SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund

Annual Report

for the year ended 15 May 2024

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# SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund Report of the Manager

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited, as Manager, presents herewith the Annual Report for SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund for the year ended 15 May 2024.

SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund ('the Trust' or 'the Fund') is an authorised unit trust scheme further to an authorisation order dated 24 April 1990 and is a UCITS scheme complying with the investment and borrowing powers rules in the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('COLL'), as published by the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA').

The Manager is of the opinion that it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the accounts as the assets of the Fund consist predominantly of securities which are readily realisable and, accordingly, the Fund has adequate financial resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Further, appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, have been used in the preparation of these accounts and applicable accounting standards have been followed.

The Financial Stability Board created the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD') to improve and increase reporting of climate-related financial information. EPFL have produced TCFD reports in compliance with the FCA's rules on climate-related financial disclosures. The TCFD Product report is designed to help you understand the impact the Fund has on the climate and equally how climate change could influence the performance of the Fund. The report will also give you the ability to compare a range of climate metrics with other funds. To understand the governance, strategy, and risk management that EPFL has in place to manage the risks and opportunities related to climate change, please refer to the TCFD Entity report. These reports are available on our website https://www.evelyn.com/services/fund-solutions/tcfd-reporting/.

The Trust Deed can be inspected at the offices of the Manager.

Copies of the Prospectus and Key Investor Information Document ('KIID') are available on request free of charge from the Manager.

Investment objective and policy

The investment objective of the Trust is to achieve long term capital growth over a period of at least 5 years.

The Manager's policy in order to achieve the Trust's objective will be to invest at least 80% of its portfolio in European (excluding the UK) companies (those listed, quoted or traded in European markets or those which have a significant part of their activities in Europe but which are quoted on a regulated market outside Europe).

The Trust is actively managed and may be invested in any combination of European shares at any one time and in any industry sector and in such companies of any size.

To the extent that the Trust is not fully invested as set out above, the Manager has the flexibility to invest in new issues, meaning typically, Initial Public Offerings (or IPOs), which generally mark the first sale of stock (shares) by a privately-owned company in order to gain a stock market listing. However, it may also include "share offers" (meaning sales of stock by companies that are already listed on one of the eligible markets). IPOs will necessarily have a higher risk than investments in established companies. The Manager may also invest in shares listed or quoted anywhere in the world and other transferable securities.

The Manager may also, if it is considered appropriate to the investment objective, retain amounts in cash, cash equivalents and money market instruments (including, but not limited to, cash deposits, commercial paper, certificates of deposit and treasury bills), or collective investment schemes (including but not limited to collective investment schemes which themselves invest in cash or money market instruments or debt securities which are rated or unrated). The Trust may from time to time be solely invested in cash or ancillary liquid assets. The situations in which liquid assets may be held by the Trust may include: (i) where the Investment Manager considers that there are no sufficient suitable investment opportunities; (ii) to protect the value of the Trust and maintain liquidity at times in falling or volatile markets; (iii) to facilitate the Trust's ability to meet redemption requests; and (iv) where the Trust has received subscriptions that are awaiting investment. The Manager may also invest in warrants.

The Manager may use derivatives, including hedge transactions, for Efficient Portfolio Management.

# Report of the Manager (continued)

Changes affecting the Fund in the year

There were no fundamental or significant changes to the Fund in the year.

Further information in relation to the Fund is illustrated on page 38.

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook, we hereby certify the Annual Report on behalf of the Manager, Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited.

Neil Coxhead Directors Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited 27 August 2024

Brian McLean

# Statement of the Manager's responsibilities

The Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('COLL') published by the FCA, requires the Manager to prepare financial statements for each annual accounting period which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust and of the net revenue and net capital gains on the scheme property of the Trust for the year.

In preparing the financial statements the Manager is responsible for:

- selecting suitable accounting policies and then applying them consistently;
- making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- following UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland;
- complying with the disclosure requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice for the Financial Statements of UK Authorised Funds ('the SORP') issued by The Investment Association in May 2014 and amended in June 2017:
- keeping proper accounting records which enable it to demonstrate that the financial statements as prepared comply with the above requirements;
- assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so;
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities; and
- the maintenance and integrity of the Trust's information on the Manager's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

COLL also requires the Manager to carry out an Assessment of Value on the Trust and publish this assessment within the Annual Report.

The Manager is responsible for the management of the Trust in accordance with the Trust Deed, the Prospectus and COLL.

# Assessment of Value - SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund

In line with the provisions contained within COLL 6.6.20R, the Board of Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited ('EPFL') as Authorised Fund Manager ('AFM'), has carried out an Assessment of Value for SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund ('the Trust'). Furthermore, the rules require that EPFL publishes these assessments.

A high-level summary of the outcome of EPFL's rigorous review of the Trust for the year ending 15 May 2024, using the seven criteria set by the FCA is set out below:

1. Quality of Service	
2. Performance	
3. AFM Costs	
4. Economies of Scale	
5. Comparable Market Rates	
6. Comparable Services	
7. Classes of Units	
Overall Rating	

EPFL has adopted a traffic light system to show how it rated the Trust:

- On balance, the Board believes the Trust has delivered value to unitholders, with no material issues noted.
- On balance, the Board believes the Trust has delivered value to unitholders, but may require some action.
- On balance, the Board believes the Trust has not delivered value to unitholders and significant remedial action is now planned by the Board.

How EPFL assessed each of the seven criteria and the rating arrived at are discussed in greater detail on the following pages.

EPFL has created an Assessment of Value Committee ('AVC'), for the review, challenge and approval of all funds' Assessments of Value. Ultimately the assessments will be subject to scrutiny by the Board (which includes independent directors) to ensure the outcomes of the assessments are clear and fair, before final sign-off by the chair of the Board prior to communicating to investors if the Trust has delivered value, and if not, where improvements need to be made.

In carrying out the assessment, the EPFL AVC has separately considered the following seven criteria stipulated by the FCA. The Committee may also have considered other issues where it was deemed appropriate.

EPFL believes the Assessment of Value can make it easier for investors to both evaluate whether the Trust is providing them with value for money and make more informed decisions when choosing investments.

The seven criteria are:

- (1) Quality of service the quality of every aspect of the service provided, including, for example, accounting, administration, customer services and communications;
- (2) Performance how the Trust performed, including whether it met targets and objectives, kept to relevant policy, followed relevant principles, kept to reasonable timescales;
- (3) AFM costs the fairness and value of the Trust's costs, including entry and exit fees, early redemption fees, administration charges;
- (4) Economies of scale how costs have been or can be reduced as a result of increased assets-under-management ('AUM'), and whether or not those savings have been passed on to investors;
- (5) Comparable market rates how the costs of the Trust compare with others in the marketplace;
- (6) Comparable services how the charges applied to the Trust compare with those of other funds administered by EPFL;
- (7) Classes of units the appropriateness of the classes of units in the Trust for investors.

# Assessment of Value - SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund (continued)

### 1. Quality of Service

What was assessed in this section?

### Internal Factors

EPFL, as AFM, has overall responsibility for the Trust. The Board assessed, amongst other things: the day-to-day administration of the Trust; the maintenance of scheme documentation (such as prospectuses and key investor information documents ('KIIDs')); the pricing and valuation of units; the calculation of income and distribution payments; the maintenance of accounting and other records; the preparation of annual audited and half-yearly Report & Accounts; the review of tax provisions and submission of tax computations to HMRC; the dealing and settlement arrangements and the quality of marketing material sent to unitholders. EPFL delegates the Investment Management of the Trust to an Investment Management firm.

The Board reviewed information provided by EPFL's control functions on the adequacy of its internal services, including governance, operations and monitoring. Elements important to the investor experience such as the timely payment of settlement and distribution monies were also reviewed. Over the past year, EPFL has been audited by internal and external auditors, the Trustee and various EPFL delegated Investment Managers.

### **External Factors**

The Board assessed the delegate's skills, processes and experience. Also considered were any results from service review meetings as well as the annual due diligence performed by EPFL on the delegated Investment Manager, Sanlam Investments UK Limited, where consideration was given to, amongst other things, the delegate's controls around the Trust's liquidity management.

The Board also considered the nature, extent and quality of administrative and unitholder services performed under separate agreements covering trustee services, custody, as well as services provided with regard to both audit and legal functions.

### What was the outcome of the assessment?

### Internal Factors

The Board recognised that all distribution and settlement monies were paid in a timely manner and that there were no significant findings as a result of the various audits performed on EPFL during the year. In addition, EPFL has performed its own independent analysis, using automated systems, of the Trust's liquidity. The Board concluded that EPFL had carried out its duties diligently.

### External Factors

The Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the external parties have benefitted and should continue to benefit the Trust and its unitholders.

## Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions.

### 2. Performance

### What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed the performance of the Trust, after the deduction of all payments out of the scheme property as set out in the Prospectus. Performance, against the benchmark, was considered over appropriate timescales having regard to the Trust's investment objective, policy and strategy. The Board also considered whether an appropriate level of market risk has been taken.

## Investment Objective

The Trust seeks to achieve long term capital growth over a period of at least 5 years.

# Assessment of Value - SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund (continued)

# 2. Performance (continued)

Benchmark

As AFM, EPFL is required to explain in a fund's scheme documentation why a benchmark is being used or alternatively explain how investors should assess performance of a fund in the absence of a benchmark.

The benchmarks for the Trust are the MSCI Europe ex UK Index and the IA Europe excluding UK Sector both of which are comparators. A 'comparator' benchmark is an index or similar factor against which an investment manager invites investors to compare a fund's performance. Details of how the Trust had performed against its comparator benchmarks over various timescales can be found below.

The table below shows the performance of the Trust against the current benchmark and one that represents previous performance.

# Cumulative Performance as at 30.04.2024 (%)

	Currency	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
IA Europe Excluding UK TR in GB	GBP	9.31	18.02	48.37
MSCI Europe ex UK TR in GB	GBP	7.96	21.18	48.69
SVS Sanlam - European Equity B Inc TR in GB	GBX	14.04	15.94	51.44

Data provided by FE Fundinfo. Care has been taken to ensure that the information is correct but FE Fundinfo neither warrants, represents nor guarantees the contents of the information, nor does FE Fundinfo accept any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions or any inconsistencies herein.

Performance is calculated net of fees. Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

What was the outcome of the assessment?

This section was rated Amber last year. The Board assessed the performance of the Trust over its minimum recommended holding period of five years and observed that the Trust had outperformed its comparator benchmarks, the MSCI Europe ex UK Index and the IA Europe excluding UK Sector, in four of the last five calendar years. As a result a Green rating was given.

Consideration was given to the risk metrics associated with the Trust which focused on, amongst other things, volatility and risk adjusted returns where EPFL were comfortable that the outcomes were in line with the Trust's performance.

Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

# 3. AFM Costs

What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed each separate charge to ensure that they were reasonable and reflected the services provided. This included the annual management charge ('AMC'), Trustee/Custodian fees and audit fee. The AMC includes the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fee.

The charges should be transparent and understandable to the investor, with no hidden costs.

What was the outcome of the assessment?

The Board received and considered information about each of the Trust's costs, and concluded that they were fair, reasonable and were provided on a competitive basis.

Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

### 4. Economies of Scale

What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed each separate fee structure and the AUM of the Trust to examine the effect on the Trust to potential and existing investors should it increase or decrease in value.

# Assessment of Value - SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund (continued)

## 4. Economies of Scale (continued)

What was the outcome of the assessment?

The AMC is capped meaning that there are no opportunities for savings going forward should the Trust grow in size.

The ancillary charges of the Trust represent 12 basis points<sup>1</sup>. Some of these costs are fixed and as the Trust grows in size, may result in a small reduction in the basis point cost of these services.

Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

# 5. Comparable Market Rates

What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed the ongoing charges figure ('OCF') of the Trust, and how those charges affect the returns of the Trust.

The OCF of the Trust was compared against the 'market rate' of similar external funds.

What was the outcome of the assessment?

The OCF of 0.78%<sup>2</sup> compared favourably with those of similar externally managed funds.

Note that EPFL has not charged an entry fee, exit fee or any other event-based fees on this Trust.

Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

### 6. Comparable Services

What was assessed in this section?

The Board compared the Investment Manager's fee with those of other funds administered by EPFL having regard to size, investment objectives and policies.

What was the outcome of the assessment?

There were no other EPFL administered funds displaying similar characteristics with which to make a meaningful comparison.

Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

### 7. Classes of Units

What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed the Trust's set-up to ensure that where there are multiple unit classes, unitholders are in the correct unit class given the size of their holding.

What was the outcome of the assessment?

There is only one unit class in the Trust, therefore this part of the assessment does not apply.

Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> One basis point is equal to 1/100th of 1% or 0.01%. Figure calculated at interim report, 15 November 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> At the interim reporting period 15 November 2023.

Assessment of Value - SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund (continued)  Overall Assessment of Value  The Board concluded that SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund had provided value to investors.
Dean Buckley Chairman of the Board of Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited 11 August 2024
On reviewing this Assessment of Value report, we would welcome invaluable feedback from investors via our short questionnaire which

Should you be unable to access the questionnaire online please contact us directly on 0141 222 1151 and we will provide you with a

can be found online: https://www.evelyn.com/services/fund-solutions/assessment-of-value/

Investors' views are invaluable to the development and delivery of this report.

paper copy of the questionnaire.

# Report of the Trustee to the unitholders of SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund

### Trustee's responsibilities

The Trustee must ensure that the Fund is managed in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended, (together 'the Regulations'), the Fund's Trust Deed and Prospectus (together 'the Scheme documents') as detailed below.

The Trustee must in the context of its role act honestly, fairly, professionally, independently and in the interests of the Fund and its investors.

The Trustee is responsible for the safekeeping of all custodial assets and maintaining a record of all other assets of the Fund in accordance with the Regulations.

#### The Trustee must ensure that:

- the Fund's cash flows are properly monitored and that cash of the Fund is booked into the cash accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- the sale, issue, redemption and cancellation of units are carried out in accordance with the Regulations;
- the value of units of the Fund are calculated in accordance with the Regulations;
- any consideration relating to transactions in the Fund's assets is remitted to the Fund within the usual time limits;
- the Fund's revenue is applied in accordance with the Regulations; and
- the instructions of the Manager are carried out (unless they conflict with the Regulations).

The Trustee also has a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that the Fund is managed in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents in relation to the investment and borrowing powers applicable to the Fund.

Having carried out such procedures as we consider necessary to discharge our responsibilities as Trustee of the Fund, it is our opinion, based on the information available to us and the explanations provided, that in all material respects the Fund, acting through the Manager:

- (i) has carried out the issue, sale, redemption and cancellation, and calculation of the price of the Fund's units and the application of the Fund's revenue in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Fund; and
- (ii) has observed the investment and borrowing powers and restrictions applicable to the Fund.

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited 27 August 2024

# Independent Auditor's report to the unitholders of SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund (the 'Trust') for the year ended 15 May 2024, which comprise the Statement of total return, Statement of change in net assets attributable to unitholders, Balance sheet, the related Notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies and the Distribution table. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 15 May 2024 and of the net revenue and the net capital gains on the scheme property of the Trust for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the Investment Association Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds, the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook (COLL Rules) of the Financial Conduct Authority and the Trust Deed.

# Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions Relating to Going Concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Manager with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Manager is responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on Other Matters Prescribed by the COLL Rules

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- Proper accounting records for the Trust have been kept and the accounts are in agreement with those records;
- We have received all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit; and
- The information given in the Report of the Manager for the year is consistent with the financial statements.

# Independent Auditor's report to the unitholders of SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund (continued)

## Responsibilities of the Manager

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Manager's responsibilities set out on page 4, the Manager is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Manager is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Manager either intends to wind up the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We assessed whether the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations by considering their experience, past performance and support available.

All engagement team members were briefed on relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks at the planning stage of the audit. Engagement team members were reminded to remain alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Trust and the sector in which it operates, focusing on those provisions that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The most relevant frameworks we identified include:

- UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice including Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the IA Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds;
- The Financial Conduct Authority's COLL Rules; and
- The Trust's Prospectus.

We gained an understanding of how the Trust is complying with these laws and regulations by making enquiries of the Manager. We corroborated these enquiries through our review of submitted returns, external inspections, relevant correspondence with regulatory bodies and the Trust's breaches register.

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by meeting with management to understand where it was considered there was susceptibility to fraud. This evaluation also considered how the Manager was remunerated and whether this provided an incentive for fraudulent activity. We considered the overall control environment and how the Manager oversees the implementation and operation of controls. In areas of the financial statements where the risks were considered to be higher, we performed procedures to address each identified risk. We identified a heightened fraud risk in relation to:

- Management override of controls; and
- The completeness and classification of special dividends between revenue and capital.

# Independent Auditor's report to the unitholders of SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund (continued)

Auditor Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

In addition to the above, the following procedures were performed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material fraud or error:

- Reviewing the level of and reasoning behind the Trust's procurement of legal and professional services;
- Performing audit work procedures over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of
  journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant
  transactions outside the normal course of business, review of a pre sign-off Net Asset Valuation (NAV)
  statement for any unexpected activity and reviewing judgements made by the Manager in its calculation of
  accounting estimates for potential management bias;
- Using a third-party independent data source to assess the completeness of the special dividend population and determining whether special dividends recognised were revenue or capital in nature with reference to the underlying circumstances of the investee companies' dividend payments;
- Assessing the Trust's compliance with the key requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook and its Prospectus;
- Completion of appropriate checklists and use of our experience to assess the Trust's compliance with the IA Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds; and
- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to supporting documentation.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed noncompliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

### Use of Our Report

This report is made solely to the Trust's unitholders, as a body, in accordance with Rule 4.5.12 of the COLL Rules published by the Financial Conduct Authority under section 247 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust's unitholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and the Trust's unitholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Johnston Carmichael LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor Bishop's Court 29 Albyn Place Aberdeen AB10 1YL 27 August 2024

# Accounting policies of SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund

for the year ended 15 May 2024

#### a Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments. They have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ('FRS 102') and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds ('the SORP') published by The Investment Association in May 2014 and amended in June 2017, and the requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('COLL').

The Manager has considered a detailed assessment of the Fund's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, including liquidity, declines in global capital markets and investor redemption levels. Based on this assessment, the Fund continues to be open for trading and the Manager is satisfied the Fund has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for at least the next 12 months and accordingly it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

### b Valuation of investments

The purchases and sales of investments are included up to close of business on the last business day of the accounting year.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised when a legally binding and unconditional right to obtain, or an obligation to deliver an asset arises.

The quoted investments of the Fund have been valued at the global closing bid-market prices on the principal markets on which the stocks are quoted on the last business day of the accounting year.

### c Foreign exchange

The base currency of the Fund is UK sterling which is taken to be the Fund's functional currency.

All transactions in foreign currencies are converted into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the dates of such transactions. The resulting exchange differences are disclosed in note 2 of the Notes to the financial statements.

Any foreign currency assets and liabilities at the end of the accounting period are translated at the exchange rate prevailing at the balance sheet date.

### d Revenue

Revenue is recognised in the Statement of total return on the following basis:

Dividends from quoted equity instruments and non equity shares are recognised as revenue, net of attributable tax credits on the date when the securities are quoted ex-dividend.

Overseas dividends are recognised as revenue gross of any withholding tax and the tax consequences are recognised within the tax expense.

Compensation is treated as either revenue or capital in nature depending on the facts of each particular case.

Interest on bank deposits and short term deposits is recognised on an accruals basis.

### e Expenses

All expenses, other than those relating to the purchase and sale of investments, are charged to revenue on an accrual basis.

### f Taxation

Tax payable on profits is recognised as an expense in the period in which profits arise. The tax effects of tax losses available to carry forward are recognised as an asset when it is probable that future taxable profits will be available, against which these losses can be utilised.

UK corporation tax is provided as amounts to be paid/recovered using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted at the balance sheet date.

# Accounting policies of SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund (continued)

for the year ended 15 May 2024

### f Taxation (continued)

Deferred taxation is provided in full on timing differences that result in an obligation at 15 May 2024 to pay more or less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current rates and tax laws. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Provision for deferred tax assets are only made to the extent the timing differences are expected to be of future benefit.

All foreign dividend revenue is recognised as a gross amount which includes any withholding tax deducted at source. Where foreign tax is withheld in excess of the applicable treaty rate a tax debtor is recognised to the extent that the overpayment is considered recoverable.

When a disposal of a holding in a non-reporting offshore fund is made, any gain is an offshore income gain and tax will be charged to capital. There may be instances where tax relief is due to revenue for the utilisation of excess management expenses.

### g Efficient Portfolio Management

Where appropriate, certain permitted instruments such as derivatives or forward currency contracts may be used for Efficient Portfolio Management purposes. Where such instruments are used to protect or enhance revenue, the revenue or expenses derived therefrom are included in the Statement of total return as revenue related items and form part of the distribution. Where such instruments are used to protect or enhance capital, the gains and losses derived therefrom are included in the Statement of total return as capital related items.

### h Dilution levy

The need to charge a dilution levy will depend on the volume of sales or redemptions. The Manager may charge a discretionary dilution levy on the sale and redemption of units if, in its opinion, the existing unitholders (for sales) or remaining unitholders (for redemptions) might otherwise be adversely affected, and if charging a dilution levy is, so far as practicable, fair to all unitholders and potential unitholders. Please refer to the Prospectus for further information.

### i Distribution policies

### i Basis of distribution

The distribution policy is to distribute all available revenue after deduction of expenses payable from revenue. Distributions attributable to income units are paid to unitholders.

### ii Unclaimed distributions

Distributions to unitholders outstanding after 6 years are taken to the capital property of the Fund.

### iii Revenue

All revenue is included in the final distribution with reference to policy d.

### iv Expenses

Expenses incurred against the revenue of the Fund are included in the final distribution, subject to any expense which may be transferred to capital for the purpose of calculating the distribution, with reference to policy e.

# v Equalisation

Group 2 units are units purchased on or after the previous XD date and before the current XD date. Equalisation applies only to group 2 units. Equalisation is the average amount of revenue included in the purchase price of group 2 units and is refunded to holders of these units as a return of capital. Being capital it is not liable to income tax in the hands of the unitholders but must be deducted from the cost of units for capital gains tax purposes. Equalisation per unit is disclosed in the Distribution table.

# Investment Manager's report

### Investment performance\*

Over the 12 month period, the Fund produced a performance of 19.07% (B Class Income). For comparison purposes, the MSCI Europe ex UK Index produced a gross total return of 14.38% in GBP. The IA Europe exluding UK Sector median produced a performance of 14.48%.

#### Investment activities

Investors in the Fund who have invested for a number of years are likely to be familiar with our investment approach but, for those who are not familiar with how we invest, we kept our focus on three broad categories at the company level: stock market listed entities that we regard to be great companies (in many cases genuine world leaders or globally revered brands) that just happen to be domiciled in Europe; regional European 'champions' in sectors like IT; and attractively-valued global thematic beneficiaries with long-term structural growth potential.

Our investment approach is to run a relatively focused, high-conviction and low turnover portfolio of typically around 30 holdings; we did not deviate from that approach during the year. Nonetheless, there were some changes at the portfolio level, which we discuss below.

New positions in the Fund over the course of the year included Alten, a consultancy business which is a beneficiary of the structural shift towards factory automation. We also started a new position in RELX, a leading global provider of information-based analytics and decision tools for professional and business customers, enabling them to make better decisions, get better results and be more productive. These positions were funded by complete exits from Adyen and Teleperformance, where our investment theses had deteriorated.

More recently, we have started positions in AXA, Befesa (a recycler of hazardous materials for the steel industry), Boozt (a Nordic online fashion and lifestyle products retailer), CIE Automotive, Intesa Sanpaolo (the Italian bank) and Stroeer SE & Co KGaA (a leading media company in Germany). These changes were funded by exits from our positions in FinecoBank Banca Fineco, Hexagon, VAT Group and Vinci.

### Investment strategy and outlook\*\*

There has been no change to the Fund's investment strategy and approach over the past year. As noted above, we have kept our focus on companies in Europe that are genuine world leaders, but which just happen to be listed on a European bourse. We also continued to invest in regional champions, plus European companies that we regard to be attractively-valued beneficiaries of longer-term global investment trends and themes.

In broader terms, this means the Fund will not own poor or low-quality companies or companies with an uncertain longer-term future (e.g. those with significant exposure to legacy industries and legacy technologies) or those that face significant headwinds from structural change, such as the de-carbonisation of the European economy.

At a global level, interest rates have risen materially over the past twelve months. The return of 'normal' interest rates has caused some turbulence for stocks and bonds, and certainly it has presented meaningful challenges for consumers and businesses with a lot of debt, but we are now moving to the phase of the economic cycle where central banks will begin to consider rate cuts. At the time of writing (late May 2024), the expectation is that the European Central Bank will start cutting rates from June 2024. By contrast, the resilience of the US economy suggests that any US rate cuts in 2024 are likely to be modest, and this could pose a headwind for global stock markets, not least because the expectation at the beginning of 2024 was that the Federal Reserve was likely to cut rates quite aggressively.

Within the Fund, we remain focused on stocks with resilient, long-term thematic potential and reasonable valuations, given the rates of growth that they offer. In our experience, those are the types of companies that can weather most macroeconomic scenarios and provide attractive long-term returns for growth-oriented investors.

Looking beyond the short term, we believe there are reasons to be positive on Europe excluding the UK, even if the region's large weight in financials makes it unattractive to some investors. Europe excluding the UK has valuation support, with the region trading on around 14.1x forward earnings (for the MSCI Europe ex UK), versus 16.9x for the All Country World index and 17.9x for developed markets (MSCI World). If we look at metrics like price to book value, Europe trades on just 2.15x, versus 3.26x for the MSCI World.

 $<sup>^{</sup>st}$  Source: FE fundinfo based on mid prices at 12pm on 15 May 2024.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Source: MSCI as at 30 April 2024.

# Investment Manager's report (continued)

Investment strategy and outlook (continued)

Structurally, we continue to believe that Europe has a very important role to play in the decarbonisation of economies and the greater sustainability of global economic growth in general, and we expect this to provide a meaningful tailwind for a number of our portfolio companies in the coming years.

Sanlam Investments UK Limited 21 May 2024

# Portfolio changes

for the year ended 15 May 2024

The following represents the total purchases and sales in the year to reflect a clearer picture of the investment activities.

Purchases:	Cost £
AXA	615,554
Intesa Sanpaolo	614,273
RELX	607,331
Alten	573,231
Befesa	519,565
CIE Automotive	513,731
Stroeer SE & Co KGaA	512,497
Boozt	500,405
ASML Holding	342,281
ID Logistics Group	103,978
SAP	91,764
Hexagon	63,348
Siemens Healthineers	56,145
	Dun on a sele
Sales:	Proceeds £
Vinci	1,081,700
Hexagon	732,910
VAT Group	689,261
Sanofi	557,656
FinecoBank Banca Fineco	
This cop and control of this cop	458,136
Tenaris	458,136 447,886
Tenaris	447,886
Tenaris ASM International	447,886 322,004
Tenaris ASM International Novo Nordisk	447,886 322,004 304,383
Tenaris ASM International Novo Nordisk Heineken Teleperformance Evotec	447,886 322,004 304,383 294,041
Tenaris ASM International Novo Nordisk Heineken Teleperformance Evotec Schneider Electric	447,886 322,004 304,383 294,041 270,411 181,395 177,695
Tenaris ASM International Novo Nordisk Heineken Teleperformance Evotec Schneider Electric Adyen	447,886 322,004 304,383 294,041 270,411 181,395 177,695 164,371
Tenaris  ASM International  Novo Nordisk  Heineken  Teleperformance  Evotec  Schneider Electric  Adyen  Infineon Technologies	447,886 322,004 304,383 294,041 270,411 181,395 177,695 164,371 134,345
Tenaris ASM International Novo Nordisk Heineken Teleperformance Evotec Schneider Electric Adyen	447,886 322,004 304,383 294,041 270,411 181,395 177,695 164,371

# Portfolio statement

as at 15 May 2024

	Nominal value or	Market value	% of total net assets
Investment	holding	£	Hel assets
Equities 98.17% (94.97%)	rioiding	2	
Equities - United Kingdom 4.01% (0.00%)			
Industrials 4.01% (0.00%)			
RELX	23,325	807,196	4.01
	<del>-</del>		
Equities - Europe 94.16% (94.97%)			
Equities - Denmark 5.47% (5.02%)			
Novo Nordisk	10,455	1,101,495	5.47
Equities - France 30.18% (33.84%)	5.000	000 701	4.40
Air Liquide	5,803	930,791	4.62
Alten	5,231	557,626	2.77
AXA	20,604	590,126	2.93
Capgemini	4,008	718,970	3.57
ID Logistics Group	2,721	895,634	4.45
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton	1,001	677,872	3.37
Sanofi	4,511	350,628	1.74
Schneider Electric	6,684	1,354,756	6.73
Total equities - France	-	6,076,403	30.18
Equities - Germany 22.71% (20.73%)			
CTS Eventim KGaA	10,322	706,088	3.51
Hensoldt	36,205	1,205,694	5.99
Infineon Technologies	19,796	646,076	3.21
SAP	4,665	705,576	3.50
Siemens Healthineers	16,173	740,424	3.68
Stroeer SE & Co KGaA	10,672	568,361	2.82
Total equities - Germany	10,072	4,572,219	22.71
Total equilies - Germany	-	4,372,217	22.71
Equities - Italy 4.79% (3.67%)			
Enel	48,420	283,887	1.41
Intesa Sanpaolo	213,056	680,989	3.38
Total equities - Italy		964,876	4.79
Equities - Luxembourg 4.02% (3.50%)			
Befesa	18,902	500,982	2.49
Tenaris	22,377	307,297	1.53
Total equities - Luxembourg	-	808,279	4.02
Equities - Netherlands 13.53% (13.63%)			
ASM International	1,257	688,755	3.42
ASML Holding	1,361	993,620	4.93
Ferrari	2,057	670,895	3.33
Heineken	4,577	371,628	1.85
Total equities - Netherlands	<del>-</del>	2,724,898	13.53
	-	_,, _ 1,0,0	10.00

# Portfolio statement (continued)

as at 15 May 2024

	Nominal value or	Market value	% of total net assets
Investment	holding	£	1161 033613
Equities (continued)	Holding	d.	
Equities - Europe (continued)			
Equities - Spain 4.81% (2.46%)			
Amadeus IT Group	7,779	431,714	2.14
CIE Automotive	22,689	537,479	2.67
Total equities - Spain		969,193	4.81
Equities - Sweden 2.46% (3.42%)			
Boozt	50,266	495,497	2.46
Equities - Switzerland 6.19% (8.70%)			
ABB	18,346	772,472	3.84
Sika	1,915	474,023	2.35
Total equities - Switzerland		1,246,495	6.19
Total equities - Europe		18,959,355	94.16
Total equities		19,766,551	98.17
Portfolio of investments		19,766,551	98.17
Other net assets		367,928	1.83
Total net assets		20,134,479	100.00

All investments are listed on recognised stock exchanges or are approved securities within the meaning of the FCA rules unless otherwise stated.

The comparative figures in brackets are as at 15 May 2023.

United Kingdom equities are grouped in accordance with Global Industry Classification Standard ('GICS').

GICS was developed by and is the exclusive property and a service mark of MSCI Inc. ('MSCI') and Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ('S&P') and is licensed for use by Evelyn Partners Services Limited. Neither MSCI, S&P nor any third party involved in making or compiling the GICS or any GICS classifications makes any express or implied warranties or representations with respect to such standard or classification (or the results to be obtained by the use thereof), and all such parties hereby expressly disclaim all warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any of such standard or classification. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall MSCI, S&P, any of their affiliates or any third party involved in making or compiling the GICS or any GICS classifications have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential or any other damages (including lost profits) even if notified of the possibility of such damages.

# Risk and reward profile\*

The risk and reward indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the risk and reward indicator.

Typically lower rewards,		Typicall	ly higher re	ewards,			
	←	lower risk higher risk			<b>→</b>		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

The Fund is in a higher category because the price of its investments have risen or fallen frequently and more dramatically than some other types of investment. The category shown is not guaranteed to remain unchanged and may shift over time. Even the lowest category does not mean a risk-free investment.

For full details on risk factors for the Fund, please refer to the Prospectus.

There have been no changes to the risk and reward indicator in the year.

<sup>\*</sup> As per the KIID published on 29 January 2024.

# Comparative table

The following disclosures give a unitholder an indication of the performance of a unit in the Fund. It also discloses the operating charges and direct transaction costs applied to each unit. Operating charges are those charges incurred in operating the Fund and direct transaction costs are costs incurred when purchasing or selling securities in the portfolio of investments.

	2023**	2022
A Class Income	р	р
Change in net assets per unit		
Opening net asset value per unit	743.43	800.82
Return before operating charges	8.33	(44.40)
Operating charges	(2.16)	(9.42)
Return after operating charges *	6.17	(53.82)
Distributions <sup>^</sup>	-	(3.57)
Closing net asset value per unit	749.60	743.43
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.02	0.77
Performance		
Return after charges	0.83%	(6.72%)
Other information		
Closing net asset value (£)	-	48,754
Closing number of units	-	6,558
Operating charges <sup>^^</sup>	1.14%***	1.11%
Direct transaction costs	0.00%	0.09%
Published prices		
Highest offer unit price	768.7	938.3
Lowest bid unit price	679.9	701.0

Investments carry risk. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

<sup>\*\*</sup> For the period 16 May 2022 to 15 August 2022.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Annualised based on expenses from 16 May 2022 to 15 August 2022.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>wedge}$  Rounded to 2 decimal places.

<sup>^^</sup> The operating charges are represented by the Ongoing Charges Figure ('OCF'). The OCF consists principally of the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fee which are included in the annual management charge, but also includes the costs for other services paid. It is indicative of the charges which may occur in a year as it is calculated on historical data.

# Comparative table (continued)

	2024	2023	2022
B Class Income	р	р	р
Change in net assets per unit			_
Opening net asset value per	203.46	186.98	201.52
Return before operating charges	42.13	20.00	(11.22)
Operating charges	(1.63)	(1.48)	(1.63)
Return after operating charges *	40.50	18.52	(12.85)
Distributions <sup>^</sup>	(1.92)	(2.04)	(1.69)
Closing net asset value per unit	242.04	203.46	186.98
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.10	0.03	0.18
Performance			
Return after charges	19.91%	9.90%	(6.38%)
Other information			
Closing net asset value $(£)$	20,134,479	18,245,399	21,132,179
Closing number of units	8,318,812	8,967,697	11,302,037
Operating charges <sup>^^</sup>	0.77%	0.79%	0.76%
Direct transaction costs	0.05%	0.01%	0.09%
Published prices			
Highest offer unit price	242.9	212.0	236.7
Lowest bid unit price	188.4	168.1	176.9

Investments carry risk. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>wedge}$  Rounded to 2 decimal places.

<sup>^^</sup> The operating charges are represented by the Ongoing Charges Figure ('OCF'). The OCF consists principally of the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fee which are included in the annual management charge, but also includes the costs for other services paid. It is indicative of the charges which may occur in a year as it is calculated on historical data.

# Financial statements - SVS Sanlam European Equity Fund

# Statement of total return

for the year ended 15 May 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
Income:		£	£	£	£
meente.					
Net capital gains	2		3,304,126		1,533,333
Revenue	3	345,135		372,572	
Expenses	4	(143,639)		(148,987)	
Net revenue before taxation		201,496		223,585	
Taxation	5	(36,133)		(20,951)	
Net revenue after taxation		-	165,363	_	202,634
Total return before distributions			3,469,489		1,735,967
Distributions	6		(165,351)		(202,676)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders		-		_	
from investment activities		:=	3,304,138	=	1,533,291

# Statement of change in net assets attributable to unitholders for the year ended 15 May 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders		18,245,399		21,180,933
Amounts receivable on issue of units	55,472		228,014	
Amounts payable on cancellation of units	(1,470,530)		(4,696,839)	
		(1,415,058)		(4,468,825)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders				
from investment activities		3,304,138		1,533,291
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders		20,134,479	- -	18,245,399

# Balance sheet as at 15 May 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Assets:			
Fixed assets:			
Investments		19,766,551	17,327,102
111763111161113		17,700,001	17,027,102
Current assets:			
Debtors	7	93,013	100,100
Cash and bank balances	8	451,682	1,053,597
Total assets		20,311,246	18,480,799
Liabilities:			
Can dill			
Creditors:		(150.701)	(100.010)
Distribution payable		(159,721)	(183,210)
Other creditors	9	(17,046)	(52,190)
To belli ele ilibio		(17/7/7)	(025, 400)
Total liabilities		(176,767)	(235,400)
Net assets attributable to unitholders		20,134,479	18,245,399
14C1 G33C13 GIIIIDOIGDIE 10 OIIIIIIOIGEI3		20,134,477	10,243,377

# Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 15 May 2024

# 1. Accounting policies

The accounting policies are disclosed on pages 14 and 15.

2.	Net capital gains	2024	2023
		£	£
1	Non-derivative securities - realised gains	527,882	492,656
- 1	Non-derivative securities - movement in unrealised gains	2,788,064	1,037,103
(	Currency (losses) / gains	(11,045)	2,688
1	Forward currency contracts	-	1,789
(	Compensation	-	36
-	Transaction charges	(775)	(939)
-	Total net capital gains	3,304,126	1,533,333
3.	Revenue	2024	2023
		£	£
1	JK revenue	10,919	-
(	Overseas revenue	288,904	356,749
	Bank and deposit interest	45,312	15,823
	Total revenue	345,135	372,572
4.	- Expenses	2024	2023
		£	£
1	Payable to the Manager and associates		
	Annual management charge*	119,999	124,307
	Registration fees	238	283
		120,237	124,590
ı	Payable to the Trustee		
	Trustee fees	9,015	9,000
	Other expenses:		
	Audit fee	8,700	7,560
	Non-executive directors' fees	-	(974)
	Safe custody fees	799	970
	Bank interest	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	30
	FCA fee	116	258
	KIID production fee	1,917	1,000
	Listing fee	2,407	2,113
	Legal fee	448	4,440
		14,387	15,397
-	Total expenses	143,639	148,987

<sup>\*</sup>For the year ended 15 May 2024, the annual management charge for B Class Income was 0.65%. The annual management charge includes the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fees.

for the year ended 15 May 2024

5. Taxation	2024	2023
	£	£
a. Analysis of the tax charge for the year		
Overseas tax withheld	36,133	20,951
Total taxation (note 5b)	36,133	20,951

### b. Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is lower (2023: lower) than the standard rate of UK corporation tax for an authorised collective investment scheme of 20% (2023: 20%). The differences are explained below:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net revenue before taxation	201,496	223,585
Corporation tax @ 20%	40,299	44,717
Effects of:		
UK revenue	(2,183)	-
Overseas revenue	(57,781)	(71,350)
Overseas tax withheld	36,133	20,951
Excess management expenses	19,665	26,633
Total taxation (note 5a)	36,133	20,951

### c. Provision for deferred taxation

At the year end, a deferred tax asset has not been recognised in respect of timing differences relating to excess management expenses as there is insufficient evidence that the asset will be recovered. The amount of asset not recognised is £709,958 (2023: £690,293).

# 6. Distributions

The distributions take account of revenue added on the issue of units and revenue deducted on the cancellation of units, and comprise:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Final income distribution	159,721	183,210
Equalisation:		
Amounts deducted on cancellation of units	5,913	20,473
Amounts added on issue of units	(283)	(990)
Net equalisation on conversions	-	(17)
Total net distributions	165,351	202,676
Reconciliation between net revenue and distributions:		
Net revenue after taxation per Statement of total return	165,363	202,634
Undistributed revenue brought forward Undistributed revenue carried forward Distributions	44 (56) 165,351	86 (44) 202,676

Details of the distribution per unit are disclosed in the Distribution table.

for the year ended 15 May 2024

7.	Debtors	2024	2023
		£	£
	Amounts receivable on issue of units	11,609	-
	Accrued revenue	32,457	30,278
	Recoverable overseas withholding tax	48,947	69,822
	Total debtors	93,013	100,100
8.	Cash and bank balances	2024	2023
٠.		£	£
	Total cash and bank balances	451,682	1,053,597
		.01,7002	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
9.	Other creditors	2024	2023
/.	Offici cicanois	£	£
	Amounts payable on cancellation of units	93	36,415
	Amounts payable on cancellation of office	73	30,413
	Accrued expenses:		
	Payable to the Manager and associates		
	Annual management charge	5,229	5,576
	Registration fees	9	3,378
	kegisii ailon tees	5,238	5,587
		3,230	3,367
	Other expenses:		
	Trustee fees	369	419
	Safe custody fees	492	215
	Audit fee	8,700	7,560
	FCA fee	17	34
	KIID production fee	292	375
		1,733	1,565
	Listing fee		
	Transaction charges	112	20
		11,715	10,188
	Total georged expenses	16,953	15,775
	Total accrued expenses	10,733	13,773
	T 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	17.04/	
	Total other creditors	17,046	52,190
10			
10	. Commitments and contingent liabilities		
	At the balance sheet date there are no commitments or cont	tingent liabilities.	
11	. Unit classes		
	The following reflects the change in units in issue in the year:		
			R Class Income
	Opening units in issue		B Class Income
	Opening units in issue		8,967,697
	Total units issued in the year		26,049
	Total units cancelled in the year		(674,934)
	Closing units in issue		8,318,812

Further information in respect of the return per unit is disclosed in the Comparative table.

for the year ended 15 May 2024

### 12. Related party transactions

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited, as Manager is a related party due to its ability to act in respect of the operations of the Fund.

The Manager acts as principal in respect of all transactions of units in the Fund. The aggregate monies received and paid through the creation and cancellation of units are disclosed in the Statement of change in net assets attributable to unitholders of the Fund.

Amounts payable to the Manager and its associates are disclosed in note 4. The amount due to the Manager and its associates at the balance sheet date is disclosed in note 9.

### 13. Events after the balance sheet date

Subsequent to the year end, the net asset value per B Income unit has decreased from 242.04p to 233.97p as at 22 August 2024. This movement takes into account routine transactions but also reflects the market movements of recent months.

### 14. Transaction costs

#### a Direct transaction costs

Direct transaction costs include fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers; levies by regulatory agencies and security exchanges; and transfer taxes and duties.

Commission is a charge which is deducted from the proceeds of the sale of securities and added to the cost of the purchase of securities. This charge is a payment to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers in respect of their services in executing the trades.

Tax is payable on the purchase of securities in the United Kingdom. It may be the case that 'other taxes' will be charged on the purchase of securities in countries other than the United Kingdom.

The total purchases and sales and the related direct transaction costs incurred in these transactions are as follows:

ħ	before ransaction costs	Commi	ssion	Taxe	∋s	Finan transact		Purchases after transaction costs
2024	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
Equities	5,107,067	1,532	0.03%	5,130	0.10%	374	0.01%	5,114,103
	Purchases before ransaction costs	Commi	ssion	Taxe	es	Finan transact		Purchases after transaction costs
2023	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
Equities	1,118,314	336	0.03%	571	0.05%	-	-	1,119,221
t	Sales before ransaction costs	Commi	ssion	Taxe	<del>-</del> s	Finan transact		Sales after transaction costs
2024	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
Equities	5,992,398	(1,798)	0.03%	-	-	_	-	5,990,600

for the year ended 15 May 2024

- 14. Transaction costs (continued)
- a Direct transaction costs (continued)

	Sales before							Sales after
	transaction costs	Commi	ssion	Tax	es	Finar transac		transaction costs
2023	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
Equities	5,606,815	(1,682)	0.03%	-			-	5,605,133

### Summary of direct transaction costs

The following represents the total of each type of transaction cost, expressed as a percentage of the Fund's average net asset value in the year:

2024	£	% of average net asset value
Commission	3,330	0.02%
Taxes	5,130	0.03%
Financial transaction tax	374	0.00%
2023	£	% of average net asset value
Commission	2,018	0.01%
Taxes	571	0.00%

# b Average portfolio dealing spread

The average portfolio dealing spread is calculated as the difference between the bid and offer value of the portfolio as a percentage of the offer value.

The average portfolio dealing spread of the investments at the balance sheet date was 0.20% (2023: 0.29%).

### 15. Risk management policies

In pursuing the Fund's investment objective, as set out in the Prospectus, the following are accepted by the Manager as being the main risks from the Fund's holding of financial instruments, either directly or indirectly through its underlying holdings. These are presented with the Manager's policy for managing these risks. To ensure these risks are consistently and effectively managed these are continually reviewed by the risk committee, a body appointed by the Manager, which sets the risk appetite and ensures continued compliance with the management of all known risks.

### a Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices and comprise three elements: other price risk, currency risk, and interest rate risk.

### (i) Other price risk

The Fund's exposure to price risk comprises mainly of movements in the value of investment positions in the face of price movements.

The main element of the portfolio of investments which is exposed to this risk is equities which are disclosed in the Portfolio statement.

This risk is generally regarded as consisting of two elements: stock specific risk and market risk. Through these two factors, the Fund is exposed to price fluctuations, which are monitored by the Manager in pursuance of the investment objective and policy.

for the year ended 15 May 2024

- 15. Risk management policies (continued)
- a Market risk (continued)
- (i) Other price risk (continued)

Adhering to investment guidelines and avoiding excessive exposure to one particular issuer can limit stock specific risk. Subject to compliance with the investment objective of the Fund, spreading exposure in the portfolio of investments both globally and across sectors or geography can mitigate market risk.

At 15 May 2024, if the price of the investments held by the Fund increased or decreased by 5%, with all other variables remaining constant, then the net assets attributable to unitholders of the Fund would increase or decrease by approximately £988,328 (2023: £866,355).

### (ii) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of investments or future cash flows will fluctuate as a result of exchange rate movements. Investment in overseas securities or holdings of foreign currency cash will provide direct exposure to currency risk as a consequence of the movement in foreign exchange rates against sterling. These fluctuations can also affect the profitability of some UK companies, and thus their market prices, as sterling's relative strength or weakness can affect export prospects, the value of overseas earnings in sterling terms, and the prices of imports sold in the UK.

Forward currency contracts may be used to manage the portfolio exposure to currency movements.

The foreign currency risk profile of the Fund's financial instruments and cash holdings at the balance sheet date is as follows:

	Financial instruments and	Net debtors	Total net foreign currency
2024	cash holdings	and creditors	exposure
	£	£	£
Danish krone	1,101,495	11,699	1,113,194
Euro	16,923,064	58,677	16,981,741
Swedish krona	495,497	-	495,497
Swiss franc	1,246,495	-	1,246,495
Total foreign currency exposure	19,766,551	70,376	19,836,927
	Financial instruments and cash holdings	Net debtors and creditors	Total net foreign currency exposure
2023	£	£	£
Danish krone	914,872	20,791	935,663
Euro	14,200,475	72,223	14,272,698
Swedish krona	623,569	-	623,569
Swiss franc	1,588,719	-	1,588,719
Total foreign currency exposure	17,327,635	93,014	17,420,649

At 15 May 2024, if the value of sterling increased or decreased by 5% against all other currencies, with all other variables remaining constant, then the net assets attributable to unitholders of the Fund would increase or decrease by approximately £991,846 (2023: £871,032).

for the year ended 15 May 2024

- 15. Risk management policies (continued)
- a Market risk (continued)
- (iii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's investments will fluctuate as a result of interest rate changes.

During the year the Fund's direct exposure to interest rates consisted of cash and bank balances. The amount of revenue receivable from bank balances or payable on bank overdrafts will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates. In the event of a change in interest rates, there would be no material impact upon the net assets of the Fund. The Fund would not in normal market conditions hold significant cash balances and would have limited borrowing capabilities as stipulated in the COLL rules.

Derivative contracts are not used to hedge against the exposure to interest rate risk.

There is no exposure to interest bearing securities at the balance sheet date.

#### b Credit risk

This is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. This includes counterparty risk.

The Trustee has appointed the custodian to provide custody services for the assets of the Fund. There is a counterparty risk that the custodian could cease to be in a position to provide custody services to the Fund. The Fund's investments (excluding cash) are ring fenced hence the risk is considered to be negligible.

The Fund holds cash and cash deposits with financial institutions which potentially exposes the Fund to counterparty risk. The credit rating of the financial institution is taken into account so as to minimise the risk to the Fund of default.

# c Liquidity risk

A significant risk is the cancellation of units which investors may wish to sell and that securities may have to be sold in order to fund such cancellations if insufficient cash is held at the bank to meet this obligation. If there were significant requests for the redemption of units at a time when a large proportion of the portfolio of investments were not easily tradable due to market volumes or market conditions, the ability to fund those redemptions would be impaired and it might be necessary to suspend dealings in units in the Fund.

Investments in smaller companies at times may prove illiquid, as by their nature they tend to have relatively modest traded share capital. Shifts in investor sentiment, or the announcement of new price sensitive information, can provoke significant movement in unit prices, and make dealing in any quantity difficult.

The Fund may also invest in securities that are not listed or traded on any stock exchange. In such situations the Fund may not be able to immediately sell such securities.

To reduce liquidity risk the Manager will ensure, in line with the limits stipulated within the COLL rules, a substantial portion of the Fund's assets consist of readily realisable securities. This is monitored on a monthly basis and reported to the Risk Committee together with historical outflows of the Fund.

In addition liquidity is subject to stress testing on an annual basis to assess the ability of the Fund to meet large redemptions, while still being able to adhere to its objective guidelines and the FCA investment borrowing regulations.

All of the financial liabilities are payable on demand.

for the year ended 15 May 2024

- 15. Risk management policies (continued)
- d Fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities

There is no material difference between the value of the financial assets and liabilities, as shown in the balance sheet, and their fair value.

To ensure this, the fair value pricing committee is a body appointed by the Manager to analyse, review and vote on price adjustments/maintenance where no current secondary market exists and/or where there are potential liquidity issues that would affect the disposal of an asset. In addition, the committee may also consider adjustments to the Fund's price should the constituent investments be exposed to closed markets during general market volatility or instability.

	Investment assets	Investment liabilities
Basis of valuation	2024	2024
	£	£
Quoted prices	19,766,551	-
Observable market data	-	-
Unobservable data		
	19,766,551	
	Investment assets	Investment liabilities
Basis of valuation	2023	2023
	£	£
Quoted prices	17,327,102	-
Observable market data	-	-
Unobservable data		-
	17,327,102	-

No securities in the portfolio of investments are valued using valuation techniques.

e Assets subject to special arrangements arising from their illiquid nature

There are no assets held in the portfolio of investments which are subject to special arrangements arising from their illiquid nature.

### f Derivatives

The Fund may employ derivatives with the aim of reducing the Fund's risk profile, reducing costs or generating additional capital or revenue, in accordance with Efficient Portfolio Management.

The Manager monitors that any exposure is covered globally to ensure adequate cover is available to meet the Fund's total exposure, taking into account the value of the underlying investments, any reasonably foreseeable market movement, counterparty risk, and the time available to liquidate any positions.

For certain derivative transactions cash margins may be required to be paid to the brokers with whom the trades were executed and settled. These balances are subject to daily reconciliations and are held by the broker in segregated cash accounts that are afforded client money protection.

During the year there were no derivative transactions.

# (i) Counterparties

Transactions in securities give rise to exposure to the risk that the counterparties may not be able to fulfil their responsibility by completing their side of the transaction. This risk is mitigated by the Fund using a range of brokers for security transactions, thereby diversifying the risk of exposure to any one broker. In addition the Fund will only transact with brokers who are subject to frequent reviews with whom transaction limits are set.

for the year ended 15 May 2024

- 15. Risk management policies (continued)
- f Derivatives (continued)
- (i) Counterparties (continued)

The Fund may transact in derivative contracts which potentially exposes the Fund to counterparty risk from the counterparty not settling their side of the contract. Transactions involving derivatives are entered into only with investment banks and brokers with appropriate and approved credit rating, which are regularly monitored. Forward currency transactions are only undertaken with the custodians appointed by the Trustee.

At the balance sheet date, there are no securities in the portfolio of investments subject to a repurchase agreement.

## (ii) Leverage

The leverage is calculated as the sum of the net asset value and the incremental exposure generated through the use of derivatives (calculated in accordance with the commitment approach) divided by the net asset value.

There have been no leveraging arrangements in the year.

### (iii) Global exposure

Global exposure is a measure designed to limit the leverage generated by a fund through the use of financial derivative instruments, including derivatives with embedded assets.

At the balance sheet date there is no global exposure to derivatives.

There have been no collateral arrangements in the year.

# Distribution table

for the year ended 15 May 2024

# Final distribution in pence per unit

Group 1 - Units purchased before 16 May 2023

Group 2 - Units purchased 16 May 2023 to 15 May 2024

	Net		Total distribution	Total distribution
	revenue	Equalisation	10 July 2024	10 July 2023
Income				
Group 1	1.920	-	1.920	2.043
Group 2	0.873	1.047	1.920	2.043

## Equalisation

Equalisation applies only to group 2 units. It is the average amount of revenue included in the purchase price of group 2 units and is refunded to holders of these units as a return of capital. Being capital it is not liable to income tax in the hands of the unitholder but must be deducted from the cost of unit for capital gains tax purposes.

### Remuneration

#### Remuneration code disclosure

The remuneration committee is responsible for setting the remuneration policy for all partners, directors and employees within Evelyn Partners Group Limited ('the Group'), including individuals designated as Material Risk Takers (MRTs) under the Remuneration Code. The remuneration policy is designed to be compliant with the Code and provides a framework to attract, retain, motivate and reward partners, directors and employees. The overall policy is designed to promote the long-term success of the group and to support prudent risk management, with particular attention to conduct risk.

#### Remuneration committee

The remuneration committee report contained in the Group Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 includes details on the remuneration policy. The remuneration committee comprises five non-executive directors<sup>1</sup> and is governed by formal terms of reference, which are reviewed and agreed by the board. The committee met eight times during 2023.

### Remuneration policy

The main principles of the remuneration policy are:

- to align remuneration with the strategy and performance of the business;
- to ensure that remuneration is set at an appropriate and competitive level taking into account market rates and practices;
- to foster and support conduct and behaviours which are in line with our culture and values;
- to maintain a sound risk management framework;
- to ensure that the ratio between fixed and variable remuneration is appropriate and does not encourage excessive risk taking;
- to comply with all relevant regulatory requirements; and
- to align incentive plans with the business strategy and shareholder interests.

The policy is designed to reward partners, directors and employees for delivery of both financial and non-financial objectives which are set in line with company strategy. As part of a "balanced scorecard" approach to variable remuneration non-financial criteria including, but not limited to, compliance and risk issues, client management, supervision, leadership and teamwork are considered alongside financial performance.

### Remuneration systems

The committee reviews all partners' and directors' fixed and variable remuneration. In addition, it approves hurdles and awards in respect of equity incentive plans, namely a Deferred Option Plan, Equity Matching Plan, Matching Share Plan, Executive Long Term Incentive Plan and an Investment Management Long Term Incentive Plan.

The remuneration of partners is made up of a fixed profit share, discretionary bonus profit share and non-discretionary bonus profit share. The remuneration of employees typically comprises of a salary with benefits including pension contribution, life assurance, permanent health insurance, private medical insurance, SAYE scheme and a discretionary bonus scheme. Partners, directors and associate directors are also eligible to participate, at the invitation of the committee, in the equity incentive plans described above.

When setting variable remuneration for the executive directors, the committee considers overall business profit for the group and divisions, achievement of both financial and non-financial objectives (including adherence to the principles of treating customers fairly, conduct risk, compliance and regulatory rules), personal performance and any other relevant policy of the board in respect of the year ended 31 December 2023. The committee agrees the individual allocation of variable remuneration and the proportion of that variable remuneration to be awarded as restricted shares.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Please note that the data provided for the independent non-executive directors is as at 31 December 2023. The data provided is for independent non-executive directors only.

# Remuneration (continued)

### Aggregate quantitative information

The total amount of remuneration paid by Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited ('EPFL') is nil as EPFL has no employees. However, a number of employees have remuneration costs recharged to EPFL and the annualised remuneration for these 72 employees is £3.51 million of which £3.23 million is fixed remuneration. This is based on the salary and benefits for those identified as working in EPFL as at 31 December 2023. Any variable remuneration is awarded for the year ended 31 December 2023. This information excludes any senior management or other Material Risk Takers (MRTs) whose remuneration information is detailed below.

Evelyn Partners Group Limited reviews its MRTs at least annually. These individuals are employed by and provide services to other companies in the Group. It is difficult to apportion remuneration for these individuals in respect of their duties to EPFL. For this reason, the aggregate total remuneration awarded for the year 31 December 2023 for senior management and other MRTs detailed below has not been apportioned.

Table to show the aggregate remuneration split by	For the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023				
Senior Management and other MRTs for EPFL					
		Variable	Variable		
	Fixed	Cash	Equity	Total	No. MRTs
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Senior Management	3,518	1,662	-	5,180	18
Other MRTs	919	848	-	1,767	5
Total	4,437	2,510	-	6,947	23

## Investment Manager

The Manager delegates the management of the Fund's portfolio of assets to Sanlam Investments UK Limited and pays to Sanlam Investments UK Limited, out of the annual management charge, a monthly fee calculated on the total value of the portfolio of investments at the month end. Sanlam Investments UK Limited are compliant with the Capital Requirements Directive regarding remuneration and therefore Sanlam Investments UK Limited staffare covered by remuneration regulatory requirements.

### Further information

### Distributions and reporting dates

Where net revenue is available it will be distributed annually on 10 July (final). In the event of a distribution, unitholders will receive a tax voucher.

XD dates: 16 May final

Reporting dates: 15 May annual

15 November interim

## Buying and selling units

The property of the Fund is valued at 12 noon on each business day with the exception of any bank holiday in England or Wales or the last business day prior to those days annually, where the valuation may be carried out at a time agreed in advance between the Manager and the Trustee. The price of units are calculated at that time. Unit dealing is on a forward basis i.e. investors can buy and sell units at the next valuation point following receipt of the order.

Prices of units and the estimated yield of the Fund are published on the following website: www.trustnet.com or may be obtained by calling 0141 222 1151.

#### Benchmark

Unitholders may compare the performance of the Trust against the MSCI Europe ex UK Index and the IA Europe excluding UK Sector.

Comparison of the Trust's performance against the IA Europe excluding UK Sector will give unitholders an indication of how the Trust is performing against other similar funds in this peer group sector. The Manager has selected the MSCI Europe ex UK Index as a comparator benchmark as the Manager believes it best reflects the asset allocation of the Trust.

The benchmarks are not targets for the Trust, nor is the Trust constrained by the benchmarks.

# **Appointments**

Manager and Registered office Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited 45 Gresham Street London EC2V 7BG Telephone 0207 131 4000

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Administrator and Registrar Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited 177 Bothwell Street Glasgow G2 7ER

Telephone 0141 222 1151 (Registration) 0141 222 1150 (Dealing)

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Directors of the Manager Independent Non-Executive Directors of the Manager

Andrew Baddeley

Brian McLean

Mayank Prakash

Neil Coxhead

Dean Buckley

Linda Robinson

Victoria Muir

Sally Macdonald

Non-Executive Directors of the Manager

Paul Wyse - resigned 11 July 2023

Guy Swarbreck - appointed 21 August 2023

Investment Manager Sanlam Investments UK Limited 27 Clements Lane London EC4N 7AE

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Trustee

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175 Glasgow Road
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Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Auditor
Johnston Carmichael LLP
Bishop's Court
29 Albyn Place
Aberdeen AB10 1YL