# **Sea Containers 1990 Pension Scheme**

# **Engagement Policy Implementation Statement for the year ending December 2023**

#### Introduction

The Trustees of the Sea Containers 1990 Pension Scheme (the 'Scheme') have a fiduciary duty to consider their approach to the stewardship of the investments, to maximise financial returns for the benefit of members and beneficiaries over the long term. The Trustees can promote an investment's long-term success through monitoring, engagement and/or voting, either directly or through their investment manager.

This statement sets out how, and the extent to which, in the opinion of the Trustees, the policies (set out in the Statement of Investment Principles) on the exercise of rights (including voting rights) attaching to the investments, and engagement activities have been followed during the year ending 31 December 2023. This statement also describes the voting behaviour by, or on behalf of, the Trustees.

The Trustees, in conjunction with their investment consultant, appoints their investment managers and chooses the specific pooled funds to use in order to meet specific Scheme policies. They expect that their investment manager, where appropriate, to have taken account of financially material considerations, potentially including environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors as part of their investment analysis and decision-making process. Given the Scheme's investment strategy, the Trustees do not expect that ESG factors will be financially material in the investment manager's investment decisions.

The Trustees have decided not to take non-financial matters into account when considering their policy objectives.

#### **Stewardship - monitoring and engagement**

The Trustees recognise that investment manager's ability to influence the companies in which they invest will depend on the nature of the investment.

Given the Scheme's investment strategy, the Trustees do not have the opportunity to influence the investments' long-term success though monitoring, engagement and/or voting.

The Trustees seek to appoint managers that have strong stewardship policies and processes and are supportive of their investment managers being signatories to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment and the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code 2020. Details of the signatory status of the investment manager is shown below:

Investment manager	UN PRI Signatory	UK Stewardship Code Signatory
LGIM	Yes	Yes

## Investment manager engagement policies

The Scheme's investment manager is expected to have developed and publicly disclosed an engagement policy. This policy, amongst other things, provides the Trustees with information on how the investment manager engages in dialogue with the companies it invests in and how it exercises voting rights. It also provides details on the investment approach taken by the investment manager when considering relevant factors of the investee companies, such as strategy, financial and non-financial performance and risk, and applicable social, environmental and corporate governance aspects.

A link to the investment manager's engagement policy is provided in the Appendix.

The latest available engagement information provided by the investment manager (for mandates that contain public equities or bonds) is as follows:

Engagement	
Fund	LGIM UK Treasury Bills Fund
Period	01/10/2022-30/09/2023
Engagement definition	Purposeful, targeted communication with an entity (e.g. company, government, industry body, regulator) on particular matters of concern with the goal of encouraging change at an individual issuer and/or the goal of addressing a market-wide or system risk (such as climate). Regular communication to gain information as part of ongoing research should not be counted as engagement.
Number of companies engaged with over the year	12
Number of engagements over the year	24

# **Exercising rights and responsibilities**

The investment manager is expected to disclose annually a general description of its voting behaviour, an explanation of the most significant votes cast and report on the use of proxy voting advisers.

The investment manager publishes online the overall voting records of the firm on a regular basis.

The investment manager uses proxy advisers for the purposes of providing research, advice or voting recommendations that relate to the exercise of voting rights.

The Trustees do not carry out a detailed review of the votes cast by or on behalf of their investment manager but rely on the requirement for their investment manager to provide a high-level analysis of their voting behaviour.

The Trustees consider the proportion of votes cast, and the proportion of votes against management to be an important (but not the only) consideration of investor behaviour.

#### Trustees' assessment

The Trustees review the investment manager's policies in respect of financially material considerations, stewardship, engagement and voting from time to time and are satisfied that they are consistent with the Trustees' policies.

The Trustees recognise that engagement and voting policies, practices and reporting will continue to evolve over time and are supportive of their investment manager being signatories to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment and the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code 2020.

## **Appendix**

Links to the engagement policy for the investment manager can be found here:

Investment manager	Engagement policy
Legal & General Investment	https://www.lgim.com/landg-assets/lgim/_document-
Management	library/capabilities/lgim-engagement-policy.pdf

Information on the most significant engagement case studies LGIM participated in during the year ending 31 December 2023 is shown below.

Name of entity engaged with	ExxonMobil	BP Plc	J Sainsbury Plc
Topic	Environment: Climate change (Climate Impact Pledge)	Environment: Climate change (Climate Impact Pledge)	Social: Income inequality – living wage (diversity, equity, and inclusion)
Rationale	As one of the world's largest public oil and gas companies in the world, LGIM believe that Exxon Mobil's climate policies, actions, disclosures, and net zero transition plans have the potential for significant influence across the industry as a whole, and particularly in the US. At LGIM, they believe that company engagement is a	As one of the largest integrated oil and gas producers in the world, BP has a significant role to play in the global transition to net zero, hence LGIM's focus on this company for in-depth engagements. As members of the CA100+, LGIM commit to engaging with a certain number of companies on their focus list and on account of	Ensuring companies take account of the 'employee voice' and that they are treating employees fairly in terms of pay and diversity and inclusion is an important aspect of our stewardship activities. As the cost of living ratchets up in the wake of the pandemic and amid soaring inflation in many parts of the world, LGIM's

crucial part of transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050. Under LGIM's Climate Impact Pledge, they publish their minimum expectations for companies in 20 climatecritical sectors. LGIM select roughly 100 companies for 'in-depth' engagement - these companies are influential in their sectors, but in LGIM's view are not yet leaders on sustainability; by virtue of their influence, their improvements would be likely to have a knockon effect on other companies within the sector, and in supply chains. LGIM's in-depth engagement is focused on helping companies meet these minimum expectations, and understanding the hurdles they must overcome. For in-depth engagement companies, those which continue to lag our minimum expectations may be subject to voting sanctions and/ or divestment (from LGIM funds which apply the Climate Impact Pledge exclusions).

UN SDG 13: Climate action

LGIM's strong relationship with BP, they lead the CA100+ engagements with them. At LGIM, they believe that company engagement is a crucial part of transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050. Under LGIM's Climate Impact Pledge, they publish their minimum expectations for companies in 20 climate- LGIM sectors. LGIM select roughly 100 companies for 'in-depth' engagement - these companies are influential in their sectors, but in LGIM's view are not yet leaders on sustainability; by virtue of their influence, their improvements would be likely to have a knock-on effect on other companies within the sector, and in supply chains. LGIM's indepth engagement is focused on helping companies meet these minimum expectations, and understanding the hurdles they must overcome. For in-depth engagement companies, those which continue to lag LGIM's minimum expectations may be subject to voting sanctions and/ or divestment (from LGIM funds which apply the Climate Impact Pledge exclusions).

UN SDG 13: Climate action

work on income inequality and their expectations of companies regarding the living wage have acquired a new level of urgency. LGIM's expectations of companies:

- i) As a responsible investor, LGIM advocates that all companies should ensure that they are paying their employees a living wage and that this requirement should also be extended to all firms with whom they do business across their supply chains.
- ii) LGIM expect the company board to challenge decisions to pay employees less than the living wage.
- iii) LGIM ask the remuneration committee, when considering remuneration for executive directors, to consider the remuneration policy adopted for all employees.
- iv) In the midst of the pandemic, LGIM went a step further by tightening their criteria of bonus payments to executives at companies where COVID-19 had resulted in mass employee lay-offs and the company had claimed financial assistance (such as participating in government-supported furlough schemes) in order to remain a going concern. With over 600 supermarkets, more than 800 convenience stores. and nearly 190,000 employees, Sainsbury's is one of the largest supermarkets in the UK. Although Sainsbury's is currently paying higher wages than many other listed supermarkets, the company has been selected because it is

more likely than many of its peers to be able to meet the requirements to become living-wage accredited. UN SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

What the investment manager has done

LGIM have been engaging with Exxon Mobil since 2016 and they have participated willingly in LGIM's discussions and meetings. Under their Climate Impact Pledge, LGIM identified a number of initial areas for concerns, namely: lack of Scope 3 emissions disclosures (embedded in sold products); lack if integration or a comprehensive net zero commitment; lack of ambition in operational reductions targets and lack of disclosure of climate lobbying activities. LGIM's regular engagements with Exxon Mobil have focused on their minimum expectations under the Climate Impact Pledge. The improvements made have not so far been sufficient in LGIM's opinion, which has resulted in escalations. The first escalation was to vote against the re-election of the Chair, from 2019, in line with LGIM's Climate Impact Pledge sanctions. Subsequently, in the absence of further improvements, LGIM placed Exxon Mobil on their Climate Impact Pledge divestment list (for applicable LGIM funds) in 2021, as LGIM considered the steps taken by the company so far to be insufficient for a firm of its scale and stature. Nevertheless, LGIM's engagement with the company continues. In terms of further voting

LGIM have been engaging with BP on climate change or a number of years, during the course of which LGIM have seen many actions taken regarding climate change mitigation.

BP has made a series of announcements detailing their expansion into clean energy. These include projects to develop solar energy in the US, partnerships with Volkswagen (on fast electric vehicle charging) and Qantas Airways (on reducing emissions in aviation), and winning bids to develop major offshore wind projects in the UK and US. LGIM's recommendation for the oil and gas industry is to primarily focus on reducing its own emissions (and production) in line with global climate targets before considering any potential diversification into clean energy. BP has also announced that it would be reducing its oil and gas output by 40% over the next decade, with a view to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. LGIM met with BP several times during 2022. In BP's 2022 AGM, LGIM were pleased to be able to support management's 'Net Zero from ambition to action' report (Resolution 3). Having strengthened its ambition to achieve netzero emissions by 2050 and to halve operational emissions by 2030, BP has also expanded its scope 3

Sainsbury's has recently come under scrutiny for not paying a real living wage. LGIM engaged initially with the company's (then) CEO in 2016 about this issue and by 2021, Sainsbury's was paying a real living wage to all employees, except those in outer London, LGIM joined forces with ShareAction to try to encourage the company to change its policy for outer London workers. As these engagements failed to deliver change, LGIM then joined ShareAction in filing a shareholder resolution in Q1 2022, asking the company to becoming a living wage accredited employer.

This escalation succeeded insofar as, in April 2022, Sainsbury's moved all its London-based employees (inner and outer) to the real living wage. LGIM welcomed this development as it demonstrates Sainsbury's values as a responsible employer. However, the shareholder resolution was not withdrawn and remained on the 2022 AGM agenda because, despite this expansion of the real living wage to more employees, there are still some who are excluded. This group comprises contracted cleaners and security guards, who fulfil essential functions in helping the business to operate safely. Levels of individual

activity, in 2022 LGIM supported two climaterelated shareholder resolutions (i.e., voted against management recommendation) at Exxon's AGM, reflecting LGIM's continued wish for the company to take sufficient action on climate change in line with their minimum expectations. Levels of individual typically engaged with include lead independent director, investor relations, director, and CFO.

targets, committed to a substantial decline in oil and gas production, and announced an increase in capital expenditure to low-carbon growth segments. Levels of director typically engaged with include the chair, the CEO, head of sustainability, and investor relations.

typically engaged with include the Chair, the CEO, and head of investor relations.

#### Outcomes and next steps

Since 2021, LGIM have seen notable improvements from Exxon Mobil regarding LGIM's key engagement requests, including disclosure of Scope 3 emissions, a 'net zero by 2050' commitment (for Scopes 1 and 2 emissions), the setting of interim operational emissions reduction targets, and improved disclosure of lobbying activities. However, there are still key areas where LGIM require further improvements, including inclusion of Scope 3 emissions in their targets, and improving the level of ambition regarding interim targets. LGIM are also seeking further transparency on their lobbying activities.

The company remains on LGIM's divestment list (for relevant funds), but LGIM's engagement with them continues.

LGIM will continue engaging with BP on climate change, strategy and related governance topics. Following the company's decision to revise their oil production targets, LGIM met with the company several times in early 2023 to discuss their concerns.

Since filing the shareholder resolution, Sainsbury's has made three further pay increases to its directly employed workers, harmonising inner and outer London pay and is now paying the real living wage to its employees, as well as extending free food to workers well into 2023. LGIM welcome these actions which demonstrate the value the board places on its workforce. LGIM have asked the board to collaborate with other key industry stakeholders to bring about a living wage for contracted staff.