## **IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT**

### **Besam Limited Retirement Benefits Scheme**

The Trustee of the Besam Limited Retirement Benefits Scheme prepared this implementation statement in compliance with the governance standards introduced under the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2013 (as amended). Its purpose is to demonstrate how, and the extent to which, the Scheme's Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) has been followed, if there has been any review of the SIP and how the policies on voting, stewardship and engagement have been followed. This statement covers the period 5 April 2023 to 5 April 2024.

#### A. Voting and Engagement Policy

The policy as set out in the SIP in respect of voting, stewardship and engagement is in summary as follows:

- i. The Scheme only invests via pooled investment funds, meaning that the Scheme's investments are pooled with those of other investors. It can be harder for those invested in pooled funds to exert their influence, given the other investors with a stake, but the Trustee still monitors and engages as much as possible.
- ii. Voting decisions on stocks are delegated to the investment manager of the pooled funds held by the Scheme.
- iii. SEI, the Scheme's Fiduciary Manager, or the investment manager of a third party pooled fund, has full discretion for undertaking engagement activities in respect of the investments.
- iv. Where the investment manager is SEI, they have pooled their holdings in their funds with other investors and employed a specialist proxy voting service provider for voting and engagement services.
- v. SEI will report on voting and engagement activity to the Trustee on a periodic basis together with its adherence to the UK Stewardship Code. The Trustee will consider whether the approach taken was appropriate or whether an alternative approach is necessary. The Fiduciary Manager is a signatory to the UK Stewardship Code 2020.
- vi. The Trustee will assess the Fiduciary Manager's performance against objectives annually including how well the Fiduciary Manager is aligned with the SIP in terms of ESG factors.

The Trustee is of the opinion that this policy has been followed during the year. In particular:

- The Trustee has received and reviewed quarterly reports from SEI that set out
  - How SEI has voted on all the shares where SEI has voting rights including number of votes for, against and abstentions. For votes against, details of the issue to which the vote relate is provided.
  - The number of companies engaged and the number of milestones achieved by engagement issue.

- The Trustee reviewed the above quarterly reports throughout the Scheme year and monitored performance. The Trustee was satisfied with the content of the report and that SEI's performance was in line with the SIP and the Trustee's expectations.
- The Trustee has considered SEI's voting practices and stewardship policies noting that they are a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment.
- The Trustee has a process in place to review SEI's performance against objectives, including ESG factors.

SEI's engagement priorities which for 2023 included priorities in each of the following categories:

- o Climate change
- o Sustainable Agriculture
- Modern Slavery
- o Future of Work
- o Board Governance

SEI's engagement efforts are primarily focused on public equities; however, many companies represented in our engagement efforts are also held in fixed income strategies. SEI believes that these fixed income funds also benefit from the positive progress that results from productive shareholder engagement. The engagement on climate change through SEI's collaboration with their engagement partner spans both equity and fixed income.

In light of the above and otherwise, the Trustee has considered their policy in regard to voting and stewardship and concluded that

- SEI's voting and stewardship policies and implementation on behalf of the Trustee remains aligned with the Trustee's views on these matters.
- The current policy is appropriate and no further action is required at this stage, albeit the Trustee will continue to monitor the performance of this policy and SEI's performance in the future.

#### B. Voting Record

All underlying securities in pooled funds that have voting rights are managed by SEI with SEI having the legal right to the underlying votes. SEI in turn use Glass Lewis as a proxy voting service provider for all voting. SEI provide Glass Lewis with the holdings across all SEI's pooled funds and the proxy votes are cast according to a policy set out by SEI. During the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, across the Scheme's holdings<sup>1</sup> SEI voted<sup>2</sup> as follows, including the percentage of overall votable items voted on:

Fund Name	Global Managed Volatility	Global Select Equity	Dynamic Asset Allocation	Emerging Markets Equity
ISIN	IE00B19H3542	IE00B295X008	IE00B5NNKL10	IE0002515637
Number of Votable Meetings	515	462	690	768

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> SEI has shown voting data for the relevant quarters the fund was invested in.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Source: SEI and Glass Lewis

Number of Votable Items	8052	7779	14698	6892
% of Items Voted	92%	96%	91%	100%
For	87%	88%	91%	86%
Against	11%	8%	8%	12%
Abstain/ Withheld/ Other	2%	4%	1%	2%
% of votes with management	90%	91%	92%	83%
% of votes against management	10%	8%	8%	13%
% of votes other	0%	1%	1%	4%
Voting Against/Abstain by Category				
Capital Related	8%	4%	7%	15%
Board/Directors/Governance	46%	38%	51%	56%
Remuneration Related	16%	21%	24%	15%
Shareholder Proposals	27%	33%	16%	1%
Other	4%	3%	1%	13%

Fund Name	Factor Allocation Global Equity	MPF UK Equity Index Fund
ISIN	IE00BDD7WJ18	GB00BDCLKV27
Number of Votable Meetings	776	685
Number of Votable Items	13526	12193
% of Items Voted	96%	54%
For	87%	-
Against	9%	-
Abstain/ Withheld/ Other	4%	-
% of votes with management	89%	83%
% of votes against management	10%	17%
% of votes other	1%	0%
Voting Against/Abstain by Category		
Capital Related	11%	-
Board/Directors/Governance	46%	-
Remuneration Related	16%	-
Shareholder Proposals	17%	-
Other	11%	-

# C. Significant Votes

A highlight of some of the significant votes<sup>2</sup> during the period are shown in the table below. These votes are considered to be significant as they have a material impact on the company or the wider community. SEI selects votes based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Votes SEI consider to be high profile which have such a degree of controversy that there is high client and/ or public scrutiny.
- Votes relating to companies with a high or severe ESG risk rating.
- Votes relating to our 2023 thematic priorities as described in section A.

To date the Trustee has accepted SEI's position on what constitutes a significant vote but this will be kept under consideration.

Company Name	Held in Fund(s)  (% size of holding) <sup>3</sup>	Theme	Date of Vote and Outcome	Vote Decision and Significance of vote
Amazon	Dynamic Asset Allocation (<0.5%)  Factor Allocation Global Equity (<0.5%)  Global Select Equity (<0.5%)	Board Governance	Date: 24/05/2023 Outcome: For	Voted For the 'Shareholder Proposal Regarding Report on Working Conditions'. Amazon has faced scrutiny and exposure to a variety of risks on account of its worker health and safety. An analysis of work-related injury data from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") showed that the Company's warehouse jobs can be more dangerous than comparable warehouses, as the Company has reported a higher rate of serious injury incidents that caused employees to miss or shift work duties more than other retail warehouses since 2017. Amazon has been fined in recent years for violating workplace safety laws by requiring warehouse employees to perform repetitive motions at a fast pace, increasing their risk of injury. This vote is considered significant because Amazon is a high profile company and if the company does not provide appropriate working conditions it can face regulatory action, legal fines and reputational harm which are often reported in the media. Additionally, high turnover and problems attracting workers can lead to the erosion of shareholder value. The additional disclosure and independent audit report would likely allow employees to provide an honest assessment of their experiences and would provide some assurance to shareholders that the working conditions are being evaluated. Amazon has a high ESG risk rating.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> % holding as at last day of the quarter in which vote occurred.

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ArcelorMittal SA  Dynamic Asset Allocation (<0.5%)  Factor Allocation Global Equity (<0.5%)  Global Select Equity (<0.5%)  Glo	has had ated a number fines and gative
Factor Allocation Global Equity (<0.5%)  Global Select Equity (<0.	ited a number fines and gative
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(<0.5%)  Global Select Equity (<0.5%)  Frequency  The continued occurrence of the continued occurrence of the continued occurrence of the continued occurrence of the continued occurrence occurrence of the continued occurrence o	gative
Global Select Equity (<0.5%)  media coverage. In 2022, Arce reported 22 work-related death of which were caused by a me explosion in ArcelorMittal's Karcoal mine in November 2022. is deemed significant because are substantial concerns regare oversight of health and safety at ArcelorMittal SA which the bresponsible. The continued occars.	,
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related issues, indicates the Co	
may have failed to meaningfull	
address these issues in a way	
satisfies shareholders' interest	
Company continues to be expo	
significant legal and reputation	
as a result of legal and regulat	
proceedings and controversies	
involved in. It is therefore not in shareholders' best interests to	
the actions of the Company's of	
under these circumstances.	ancolors
ArcelorMittal SA has a high ES	SG risk
rating.	
Axon Enterprise Inc Dynamic Asset Social Date: Voted For the 'Shareholder Pro	nnosal
Allocation (<0.5%) Governance 31/05/2023 Regarding Discontinuation of F	
a Remotely-Operated, Non-Le	
Global Select Equity Outcome: Taser Drone System'. After a r	
(<0.5%) Against of mass shootings in the Unite	
Axon Enterprise Inc announce	
Factor Allocation had begun the development of	
Global Equity   lethal, remotely-operated TASI   (<0.5%)   drone system as part of a long	
(<0.5%) drone system as part of a long plan to stop mass shootings,	y-101111
particularly in schools. The lac	ck of
disclosure on ethical consider	
and safety precautions pertain	ing to
the launch of the TASER drone	e system
is a concern. This vote is cons	
significant because the taser d	
has had substantial media cov	
on how effective it would be an	
to gain the support of stakehol local communities prior to laun	
this product could present sign	
challenges for the Company. A	
Enterprise Inc has a severe ES	
rating.	
Exxon Mobil Corp. Dynamic Asset Environmental Date: Voted For the 'Shareholder Pro	
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	Global Managed Volatility (<0.5%)  Global Select Equity (<0.5%)  Factor Allocation Global Equity (<0.5%)		Outcome: Against	operates one of the largest oil fields discovered in the past decade, offshore of the South American country Guyana. Concerns were raised that the Company had disregarded safety-related issues and failed to adequately prepare for possible disasters in the region. This vote is considered significant because Exxon Mobil Corp's responsibility and potential liability with respect to its response to an oil spill are of concern to shareholders and an oil spill would have wider environmental and public impact. The production of a report evaluating the economic, human, and environmental impacts of a worst-case oil spill from its operations offshore of Guyana would help provide shareholders with reassurance that these matters were being handled in a way that served their best interests and would provide more insight into how it intends to mitigate safety-related risks. Exxon Mobil Corp. has a severe ESG risk rating.
Meta Platforms Inc	Dynamic Asset Allocation (<0.5%)  Global Select Equity (<0.5%)	Social Governance	Date: 31/05/2023 Outcome: For	Voted For the 'Shareholder Proposal Regarding Targets and Report on Child Safety Impacts'. Meta Platforms Inc is the world's largest social media company with billions of children and teen users, and the Company's platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, and WhatsApp, have been linked to numerous child safety impacts and social policy challenges. In 2021, nearly 29 million cases of online child sexual abuse material were reported, and nearly 27 million of those (92%) stemmed from the Company's platforms. This vote is deemed significant as Meta Platforms Inc is a high profile company and it has no publicly available, Company-wide child safety or harm reduction performance targets for shareholders and stakeholders to judge the effectiveness of the Company's policies and actions. Therefore, the adoption of metrics could help the shareholders evaluate the Company's current actions and further mitigation of child safety cases on their platforms. Meta Platforms Inc has a high ESG risk rating.

Chevron Corp.	Dynamic Asset Allocation (<0.5%)  Global Managed Volatility (<0.5%)  Global Select Equity (<0.5%)  Factor Allocation Global Equity (<0.5%)	Environmental Governance	Date: 31/05/2023 Outcome: For	Voted For the 'Shareholder Proposal Regarding Recalculated Emissions Baseline'. Since 2016, Chevron Corp. reports a 4.7% reduction in its portfolio carbon intensity, but between 2017 and 2021, it sold more assets than any other American oil and gas company, and it is unclear how the Company accounts for these divestitures in its emissions reporting. Shareholders cannot determine whether the Company's reported GHG reductions are the result of operational improvements or of transferring
				emissions off its books. This vote is deemed significant as disclosure of a recalculated baseline emissions figure could provide useful context to shareholders concerning the Company's progress on its goals and climate targets and would ensure accuracy and comparability of emissions reporting. Chevron Corp. has a high ESG risk rating.
J.B. Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Emerging Market Equity (<0.5%)	Governance	Date: 24/08/2023 Outcome: For	Voted Against the 'Shareholder Proposal to Approve Revised Remuneration of Nikhil Chopra (CEO & Whole-Time Director)'. J.B. Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. is proposing a significant increase in Mr. Chopra's remuneration from approximately INR 41,811,120 per annum to approximately INR 72,339,869 per annum as a fixed component along with an increase to the bonus and incentives from approximately INR 24,555,732 per annum as a variable component to approximately INR 42,485,320. The significant increase in remuneration can be seen as controversial especially since the company has failed to provide sufficient justification for the increase. The company had already proposed an increase to Mr. Chopra's remuneration at the Company's AGM last year in August 2022 which was heavily opposed by the shareholders (60.91% voted against).
Tyson Foods, Inc.	Dynamic Asset Allocation (<0.5%)	Modern Slavery	Date: 08/02/2024	Voted For the proposal to request 'that Tyson Foods, Inc. commission an independent third-party audit
	Global Select Equity (<0.5%)		Outcome: For	assessing the effectiveness of its policies and practices to prevent illegal child labour. In March 2023, a Department of Labour ("DOL") investigation found the use of illegal

	Company's contract Sanitation Services the night shifts and dangerous chemical processing equipment and head splitters. deemed significant remain concerned to the sanitation of the sanitation	nessee facilities, en, employed by the stor Packers Inc., worked during were exposed to als and meat ent like back saws This vote is as shareholders the illegal use of significant financial, and human rights a Company's value lent audit of child d help to protect sts, additionally ith progress and ation with workers, r relevant l enable the appropriate re compliance with
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## D. Engagement Activity

A highlight of some of the engagements during the period are shown in the table below. SEI conducts shareholder engagement collaboratively through third party specialists Sustainalytics and Columbia Threadneedle Investment reo. Each case study<sup>4</sup> describes a milestone achieved relating to our engagement priorities as described in section A.

Company Name	Held in Fund(s)	Theme	Objective	Description
ASM International NV	Dynamic Asset Allocation	Climate Change	Set a science- based target.	Through ongoing engagement, Columbia Threadneedle Investments reo® encouraged Dutch semiconductor manufacturer ASM International to set ambitious emissions reduction targets.  While ASM International had previously set a net zero target, the company's Scope 3 emissions had not been included in carbon-footprinting or goal- setting. In its 2022 annual report, ASM International disclosed that it had completed a full assessment of its Scope 3 emissions and had submitted targets aligned to 1.5°C to the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi). The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Source: SEI and Sustainalytics

				company is awaiting approval from SBTi, expected in the second half of 2023.
Southwest Airlines	Dynamic Asset Allocation	Climate Change	Set emissions reduction targets, publish a sustainable aviation fuel procurement policy, and address contrail emissions.	Columbia Threadneedle Investments reo® has been engaging with Southwest Airlines since the beginning of 2022, and the company has been receptive and open to dialogue on a number of climate-related issues.  While Southwest Airlines had already set a target to reduce its emissions intensity by 20% by 2030, the company lags many industry peers that have set targets aligned with a below-2°C scenario. Much of the company's efforts will rely on incorporating sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) into its fuel mix, but it had not provided clarity on how ESG risks related to SAF use would be managed through procurement. Additionally, the company had not been actively engaged in efforts to manage contrail emissions.  In Columbia Threadneedle's meeting with Southwest in the first quarter of 2023, the company shared that it anticipated publishing enhanced climate targets in the near future, and updated investors that it had published the five criteria of its SAF policy that lays out which types of SAF the company will use. Additionally, Southwest has become a founding member of the Contrail Impact Task Force that is working to address contrail emissions in the industry. Columbia Threadneedle will continue to engage the company on these issues going forward.
Archer-Daniels- Midland	Global Managed Volatility  Factor Allocation Global Equity Fund  Dynamic Asset Allocation	Thematic engagement – Sustainable agriculture	Setting goals to eliminate deforestation	Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM) is an American multinational food processing and commodities corporation that Sustainalytics has been engaging since 2021, focusing on biodiversity, deforestation, and pesticides & fertilizers. As one of the world's largest agricultural processors and food ingredient providers, ADM has an important role to play in setting sustainable industry standards.  In May 2023, Sustainalytics held a call with the Chief Sustainability Officer of ADM, discussing their sustainability governance and progress in eliminating

Roche Holding AG	Global Managed Volatility Factor Allocation Global Equity Fund Dynamic Asset Allocation	Thematic engagement – Climate change	Set targets in alignment with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and increase disclosure	deforestation. ADM published its latest sustainability report the same month, outlining progress on the company's goal to eliminate deforestation from all of its supply chains by 2025. 86% of the soy supply chain and 62% of the palm supply chain are now third-party verified deforestation-free. ADM advised that they have conducted a risk assessment for other commodities, but have chosen to focus on soy and palm due to the associated deforestation and human rights risks. In the final year of the engagement, Sustainalytics will focus on management of land use impacts, biodiversity, and soil health in the company's agricultural supply chain.  Roche is a Swiss multinational company and one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. Columbia Threadneedle Investments reo has been engaging with Roche for many years on a number of environmental, social, and governance topics, with a strong focus on climate change.  In a meeting in the second quarter, Roche shared their 2023 aspirations, including the prioritization of resource allocation towards long-term sustainability goals and the appointment of a Chief Sustainability Officer. Disclosure has been a significant focus of engagement efforts with the company, which recently announced plans to refine and further develop its reporting strategy. They plan to submit emission reduction targets to the Science Based Targets initiative before the end of 2023. However, at this time Roche is still not considering a particular demand to participate in the CDP survey. Columbia Threadneedle will continue to engage Roche on improving transparency and additional climate issues going forward.
Johnson & Johnson (J&J)	Dynamic Asset Allocation  Global Select Equity  Factor Allocation Global Equity	Global standards – Product quality and safety	Remedy deficiencies in the company's quality management system	Johnson & Johnson is an American multinational pharmaceutical company that has been implicated repeated in quality and safety issues related to several of its offerings, including talc-based products. Sustainalytics has engaged with the company over the last five years to ensure that the lessons learned from the numerous product quality issues have been

Managed atility	incorporated into company protocols and procedures to minimize the risk of future litigation.
	Over the years the company has improved its ESG disclosures on clinical trial data, quality management, and product stewardship. Reductions in both FDA activity against the company and subsequent product recalls suggest improved quality control. It is reported that J&J still faces a high number of lawsuits, so the potential for future litigation cannot be discounted. However, in August 2022 the company announced that it was discontinuing worldwide sales of talc-based products by the end of 2023. Considering improvements in product quality and safety management, and a lack of any new severe product quality and safety issues, Sustainalytics decided to resolve the case.

The information relating to the significant votes is derived from public third party source(s). While the information is believed to be reliable, SEI has not sought to verify it independently. This material is intended to be for information purposes only and has been provided to SEI's client at their request. This data is not intended as promotional material in any respect.