acted in accordance with their policies and frameworks.</li> <li>• The manager's policies are not in line with the Trustees' policies in this area.</li> </ul>

Through the engagement described above, the Trustees will work with the investment managers to improve their alignment with the above policies. Where sufficient improvement is not observed, the Trustees will review the relevant investment manager's appointment and may consider terminating the arrangement.

## **Employer-related investments**

The policy of the Trustees is not to hold any employer-related investments as defined in the Pensions Act 1995 and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 except where the Scheme invests in collective investment schemes that may hold employer-related investments. In this case, the total exposure to employer-related investments will not exceed 5% of the Scheme's total asset value. The Trustees will monitor this on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance.

## **Direct investments**

Direct investments, as defined by the Pensions Act 1995, are products purchased without delegation to an investment manager through a written contract. When selecting and reviewing any direct investments, the Trustees will obtain appropriate written advice from their investment advisers.

## **Compliance**

This Statement has been prepared in compliance with the Pensions Act 1995, the Pensions Act 2004, and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005. Before preparing or subsequently revising this Statement, the Trustees consulted the sponsoring company and took appropriate written advice. The Statement is reviewed at least every three years, and without delay after any significant change in the investment arrangements.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of the Deep Sea Seals Pension Scheme

Signed: Keith Pacey

Date: 13/09/2019

Signed: Colin Langridge

Date: 12/09/2019

## Appendix A – Risks, Financially Material Considerations and Non-Financial matters

A non-exhaustive list of risks and financially material considerations that the Trustees have considered and sought to manage is shown below.

The Trustees adopt an integrated risk management approach. The three key risks associated within this framework and how they are managed are stated below:

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Investment	The risk that the Scheme's position deteriorates due to the assets underperforming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selecting an investment objective that is achievable and is consistent with the Scheme's funding basis and the sponsoring company's covenant strength.</li> <li>• Investing in a diversified portfolio of assets.</li> </ul>
Funding	The extent to which there are insufficient Scheme assets available to cover ongoing and future liability cash flows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding risk is considered as part of the investment strategy review and the actuarial valuation.</li> <li>• The Trustees will agree an appropriate basis in conjunction with the investment strategy to ensure an appropriate journey plan is agreed to manage funding risk over time.</li> </ul>
Covenant	The risk that the sponsoring company becomes unable to continue providing the required financial support to the Scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When developing the Scheme's investment and funding objectives, the Trustees take account of the strength of the covenant ensuring the level of risk the Scheme is exposed to is at an appropriate level for the covenant to support.</li> </ul>

The Scheme is exposed to a number of underlying risks relating to the Scheme's investment strategy, these are summarised below:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Interest rates and inflation	The risk of mismatch between the value of the Scheme assets and present value of liabilities from changes in interest rates and inflation expectations.	To hedge 90% of these risks relative to the Scheme's liabilities on a technical provisions basis.
Liquidity	Difficulties in raising sufficient cash when required without adversely impacting the fair market value of the investment.	To maintain a sufficient allocation to liquid assets so that there is a prudent buffer to pay members benefits as they fall due (including transfer values), and to provide collateral to the LDI manager.

Market	Losses due to factors that affect the performance of financial markets.	To remain appropriately diversified and hedge away any unrewarded risks, where practicable.
Credit	Default on payments due as part of a financial security contract.	To diversify this risk by investing in a range of credit markets across different geographies and sectors. To appoint investment managers who actively manage this risk by seeking to invest only in debt securities where the yield available sufficiently compensates the Scheme for the risk of default.
Environmental, Social and Governance	Exposure to Environmental, Social and Governance factors, including but not limited to climate change, which can impact the performance of the Scheme's investments.	To appoint managers who satisfy the following criteria, unless there is a good reason why the manager does not satisfy each criteria: 1. Responsible Investment ('RI') Policy / Framework 2. Implemented via Investment Process 3. A track record of using engagement and any voting rights to manage ESG factors 4. ESG specific reporting 5. UN PRI Signatory The Trustees monitor the managers on an ongoing basis.
Currency	The potential for adverse currency movements to have an impact on the Scheme's investments.	Hedge all currency risk on the credit mandates.
Non-financial	Any factor that is not expected to have a financial impact on the Scheme's investments.	Non-financial matters are not taken into account in the selection, retention or realisation of investments.

## Appendix B – Investment Management Arrangements

The Trustees have the following policies in relation to the investment management arrangements for the Scheme:

<p><b>How the investment managers are incentivised to align their investment strategy and decisions with the Trustees policies.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the Scheme is invested in pooled funds, there is not scope for these funds to tailor their strategy and decisions in line with the Trustees policies. However, the Trustees invest in a portfolio of pooled funds that are aligned to the strategic objective.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How the investment managers are incentivised to make decisions based on assessments of medium to long-term financial and non-financial performance of an issuer of debt or equity and to engage with them to improve performance in the medium to long-term.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Trustees review the investment managers’ performance relative to medium and long-term objectives as documented in the investment management agreements.</li> <li>• The Trustees monitor the investment managers’ engagement and voting activity on an annual basis as part of their ESG monitoring process.</li> <li>• The Trustees do not incentivise the investment managers to make decisions based on non-financial performance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How the method (and time horizon) of the evaluation of investment managers’ performance and the remuneration for their services are in line with the Trustees policies.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Trustees review the performance of all of the Scheme’s investments on a net of cost basis to ensure a true measurement of performance versus investment objectives.</li> <li>• The Trustees evaluate performance over the time period stated in the investment managers’ performance objective, which is typically 3 to 5 years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The method for monitoring portfolio turnover costs incurred by investment managers and how they define and monitor targeted portfolio turnover or turnover range.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Trustees do not directly monitor turnover costs. However, the investment managers are incentivised to minimise costs as they are measured on a net of cost basis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The duration of the Scheme’s arrangements with the investment managers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The duration of the arrangements is considered in the context of the type of fund the Scheme invests in.</li> <li>• For open ended funds, the duration is flexible and the Trustees will from time-to-time consider the appropriateness of these investments and whether they should continue to be held.</li> </ul>