

# Murray Income Trust PLC

Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive Pre-investment Disclosure Document Article 23 AIFMD/Rule 3.2 FCA FUND Sourcebook

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# Murray Income Trust PLC

This document is issued by abrdn Fund Managers Limited as the alternative investment fund manager of Murray Income Trust PLC, in order to make certain information available to prospective investors prior to such investors' investment in the Company, in accordance with the requirements of the FCA FUND Sourcebook implementing the Alternative Investment Fund Managers (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 in the United Kingdom and is being made available on the Company's website: www.murray-income.co.uk.

Defined terms used in this pre-investment disclosure document can be found in section 20 below.

1. A Description of the Investment Strategy, Policy and Objective of the Company, Types of Assets the Company May Invest In, Investment Techniques and Investment Restrictions

Information about the Company's investment strategy, policy and objective, the types of assets in which the Company may invest, the investment techniques and any investment restrictions is contained in the Annual Report which is available on the Company's Website.

While the Company is not a fund of funds, it may make investments through collective investment schemes and in companies traded on the London Stock Exchange/stock markets outside of the United Kingdom in certain circumstances and has the ability to invest up to 20% of its gross assets overseas.

#### **Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation**

The Manager integrates sustainability risks and opportunities into its research, analysis and investment decision-making processes. The Manager believes that the consideration of sustainability risks and opportunities can have a material impact on long-term returns for investors. The Company is managed using an investment process integrating environmental, social and governance ("ESG") factors but does not promote ESG characteristics or have specific sustainable investment objectives. This means that whilst ESG factors and risks are considered, they may or may not impact portfolio construction. The Manager's ESG integration requires, in addition to its inclusion in the investment decision making process, appropriate monitoring of sustainability considerations in risk management, portfolio monitoring, engagement and stewardship activities. The Manager also engages with policymakers on ESG and stewardship matters. Combining the integration of sustainability risks and opportunities with broader monitoring and engagement activities may affect the value of investments and therefore returns. Furthermore, investments within the Company's portfolio do not take into account the EU Taxonomy criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. Further information on the Manager's ESG integration approaches by asset classes can be found on its website.

# 2. Principal Risks and Uncertainties

There are a number of risks and uncertainties which, if realised, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business model, future performance and solvency. The Board, through the Audit Committee, has put in place a robust process to identify, assess and monitor these by means of a risk assessment and internal controls system. This system was reviewed during the year, as explained in the Audit Committee Report in the Annual Report. As noted therein, the committee has a risk register and uses a post-mitigation heat risk map to identify principal, and emerging, risks.

Macroeconomic uncertainty has again been a significant risk during the year due to rising interest rates and higher inflation. The Board does not consider that the principal risks and uncertainties identified have changed during the Year.

The Audit Committee and the Board both consider emerging risks as part of their normal review of factors which could affect the Company, both in the short and longer term. For example, the emergence of negative climate change impacts, high inflation and interest rates, and potential conflicts (China and Taiwan tension) form a part of Directors' discussions with input from the Manager and broker.

The following table sets out the Company's principal risks and uncertainties and the Company's mitigating actions and comments if the post-mitigation risk assessment has changed, together with the reason why.



#### STRATEGIC AND MARKET

The Company's investment objective and policy are no longer meeting investors' requirements (unchanged) Lack of a robust strategic review, failure to understand the market/investor demand. Failure to analyse and react to changes or uncertainty, unclear dividend policy.

The Company's investment objective and policy ("IOP") are reviewed regularly by the Board to ensure they remain appropriate and effective. The Board holds an annual strategy meeting at which strategy and approach is reviewed; this includes consideration of distributions; both dividends and share buy backs.

# Discount control risk (unchanged)

Investment trust shares tend to trade at discounts to their underlying NAVs, although they can also trade at premium. Discounts and premiums can fluctuate considerably leading to more volatile returns for shareholders.

The Board monitors the discount at which the Company's shares trade and will buy back or issue shares to try to minimise the impact of any discount or premium volatility. Whilst these measures seek to reduce volatility, they are not guaranteed to do this.

As was the case in the prior year, the Board has assessed the discount control risk as elevated due to the discount at which the Company's shares are trading as compared to their underlying NAV.

### Market risk (increased)

Market risk arises from the volatility in prices of the Company's investments and the potential loss the Company could suffer through realising investments following negative market movements.

Changes in general geopolitical, economic or market conditions, such as interest rates, exchange rates and rates of inflation, as well as global political events and trends could substantially and adversely affect the prices of securities and, as a consequence, the value of the Company's investment portfolio, its prospects and share price.

Current geopolitical risks include the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, rising tension between China and Taiwan.

The longer term emergence of the effects on investee companies of climate change, and the regulatory environment around this present a further risk.

The Company's investment policy and its approach to risk diversification may be found on page 17 of the Annual Report, both of which serve to mitigate the effect of market risk on the portfolio. The Board considers the diversification of the portfolio, asset allocation, stock selection and levels of gearing on a regular basis. The Board also monitors the Company's relative performance as compared to peers and the Company's benchmark.

The Board assesses climate change as an emerging risk in terms of how it develops, including how investor sentiment is evolving towards climate change within investment portfolios, and will consider how the Company may mitigate this risk, any other emerging risks, if and when they become material.

The Board engages with the Manager, at each Board meeting, as part of its ESG oversight, to understand how climate change, and environmental factors are being assessed. Both are key considerations within the Manager's investment process.

During the Year, the Board evaluated market risk as elevated due to the limit on the Company's ability to mitigate the effect of external factors such as the uncertainty caused by geopolitical factors, rising inflation and cost pressures.

#### Gearing risk (increased)

The Company uses credit facilities. These arrangements increase the funds available for investment. While this has the potential to enhance investment returns in rising markets, in falling markets the impact could be detrimental.

Gearing is monitored and strict restrictions on borrowings are imposed: gearing continues to operate within pre-agreed limits so as not to exceed 25% of NAV at the time of draw down.

The Board and the Manager monitors the lending market and will address at a germane time to enable the availability of appropriate facilities if required.

# **Mitigating Action**

Credit facilities may not be available at an acceptable rate, term or amount. The Company's three year £50 million facility matures on 27 October 2024.

#### INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

# **Underperformance risk (unchanged)**Consistent underperformance by the

Consistent underperformance by the Investment Manager over short, medium and long term.

The Investment Manager's style may result in the portfolio being significantly over or under weight positions in stocks and sectors compared to the benchmark and the Company's performance may deviate significantly from that of the benchmark and peers, possibly for extended periods.

The Board evaluates performance at each board meeting on both an absolute and relative basis, against the Company's benchmark and peers, and across various periods: short, medium and long term. Performance is also reviewed at the annual strategy meeting.

The Company has a set of investment limits and Board guidelines which ensure diversification of the portfolio.

# Risk of loss of key staff (increased) Loss of key staff though natural loss, or Manager reorganisation and/or

Manager reorganisation and/or redundancy. Loss of investor confidence if lead manager lost.

Charles Luke has been the lead portfolio manager for the Company since 2006. His co-manager is lain Pyle who has been with the Manager since 2015, and Rhona Millar, with five years' experience, also works alongside them. All work within the Manager's 43-strong Developed Markets Equities team.

#### **MARKETING**

# General marketing risk (increased)

Failure to implement the Board's marketing policy. Failure to address shareholder concerns or complaints, including of abrdn Investment Trust Saving plans holders.

Issues could arise from the lack of process ownership, poor procedures or the failure to appropriately manage distribution, concerns or complaints of shareholders.

The Manager's investor relations team works closely with the Board on institutional shareholder contact. In addition, quarterly updates are provided to the Board by the broker. All correspondence addressed to the Board is circulated to Directors while any complaints relating to the Company's savings plans are reviewed by the Board quarterly.

## **OPERATIONAL**

#### Service provider risk (unchanged)

In common with most other investment companies, the Company relies on the services provided by third parties and is dependent on the control systems of the Manager (who acts as investment manager, company secretary and maintains the Company's assets, dealing procedures and accounting records); BNP Paribas Trust Corporation UK Limited (who acts as Depositary and Custodian); and the registrar. The security of

Contracts with third party providers are entered into after appropriate due diligence. Thereafter the performance of each provider is subject to an annual review by the Audit Committee. The Depositary reports to the Audit Committee at least annually, including on the Company's compliance with AIFMD. The Manager also regularly reviews the performance of the Depositary.

Global assurance reports are obtained from the Manager, BNP Paribas Trust Corporation UK Limited and the registrar. These are reviewed by the Audit Committee. The reports include an independent assessment of the effectiveness of risks and internal controls at the service providers including their planning for

## Risk

the Company's assets, dealing procedures, accounting records and adherence to regulatory and legal requirements depend on the effective operation of the systems of these third party service providers.

Failure by any service provider to carry out its obligations could have a material adverse effect on the Company's performance. Disruption, including that caused by information technology breakdown or a cyber-related issue, could prevent, for example, the functioning of the Company; accurate reporting to the Board or shareholders; or payment of dividends in accordance with the announced timetable.

# **Mitigating Action**

business continuity and disaster recovery scenarios, together with their policies and procedures designed to address the risks posed to the Company's operations by cyber-crime. The Audit Committee receives an annual update on the Manager's IT resilience.

The Company's assets are subject to a strict liability regime and, in the event of a loss of assets, the Depositary must return assets of an identical type or the corresponding amount, unless able to demonstrate the loss was a result of an event beyond its reasonable control.

The Board has assessed the risk posed by cyber-crime as elevated, despite the available mitigation, reflecting the potential disruption which might be caused to the Company's operations by a cyber-attack.

The following are other risks identified by the Board which could have a major impact on the Company, but due to mitigation are not deemed to be principal risks:

#### **Dividend risk**

There is a risk that the Company fails to generate sufficient income from its investment portfolio to meet the Company's dividend requirements.

A cut in the dividend of the Company would likely cause a drop in the share price and would end the Company's "Dividend Hero" status.

The Board reviews estimates of revenue income and expenditure prepared by the Manager.

The Company's level of revenue reserves is monitored and can be added to in years of surplus, or used to support the dividend in years where there is a revenue deficit. Dividends can also be paid from capital, though use of capital reserves for dividends is expected to be rare.

#### Financial risk

The Company's investment activities expose it to a variety of financial risks which include market risk (which is identified as a principal risk and is covered earlier in this section), liquidity risk and credit risk (including counterparty risk).

Details of these risks and the policies and procedures for their monitoring and mitigation are disclosed earlier in this section and in note 18 on pages 81 to 87 of the Annual Report.

# Regulatory risk, including change of existing rules and regulation

The Company is required to comply with relevant rules and regulations. Failure to do so could result in loss of investment trust status, fines, suspension of the Company's shares, criminal proceedings or financial or reputational damage.

The Manager provides investment, company secretarial, administration and accounting services through qualified third party professional providers.

The Board receives regular reports from its broker, depositary, registrar and Manager as well as the industry trade body (the Association of Investment Companies ("AIC") on changes to regulations which could impact the Company and its industry.

### **Emerging risk**

Failure to have in place procedures that assist in identifying emerging risks. This may cause reactive actions rather than being pro-active and, in the worst case,

The Board regularly reviews all risks to the Company, including emerging risks, which are identified by a variety of means, including advice from AIC, the Company's professional advisors, Directors' knowledge of markets, changes and events.

# Mitigating Action

could cause the Company to become unviable or otherwise fail.

The principal risks associated with an investment in the Company's shares can be found in the pre-investment disclosure document ("PIDD") published by the Manager, which is available from the Company's website: www.murray-income.co.uk.

## 3. Risk Management Systems

The directors of the Manager collectively assume responsibility for its obligations under the AIFMD, including monitoring the Company's risk profile during the year.

The Manager, as a fully integrated member of the abrdn group of companies, receives a variety of services and support in the conduct of its business activities from the resources of the abrdn Group. The Manager conducts its risk oversight, including in the conduct of its risk oversight function, through the operation of the abrdn Group's risk management processes and systems. Further details of the abrdn Group's risk management programme and systems are set out in the Appendix to this document.

# 4. Leverage

### Leverage limits

The maximum leverage which the Manager is entitled to employ on behalf of the Company (expressed as a ratio to total assets) is:

Commitment Method 2.0x Gross Method 2.5x

## Types of leverage

Although leverage is often used as another term for gearing, under the AIFMD regulations leverage is expressed as a ratio of the exposure of debt, non-sterling currency, equity or currency hedging and derivatives exposure against the net asset value. It defines two types of leverage, the gross method and the commitment method. These are essentially the same other than the commitment method allows derivative instruments to be netted off to reflect 'netting' or 'hedging arrangements'. Non-sterling cash is deemed to carry a currency exposure so is considered to be leverage. In accordance with the AIFMD the Company is obliged to disclose the maximum expected leverage levels under both methods and this is disclosed above. In order to comply with the AIFMD the maximum leverage levels have been set in accordance with the maximum gearing allowable by the Company's Articles of Association. However, the day-to-day management of gearing and leverage levels will be conducted within the tighter limits set by the Company's investment policy.

Leverage may be applied to the portfolio by utilising financial gearing (such as bank borrowings and overdrafts) and synthetic gearing (through derivatives and/or other non-fully funded instruments or techniques for efficient portfolio management purposes such as stock-lending). Typically, leverage will arise through the use of index futures, forward foreign exchange contracts or contracts for difference, where cash is paid to the counterparty as a margin against the current mark-to-market value of the derivative contract; as a result, depending on the type of instrument, a relatively small movement in the price of a contract may result in a profit or a loss which is high in proportion to the amount of funds actually placed as initial margin and may even result in further loss exceeding any margin deposited. The use of leverage therefore creates additional risks and may significantly increase the market and counterparty risk of the Company through non-fully funded exposure to underlying markets or securities. Leverage is considered in terms of the Company's overall 'exposure' to financial or synthetic gearing and includes any method by which the exposure of the Company is increased whether through borrowing of cash or securities, or leverage embedded in derivative positions or by any other means. The Manager is required, in accordance with the AIFMD, to calculate and monitor the level of leverage of the Company, expressed as the ratio between the total exposure of the Company and its net asset value with exposure values being calculated by both the gross method and commitment method.

Exposure values under the gross method basis are calculated as the absolute value of all positions in the portfolio; this includes all eligible assets and liabilities, relevant borrowings, derivatives (converted into their equivalent underlying positions) and all other positions, even those held purely for risk reduction purposes, such as forward foreign exchange contracts held for currency hedging.

The gross method of exposure of the Company requires the calculation to:

- Include the sum of all non-derivative assets (if applicable) held at market value, plus the absolute value of all such liabilities
- Exclude cash and cash equivalents which are highly liquid investments held in the base currency of the Company, that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash, which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value and provide a return no greater than the rate of a three month high quality bond
- Include derivative instruments which are converted into the equivalent position in their underlying assets
- Exclude cash borrowings that remain in cash or cash equivalents and where the amounts payable are known
- Include exposures resulting from the reinvestment of cash borrowings, expressed as the higher of the market value of the investment realised or the total amount of cash borrowed
- Include positions within repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements and securities lending or borrowing or other similar arrangements as applicable

Exposure values under the commitment method basis are calculated on a similar basis but may take into account the effect of netting off instruments to reflect eligible netting and hedging arrangements on eligible assets and different treatment of certain cash and cash equivalent items in line with regulatory requirements.

The calculation of leverage assumes that a leverage ratio of 1.00:1 equates to zero leverage. A ratio of less than 1.00:1 would mean that the portfolio included uninvested cash whilst a ratio above 1.00:1 would mean that the portfolio had leverage to the ratio amount above 1.00:1.

Where the Company invests in derivatives, it may be required to post assets as collateral. To the extent that the Company posts collateral to its counterparties, the counterparties have a security interest in the collateral and may, in certain circumstances, have the right to re-use that collateral.

### 5. Modification of Investment Policy

In accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's ("FCA") listing rules, any material change to the Company's investment policy will require the FCA's prior approval as well as the approval of Shareholders. In considering what is a material change the Company must have regard to the cumulative effect of any changes since Shareholders last had the opportunity to vote.

# 6. Contractual Relationship Between the Company and Investors, Applicable Law and the Enforcement of Judgements

The Company is incorporated as a closed ended investment company under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (as amended) and its Shares are listed on the premium segment of the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and traded on the London Stock Exchange.

Investors who acquire shares in the Company will do so subject to the Articles of Association (the "Articles"). The Articles are one of the Company's constitutional documents and contain the rights and restrictions attaching to the Company's shares. The Articles are governed by Scottish law and may only be amended by way of a special resolution. A shareholder's liability to the Company will be limited to the value of the shares held by such shareholder.

As the Company is incorporated in Scotland, it may not be possible for an investor located outside that jurisdiction to effect service of process upon the Company within the local jurisdiction in which that investor resides. All or a substantial portion of the assets of the Company may be located outside of the local jurisdiction in which an investor resides and, as a result, it may not be possible to satisfy a judgment against the Company in such local jurisdiction or to enforce a judgment obtained in the local jurisdiction's courts against the Company.

A number of legal instruments provide for the recognition and enforcement in Scotland of judgments given in other states. Where no particular legal instrument applies, a judgment creditor may nevertheless have rights to seek to enforce a judgement under Scottish law.

Details on how to invest in the Company are set out in the Annual Report.

#### 7. Information on the Manager, Depositary and Service Providers

#### Manager

The Company has appointed abrdn Fund Managers Limited, which is a company limited by shares and incorporated in England, as its alternative investment fund manager. The Manager is a subsidiary of subsidiary of abrdn plc, a company incorporated in Scotland.

The Manager is authorised and regulated by the FCA as an alternative investment fund manager. Pursuant to the Management Agreement, the Manager provides investment management services (including portfolio management), risk management services and general administrative services to the Company.

The duties of the Manager also include (but are not limited to) the following:

- The proper valuation of the Company's assets and the calculation and publication of the Net Asset Value of the Company
- To review its delegation of the portfolio management function to the Investment Manager on an ongoing basis
- To ensure that appropriate and consistent procedures are established so that a proper and independent valuation of the assets of the Company can be performed
- To implement a risk management system to identify, measure and manage appropriately all risks relevant to the Company's investment strategies and to review this system on an annual basis
- To ensure that a single depositary is appointed to ensure, among other things, the proper monitoring of the Company's cash flows and the safe-keeping of the Company's assets that can be held in custody
- To employ an appropriate liquidity management system
- To adopt procedures enabling it to monitor the liquidity risk of the Company and ensure that the liquidity profile of the Company's investments complies with its underlying obligations
- To use adequate and appropriate human and technical resources necessary for the proper management of the Company
- To make available an annual report for the Company no later than four months following the end of its annual accounting period

The Management Agreement contains customary termination provisions and may be terminated on six months' written notice by either the Company or the Manager. The Company may also terminate the Management Agreement immediately inter alia if the Manager ceases to maintain its regulatory permission to act as Manager and following a change of control of the Manager or if the Investment Manager ceases to maintain its regulatory permissions. In addition, either party may terminate the agreement immediately by notice upon the occurrence of certain events including the insolvency or winding up of the other party and a material breach of contract.

The Manager has delegated the portfolio management of the Company to abrdn Investments Limited. Further details of the delegation arrangements are set out in paragraph 9 below.

#### **Depositary**

The Company has appointed BNP Paribas Trust Corporation UK Limited to act as its depositary. Pursuant to the Depositary Agreement, the Depositary must carry out the duties specified in AIFMD, including:

- Safekeeping of the assets of the Company
- Cash monitoring and verifying the Company's cash flows
- Oversight of the Company and the Manager, including ensuring:
  - The value of the shares of the Company is calculated in accordance with applicable law and the relevant valuation procedures
  - The Net Asset Value of the Company's assets is calculated in accordance with applicable law and regulation and the Articles
  - The sale, issue, repurchase, redemption and cancellation of shares are carried out within usual time limits
  - Income distributions take place in accordance with the Company's constitutional documentation
  - All cash is booked in accounts opened with an appropriate deposit-taking institution in accordance with the provisions of AIFMD
  - Custody assets are physically held in safe-keeping
- Implementing:
  - Effective and proper procedures to reconcile all cash flow movements

- Appropriate procedures to identify significant cash flows particularly those which would be inconsistent with the Company's operations
- Monitoring the Company's compliance with investment limits and Leverage requirements

In carrying out such functions the Depositary must act honestly, fairly, professionally, independently and in the interests of Shareholders.

The Depositary is liable to the Company and/or Shareholders for the loss of a financial instrument held in custody by the Depositary or a delegate, unless the Depositary is permitted to discharge, and has discharged, such liability under AIFMD and the Depositary Agreement. The Manager will inform investors of any changes with respect to the Depositary's liability for the loss of a financial instrument held in its custody. The Depositary is also liable to the Company and/or the shareholders for all other losses suffered by them as a result of the Depositary's negligent and/or intentional failure to properly fulfil its duties.

Under the Depositary Agreement, the Company has indemnified the Depositary and its delegates against certain liabilities and expenses resulting from the Depositary's performance of its obligations under the agreement or where the Depositary has acted in accordance with authorised instructions, except where (i) the Depositary is in material breach of contract, is negligent or has intentionally failed to carry out its obligations, is in wilful default or there is fraud; or (ii) any affiliate of the Depositary has been negligent, has failed to take reasonable care or has been fraudulent in connection with the services provided.

The Company, the Manager and the Depositary may terminate the Depositary Agreement at any time by giving 90 days' notice in writing. The Depositary may only be removed from office when a new depositary is appointed by the Company.

#### **Auditor**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has been appointed as the Company's auditor responsible for auditing the annual financial statements in accordance with auditing standards and, as appropriate, regulations, and for providing its report to the Company's shareholders in the annual report and financial statements. In addition, applicable law and regulation may require other reports to be prepared for the Company and, as the appointed auditor of the Company, the Auditor will undertake such work under the audit engagement letter between the Company and the Auditor.

# Registrar

The registrar of the Company is Link Group, which is responsible for keeping the register of shareholders which may be inspected, during normal business hours, at the offices Link Group at 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Central Square, 29 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 4DL or at the Company's registered office at 1 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2LL.

#### Stockbroker

Investec Bank PLC has been appointed as the Company's stockbroker to provide the Company with corporate broking and associated financial advisory services.

Investors' rights against service providers will vary depending on a range of factors. If the relevant service provider is an authorised person under FSMA carrying out a regulated activity with respect to the Company, then a contravention by it of a Rule contained within the FCA Handbook may in certain circumstances give rise to a claim for breach of statutory duty against that service provider by an investor who suffers loss as a result of that contravention. Investors may also be afforded certain rights against service providers by the general law.

#### 8. Protection from Professional Liability Risks

The Manager has effective internal operational risk management policies and procedures in order to appropriately identify measure, manage and monitor operational risks, including professional liability risks, to which it is or could reasonably be exposed. These policies and procedures are subject to regular review and the operational risk management activities are performed independently as part of the risk management policy.

The management of operational risk, through the risk and control self-assessment process, is aimed at identifying risks in existing processes and improving existing controls to reduce their likelihood of failure and the impact of losses. All risks and events are facilitated via the internal risk management system, which provides a platform to facilitate the convergence of governance, risk and compliance.

The Manager is required to cover professional liability risks, such as the risk of loss of documents evidencing title of assets to the Company, and complies with such requirement by maintaining an amount of its own funds in accordance with AIFMD.

# 9. Delegation Arrangements and Management of Conflicts

### **Delegation arrangements**

From time to time, the Manager may delegate certain management functions to its affiliated subsidiaries or third parties. The Manager has delegated:

- Portfolio management to the Investment Manager, abrdn Investments Limited
- Company secretarial duties to abrdn Holdings Limited
- Administration to abrdn Investments Limited, which in turn has sub-delegated this function to BNP Paribas Fund Services UK Limited
- Certain promotional and distribution services to abrdn Investments Limited

# **Portfolio Management**

The Manager has delegated portfolio management to the Investment Manager, to undertake fund management activities. The Investment Manager is part of the abrdn Group of which the Manager is also part.

Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement the Investment Manager will be responsible for managing the purchase and sale of investments within the categories allowed. The Investment Manager has discretion to take day to day investment decisions and to deal in investments in relation to the investment management of the Company, without prior reference to the Manager. The Manager is entitled to give further instructions to the Investment Manager. Notwithstanding the delegation of portfolio management to the Investment Manager, the Manager will at all times remain responsible for the portfolio management function and the Investment Manager has undertaken to abide by, and be subject to, the Manager's overall supervision, direction and control.

#### Company secretarial duties

The Manager has delegated the company secretarial duties to abrdn Holdings Limited. Pursuant to the CoSec Agreement, the Company Secretary provides company secretarial services including convening meetings of Directors and general meetings of the Company, keeping the statutory books and records of the Company, maintaining the Company's register, preparing and delivering company announcements and other company secretarial duties properly or reasonably performed by the secretary of a company or as the Manager may reasonably require.

#### Administration

The Manager has delegated the administration of the Company to abrdn Investments Limited, which in turn has subdelegated this function to BNP Paribas Fund Services UK Limited. The Administrator will assist the Manager in calculating the Company's Net Asset Value, as well as to provide fund accounting services in respect of the Company.

## **Depositary delegation**

The Depositary has given notice that it will delegate certain safekeeping functions in accordance with the provisions of AIFMD and the Depositary Agreement. A delegate of the Depositary may in turn sub-delegate subject to the same requirements.

#### **Conflicts of interests**

The Manager and the Investment Manager are committed to treating clients and shareholders fairly and have implemented procedures and processes to ensure that this is the case. In particular, the Manager and the Investment Manager have approved and adopted the abrdn Group's Conflicts of Interests Policy.

The objective of the Conflicts of Interests Policy is to ensure the fair treatment of clients and shareholders in cases of conflicts of interests or potential conflicts of interests which may arise in the course of providing management, advisory or administrative services to the Company.

To achieve this objective, the Conflicts of Interests Policy seeks to ensure that the Company and its service providers and the Manager and its delegates have adequate organisational and structural measures in place:

 To identify circumstances which constitute or may give rise to a conflict of interests entailing a material risk of damage to the interests of the Company or its shareholders

- To provide procedures, mechanisms and systems to manage or resolve any such conflicts of interests; where such conflict cannot otherwise be avoided, ensuring that the Company, the Manager and the Investment Manager always act in the best interests of shareholders
- To maintain a proper record of any such conflict or potential conflict and to ensure proper reporting to affected shareholders

The following circumstances have been identified as constituting or potentially giving rise to conflicts of interests:

- The Depositary is responsible for the oversight of the Manager's discharge of its duties
- Directors of the Manager are senior executives of, and employed by, the abrdn Group
- The Manager, the Investment Manager and the Company Secretary are affiliated entities of the abrdn Group.
- The key terms of the Investment Management Agreement and the CoSec Agreement are similar to those which might be agreed between independent third parties
- The Investment Manager has discretion to enter into foreign exchange hedging transactions and borrowings on behalf of the Company. The Investment Manager may appoint an affiliate of any existing service provider or any other third party to act as a counterparty in the execution of foreign exchange transactions in connection with the currency hedging activities of the Company and/or to implement the currency hedging strategy
- The abrdn Group and its affiliates may hold or trade in securities and instruments of the same type as the securities and instruments held or traded in by the Company; they may also utilise the same or similar strategies as those adopted by the Investment Manager on behalf of the Company In addition, the Company may make investments in other funds managed or advised by the abrdn Group or its affiliates

In order to ensure that actual and potential conflicts of interests are appropriately identified, managed and monitored, the abrdn Group has established a formal committee which operates under documented terms of reference and which meets regularly to maintain oversight of the Conflicts of Interests Policy and the management of live conflicts situations. Abrdn maintains a documented matrix of known or inherent conflicts of interests, as well as a documented register of live actual or potential conflicts of interests arising in the carrying on of its business operations.

#### 10. Valuation Procedures

The Company's accounting policies, including its policy in relation to the valuation of investments, are set out in the Annual Report.

The Company has delegated a number of its duties to the Manager including the proper valuation of the Company's assets, the calculation of the Net Asset Value of the Company and the publication of such Net Asset Values. Accordingly, the Manager has approved and adopted the abrdn Group's Valuation Policy. The Manager considers that the Valuation Policy contains appropriate and consistent procedures to ensure that a proper and independent valuation of the assets of the Company can be performed.

The Administrator has been engaged by abrdn Investments Limited to assist the Manager in calculating the Net Asset Value of the Company. In practice, this means that the Administrator sources prices for the assets of the Company and calculates a proposed Net Asset Value. These calculations are presented to the Manager, which discusses any particular pricing issues with the Administrator and may ultimately decide whether any prices require adjustment before the Net Asset Value of the Company is adopted. This may be the case where the price of an asset is hard to value and the Administrator has used fair value pricing, or where the price of an asset has increased or fallen by a significant proportion since its previous valuation.

#### 11. Liquidity Risk Management and Redemption Rights

The Manager has a Liquidity Policy in place. For closed ended funds such as the Company, given their very nature, this policy focusses, primarily, upon the potential issues with regard to the mis-pricing of illiquid securities. The abrdn Group's market risk department is responsible for providing asset level liquidity evaluation reports on a periodic (e.g. monthly) basis to the Manager, the Investment Manager and other entities within the abrdn Group. This market risk department uses various risk assessment methods and sophisticated portfolio modelling, via a tool called APT (Advanced Portfolio Technologies), to measure the risk profile of assets held by portfolios and the risk of there being portfolio illiquidity related to the assets. This measurement enables the provision of management information to the Manager and the Investment Manager to enable those risks to be monitored. The portfolio modelling and measurement looks at the following risks: (i) asset liquidity risk (where a number of methods are used to measure liquidity, depending upon the nature of the asset – e.g. traded volumes reported on an exchange as a percentage of the total outstanding of the specific asset or with reference to the depth of the market using the bid-ask spread as an indicator); and (ii) contingency arrangements or liquidity buffers.

There are no redemption rights attaching to shares in the Company.

#### 12. Fees, Charges and Expenses

The Manager charges a monthly fee of one-twelfth of 0.55% per annum on net assets up to £350 million, 0.45% per annum on the next £100 million of net assets and 0.25% per annum on net assets above £450 million, calculated and paid monthly. The value of any investments in unit trusts, open ended and closed ended investment companies and investment trusts of which the Manager or another company within the abrdn group is the operator, manager or investment adviser; is deducted from net assets. The Company also incurs annual fees, charges and expenses in connection with administration, directors' fees, promotional activities, auditors' fees, lawyers' fees and depositary charges. The Company's Ongoing Charges (which include the management fee), published in the latest Annual Report, amounted to 0.50%.

#### 13. Fair Treatment/Preferential Treatment of Investors

The Manager is subject to the FCA's rules on treating customers fairly and has adopted a policy regarding treating customers fairly, the operation of which is overseen by a formal committee comprised of senior managers from the abrdn Group's various business units and from its risk division. The role of the Conduct Risk Committee, which meets regularly and operates under documented terms of reference, is to ensure, among other matters, that the Conduct Risk Policy is implemented and maintained and to consider any actual or potential Conduct Risk Policy issues arising in connection with the abrdn Group carrying on its business operations. General awareness training on the Conduct Risk Policy and what it means to the abrdn Group and its customers is delivered to all abrdn Group staff.

No investor in the Company obtains preferential treatment or the right to obtain preferential treatment.

#### 14. Availability of the AIF's Latest Annual Report

The Company's latest annual report is available on the Company's website.

#### 15. Procedure and Conditions for the Issue and Sale of Shares

The issue of new shares by the Company, either by way of a fresh issue of shares or by way of the sale of shares from treasury, is subject to the requisite shareholder authorities being in place and all FCA listing rule requirements having been met. Shares in the Company can also be bought in the open market through a stockbroker. They can also be purchased through the abrdn savings schemes and qualify fully for inclusion within tax-efficient ISA wrappers. Further information about how shares in the Company may be purchased is set out in the section headed "Investor Information" in the Annual Report.

#### 16. Latest NAV of the AIF

The Company's NAV is published daily by way of an announcement on a regulatory information service. For internet users, additional data on the Company, including the latest published NAV, the closing price of ordinary shares for the previous day of trading on the London Stock Exchange, performance information and a monthly factsheet, is available on the Company's website.

### 17. AIF's Historical Performance

The Company's historical performance data, including copies of the Company's previous annual report and accounts, are available on the Company's website.

# 18. Prime Brokerage

The Company has not appointed a prime broker.

## 19. Periodic Disclosures

The Manager will, at least as often as the annual report and accounts are made available to Shareholders, make the following information available to shareholders:

 Any changes to (i) the maximum level of Leverage that the Manager may employ on behalf of the Company and (ii) any right of reuse of collateral or any guarantee granted under any leveraging arrangement

- The total amount of Leverage employed by the Company
- The percentage of the Company's investments which are subject to special arrangements resulting from their illiquid nature
- The current risk profile of the Company outlining (i) measures to assess the sensitivity of the Company to the most relevant risks to which the Company is or could be exposed and (ii) if risk limits set by the Manager have been or are likely to be exceeded and where these risk limits have been exceeded, a description of the circumstances and the remedial measures taken
- The risk management systems employed by the Manager outlining the main features of the risk management systems employed by the Manager to manage the risks to which the Company is or may be exposed. In the case of a change, information relating to the change and its anticipated impact on the Company and shareholders will be made available

The Manager will inform Shareholders as soon as practicable after making any material changes to its liquidity management system and procedures. Any material changes to the periodic disclosures will be provided to Shareholders by way of an announcement to a regulatory news service.

#### 20. **Defined Terms**

The following defined terms are used in this pre-investment disclosure document:

BNP Paribas Fund Services UK Limited Administrator

abrdn or abrdn Group abrdn plc and its subsidiaries

**AIFMD** European Union Directive 2011/61/EU, together with its implementing measures **Annual Report** 

The Company's Annual Report and Accounts for the relevant financial year, the

most recent being the year ended 30 June 2023

**Articles** The Company's articles of association, as amended from time to time

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP **Auditor** 

**Benchmark** FTSE All-Share Index (total return, in Sterling terms)

**Brussels Regulation** Council Regulation (EC 44/2001) of 22 December 2000, concerning the

recognition and enforcement in England and Wales of judgments given by the

courts of most EU member states in civil and commercial matters

The commitment method for calculating leverage as prescribed under Article 8 of **Commitment Method** 

the AIFMD, which excludes certain hedging instruments from the calculation

Company or AIF Murray Income Trust PLC **Company Secretary** abrdn Holdings Limited

**Conduct Risk Committee** abrdn's formal committee for overseeing, among other matters, the Conduct Risk

**Conduct Risk Policy** abrdn's documented policy regarding treating customers fairly

**CoSec Agreement** The company secretarial agreement between the Manager and Company

Secretary dated 16 July 2014

**Conflicts of Interests** 

**Policy** 

abrdn's documented conflicts of interests policy

**Depositary** BNP Paribas Trust Corporation UK Limited

**Depositary Agreement** Depositary agreement among the Company, the Manager and the Depositary

dated 14 July 2014 and the novation agreement on

**ESG** Environmental, social and governance **FCA** The Financial Conduct Authority

The FCA's Handbook on rules and guidance **FCA Handbook** 

**FSMA** Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended

**Gross Method** The gross notional method for calculating leverage as prescribed under Article 7 of

the AIFMD, which includes certain hedging instruments within the calculation

abrdn Investments Limited **Investment Manager** 

Any method by which the Manager increases the exposure of the Company Leverage

whether through borrowing of cash or securities, or leverage embedded in

derivative positions or by any other means

**Liquidity Policy** abrdn's documented policy regarding liquidity risk management Management Agreement The management agreement between the Company and the Manager dated 14

July 2014 as amended from time to time

Manager abrdn Fund Managers Limited

Net Asset Value or NAV The net asset value of the Company

Ongoing Charges Ratio of expenses as a percentage of average daily shareholders' funds calculated

as per the Association of Investment Companies' industry standard method

Registrar Link Group

**Shareholders** Shareholders in the Company

Stockbroker Investec Bank PLC

Valuation Policy abrdn's documented valuation policy regarding the production and oversight of net

assets values of collective funds in the Europe, Middle East and Africa region

### Other important information:

Issued by abrdn Fund Managers Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority in the United Kingdom; Registered Office: 280 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4AG, registered in England & Wales with company number 00740118. An investment trust should be considered only as part of a balanced portfolio. Under no circumstances should this information be considered as an offer or solicitation to deal in investments.

# Appendix to Pre-investment Disclosure Document



# abrdn Fund Managers Limited: Risk management

#### **Risk Management Function**

abrdn and its subsidiaries ("the Group") is committed to building and continuously improving a sound and effective system of internal control and a risk management framework that is embedded within its operations; this is the Group's first line of defence.

The Group's Risk Division, as the second line of defence, exists to support management in the identification and mitigation of risks and provides independent monitoring of the business. The Division includes Conduct & Compliance, Operational Risk and investment risk Oversight. The team is headed by the Group's Chief Risk Officer, who reports to the Chief Executive Officer of the Group. The Risk Division achieves its objective through embedding the Risk Management Framework throughout the organisation using the Group's operational risk management system (SHIELD).

The Group's Internal Audit Department is independent of the Risk Division and reports directly to the Group CEO and to the chair of the Audit Committee of the Group's Board of Directors. The Internal Audit Department is responsible for providing an independent assessment of the Group's control environment; it is the Group's third line of defence.

The Group's corporate governance structure is supported by several committees that bring together Group's subject matter experts from different departments, to assist the Boards of Directors of abrdn, its subsidiaries and the funds to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. The Group's Risk Division is represented on all committees, with the exception of those that deal with investment recommendations to the Boards. The specific goals and guidelines on the functioning of these committees are described in their respective terms of reference.

### Description of the Process of Identifying, Assessing and Managing Risks

- Market risk: Is monitored through factor modelling used to calculate both absolute and relative ex ante quantities such as tracking error (TE) and Value at Risk (VaR). The VaR is computed on a NAV basis as the maximum loss that the portfolio should incur over 20 days, 99% of the time under normal market conditions. The fund's portfolio risks are decomposed into intuitive components to pinpoint areas of unexpected market risk. The techniques are applied to all relevant asset classes. The market risk is further monitored through the computation of the level of leverage by both the gross and net approach. The leverage is calculated by converting each FDI into the equivalent position in the underlying assets of those derivatives, on a NAV basis. The market risk linked to the concentration risk is mitigated through investment restrictions set according to the basic principle of diversification.
- Liquidity risk: The Group has a Liquidity Risk Management Policy in place applicable to the funds and set out in accordance with its overall Risk Management Process, relative to the size, scope and complexity of the funds. Liquidity Risk is monitored on both the asset and liability sides. To measure and monitor asset liquidity risk the Group employs a number of methods specific to the underlying assets. In all cases, the approach is to reference the actual holdings of the sub-fund against a true measure of the market at both an aggregate and a position level. The Group has implemented a Group Pricing Policy which details the operational responsibilities for pricing assets, this policy is owned and overseen by the Group pricing Committee. On the liability side, investor transactions and, beyond this, investor behaviour are the main driver of liquidity within each sub-fund. In this context, the articles and prospectuses contain certain key provisions or limits which provide protection to the funds and ultimately investors, in situations where liquidity might become a concern. In addition, the fund receives and analyses periodic reports in respect of the shareholder concentration within each sub-fund. Any shareholder concentrations and transactional behaviour are identified at sub-fund level and any particular concerns noted are escalated to the relevant Group Committee and respective Boards, if material.
- Credit and counterparty risk: The credit and counterparty risks linked to derivatives transactions are managed through processes outlined in the Group's Counterparty Credit Risk Policy. This Policy underpins on the following principles: Internal Credit assessments; credit limits; exposure calculation and oversight and Control. Credit



research on counterparties is carried out by the Credit Investment Team. Research is conducted on the basis of qualitative and quantitative analysis and is presented for discussion at the Credit Committee on a monthly basis. Each counterparty is reviewed at least once per annum. Furthermore the Risk and Exposure Committee (REC) and/or credit Committee can impose house level restrictions on concentrations. Credit risk exposures are calculated net of collateral received. The methodology for calculating an amount for potential exposure arising from movements in mark to market is approved by the REC. Acceptable collateral and other commercial and credit terms for inclusion in the International Swap and Derivative Association (ISDA) documentation is defined in the Group Derivative Management Policy. Counterparty credit exposures are monitored against internal limits by an investment control team and monitored by the Group Credit Committee and Risk and Exposure Committee.

• Legal risk: All key contractual arrangements entered into by the funds are reviewed by the Legal Department and, where required, by external legal counsel. If these contracts refer to delegation arrangements, where applicable, there is an operating memorandum defining information flows between the parties, frequency of services and deadlines, a clear attribution of rights and responsibilities of each party and, when applicable, the key performance indicators to measure performance. Any litigation issues are also handled by the Legal Department.

Each OTC derivatives are framed within the legal provisions of the ISDA Master agreement which defines the rights and obligations of parties engaging in derivatives trading. The ISDA master agreements are negotiated and signed between each umbrella/sub-fund and the counterparty. The Credit Support Annexe (CSA) is a legally binding document which is annexed to the ISDA agreement and details the Minimum Transfer Amount (MTA) or collateral required by AAML when engaging in OTC derivatives trading with counterparties. The Group Derivative Management Committee is responsible for approving the commercial terms associated to derivative documentation for the Group.

- Tax risk: The Group uses external tax consultants to advise on tax structuring, transactions and tax reporting.
- Operational risk: The Operational Risk Management Framework ensures that the operational risks taken and
  their contribution to the overall risk profile are accurately measured on the basis of sound and reliable data and
  that the risk measurement arrangements, processes and techniques are adequately documented. The
  identification, measurement, management and monitoring of operational risk within the Group are achieved
  through the use of the Group's Operational Risk Management Framework System, SHIELD. This system provides
  the following key Risk Management Modules:
  - Event Management: This module serves as a historical loss database, in which any operational failures, loss and damage experience (Events) will be recorded. The records include professional liability damages. The process for recording, investigation and mitigation of Events aims to ensure that they are not repeated.
  - Issues and Actions Plan: The issues and actions module provides a standardised mechanism for identifying, prioritising, classifying, escalating and reporting internal audit findings and other on-going / unresolved matters impacting the Group from a risk or regulatory perspective (Issues).
  - Risk and Control Self Assessment (RCSA): The RCSA process is to ensure key risks and key controls are identified and managed effectively in order to satisfy, at a Group level, Internal Capital Adequacy (ICAAP) requirements. The RCSA also provides a systematic and holistic means of identifying risk and control gaps that could impact business or process objectives which are agreed by senior management to complete.
  - Business Continuity Plan (BCP): Is in place and designed for invocation where there has been significant disruption to normal business functions at any abrdn Group office that is likely to last longer than 24 hours.

# **Measuring Risk**

Where appropriate the Group applies the following measurements for each fund:

• **Leverage:** Has the effect of gearing a fund's expected performance by allowing a fund to gain greater exposure to underlying investment opportunities (gains and losses). The higher the leverage the greater the risk (potential loss).

- Volatility, Value-at-Risk (VaR) and Conditional VaR (CVaR): Volatility measures the size of variation in returns that a fund is likely to expect. The higher the volatility the higher the risk. VaR measures with a degree of confidence the maximum the fund could expect to lose in any one given day, assuming a normal (Gaussian) distribution, this is a function of the volatility of the fund. The higher the volatility, the higher the VaR, the greater the risk. CVaR calculates the expected loss, under the assumption that the VaR has been reached.
- Tracking error (TE): Measures the expected magnitude of divergence of returns between the fund and benchmark over a given time.
- Systematic and stock specific risk: Systematic risk represents the proportion of a fund's risk that is attributable to market exposure; and specific risk represents the risk that is intrinsic to individual stocks (i.e. particular to a given stock's attributes).
- Stress test and scenario analysis: Captures how much the current portfolio will make or lose if certain market conditions occur.
- **Concentration risk:** By grouping the portfolio through various different exposures: country, sector, issuer, asset etc., to identify where concentration risk exists.

### **Escalation and Reporting**

The Group recognises timely and adequate reporting measures as well as escalation channels to be key components of the control process and management of risk.

The Risk team provide regular updates to the Board/senior management on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Risk Management Process indicating, where applicable, actual or anticipated deficiencies and the remedial measures.

In addition, all issues and events impacting any Group entity or the funds are logged in SHIELD, by the relevant area within the prescribed time limits.