

Arkema Bostik Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Implementation Statement for the year ended 5th April 2022

Purpose

This Implementation Statement provides information on how, and the extent to which, the Trustee Directors of the Arkema Bostik Defined Benefit Pension Scheme (“the Scheme”) have followed their policy in relation to the exercising of rights (including voting rights) attached to the Scheme’s investments, and engagement activities during the year ended 5th April 2022 the reporting year”). In addition, the statement provides a summary of the voting behaviour and most significant votes cast during the reporting year.

Background

In Q1 2020, the Trustee Directors received training on Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) issues from their Investment Adviser, XPS Investment (“XPS”) and discussed their beliefs around those issues. This enabled the Trustee Directors to consider how to update their policy in relation to ESG and voting issues which, up until that point, had simply been a broad reflection of the investment managers’ own equivalent policies. The Trustee Directors’ policy was first documented in the updated Statement of Investment Principles dated August 2020, and remains in the SIP dated October 2021.

The Trustee Directors’ updated policy

The Trustee Directors believe that there can be financially material risks relating to ESG issues. The Trustee Directors have delegated the ongoing monitoring and management of ESG risks and those related to climate change to the Scheme’s investment managers. The Trustee Directors require the Scheme’s investment managers to take ESG and climate change risks into consideration within their decision-making, recognising that how they do this will be dependent on factors including the characteristics of the asset classes in which they invest.

The Trustee Directors have delegated responsibility for the exercise of rights (including voting rights) attached to the Scheme’s investments to the investment managers and encourage them to engage with investee companies and vote whenever it is practical to do so on financially material matters including those deemed to include a material ESG and/or climate change risk in relation to those investments.

Manager selection exercises

One of the main ways in which this updated policy is expressed is via manager selection exercises: the Trustee Directors seek advice from XPS on the extent to which their views on ESG and climate change risks may be taken into account in any future investment manager selection exercises.

During the reporting year, the Trustee Directors implemented a de-risking strategy that saw the Scheme reduce its overall allocation to Growth Assets whilst simultaneously increasing the allocation to Liability Driven Investments (“LDI”). However, as the Trustee Directors opted to maintain all assets with BlackRock Investment Management, there were no such manager selection exercises.

Ongoing governance

The Trustee Directors, with the assistance of XPS, monitor the processes and operational behaviour of the investment managers from time to time, to ensure they remain appropriate and in line with the Trustee Directors’ requirements as set

out in this statement. Further, the Trustee Directors have set XPS the objective of ensuring the selected managers reflect the Trustee Directors' views on ESG (including climate change) and stewardship.

Beyond the governance work currently undertaken, the Trustee Directors believe that their approach to, and policy on, ESG matters will evolve over time based on developments within the industry and, at least partly, on a review of data relating to the voting and engagement activity conducted annually.

Adherence to the Statement of Investment Principles

During the reporting year the Trustee Directors are satisfied that they followed their policy on the exercise of rights (including voting rights) and engagement activities to an acceptable degree.

Voting activity

The main asset class where the investment managers will have voting rights is equities. The Scheme has specific allocations to both public and private equities, and investments in equities will also form part of the strategy for the diversified growth funds in which the Scheme invests. Therefore, a summary of the voting behaviour and most significant votes cast by each of the relevant investment manager organisations is shown below.

BlackRock – Aquila Life UK Equity Index Fund

Voting Information
BlackRock Aquila Life UK Equity Index - EP
The manager voted on 99% of resolutions of which they were eligible out of 14860 eligible votes.
Investment Manager Client Consultation Policy on Voting
<p>BlackRock believes that companies are responsible for ensuring they have appropriate governance structures to serve the interests of shareholders and other key stakeholders. We believe that there are certain fundamental rights attached to shareholding. Companies and their boards should be accountable to shareholders and structured with appropriate checks and balances to ensure that they operate in shareholders' best interests to create sustainable value. Shareholders should have the right to vote to elect, remove, and nominate directors, approve the appointment of the auditor, and amend the corporate charter or by-laws.</p> <p>Consistent with these shareholder rights, we believe BlackRock has a responsibility to monitor and provide feedback to companies, in our role as stewards of our clients' investments. BlackRock Investment Stewardship ("BIS") does this through engagement with management teams and/or board members on material business issues including environmental, social, and governance ("ESG") matters and, for those clients who have given us authority, through voting proxies in the best long-term economic interests of our clients. We also participate in the public debate to shape global norms and industry standards with the goal of a policy framework consistent with our clients' interests as long-term shareholders.</p> <p>BlackRock looks to companies to provide timely, accurate, and comprehensive reporting on all material governance and business matters, including ESG issues. This allows shareholders to appropriately understand and assess how relevant risks</p>

and opportunities are being effectively identified and managed. Where company reporting and disclosure is inadequate or the approach taken is inconsistent with our view of what supports sustainable long-term value creation, we will engage with a company and/or use our vote to encourage a change in practice.

BlackRock views engagement as an important activity; engagement provides us with the opportunity to improve our understanding of the business and ESG risks and opportunities that are material to the companies in which our clients invest. As long-term investors on behalf of clients, we seek to have regular and continuing dialogue with executives and board directors to advance sound governance and sustainable business practices, as well as to understand the effectiveness of the company's management and oversight of material issues. Engagement is an important mechanism for providing feedback on company practices and disclosures, particularly where we believe they could be enhanced. We primarily engage through direct dialogue but may use other tools such as written correspondence to share our perspectives.

Engagement also informs our voting decisions.

BlackRock's approach to corporate governance and stewardship is explained in our Global Principles. These high-level Principles are the framework for our more detailed, market-specific voting guidelines, all of which are published on the BlackRock website. The Principles describe our philosophy on stewardship (including how we monitor and engage with companies), our policy on voting, our integrated approach to stewardship matters and how we deal with conflicts of interest. These apply across relevant asset classes and products as permitted by investment strategies. BlackRock reviews our Global Principles annually and updates them as necessary to reflect in market standards, evolving governance practice and insights gained from engagement over the prior year.

Our Global Principles available on our website at <https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/fact-sheet/blk-responsible-investment-engprinciples-global.pdf>

Investment Manager Process to determine how to Vote

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How does this manager determine what constitutes a 'Significant' Vote?

BlackRock Investment Stewardship prioritizes its work around themes that we believe will encourage sound governance practices and deliver sustainable long-term financial performance. Our year-round engagement with clients to understand

their priorities and expectations, as well as our active participation in market-wide policy debates, help inform these themes.

The themes we have identified in turn shape our Global Principles, market-specific Voting Guidelines and Engagement Priorities, which form the benchmark against which we look at the sustainable long-term financial performance of investee companies.

We periodically publish “vote bulletins” setting out detailed explanations of key votes relating to governance, strategic and sustainability issues that we consider, based on our Global Principles and Engagement Priorities, material to a company’s sustainable long-term financial performance. These bulletins are intended to explain our vote decision, including the analysis underpinning it and relevant engagement history when applicable, where the issues involved are likely to be high-profile and therefore of interest to our clients and other stakeholders, and potentially represent a material risk to the investment we undertake on behalf of clients. We make this information public shortly after the shareholder meeting, so clients and others can be aware of our vote determination when it is most relevant to them. We consider these vote bulletins to contain explanations of the most significant votes for the purposes of evolving regulatory requirements.

Does the manager utilise a Proxy Voting System? If so, please detail

BlackRock’s proxy voting process is led by the BlackRock Investment Stewardship team (BIS), which consists of three regional teams – Americas (“AMRS”), Asia-Pacific (“APAC”), and Europe, Middle East and Africa (“EMEA”) - located in seven offices around the world. The analysts with each team will generally determine how to vote at the meetings of the companies they cover. Voting decisions are made by members of the BlackRock Investment Stewardship team with input from investment colleagues as required, in each case, in accordance with BlackRock’s Global Principles and custom market-specific voting guidelines.

While we subscribe to research from the proxy advisory firms Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) and Glass Lewis, it is just one among many inputs into our vote analysis process, and we do not blindly follow their recommendations on how to vote. We primarily use proxy research firms to synthesise corporate governance information and analysis into a concise, easily reviewable format so that our investment stewardship analysts can readily identify and prioritise those companies where our own additional research and engagement would be beneficial. Other sources of information we use include the company’s own reporting (such as the proxy statement and the website), our engagement and voting history with the company, and the views of our active investors, public information and ESG research.

In summary, proxy research firms help us deploy our resources to greatest effect in meeting client expectations

- BlackRock sees its investment stewardship program, including proxy voting, as part of its fiduciary duty to and enhance the value of clients’ assets, using our voice as a shareholder on their behalf to ensure that companies are well led and well managed
- We use proxy research firms in our voting process, primarily to synthesise information and analysis into a concise, easily reviewable format so that our analysts can readily identify and prioritise those companies where our own additional research and engagement would be beneficial
- We do not follow any single proxy research firm’s voting recommendations and in most markets, we subscribe to two research providers and use several other inputs, including a company’s own disclosures, in our voting and engagement analysis
- We also work with proxy research firms, which apply our proxy voting guidelines to filter out routine or non-contentious proposals and refer to us any meetings where additional research and possibly engagement might be required to inform our voting decision
- The proxy voting operating environment is complex and we work with proxy research firms to execute vote instructions, manage client accounts in relation to voting and facilitate client reporting on voting

Top 5 Significant Votes during the Period

Company	Voting Subject	How did the Investment Manager Vote?	Result
Berkshire Hathaway Inc.	Elect Director Thomas S. Murphy	Withhold	Pass
The Company does not meet our expectations for oversight of climate-related risks. The Company does not meet our expectations of having adequate climate risk disclosures against all 4 pillars of TCFD. The Company does not meet our expectations of reporting on scope1 & 2 emissions. The Company does not meet our expectations of having adequate Scope 3 metrics and targets. The Company does not meet our expectations of having adequate sustainability disclosures using SASB-aligned reporting. The Company does not meet our expectations of having adequate climate risk disclosures against all 4 pillars of TCFD.			
General Electric Company	Advisory Vote to Ratify Named Executive Officers' Compensation	Against	Fail
Pay is not aligned with performance and peers.			
BP Plc	Approve Shareholder Resolution on Climate Change Targets	For	Fail
We recognize the company's efforts to date but believe that supporting the proposal may accelerate the company's progress on climate risk management and/or oversight.			
Union Pacific Corporation	Annual Vote and Report on Climate Change	For	Fail
We are supportive of the company's efforts to date with respect to this material climate issue but believe that voting in favour may accelerate the company's progress.			
Fortescue Metals Group Ltd.	Approve the Amendments to the Company's Constitution	Against	Fail
Shareholder proposals best facilitated through regulatory changes.			

BlackRock – Aquila Life World (ex UK) Equity Index Fund

Voting Information

BlackRock Aquila Life World (ex UK) Equity Index

The manager voted on 99% of resolutions of which they were eligible out of 24777 eligible votes.

Investment Manager Client Consultation Policy on Voting

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Consistent with these shareholder rights, we believe BlackRock has a responsibility to monitor and provide feedback to companies, in our role as stewards of our clients' investments. BlackRock Investment Stewardship ("BIS") does this through engagement with management teams and/or board members on material business issues including environmental, social, and governance ("ESG") matters and, for those clients who have given us authority, through voting proxies in the best long-term economic interests of our clients. We also participate in the public debate to shape global norms and industry standards with the goal of a policy framework consistent with our clients' interests as long-term shareholders.

BlackRock looks to companies to provide timely, accurate, and comprehensive reporting on all material governance and business matters, including ESG issues. This allows shareholders to appropriately understand and assess how relevant risks and opportunities are being effectively identified and managed. Where company reporting and disclosure is inadequate or the approach taken is inconsistent with our view of what supports sustainable long-term value creation, we will engage with a company and/or use our vote to encourage a change in practice.

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Top 5 Significant Votes during the Period

Company	Voting Subject	How did the Investment Manager Vote?	Result
Jardine Strategic Holdings Ltd.	Approve the Amalgamation Agreement	Against	Pass
This operation is not in the interest of shareholders.			
Dow Inc.	Provide Right to Act by Written Consent	Against	Fail
Shareholders should have the right to act without waiting for the company to call a shareholder meeting. At this company, shareholders already have the right to act by calling a special meeting.			
Woodside Petroleum Ltd.	Approve the Amendments to the Company's Constitution Proposed by Market Forces	Against	Fail
Shareholder proposals best facilitated through regulatory changes.			
Canadian Pacific Railway Limited	SP: Hold an Annual Non-Binding Advisory Vote on Climate Change	For	Pass
We are supportive of the company's efforts to date with respect to this material climate issue and believe that voting in favor may accelerate the company's progress.			
Pfizer Inc.	Report on Access to COVID-19 Products	Against	Fail
The company already provides sufficient disclosure and/or reporting regarding this issue, or is already enhancing its relevant disclosures			

BlackRock iShares Emerging Markets Index

Voting Information

BlackRock iShares Emerging Markets Index

The manager voted on 100% of resolutions of which they were eligible out of 21938 eligible votes.

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Top 5 Significant Votes during the Period

Company	Voting Subject	How did the Investment Manager Vote?	Result
JBS SA	Accept Financial Statements and Statutory Reports for Fiscal Year Ended Dec. 31, 2020	Abstain	Pass
Abstaining from this item preserves shareholders' right to take legal action should irregularities be discovered at a future date.			
Vale SA	Accept Financial Statements and Statutory Reports for Fiscal Year Ended Dec. 31, 2020	Abstain	Pass
Abstaining from this item preserves shareholders' right to take legal action should irregularities be discovered at a future date.			
China Shenhua Energy Company Limited	Elect Yang Rongming as Director	For	Pass
Needs to take climate voting action but no incumbent director up for re-election at the AGM			
Vedanta Limited	Elect Akhilesh Joshi as Director	Against	Pass

Non-independent director on inadequately independent board.			
China Tower Corporation Limited	Elect Deng Shiji as Director and Authorize Board to Fix His Remuneration	Against	Pass
Vote AGAINST director due to concerns of gender-related diversity at the board level			

BlackRock – Dynamic Diversified Growth Fund

Voting Information

BlackRock Dynamic Diversified Growth Fund

The manager voted on 100% of resolutions of which they were eligible out of 12458 eligible votes.

Investment Manager Client Consultation Policy on Voting

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BlackRock views engagement as an important activity; engagement provides us with the opportunity to improve our understanding of the business and ESG risks and opportunities that are material to the

companies in which our clients invest. As long-term investors on behalf of clients, we seek to have regular and continuing dialogue with executives and board directors to advance sound governance and sustainable business practices, as well as to understand the effectiveness of the company's management and oversight of material issues. Engagement is an important mechanism for providing feedback on company practices and disclosures, particularly where we believe they could be enhanced. We primarily engage through direct dialogue but may use other tools such as written correspondence to share our perspectives. Engagement also informs our voting decisions.

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Our Global Principles available on our website at <https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/fact-sheet/blk-responsible-investment-engprinciples-global.pdf>

Investment Manager Process to determine how to Vote

The team and its voting and engagement work continuously evolves in response to changing governance related developments and expectations. Our voting guidelines are market-specific to ensure we take into account a company's unique circumstances by market, where relevant. We inform our vote decisions through research and engage as necessary. Our engagement priorities are global in nature and are informed by BlackRock's observations of governance related and market developments, as well as through dialogue with multiple stakeholders, including clients. We may also update our regional engagement priorities based on issues that we believe could impact the long-term sustainable financial performance of companies in those markets. We welcome discussions with our clients on engagement and voting topics and priorities to get their perspective and better understand which issues are important to them. As outlined in our Global Principles, BlackRock determines which companies to engage directly based on our assessment of the materiality of the issue for sustainable long-term financial returns and the likelihood of our engagement being productive. Our voting guidelines are intended to help clients and companies understand our thinking on key governance matters. They are the benchmark against which we assess a company's approach to corporate governance and the items on the agenda to be voted on at the shareholder meeting. We apply our guidelines pragmatically, taking into account a company's unique circumstances where relevant. We inform our vote decisions through research and engage as necessary. If a client wants to implement their own voting policy, they will need to be in a segregated account. BlackRock's Investment Stewardship team would not implement the policy ourselves, but the client would engage a third-party voting execution platform to cast the votes.

How does this manager determine what constitutes a 'Significant' Vote?

BlackRock Investment Stewardship prioritizes its work around themes that we believe will encourage sound governance practices and deliver sustainable long-term financial performance. Our year-round engagement with clients to understand their priorities and expectations, as well as our active participation in market-wide policy debates, help inform these themes. The themes we have identified in turn shape our Global Principles, market-specific Voting Guidelines and Engagement Priorities, which form the benchmark against which we look at the sustainable long-term financial performance of investee companies.

We periodically publish “vote bulletins” setting out detailed explanations of key votes relating to governance, strategic and sustainability issues that we consider, based on our Global Principles and Engagement Priorities, material to a company’s sustainable long-term financial performance. These bulletins are intended to explain our vote decision, including the analysis underpinning it and relevant engagement history when applicable, where the issues involved are likely to be high-profile and therefore of interest to our clients and other stakeholders, and potentially represent a material risk to the investment we undertake on behalf of clients. We make this information public shortly after the shareholder meeting, so clients and others can be aware of our vote determination when it is most relevant to them. We consider these vote bulletins to contain explanations of the most significant votes for the purposes of evolving regulatory requirements.

Does the manager utilise a Proxy Voting System? If so, please detail

BlackRock’s proxy voting process is led by the BlackRock Investment Stewardship team (BIS), which consists of three regional teams – Americas (“AMRS”), Asia-Pacific (“APAC”), and Europe, Middle East and Africa (“EMEA”) - located in seven offices around the world. The analysts with each team will generally determine how to vote at the meetings of the companies they cover. Voting decisions are made by members of the BlackRock Investment Stewardship team with input from investment colleagues as required, in each case, in accordance with BlackRock’s Global Principles and custom market-specific voting guidelines.

While we subscribe to research from the proxy advisory firms Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) and Glass Lewis, it is just one among many inputs into our vote analysis process, and we do not blindly follow their recommendations on how to vote. We primarily use proxy research firms to synthesise corporate governance information and analysis into a concise, easily reviewable format so that our investment stewardship analysts can readily identify and prioritise those companies where our own additional research and engagement would be beneficial. Other sources of information we use include the company’s own reporting (such as the proxy statement and the website), our engagement and voting history with the company, and the views of our active investors, public information and ESG research.

In summary, proxy research firms help us deploy our resources to greatest effect in meeting client expectations

- BlackRock sees its investment stewardship program, including proxy voting, as part of its fiduciary duty to and enhance the value of clients’ assets, using our voice as a shareholder on their behalf to ensure that companies are well led and well managed
- We use proxy research firms in our voting process, primarily to synthesise information and analysis into a concise, easily reviewable format so that our analysts can readily identify and prioritise those companies where our own additional research and engagement would be beneficial
 - We do not follow any single proxy research firm’s voting recommendations and in most markets, we

subscribe to two research providers and use several other inputs, including a company's own disclosures, in our voting and engagement analysis

- We also work with proxy research firms, which apply our proxy voting guidelines to filter out routine or non-contentious proposals and refer to us any meetings where additional research and possibly engagement might be required to inform our voting decision
- The proxy voting operating environment is complex and we work with proxy research firms to execute vote instructions, manage client accounts in relation to voting and facilitate client reporting on voting

Baillie Gifford – Multi Asset Growth Fund

Voting Information

Baillie Gifford Multi Asset Growth Fund

The manager voted on 86.6% of resolutions of which they were eligible out of 1373 eligible votes.

Investment Manager Client Consultation Policy on Voting

All voting decisions are made by our Governance & Sustainability team in conjunction with investment managers. We do not regularly engage with clients prior to submitting votes, however if a segregated client has a specific view on a vote then we will engage with them on this. If a vote is particularly contentious, we may reach out to clients prior to voting to advise them of this or request them to recall any stock on loan.

Investment Manager Process to determine how to Vote

Thoughtful voting of our clients' holdings is an integral part of our commitment to stewardship. We believe that voting should be investment led, because how we vote is an important part of the long-term investment process, which is why our strong preference is to be given this responsibility by our clients. The ability to vote our clients' shares also strengthens our position when engaging with investee companies. Our Governance and Sustainability team oversees our voting analysis and execution in conjunction with our investment managers. Unlike many of our peers, we do not outsource any part of the responsibility for voting to third-party suppliers. We utilise research from proxy advisers for information only. Baillie Gifford analyses all meetings in-house in line with our Governance & Sustainability Principles and Guidelines and we endeavour to vote every one of our clients' holdings in all markets.

How does this manager determine what constitutes a 'Significant' Vote?

The list below is not exhaustive, but exemplifies potentially significant voting situations:

- Baillie Gifford's holding had a material impact on the outcome of the meeting
- The resolution received 20% or more opposition and Baillie Gifford opposed
 - Egregious remuneration
 - Controversial equity issuance
- Shareholder resolutions that Baillie Gifford supported and received 20% or more support from shareholders
 - Where there has been a significant audit failing
 - Where we have opposed mergers and acquisitions

- Where we have opposed the financial statements/annual report
- Where we have opposed the election of directors and executives.

Does the manager utilise a Proxy Voting System? If so, please detail

Whilst we are cognisant of proxy advisers' voting recommendations (ISS and Glass Lewis), we do not delegate or outsource any of our stewardship activities or follow or rely upon their recommendations when deciding how to vote on our clients' shares. All client voting decisions are made in-house. We vote in line with our in-house policy and not with the proxy voting providers' policies. We also have specialist proxy advisors in the Chinese and Indian markets to provide us with more nuanced market specific information.

Top 5 Significant Votes during the Period

Company	Voting Subject	How did the Investment Manager Vote?	Result
RIO TINTO PLC	Remuneration - Report	Against	Pass
Following the submission of our votes we engaged with the company to communicate our concerns. Whilst we did not support the backwards looking remuneration report, we took the decision to support the forward looking remuneration policy. We continue to be focussed on having good open communication with the leadership team which we believe is valuable as long-term investors.			
VONOVIA SE	Amendment of Share Capital	Against	Pass
In advance of the AGM we contacted the company to see if they could provide an assurance they would not issue shares below Net Tangible Asset (NTA). The company were not able to provide that assurance therefore we did not feel it was in our clients' interest to support the two equity issuance resolutions. We encourage the company to provide this additional assurance so we could consider supporting in future.			
VONOVIA SE	Amendment of Share Capital	Against	Pass
In advance of the AGM we contacted the company to see if they could provide an assurance they would not issue shares below Net Tangible Asset (NTA). The company were not able to provide that assurance therefore we did not feel it was in our clients' interest to support the two equity issuance resolutions. We encourage the company to provide this additional assurance so we could consider supporting in future.			
SIX FLAGS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION	Remuneration - Say on Pay	Against	Pass
We opposed executive compensation for a multitude of reasons however our primary concern was the size of the long-term incentive award paid to the CEO. In light of COVID-19, when reviewing proposals relating to executive compensation we assess whether executive pay is aligned with the experience of employees and shareholders. We felt we could not justify supporting a sizeable long-term incentive award for the CEO, which was equal to the previous year, when framed against a			

background of company-wide salary reductions and employee lay-offs. We communicated our concerns to the company following the submission of our votes and we will continue to engage on our concerns. Although this proposal was passed, 41% of shareholders opposed it.			
GALAXY ENTERTAINMENT GROUP LTD	Amendment of Share Capital	Against	Pass
We have opposed similar resolutions in previous years and will continue to advise the company of our concerns. And seek to obtain proposals that we can support.			

BlackRock did not supply the top 5 significant votes for the Dynamic Diversified Fund at the time of producing the implementation statement.

Signed: _____
