



LEA 02	Objective: Mandatory	Reason for Interaction	Principle: PRI 1, 2, 3
Individual/ internal staff engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To support investment decision-making in a company's material ESG issues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To encourage corporate transition or identify the need for additional or alternative investments <input type="checkbox"/> Other: specify <input type="checkbox"/> We do not engage in internal staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To support investment decision-making in a company's material ESG issues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To encourage corporate transition or identify the need for additional or alternative investments <input type="checkbox"/> Other: specify <input type="checkbox"/> We do not engage in collaborative engagements 	
Collaborative engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To support investment decision-making in a company's material ESG issues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To encourage corporate transition or identify the need for additional or alternative investments <input type="checkbox"/> Other: specify <input type="checkbox"/> We do not engage in collaborative engagements 		
Service provider engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To support investment decision-making in a company's material ESG issues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To encourage corporate transition or identify the need for additional or alternative investments <input type="checkbox"/> Other: specify <input type="checkbox"/> We do not engage in service providers 		

RI TRANSPARENCY REPORT

2014/15

North East Scotland Pension Fund

About this report

The PRI Reporting Framework is a key step in the journey towards building a common language and industry standard for reporting responsible investment (RI) activities. This RI Transparency Report is one of the key outputs of this Framework. Its primary objective is to enable signatory transparency on RI activities and facilitate dialogue between investors and their clients, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. A copy of this report will be publicly disclosed for all reporting signatories on the [PRI website](#), ensuring accountability of the PRI Initiative and its signatories.

This report is an export of the individual Signatory organisation's response to the PRI during the 2014-15 reporting cycle. It includes their responses to mandatory indicators, as well as responses to voluntary indicators the signatory has agreed to make public. The information is presented exactly as it was reported. Where an indicator offers a response option that is multiple-choice, all options that were available to the signatory to select are presented in this report. Presenting the information exactly as reported is a result of signatory feedback which suggested the PRI not summarise the information. As a result, the reports can be extensive. However, to help easily locate information, there is a **Principles index** which highlights where the information can be found and summarises the indicators that signatories complete and disclose.

Understanding the Principles Index

The Principles Index summarises the response status for the individual indicators and modules and shows how these relate to the six [Principles for Responsible Investment](#). It can be used by stakeholders as an 'at-a-glance' summary of reported information and to identify particular themes or areas of interest.

Indicators can refer to one or more Principles. Some indicators are not specific to any Principle. These are highlighted in the 'General' column. When multiple Principles are covered across numerous indicators, in order to avoid repetition, only the main Principle covered is highlighted.

All indicators within a module are presented below. The status of indicators is shown with the following symbols:

Symbol	Status
✓	The signatory has completed all mandatory parts of this indicator
☑	The signatory has completed some parts of this indicator
🔒	This indicator was not relevant for this signatory
-	The signatory did not complete any part of this indicator
Ⓜ	The signatory has flagged this indicator for internal review

Within the table, indicators marked in blue are mandatory to complete. Indicators marked in grey are voluntary to complete.

Principles Index

Organisational Overview				Principle						General
Indicator	Short description	Status	Disclosure	1	2	3	4	5	6	
OO 01	Signatory category and services	✓	Public							✓
OO 02	Headquarters and operational countries	✓	Public							✓
OO 03	Subsidiaries that are separate PRI signatories	✓	Public							✓
OO 04	Reporting year and AUM	✓	Public							✓
OO 05	Breakdown of AUM by asset class	✓	Asset mix disclosed in OO 06							✓
OO 06	How would you like to disclose your asset class mix	✓	Public							✓
OO 07	Segregated mandates or pooled funds	✓	Private							✓
OO 08	Breakdown of AUM by market	✓	Private							✓
OO 09	Additional information about organisation	-	n/a							✓
OO 10	RI activities for listed equities	✓	Public							✓
OO 11	RI activities in other asset classes	✓	Public							✓
OO 12	Modules and sections required to complete	✓	Public							✓

Overarching Approach				Principle						General
Indicator	Short description	Status	Disclosure	1	2	3	4	5	6	
OA 01	RI policy and other guidance documents	✓	Public							✓
OA 02	Publicly available policies / documents	✓	Public							✓
OA 03	Policy components and coverage	✓	Public	✓	✓					
OA 04	Conflicts of interest	✓	Public							✓
OA 05	RI goals and objectives	✓	Public							✓
OA 06	Main goals/objectives this year	-	n/a							✓
OA 07	Governance, management structures and RI processes	-	n/a							✓
OA 08	RI roles and responsibilities	✓	Public							✓
OA 09	RI in performance management, reward and/or personal development	-	n/a							✓
OA 10	Collaborative organisations / initiatives	✓	Public				✓	✓		
OA 11	Promoting RI independently	✓	Public				✓			
OA 12	Dialogue with public policy makers or standard setters	-	n/a				✓	✓	✓	
OA 13	ESG issues in strategic asset allocation	-	n/a	✓						
OA 14	Allocation of assets to environmental and social themed areas	-	n/a	✓						
OA 15	ESG issues for internally managed assets not reported in framework	🔒	n/a							✓
OA 16	ESG issues for externally managed assets not reported in framework	🔒	n/a							✓
OA 17	RI/ESG in execution and/or advisory services	🔒	n/a	✓	✓					
OA 18	Innovative features of approach to RI	-	n/a							✓
OA 19	Internal and external review and assurance of responses	-	n/a							✓

Indirect – Manager Selection, Appointment and Monitoring				Principle						General
Indicator	Short description	Status	Disclosure	1	2	3	4	5	6	
SAM 01	Description of RI considerations	-	n/a	✓					✓	
SAM 02	Role of investment consultants	✓	Public				✓			
SAM 03	RI factors in selection, appointment and monitoring across asset classes	✓	Public							✓
SAM 04	Breakdown of passive, active quant and active fundamental	✓	Private							✓
SAM 05	ESG incorporation strategies	✓	Public	✓	✓					
SAM 06	Selection processes (listed assets)	✓	Public	✓						✓
SAM 07	Appointment considerations (listed assets)	-	n/a				✓			
SAM 08	Monitoring processes (listed assets)	✓	Public	✓						
SAM 09	Percentage of (proxy) votes cast	✓	Public		✓					
SAM 10	Selection processes (non-listed assets)	🔒	n/a	✓						✓
SAM 11	Appointment considerations (non-listed assets)	🔒	n/a				✓			
SAM 12	Monitoring processes (non-listed assets)	🔒	n/a	✓						✓
SAM 13	Description of RI considerations in 'other' asset classes	🔒	n/a	✓						✓
SAM 14	Percentage of externally managed assets managed by PRI signatories	✓	Private	✓						✓
SAM 15	Examples of ESG issues in selection, appointment and monitoring processes	-	n/a		✓					
SAM 16	Disclosure of RI considerations	✓	Public							✓

Direct - Listed Equity Active Ownership				Principle						General
Indicator	Short description	Status	Disclosure	1	2	3	4	5	6	
LEA 01	Description of approach to engagement	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 02	Reasoning for interaction on ESG issues	✓	Public	✓	✓	✓				
LEA 03	Process for identifying and prioritising engagement activities	🔒	n/a		✓					
LEA 04	Objectives for engagement activities	🔒	n/a		✓					
LEA 05	Process for identifying and prioritising engagement activities	✓	Public		✓					
LEA 06	Objectives for engagement activities	✓	Public		✓					
LEA 07	Role in engagement process	✓	Public		✓		✓			
LEA 08	Monitor / discuss service provider information	✓	Public		✓				✓	
LEA 09	Share insights from engagements with internal/external managers	-	n/a	✓	✓					
LEA 10	Tracking number of engagements	✓	Public		✓					
LEA 11	Number of companies engaged with, intensity of engagement and effort	✓	Private		✓					
LEA 12	Engagements on E, S and/or G issues	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 13	Companies changing practices / behaviour following engagement	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 14	Examples of ESG engagements	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 15	Disclosure of approach to ESG engagements	✓	Public		✓				✓	
LEA 16	Description of approach to (proxy) voting	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 17	Typical approach to (proxy) voting decisions	✓	Public		✓					
LEA 18	Percentage of voting recommendations reviewed	🔒	n/a		✓					
LEA 19	Confirmation of votes	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 20	Securities lending programme	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 21	Informing companies of the rationale of abstaining/voting against management	✓	Public		✓					
LEA 22	Percentage of (proxy) votes cast	✓	Public		✓					
LEA 23	Proportion of ballot items that were for/against/abstentions	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 24	Shareholder resolutions	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 25	Examples of (proxy) voting activities	-	n/a		✓					
LEA 26	Disclosing voting activities	✓	Public		✓				✓	

North East Scotland Pension Fund

Reported Information

Public version

Organisational Overview

PRI disclaimer

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Basic Information

OO 01	Mandatory	Gateway/Peering	General
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OO 01.1 Select the category which best represents your primary activity.

- Non-corporate pension or superannuation or retirement or provident fund or plan
- Corporate pension or superannuation or retirement or provident fund or plan
- Insurance company
- Foundation or endowment
- Development finance institution
- Reserve - sovereign or government controlled fund
- Other, specify

OO 01.2 Additional information. [Optional]

The North East Scotland Pension Fund is one of Scotland's larger Local Government Pension Funds, providing pension benefits for over 50,000 members drawn from over 50 employers.

OO 02	Mandatory	Peering	General
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OO 02.1 Select the location of your organisation's headquarters.

United Kingdom

OO 02.2 Indicate the number of countries in which you have offices (including your headquarters).

- 1
- 2-5
- 6-10
- >10

OO 02.3 Indicate the approximate number of staff in your organisation in full-time equivalents (FTE).

FTE

29

OO 03	Mandatory	Descriptive	General
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OO 03.1

Indicate whether you have subsidiaries within your organisation that are also PRI signatories in their own right.

Yes

No

OO 04

Mandatory

Gateway/Peering

General

OO 04.1

Indicate the year end date for your reporting year.

30/09/2014

OO 04.2

Indicate your total AUM at the end of your reporting year, excluding subsidiaries you have chosen not to report on, and advisory/execution only assets.

	trillions	billions	millions	thousands	hundreds
Total AUM		2	919	044	348
Currency	GBP				
Assets in USD		4	826	893	545

OO 04.5

Indicate the level of detail you would like to provide about your asset class mix.

Approximate percentage breakdown to the nearest 5% (e.g. 45%)

Broad ranges breakdown (i.e. <10%; 10-50%; >50%)

OO 06

Mandatory

Descriptive

General

OO 06.1

To contextualise your responses to the public, indicate how you would like to disclose your asset class mix.

Publish our asset class mix as broad ranges

	Internally managed (%)	Externally managed (%)
Listed equity	0	>50%
Fixed income – corporate	0	<10%
Fixed income – government	0	<10%
Fixed income – other	0	<10%
Private debt	0	<10%
Private equity	0	<10%

Property	0	<10%
Infrastructure	0	<10%
Commodities	0	0
Hedge funds	0	0
Forestry	0	0
Farmland	0	0
Inclusive finance	0	0
Cash	0	<10%
Other (1), specify	0	0
Other (2), specify	0	0

○ Publish our asset class mix as per attached file (the following image formats can be uploaded: .jpg, .jpeg, .png,.bmp and .gif)

Gateway asset class implementation indicators

OO 10	Mandatory	Gateway	General
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OO 10.1

Select the responsible investment activities your organisation implemented, directly and/or indirectly, for listed equities in the reporting year.

- We engage with companies on ESG issues via our staff, collaborations or service providers
- We cast our (proxy) votes directly or via service providers
- We address ESG incorporation, engagement and/or (proxy) voting in our external manager selection, appointment and/or monitoring processes
- None of the above

OO 11	Mandatory	Gateway	General
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OO 11.2

Indicate if in the reporting year you addressed ESG incorporation and/or active ownership in your external manager selection, appointment and/or monitoring processes in the following externally managed asset classes.

- Fixed income – corporate
- Fixed income – government
- Fixed Income – other
- Private debt
- Private equity
- Property
- Infrastructure
- Cash
- None of the above

OO 11.3

Additional information. [Optional]

Bonds - The North East Scotland Pension Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF). LAPFF undertakes engagement with investee companies to reduce actual or perceived risks associated with corporate governance and corporate responsibility practices. Private Equity - Our Managers present to us on a twice yearly basis where performance and ESG issues are discussed, and are always accessible on a day to day basis if any urgent matter crops up. . Property - We request details of the carbon emissions from our direct property portfolio. This information is collated and provided to the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme on an annual basis. The scheme is designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through energy efficiency.

OO 12

Mandatory

Gateway

General

OO 12.1

The modules and sections that you will be required to complete are listed below.

This list is based on the percentages provided in your AUM breakdown and your responses to the gateway indicators. You are only required to report on asset classes that represent 10% or more of your AUM. You may report voluntarily on any applicable modules or sections by selecting them from the list. Fixed Income and Infrastructure are voluntary.

Core modules

- Organisational Overview
- Overarching Approach (including assets which do not have a separate module)

RI implementation directly or via service providers

Direct - Listed Equity active ownership

- Engagements
- (Proxy) voting

RI implementation via external managers

- Listed Equities
- Private Equity
- Property

Closing module

- Closing module

North East Scotland Pension Fund

Reported Information

Public version

Overarching Approach

PRI disclaimer

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Responsible investment policy

OA 01	Mandatory	Gateway/Core Assessed	General
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OA 01.1 Indicate if you have a responsible investment policy.

- Yes
 No

OA 01.2 Indicate if you have other guidance documents or more specific policies related to responsible investment.

- Yes
 No

OA 01.3 Provide a brief description of the key elements of your responsible investment policy or, if you do not have a policy, of your overall approach to responsible investment. [Optional]

Our Fund has various policies that incorporate our responsible investment policy. • Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility • Stewardship Code Compliance Statement • LAPFF Policies Exec Summary • Statement of Investment Principles The key elements of our policy are • Collaboration & Engagement The North East Scotland Pension Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF), a voluntary association of 62 public sector pension funds based in the UK representing assets under management of over £150 billion. Lapff undertakes engagement with investee companies on behalf of its members in order to improve long-term performance and reduce actual or perceived risks associated with corporate governance and corporate responsibility practices. LAPFF has a set of general ESG policies that it applies when engaging with companies and issuing voting alerts. • Voting - we vote In-House where every possible. The Pension Fund therefore subscribes to the PIRC voting advice service and voting is carried out directly through a proxy-voting agency. In addition to the UK PIRC covers the major markets of Europe, North American and the Far East. The Fund has further published its compliance with the Stewardship Code. • Corporate Governance - The Pension Fund seeks to encourage the companies in which it invests to operate the highest standards of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. • The Fund has further published its compliance with the Stewardship Code, which we signed up to at an early stage. • Externally Managed Aberdeen City Council has delegated the investment management of the funds assets to a number of fund managers. Equity Fund Manager has been Requested to report to the Joint Investment Advisory Committee every six months on the extent (if any) to which social, environmental and ethical considerations are taken into account in the selection, retention and realization of investments.

OA 02	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 6
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OA 02.1 Indicate if your responsible investment policy is publicly available.

- Yes

OA 02.2 Provide a URL to your responsible investment policy.

URL

http://www.nespf.org.uk/Investment/inv_principles.asp

No

OA 02.3 Indicate if your other policies or guidance documents related to responsible investment are publicly available.

Yes

Yes, all

Yes, some

OA 02.4 List these other policies or guidance documents related to responsible investment that are publicly available and their URLs.

Policy or document name	URL
Stewardship Code	http://www.nespf.org.uk/Investment/inv_principles.asp
Corp Governance & Corp Social Responsibility	http://www.nespf.org.uk/Investment/inv_principles.asp
LAPFF Policies	http://static.lapfforum.org/LAPFF_Policies_Full_Version_Public.pdf

No

OA 02.5 Additional information. [Optional]

As an active and responsible investor North East Scotland Pension Fund believes that engagement is a major factor which should, where relevant, be taken into account when managing the Fund's assets. The concept of Long Term Responsible Investment (LTRI) and consideration of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues in our investment have been with us for a long time. As such we were one of the earliest Local Authorities to sign up to the UK Stewardship Code.

OA 03 **Mandatory** **Core Assessed** **PRI 1,2**

OA 03.1 Indicate the components/types and coverage of your responsible investment policy and guidance documents.

Select all that apply

Policy components/types	Coverage by AUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy setting out your overall approach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Proxy) voting policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement/active ownership policy <input type="checkbox"/> Specific guidelines on corporate governance <input type="checkbox"/> Specific guidelines on environmental issues <input type="checkbox"/> Specific guidelines on social issues <input type="checkbox"/> Asset class-specific guidelines <input type="checkbox"/> Screening/exclusion policy <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify	<input type="radio"/> Applicable policies cover all AUM <input checked="" type="radio"/> Applicable policies cover a majority of AUM <input type="radio"/> Applicable policies cover a minority of AUM

OA 04	Mandatory	Core Assessed	General
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OA 04.1	Indicate if your organisation has a policy on managing potential conflicts of interest in the investment process.
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Yes

OA 04.2	Describe your policy on managing potential conflicts of interest in the investment process. [Optional]
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Conflict of interests are included in our Statement of Investment Principles. The fund encourages the asset managers it employs to have effective policies addressing potential conflicts of interest. In respect of conflicts of interest within the fund, pension panel members are required to make declarations of interest prior to panel meetings.

No

Objectives and strategies

OA 05	Mandatory	Gateway/Core Assessed	General
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OA 05.1	Indicate if your organisation sets objectives for its responsible investment activities.
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Yes

OA 05.2	Indicate how frequently your organisation sets or revises objectives for responsible investment.
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At least once per year

Less than once per year

OA 05.3

Indicate how frequently your organisation formally reviews performance against its objectives for responsible investment.

- Quarterly
- Biannually
- Annually
- Every two years or less
- It is not reviewed
- No

OA 05.4

Additional information. [Optional]

LAPFF sets objectives in its work plan, which is approved annually by the LAPFF Business Meeting in January which our Fund attends. Performance against these objectives and progress in company engagements are assessed quarterly in LAPFFs quarterly report, as well as annually. At a Fund level each quarter a report on our Corporate Governance activity is presented to the Funds Investment Committee, this covers Voting, LAPFF Engagement, and UNPRI activities.

Governance and human resources

OA 08

Mandatory

Gateway/Core Assessed

General

OA 08.1

Indicate the roles present in your organisation and for each, indicate whether they have oversight and/or implementation responsibilities for responsible investment.

Roles present in your organisation

- Board members or trustees
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Investment Officer (CIO), Investment Committee
 - Oversight/accountability for responsible investment
 - Implementation of responsible investment
 - No oversight/accountability or implementation responsibility for responsible investment
- Other Chief-level staff or head of department, specify
Pension Manager

- Oversight/accountability for responsible investment
- Implementation of responsible investment
- No oversight/accountability or implementation responsibility for responsible investment
- Portfolio managers
- Investment analysts
- Dedicated responsible investment staff
 - Oversight/accountability for responsible investment
 - Implementation of responsible investment
 - No oversight/accountability or implementation responsibility for responsible investment
- External managers or service providers
 - Oversight/accountability for responsible investment
 - Implementation of responsible investment
 - No oversight/accountability or implementation responsibility for responsible investment
- Other role, specify
- Other role, specify

OA 08.2	Indicate the number of dedicated responsible investment staff your organisation has. [Optional]
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Number

1

Promoting responsible investment

OA 10	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 4,5
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OA 10.1	Select the collaborative organisation and/or initiatives of which your organisation is a member or in which it participated during the reporting year, and the role you played.
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Select all that apply

- Principles for Responsible Investment

Your organisation's role in the initiative during the reporting period (see definitions)
--

- Basic
- Moderate
- Advanced

Provide a brief commentary on the level of your organisation's involvement in the initiative.
[Optional]

Through the UNPRI - We participate in the SSE initiative and Investor Working Group

- Asian Corporate Governance Association
- Association for Sustainable & Responsible Investment in Asia
- Australian Council of Superannuation Investors
- CDP Climate Change

Your organisation's role in the initiative during the reporting period (see definitions)

- Basic
- Moderate
- Advanced

Provide a brief commentary on the level of your organisation's involvement in the initiative.
[Optional]

We participate in this initiative through our membership in LAPFF

- CDP Forests

Your organisation's role in the initiative during the reporting period (see definitions)

- Basic
- Moderate
- Advanced

Provide a brief commentary on the level of your organisation's involvement in the initiative.
[Optional]

We participate in this initiative through our membership in LAPFF

- CDP Water

Your organisation's role in the initiative during the reporting period (see definitions)

- Basic
- Moderate
- Advanced

Provide a brief commentary on the level of your organisation's involvement in the initiative. [Optional]

We participate in this initiative through our membership in LAPFF

- CFA Institute Centre for Financial Market Integrity
- Council of Institutional Investors (CII)
- Eumedion
- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

Your organisation's role in the initiative during the reporting period (see definitions)

- Basic
- Moderate
- Advanced

Provide a brief commentary on the level of your organisation's involvement in the initiative. [Optional]

We participate in this initiative through our membership in LAPFF

- Global Investors Governance Network (GIGN)
- Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB)
- Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC)
- Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)

Your organisation's role in the initiative during the reporting period (see definitions)

- Basic
- Moderate
- Advanced

Provide a brief commentary on the level of your organisation's involvement in the initiative. [Optional]

We have added our name to and participated in webinars re the Garment Industry in Bangladesh

- International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN)
- Investor Group on Climate Change, Australia/New Zealand (IGCC)
- Investor Network on Climate Risk (INCR)/CERES

Your organisation's role in the initiative during the reporting period (see definitions)

- Basic
- Moderate
- Advanced

Provide a brief commentary on the level of your organisation's involvement in the initiative. [Optional]

We participate in this initiative through our membership in LAPFF

Local Authority Pension Fund Forum

Your organisation's role in the initiative during the reporting period (see definitions)

- Basic
- Moderate
- Advanced

Provide a brief commentary on the level of your organisation's involvement in the initiative. [Optional]

We are active members of the Forum, an Officer and a member of the Investment committee attend each quarterly meeting and the Annual Conference.

Regional or National Social Investment Forums (e.g. UKSIF, Eurosif, ASRIA, RIAA), specify

UKSIF - We participate in this initiative through our membership in LAPFF

Your organisation's role in the initiative during the reporting period (see definitions)

- Basic
- Moderate
- Advanced

Provide a brief commentary on the level of your organisation's involvement in the initiative. [Optional]

We participate in this initiative through our membership in LAPFF

- Shareholder Association for Research and Education (Share)
- United Nations Environmental Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)
- United Nations Global Compact
- Other collaborative organisation/initiative, specify
- Other collaborative organisation/initiative, specify
- Other collaborative organisation/initiative, specify
- Other collaborative organisation/initiative, specify

OA 11	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 4
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OA 11.1 Indicate if your organisation promotes responsible investment, independently of collaborative initiatives.

Yes

OA 11.2

Indicate which of the following actions your organisation has taken to promote responsible investment, independently of collaborative initiatives.

- Provided or supported education or training programmes for clients, investment managers, broker/dealers, investment consultants, legal advisers or other investment organisations
- Provided financial support for academic or industry research on responsible investment
- Encouraged better transparency and disclosure of responsible investment practices across the investment industry
- Spoke publicly at events and conferences to promote responsible investment
- Wrote and published in-house research papers on responsible investment
- Encouraged the adoption of the PRI
- Other, specify

The Fund is a member of the SSE initiative and Investor Working Group

No

OA 11.3

Additional information. [Optional]

We encourage our Fund managers to expand & produce information on responsible investments in their investment reports. Each quarter in-house report is presented to our investment committee which covers responsible investments, governance, voting, and UNPRI in active which is discussed and reported in our published annual report.

North East Scotland Pension Fund

Reported Information

Public version

Indirect – Manager Selection, Appointment and Monitoring

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Overview

SAM 02

Mandatory

Core Assessed

PRI 4

SAM 02.1

Indicate if your organisation uses investment consultants and/or fiduciary managers in the selection, appointment and/or monitoring of external managers.

Yes

SAM 02.2

Indicate how your organisation uses investment consultants and/or fiduciary managers in the selection, appointment and/or monitoring of external managers. [Optional]

We use investment consultants in our selection and appointment of external managers

Asset class

- Listed Equity (LE)
- Private equity (PE)
- Property (PR)

We use investment consultants in our monitoring of external managers

Asset class

- Listed Equity (LE)
- Private equity (PE)
- Property (PR)

We use fiduciary managers

SAM 02.3

Indicate if your organisation considers responsible investment in the selection, appointment and/or review processes for investment consultants and/or fiduciary managers.

- Responsible investment is included in the selection process for investment consultants
- Consultants' responsibilities in relation to responsible investment in manager selection, appointment and monitoring processes are included in our contractual agreements with them
- Responsible investment is considered when reviewing investment consultants' advice on manager selection and performance monitoring
- We do not consider responsible investment in the selection, appointment and/or review processes for investment consultants.

No

SAM 02.4

Additional information. [Optional]

2.3 We do not at present but in the future plan to include responsibilities in relation to responsible investment into our contractual agreements.

SAM 03

Mandatory

Gateway

General

SAM 03.1

Indicate for which of the following externally managed asset classes your organisation, and/or your investment consultants, consider responsible investment factors in investment manager: (a) Selection, (b) Appointment (investment management agreements/contracts), and (c) Monitoring

Select all that apply

Asset classes	(a) Selection	(b) Appointment	(c) Monitoring
Listed equity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Private equity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Listed equity (LE), fixed income corporate (FIC) and fixed income government (FIG)

Overview

SAM 05

Mandatory

Gateway

PRI 1,2

SAM 05.1

Indicate which of the following ESG incorporation strategies you encourage or require your external manager(s) to implement on your behalf:

Active investment strategies

Active investment strategies	LE		
Screening	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Thematic	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Integration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Passive investment strategies

Passive investment strategies	LE		
Screening	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Thematic	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Integration	<input type="checkbox"/>		
None of the above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

SAM 05.2 Indicate if - on your externally managed assets - you engage directly, via service providers, or via your external manager.

	LE
We engage directly or via service providers on our externally managed assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
We require our external managers to engage on our behalf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

SAM 05.3 Indicate if - on your externally managed listed equities - you cast your (proxy) votes directly, via service providers, or via your external manager.

	LE
We cast our (proxy) votes directly or via service providers on our externally managed assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
We require our external managers to cast our (proxy) votes on our behalf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

SAM 05.4 Additional information. [Optional]

05.2 Through our membership of LAPFF we engage directly with companies. as well as requiring our external fund managers to engage on our behalf. 05.3 Our Fund votes directly for the majority of our external managers, the only exception is our Pooled Passive mandate which is voted on by the fund manager.

Selection

SAM 06	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 1-6
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SAM 06.1

Indicate whether your organisation, and/or your investment consultant, in the manager selection process for listed assets, typically do any of the following:

General

	LE		
Review the manager's responsible investment policies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Discuss managers' governance and management of responsible investment activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Meet staff with responsible investment responsibilities to assess their skills and competence	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Discuss minimum responsible investment expectations that managers must meet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Discuss the role managers have played in collaborative initiatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ask whether the organisation is a signatory to the PRI and/or other relevant organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Review the manager's responsible investment reporting to clients and/or the public, including PRI reporting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Discuss the type of ESG reporting you expect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Assign specific weighting to ESG factors in your manager evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other general aspects in your selection process, specify	<input type="checkbox"/>		
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>		

ESG incorporation

	LE		
Evaluate the quality and coverage of ESG research used by managers	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Assess how the manager incentivises brokers to provide ESG research	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Assess managers' ESG incorporation strategies and ability to identify and manage ESG issues	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Discuss with managers how ESG issues have impacted specific investment decisions and, where relevant, stock or portfolio performance	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other ESG incorporation issues in your selection process, specify	<input type="checkbox"/>		
None of the above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Engagements

	LE		
Discuss the managers' engagement processes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Discuss the role managers have played in influencing companies' ESG practices and performance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Discuss how information gained through engagement is incorporated into investment decision-making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other engagement issues in your selection process, specify	<input type="checkbox"/>		
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>		

(Proxy) voting

	LE
Discuss the managers' voting processes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discuss how information gained through research for (proxy) voting is used in investment-decision making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (proxy) voting issues in your selection process, specify	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you select any 'Other' option(s), specify

Proxy Voting is carried out In-House,

Monitoring

SAM 08	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 1
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SAM 08.1	Indicate whether your organisation, and/or your investment consultant, in the dialogue and monitoring of your external manager typically do any of the following:
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	General
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	LE		
Include responsible investment as a standard agenda item at performance review meetings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Highlight examples of good responsible investment practice by other managers	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Review the manager's responsible investment reporting, for example PRI-generated responsible investment reports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Encourage your managers to consider joining responsible investment initiatives/organisations or participate in collaborative projects with other investors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Include responsible investment criteria as a formal component of overall manager performance evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Request information on whether your manager's approach to ESG issues has impacted financial performance	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Request information on whether your manager's approach to ESG issues has impacted risk or volatility	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Request information on whether your manager's approach to ESG issues has impacted ESG performance	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other general aspects of your monitoring, specify	<input type="checkbox"/>		
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>		

ESG incorporation

	LE		
Request information on ESG incorporation in specific investment decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other ways you monitor ESG incorporation, specify	<input type="checkbox"/>		
None of the above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Engagements

	LE	
Review the ESG information relevant to the engagements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Discuss the number of engagements and their comprehensiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Discuss the type of role played (i.e. leading or supporting)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Review the progress of ongoing engagements and/or outcomes of completed engagements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other ways you monitor engagement activities, specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(Proxy) voting

	LE
Review the number or percentage of votes cast	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Request an explanation of reasons for votes cast	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discuss whether companies were informed of the reasons for votes against management recommendations or abstentions/withheld votes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review the number of resolutions on ESG issues filed or co-filed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discuss the changes in company practice (outcomes) that have been achieved from voting activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other ways you monitor (proxy) voting activities, specify	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you select any 'Other' option(s), specify

We vote in-house for all our Equity Holdings apart from our Passive Pooled Mandate.

For the IN-House voting we record the reasons and % of why we vote against/abstain and report these in our Annual Report. Through our membership of LAPFF we also have collective access to company boards to discuss issues we may have and for getting the groups reasons for not voting with management directly to the board.

SAM 09	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 2
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SAM 09.1	For the listed equities where you have given your external managers a (proxy) voting mandate, indicate the approximate percentage (+/- 5%) of votes that were cast during the reporting year.
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- We track or collect this information
- We do not track or collect this information

Communication

SAM 16	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 6
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SAM 16.1	Indicate if your organisation proactively discloses any information about responsible investment considerations in your indirect investments.
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- Yes, we disclose information publicly
- Yes, we disclose information to clients/beneficiaries only
- We do not proactively disclose information to the public and/or clients/beneficiaries

North East Scotland Pension Fund

Reported Information

Public version

Direct - Listed Equity Active Ownership

PRI disclaimer

This document presents information reported directly by signatories. This information has not been audited by the PRI Secretariat or any other party acting on their behalf. While this information is believed to be reliable, no representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy of the information presented, and no responsibility or liability can be accepted for any error or omission.

Engagement

Overview

LEA 02

Mandatory

Gateway

PRI 1,2,3

LEA 02.1

Indicate your reasons for interacting with companies on ESG issues and indicate who carries out these interactions.

Type of engagement	Reason for interaction
Individual/Internal staff engagements	<input type="checkbox"/> To support investment decision-making (e.g. company research) <input type="checkbox"/> To influence corporate practice (or identify the need to influence) on ESG issues <input type="checkbox"/> To encourage improved ESG disclosure <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We do not engage via internal staff
Collaborative engagements	<input type="checkbox"/> To support investment decision-making (e.g. company research) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To influence corporate practice (or identify the need to influence) on ESG issues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To encourage improved ESG disclosure <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify <input type="checkbox"/> We do not engage via collaborative engagements
Service provider engagements	<input type="checkbox"/> To support investment decision-making (e.g. company research) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To influence corporate practice (or identify the need to influence) on ESG issues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To encourage improved ESG disclosure <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify <input type="checkbox"/> We do not engage via service providers

LEA 02.2	Additional information. [Optional]
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As an active and responsible investor North East Scotland Pension Fund believes that engagement is a major factor which should, where relevant, be taken into account when managing the Fund's assets. The concept of Long Term Responsible Investment (LTRI) and consideration of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues in our investment are fundamental to the Fund. Our Fund does not have the resources to engage with companies in-house, we conduct all our engagement through collaborative engagement networks. We are active members of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum which has more than 20 years of experience engaging with companies on matters of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. We attend all business meetings and annual conference. LAPFF's engagement approach is based on the following core principles:

- Company engagement is conducted on the basis of reputational; risk and long-term value for shareholders. The Forum does not generally take an ethical stance on issues
- Engagement should seek to improve the performance of laggard companies while also striving to acknowledge and encourage companies that are leaders.
- The Forum seeks to understand the company perspective on controversial issues before suggesting opportunities to improve governance or corporate responsibility practices.
- All engagement meeting notes and company correspondence are kept strictly confidential in order to protect the company's reputation and allow for open and honest dialogue.
- In the interest of transparency and stewardship, the Forum reports on its engagement activities quarterly. Quarterly reporting is general in nature and does not reveal confidential information. Our Fund has also signed up to various UNPRI initiatives, Global Investor Statement on Climate Change, Global Investor Statement on the Arms Trade and are a member of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Investor Working Group.

Process

Process for engagements conducted via collaborations

LEA 05	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 2
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LEA 05.1	Indicate whether your organisation has a formal process for identifying and prioritising collaborative engagements.
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Yes

LEA 05.2	Describe how you identify and prioritise collaborative engagements.
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The LAPFF Executive Committee gathers input from the members and the primary service provider and advises on what engagement collaborations to pursue and prioritise.

Where a significant number of LAPFF funds hold a company or where LAPFF funds hold a large percentage of the company. LAPFF will seek to engage with the relevant company.

Also through our membership of the UNPRI - we have access to lots of information and when something rased there falls in line with Fund's objectives we will participate,

No

LEA 06	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 2
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LEA 06.1 Indicate if the collaborative engagements in which you are involved have defined objectives.

- Yes
 - Yes, for all collaborative engagement activities
 - Yes, for the majority of collaborative engagement activities
 - Yes, for a minority of collaborative engagement activities
- No

LEA 06.2 Indicate if you monitor the actions companies take following your collaborative engagements.

- Yes
 - Yes, in all cases
 - Yes, in the majority of cases
 - Yes, in the minority of cases

LEA 06.3 Describe how you monitor and evaluate the progress of your collaborative engagement activities.

For LAPFF- initiated engagements, progress is monitored by the service provider and progress reports are provided to members in the form of the Quarterly Engagement Report. Before each engagement meeting LAPFF sets out two of three objectives, then following the meeting we indicate if we achieved each objective and if so how. We then provide an assessment of progress ranging from no progress to substantial improvement.

For other collaborative engagements through organisations like the CDP or INCR LAPFF will monitor companies for progress where LAPFF has a direct engagement interest or ongoing relationship with that company. For companies where LAPFF does not have a direct relationship, we allow other collaborators to evaluate company progress and report back.

- No

Process for engagements conducted with/on your behalf by service providers

LEA 07

Mandatory

Core Assessed

PRI 2,4

LEA 07.1 Indicate if you play a role in the engagement process that your service provider conducts on your behalf.

- Yes

LEA 07.2	Indicate what role you play in engagements that your service provider conducts on your behalf.
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- Specify the issues for the engagement
 - Specify the objectives for the engagement
 - Select the companies to be engaged with
 - Participate directly in the engagements with your service provider
 - Actively monitor and review the activities of the service provider
 - Other, specify
- No

LEA 07.3	Additional information. [Optional]
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As a LAPFF member, we have an opportunity at quarterly business meetings to suggest topics or companies for engagement. The Executive Committee makes the decision on whether or not to go forward with an engagement suggested by a LAPFF member. LAPFF's progress is actively monitored and reviewed at each quarterly business meeting. In addition the Executive Committee assesses the performance of LAPFF primary service provider annually.

LEA 08	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 2,6
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LEA 08.1	Indicate whether you monitor and/or discuss the following information provided to you by your service provider
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Please select all that apply

- The subject (or ESG issue(s)) of engagement
- The objectives of the engagement
- The rationale for engagement
- The frequency/intensity of interactions with companies
- Progress towards achieving engagement goals
- Outcomes that have been achieved from the engagement
- Next steps for engagement activity
- Other, specify
- None of the above

LEA 08.2	Additional information. [Optional]
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Our Fund monitors the progress of LAPFF on the topics listed above by means of the quarterly business meeting. A report is also presented to the Funds investment committee on a quarterly basis detailing the engagement activity of LAPFF.

General processes for all three groups of engagers			
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LEA 10	Mandatory	Gateway/Core Assessed	PRI 2
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LEA 10.1

Indicate if you track the number of engagements your organisation participates in.

Type of engagement	Tracking engagements
Collaborative engagements	<input type="radio"/> Yes, we track the number of our engagements in full <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes, we partially track the number of our engagements <input type="radio"/> No, we do not track our engagements but can provide a reasonable estimate of our engagement numbers <input type="radio"/> No, we do not track and cannot estimate our engagements
Service provider engagements	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes, we track the number of our engagements in full <input type="radio"/> Yes, we partially track the number of our engagements <input type="radio"/> No, we do not track our engagements but can provide a reasonable estimate of our engagement numbers <input type="radio"/> No, we do not track and cannot estimate our engagements

LEA 10.2

Additional information. [Optional]

LAPFF tracks the number of companies that it engages with directly and reports this quarterly as well as annually, all incoming and outgoing correspondence as well as all meetings and phone calls with companies are saved and recorded, allowing LAPFF to provide accurate and comparable statistics on number and type of engagements year on year.

For collaborative engagements LAPFF endeavours to track how many companies it reaches. However, the number of companies where the number of companies contacted numbers into the hundreds in a collaborative engagement is not systematically tracked.

Communication**LEA 15****Mandatory****Core Assessed****PRI 2,6****LEA 15.1**

Indicate whether your organisation proactively discloses information on its engagements.

We disclose it publicly

provide URL

http://www.nespf.org.uk/Investment/inv_lapff.asp

provide URL

<http://www.lapfforum.org>

LEA 15.2 | Indicate if the information disclosed to the public is the same as that disclosed to clients/beneficiaries.

Yes

LEA 15.3 | Indicate what engagement information your organisation proactively discloses to clients/beneficiaries and/or the public.

Engagement information disclosed

- Details of the selections, priorities and specific goals of engagement
- Number of engagements
- Breakdown of engagements by type/topic
- Breakdown of engagements by region
- An assessment of the current status of the engagement
- Outcomes that have been achieved from the engagement
- Other information

LEA 15.4 | Indicate how frequently you typically report engagements information.

- Disclosed continuously (prior to and post engagements)
- Disclosed quarterly
- Disclosed annually
- Disclosed every two years or less
- Other, specify
- No
- We disclose it to clients and/or beneficiaries only
- We do not proactively disclose it to the public and/or clients/beneficiaries.

(Proxy) voting and shareholder resolutions

Process

LEA 17	Mandatory	Descriptive	PRI 2
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LEA 17.1 | Indicate how you typically make your (proxy) voting decisions and what this approach is based on.

Approach

- We use our own research or voting team and make our own voting decisions without the use of service providers.
- We hire service provider(s) which make voting recommendations or provide research that we use to inform our voting decisions.

Based primarily on

- the service provider voting policy signed off by us
- our own voting policy
- our clients requests or policy
- other, explain
- We hire service provider(s) which make voting decisions on our behalf, except for some pre-defined scenarios for which we review and make voting decisions.
- We hire service provider(s) which make voting decisions on our behalf.

LEA 17.2 Additional information.[Optional]

As a long term shareholder one of the main tools open to the NESPF is to use its influence is by exercising its voting power on governance, social and environmental factors with the companies in which it invests. Apart from our Pooled Passive Fund we vote in-house on at all AGM's and EGM's where the Fund is entitled to vote. The Fund's voting advice is provided by P.I.R.C (Pensions& Investment Research Consultants Ltd). PIRC is the UK's leading independent research and advisory consultancy. In additional the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) also provides us with research including the receipt of regular alerts on companies with serious corporate governance failings. Both sources of information are taken into account when making our voting decisions

LEA 21	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 2
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LEA 21.1 Indicate if you ensure that companies are informed of the rationale when you and/or the service providers acting on your behalf abstain or vote against management recommendations.

- Yes, in most cases
- Sometimes, in the following cases:
- No
- Not applicable as we and/or our service providers do not abstain or vote against management recommendations

Outputs and outcomes

LEA 22	Mandatory	Core Assessed	PRI 2
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LEA 22.1 For listed equities where you and/or your service provider has the mandate to issue (proxy) voting instructions, indicate the percentage of votes cast during the reporting year.

- We do track or collect this information

	Votes cast (to the nearest 1%)
	%
	100

Specify the basis on which this percentage is calculated

- of the total number of ballot items on which you could have issued instructions
- of the total number of company meetings at which you could have voted
- of the total value of your listed equity holdings on which you could have voted
- We do not track or collect this information

Communication

LEA 26

Mandatory

Core Assessed

PRI 2,6

LEA 26.1

Indicate if your organisation proactively discloses information on your voting activities.

- We disclose it publicly

provide URL

http://www.nespf.org.uk/Investment/inv_accounts.asp

LEA 26.2

Indicate if the information disclosed to the public is the same as that disclosed to clients/beneficiaries.

- Yes

LEA 26.3

Indicate the voting information your organisation proactively discloses to the public and/or to clients/beneficiaries.

Indicate how much of your voting record you disclose

- All voting decisions
- Some voting decisions
- Only abstentions and opposing vote decisions
- Summary of votes only

Indicate what level of explanation you provide

- Explain all voting decisions
- Explain some voting decisions
- Only explain abstentions and votes against management
- No explanations provided

LEA 26.4

Indicate how frequently you typically report voting information.

- Continuously (primarily before meetings)
- Continuously (soon after votes are cast)
- Quarterly or more frequently
- Between quarterly and annually
- Less frequently than annually
- Other, specify
- No
- We disclose it to clients/beneficiaries only
- We do not proactively disclose our voting activities to the public and/or to clients/beneficiaries