

**Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD)  
Remuneration Disclosure AIF Annual Report and Accounts  
Aberdeen Smaller Companies Income Trust PLC**

**Remuneration Policy**

The Standard Life Aberdeen plc Remuneration Policy applies with effect from 1 January 2018. The purpose of the Standard Life Aberdeen plc Remuneration Policy (the "Policy") is to document clearly the remuneration policies, practices and procedures of Standard Life Aberdeen. It has been approved by the Standard Life Aberdeen plc Remuneration Committee and is subject to the Remuneration Committee's annual review. The Policy applies to employees of the Standard Life Aberdeen group of companies ("SLA").

The AIFM, Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Life Aberdeen plc.

The Remuneration Committee of Standard Life Aberdeen plc adopted an AIFM Remuneration Policy to ensure that the requirements of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD) are fully adhered to by the group. This policy applies to Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited and the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) it manages. This policy is available on request.

**Remuneration Principles**

SLA applies Group wide principles for remuneration policies, procedures and practices ensuring that remuneration design and the basis for awards will be clear, transparent and fair, in line with business strategy, objectives, culture, values and long term interests of SLA. Remuneration policies, procedures and practices should be consistent with and promote good conduct which includes sound and effective risk management and not encourage risk taking that exceeds the level of tolerated risk of SLA. Total variable remuneration will be funded through pre-agreed distribution metrics. Where SLA's financial performance is subdued or negative, total variable remuneration should generally be contracted, taking into account both current remuneration and reductions in pay-outs of amounts previously granted and having regard for SLA's long term economic viability.

In addition to applying the SLA wide principles above, Aberdeen Standard Investments ("ASI") applies a number of additional principles including the following, when determining remuneration for employees:

- a) Remuneration should be competitive and reflect both financial, non-financial and personal performance;
- b) Our remuneration design will align the interests of employees, shareholders and importantly our clients/customers;
- c) Our remuneration structure will reward delivery of results over appropriate time horizons and will include deferred variable compensation at an appropriate level for the employee's role;
- d) We will provide an appropriate level of fixed remuneration to balance risk and reward.

**Governance and Regulatory Compliance**

The Remuneration Committee is made up of independent non-executive directors and makes recommendations to the Board of Standard Life Aberdeen plc (the "Board") to assist it with its remuneration related duties. The Chief People Officer of Standard Life Aberdeen is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the Policy in consultation with the Remuneration Committee as well as other members of the Executive Committee ("Executive Body") (as defined by the Board), if appropriate.

### Financial and non-financial criteria

Variable remuneration is based on a rounded assessment of Group, Divisional and individual performance. When assessing individual performance, financial as well as non-financial criteria are taken into account. Individual performance is based on the individual's appraisal, which includes an employee's compliance with controls and applicable company standards including the Group's Code of Ethics, including Treating Customers Fairly and Conduct Risk.

### Conflicts of interest

The Conflicts of Interest Policy is designed to avoid conflicts of interest between SLA and its clients. This Policy prohibits any employee from being involved in decisions on their own remuneration. Furthermore, all employees are required to adhere to SLA's Global Code of Conduct, which encompasses conflicts of interest.

The Policy should, at all times, adhere to local legislation, regulations or other provisions. In circumstances or in jurisdictions where there is any conflict between the Policy and local legislation, regulations or other provisions, then the latter will prevail.

### Remuneration Framework

Employee remuneration is composed principally of fixed and variable elements of reward as follows:

- a) Fixed reward (fixed remuneration: salary (and cash allowances, if appropriate); and Benefits (including pension).
- b) Variable reward (bonus, a proportion of which may be subject to retention or deferral depending on role and regulatory requirements) and senior employees may also be awarded a long-term incentive award).

Appropriate ratios of fixed: variable remuneration will be set to as to ensure that:

- a) Fixed and variable components of total remuneration are appropriately balanced and
- b) The fixed component is a sufficiently high proportion of total remuneration to allow Standard Life Aberdeen to operate a fully flexible policy on variable remuneration components, including paying no variable remuneration component.

<i>Fixed Remuneration</i>	Base salary provides a core reward for undertaking the role, where appropriate, and depending on the role, geographical or business market variances or other indicators, additional fixed cash allowances may make up a portion of fixed remuneration.
<i>Benefits</i>	Benefits are made up of: core benefits, which are provided to all employees; and extra voluntary benefits that may be chosen by certain employees and which may require contribution through salary sacrifice or other arrangements. Extra voluntary benefits are designed to support the health and wellbeing of employees through enabling individual selection based on lifestyle choices. Standard Life Aberdeen will ensure that the core and voluntary employee benefits policies are in line with relevant market practice, its views on managing its business risk objectives, culture and values and long-term interests and local requirements.
<i>Pension</i>	Standard Life Aberdeen's pension policies (which consist of defined contribution plans and legacy defined benefit plans) are in line with legislative requirements, governance structures and market practice, and reflect Standard Life Aberdeen's long-term views on risk and financial volatility, its business objectives, culture and values and long-term interests and local requirements. In certain circumstances, SLA may offer a cash allowance in lieu of any pension arrangement.
<i>Annual Performance Bonus Awards</i>	Employees who have been employed during a performance year (1 January to 31 December) may be eligible to be considered for an annual bonus in respect of that year. Eligibility criteria for an annual bonus are set out in the rules of the relevant bonus plan and/or contract of employment, as appropriate. The bonus plan in place is designed to reward performance in line with the business strategy, objectives, culture and values, long term interests and risk appetite of SLA. All Executive Directors are awarded bonuses under a SLA bonus plan as detailed in the Directors' Remuneration Report.

<i>Other variable Pay Plans</i>	<p>Selected employees may participate in other variable pay plans, for example, performance fee share arrangements, where it is appropriate for their role or business unit. These plans operate under the overarching remuneration principles that apply across the group and, where appropriate, are also subject to specific principles governing incentives and are compliant with the requirements of any applicable regulatory standards.</p>
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### **Clawback/Malus**

A clawback/malus principle applies to the variable pay plan. This enables the Remuneration Committee to seek to recoup the deferred amount of any unvested variable pay, in the exceptional event of misstatement or misleading representation of performance; a significant failure of risk management and control; or serious misconduct by an individual.

### **Guaranteed Variable Remuneration**

Guaranteed variable remuneration is exceptional, occurs only in the context of hiring new staff and is limited to the first year of service.

### **AIFMD Identified Staff**

Staff considered AIFMD Identified Staff are those categories of staff whose professional activities have a material impact on the risk profiles of the AIFM or the AIFs that the AIFM manages.

AIFMD identified staff will include; Senior Management; Risk takers, Staff engaged in control functions; and any employees receiving total remuneration that takes them into the same remuneration bracket as senior management and risk takers, and whose professional activities have a material impact on the risk profiles of the Company or the Funds that the Company manages.

### **Control Functions**

SLA adheres to the principles and guidelines of regulations that apply to SLA in defining control functions. control functions include, but are not necessarily limited to, Risk, Compliance, Internal Audit and Actuarial functions or roles.

SLA will ensure that, as appropriate, senior employees engaged in a control function:

- a) Are independent from the Business Units they oversee;
- b) Have appropriate authority, and
- c) Their remuneration is directly overseen by the Remuneration Committee.

This is achieved by the main control functions being outside the business, and a material proportion of their annual incentives being subject to a scorecard based on the performance of the control function. Performance against the scorecard is reviewed by the relevant independent governing committee (either Risk & Capital Committee, or Audit Committee). SLA's People Function reviews the remuneration of employees in control functions and benchmarks with the external market to ensure that it is market competitive and adequately reflects employees' skills and experience.

### **Personal Hedging**

AIFMD Identified Staff are not permitted to undermine the risk alignment effects of the AIFMD Remuneration Code. Personal hedging strategies; or remuneration-related insurance; or liability-related insurance is not permissible on remuneration.

## Employee Remuneration Disclosure

The table below provides an overview of the following:

- Aggregate total remuneration paid by Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited to its entire staff; and
- Aggregate total remuneration paid by Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited to its 'Identified Staff'.

The 'Identified Staff' of Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited are those employees who could have a material impact on the risk profile of Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited or the AIFs it manages, including Aberdeen Smaller Companies Income Trust PLC.

This broadly includes senior management, risk takers and control functions. For the purposes of this disclosure, 'Identified Staff' includes employees of entities to which activities have been delegated.

Amounts shown reflect payments made during the financial reporting period in question. The reporting period runs from **1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020** inclusive.

<b>Aberdeen Smaller Companies Income Trust PLC</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Total Remuneration £'000</b>	<b>AIF proportion £'000 <sup>4</sup></b>
<b>Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited staff <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>346</b>	<b>39,176</b>	<b>106</b>
of which			
Fixed remuneration		28,936	78
Variable remuneration		10,240	28
Carried Interest		NIL	
<b>Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited 'Identified Staff' <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>139</b>	<b>14,143</b>	<b>45</b>
of which			
Senior Management <sup>3</sup>	9	1,525	5
Other 'Identified Staff'	130	12,618	40

- 1 As there are a number of individuals indirectly and directly employed by Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited this figure represents an apportioned amount of SLA's total remuneration fixed and variable pay, apportioned to the relevant AIF on an AUM basis, plus any carried interest paid by the AIF. The Headcount figure provided reflects the number of beneficiaries calculated on a Full Time Equivalent basis.
- 2 The Identified Staff disclosure represents total compensation of those staff of the AIFM who are fully or partly involved in the activities of the AIFM, apportioned to the estimated time relevant to the AIFM, based on their time in role during the reporting period and the AIFM's proportion of SLA's total AUM. Across the 'Identified Staff', the average percentage of AUM allocation per individual based on work undertaken for Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited as an AIFM was 25.28%.
- 3 Senior management are defined in this table as AIFM Directors and members of the Standard Life Aberdeen plc Board, together with its Executive Committee, Investment Management Committee and Group Product Committee.
- 4 This figure represents an apportioned amount of the total remuneration of the 'Identified staff' attributable to the AIF allocated on an AUM basis.