

Premier Miton Responsible UK Equity Fund

Fund Responsible Investing Policy and Independent Committee of Reference

Investment objective

The objective of the fund is to provide capital growth over the long-term, being five years or more. Five years is also the minimum recommended period for holding shares in this fund. This does not mean that the fund will achieve the objective over this, or any other, specific time period and there is a risk of loss to the original capital invested.

The fund managers' approach to responsible investing

Fund managers, Benji Dawes and Jon Hudson, focus on companies that act responsibly, those with a strong Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) profile and those that are part of long term themes that have a positive influence on society and the environment. The managers will analyse a company on a wide range of responsible factors including specific ESG criteria and will use this information to ensure it meets the required standards. At least 90% of the fund's assets will meet both ESG and responsible investing criteria and theme alignment. The fund managers will not invest in companies that they believe have a negative societal or environmental impact.

The ESG criteria

The analysis of companies will include the following ESG criteria;

Corporate governance

- female representation on boards
- remuneration structure
- efficacy of auditors
- disclosures

Management

- tenure
- capability
- clarity of strategy and policies

Environmental and social impact

- carbon emissions
- resource usage and intensity
- supply chain management
- business ethics

These criteria may evolve over time. A number of sources of information are employed in assessing these criteria. These include;

- Meetings with company management
- Proprietary analysis, including company report & accounts and other disclosures
- Third party analysis

More information

Before investing, you should first read the Key Investor Information Document and the Supplementary Information Document for the fund or funds that you are interested in. These documents contain important information that you should carefully consider before investing, such as the fees and charges you will pay and specific risk factors. You can get copies of these documents from your financial adviser, by contacting us directly, or from our website. Please consult your financial adviser in the first instance who can advise on the suitability of this fund for you.



Long term themes that have a positive influence on society and the environment

The fund managers aim to invest exclusively in companies aligned with long term themes that have a positive influence on society and the environment. These long term themes include:



Health and education

- physical health
- mental health and well-being
- education and social development



Protecting the planet

- clean energy
- better resource efficiency
- sustainable infrastructure & cities



Enhancing society

- providing quality work
- reducing inequality
- sustainable economy & finance

Excluding companies with negative impacts

The fund managers will not invest in companies that they believe have a negative societal or environmental impact including those companies:

- with major tobacco interests
- with major business in gambling
- with major business involvement in fossil fuels
- involved in violent or pornographic material
- that promote the irresponsible use of alcohol
- that damage the environment
- that contravene human rights
- involved in animal cruelty or testing (except if required by regulators for testing in a specific jurisdiction)
- that pursue aggressive tax avoidance policies
- that manufacture armaments

Committee of Reference

- The fund has a Committee of Reference, comprising of independent, experienced individuals from a range of backgrounds. Alongside Premier Miton, the committee is responsible for reviewing and amending, where necessary, the responsible investing and ESG criteria, themes and exclusions.
- The committee meets three times a year to monitor the companies held in the fund and new investments to ensure they comply with the agreed ESG criteria, themes and exclusions.
- Committee members may suggest potential investments and raise relevant issues with the fund managers, either at formal meetings or at other times, should they so wish.
- The fund managers will report all new investments to the committee at the meeting following the date of the new investment. The committee may raise concerns on any investment, if they believe it is unsuitable for inclusion in the fund for responsible investing reasons. These concerns will be reviewed by the fund managers and may result in discussions with the company.
- Companies are analysed against the themes that the fund managers seek to invest in or avoid; this investment approach is reviewed on an annual basis by the committee and the fund managers.



Committee of Reference - members



Nicola de longh
Chair of Committee

Nicola is Chair of Council at the University of Gloucestershire, Nicola is a passionate advocate of the University's role as a national leader in Sustainability and a force for good in its community. Nicola sits on the Board of Connexus Group, which provides affordable housing to communities in Herefordshire and Shropshire, and also serves as a pro-bono Trustee of the Gloucestershire Counselling Service, a charity dedicated to improving mental health in the county. Her previous experience lies in defining and leading strategic change programmes across a number of sectors, in the UK and internationally, both in a corporate role and as a freelance Management Consultant.



Paul Lee

Paul is an independent investment professional who advises a number of institutional investors on ESG and stewardship matters. He is a senior adviser to the Investor Forum and currently leads a project on climate accounting for the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). He was formerly Head of Corporate Governance - Stewardship at Aberdeen Asset Management and prior to that worked for more than a decade at Hermes EOS. He is a member of the new UK Endorsement Board, approving the application of IFRS financial reporting standards for the UK market.



Jim Kite

Jim is the founder of Tech Pilot, a bespoke business that discovers, evaluates and connects early-stage marketing and advertising companies to brands and advertising agencies. He is a veteran of the marketing services industry having held senior roles at ITV, Sky, McCann-Erickson and Publicis Group in the US and UK. His most recent responsibility at Publicis was to launch its digital innovation capability NextTECHnow which successfully managed over 250 client funded pilot projects. Now working as a consultant, Jim advises start-ups on how to navigate agencies and corporate structures.



The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam
BD, MA, Hon DCL, FKC.

Nicholas Holtam was Bishop of Salisbury 2011-21. For seven years he chaired the Church of England's Environmental Working Group and was the lead bishop for the environment. From 2015 he was a Lord Spiritual in the UK Parliament. Nick read Geography at Durham University and trained for ordination at King's College London and Westcott House Cambridge. He served as a curate in Stepney and taught Ethics and Mission at Lincoln Theological College before becoming Vicar of the Isle of Dogs at the heart of the redevelopment of London's Docklands. From 1995 he was the Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields with its regular church, charitable, commercial and international life. He was a regular broadcaster and oversaw the £36m buildings renewal of St Martin's.

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