



# Transfer of customer assets

## Questions and Answers

### What is changing?

We are planning to transfer the assets of investors in certain share classes from our UK-based OEIC<sup>1</sup> fund range into equivalent share classes within our established Luxembourg-based SICAV<sup>2</sup> range. The transfers will be made by a process called a scheme of arrangement. Following this, the affected OEIC share classes will be wound up. The proposals are subject to shareholder approval.

### Why are you making these changes?

When the UK leaves the European Union (and at the end of any associated transition period), we expect that UK-based OEIC funds will lose their UCITS<sup>3</sup> status. As far as we know there is nothing prohibiting EU and non-UK investors from remaining in an OEIC fund. However, our aim is to provide certainty for our investors and to ensure they can continue to access our best investment strategies while also remaining in a UCITS-compliant fund, regardless of the final agreement between the UK and the EU.

### How will investors be affected by the transfers?

The Luxembourg funds will be managed in the same way as the existing UK funds, by the same fund manager. The Annual Management Charge (AMC) for investors in the SICAV will be set at the same levels as existed in the OEIC. Investors should note that a *taxe d'abonnement* (subscription tax) of 0.05% per annum applies to retail share classes in all Luxembourg SICAVs and this will be included in the operating expenses incurred by investors. For qualifying institutional investors investing into an institutional share class this tax reduces to 0.01% per annum.

### Have you communicated with investors in the impacted funds?

Yes. We have written to all impacted investors to explain the changes and how these may affect them.

### What options do investors have?

Our priority is to provide continuity and certainty for investors in our funds. We therefore encourage investors to vote in favour of the changes. However, if investors do not agree with the changes, they have the following options:

1. They can vote against the changes. Please remember, if 75% or more of the votes cast are in favour of the transfer for each resolution, the transfer will go ahead and their investment will be moved to the SICAV.
2. They can move their investment, free of charge, to another of our funds not impacted by the transfers.
3. They can cash in their investment before the transfer free of charge.

### Are there EU and non-UK investors in other Threadneedle OEIC funds?

There are other funds in our OEIC range with very small portions of EU and non-UK investors. Should any of these investors want to transfer to an alternative fund or share class we will be happy to facilitate this. OEIC funds are likely to continue to be UCITS-compliant through the transition period until December 2020, which gives investors additional time to consider their options. We will be communicating with these investors in one of our regular shareholder mailings.

### What are the tax implications of moving from an OEIC to a SICAV?

There may be tax implications depending on individual circumstances. We are unable to provide tax advice and we therefore suggest that investors seek professional advice about any potential tax implications.

<sup>1</sup>OEIC stands for open-ended investment company.

<sup>2</sup>SICAV stands for *société d'investissement à capital variable*, which is simply French for "investment company with variable capital".

<sup>3</sup>UCITS stands for Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities. UCITS provides a harmonised regulatory regime for the management and sale of mutual funds within the European Union.

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