

**Interim Long Report and Unaudited Financial Statements**  
**Six Months ended**  
**15 March 2023**

## **AXA Framlington UK Select Opportunities Fund**



**Issued by AXA Investment Managers UK Ltd authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority**

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\* These collectively comprise the Authorised Fund Manager's ("the Manager's") Report for the Trust.

More detailed information about AXA Investment Managers' UK funds is available on the Fund Centre of our website where you can find the Prospectus, Key Investor Information Document (KIID), annual reports and monthly fund factsheets at <https://retail.axa-im.co.uk/fund-centre>.

## **Fund Objective & Investment Policy**

The aim of AXA Framlington UK Select Opportunities Fund (“the Fund”) is to provide long-term capital growth.

The Fund has at least 70% of its investments in shares of companies domiciled, incorporated or having significant business in the UK which the Manager believes will provide above-average returns. The Fund invests in companies of any size. The Manager selects shares based upon analysis of a company's financial status, quality of its management, expected profitability and prospects for growth.

The Manager has full discretion to select investments for the Fund in line with the above investment policy and in doing so may take into consideration the FTSE All Share index. The FTSE All Share index is designed to measure the performance of all eligible companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. This index best represents a core component of the Managers' investment universe.

This Fund is actively managed in reference to the FTSE All Share index, which may be used by investors to compare the Fund's performance.

## Investment Review

Over the reporting period, the fund declined by 2.13% (Z class net of fees) versus a rise of 1.85% for its comparative Index (FTSE All-Share) in a period dominated by the effects of inflation, interest rate expectations, macro-economic data points and the path of conflict in Ukraine.

As we have stated in prior reports, the Fund's investment philosophy and process remains unaltered. We continue to meet numerous management teams (increasingly face-to-face) that are exhibiting an ability to grow and compound their profitability and cash flows, are well managed, and have sufficient balance sheet strength to support that growth.

Inflation and its primary route cause, COVID-19, have dominated the reporting period from a global capital flow, sentiment and share price perspective. The combination of societal lockdowns, subsequent and instantaneous societal re-openings, combined with inexhaustible, zero-cost debt pushed the micro-economic supply curve to the left, the demand curve to the right and inflation took off. Many of the distortions to global trade have normalised, reducing these inflationary forces to some degree. For example, over the past year, copper has fallen 14%, wheat 33%, cotton 41%, natural gas 61% and shipping costs reported by the Global Freight Rate Index are close to pre-COVID levels. In addition, the predictability of supply chains has improved with port congestion falling materially, reducing the need for companies to overorder and distort the real level of demand. It is worth noting that labour inflation remains stubborn in the UK in particular, however company management teams are highlighting reduced staff churn and expect wage inflation to reduce over the next year. The lead indicators suggest inflation will reduce from elevated levels but a return to the 2% targeted by Western Central Banks continues to feel some way off.

'Inflation is like toothpaste. Once it's out, you can hardly get it back in again.' (Karl Otto Pohl)

Central banks have responded, interest rates have risen and the days of a risk-free borrowing rate anchored at zero are over. The creative destruction heralded by Schumpeter can once again function, the economic bar will be raised and those businesses that are heavily indebted, have no pricing power and cannot grow organically, will languish or disappear. The natural inclination of investors is to focus on demand, whereas encumbered and falling supply is likely to become a material contributor to competitive advantage. This fits with our thematic of the 'Strong getting Stronger', where companies such as Dunelm, by virtue of their market position, funding structure and management ability, will continue to take additional market share.

An unanchored risk-free rate changes the game. Business models where equity returns are predicated on leverage are no longer fit for purpose. Property companies with high loan-to-value, that have relied on falling yields, whilst adding no incremental value through development or improvement will no longer experience the warmth of expanding capital values. In addition, ordinary businesses, disguised as great ones via the addition of significant leverage, will experience a shift in the balance of power from the equity, to the debt as refinancing of borrowings at higher interest rates absorb more of the cash profits that would ordinarily have accrued to growth capex, additional employees or equity holders. Also, loss-making businesses which may conceivably never have a chance of making a profit, will find capital is less freely available to fund their ambition.

Societal behaviour is changing in response. Bank deposits held in current accounts by both individuals and businesses have earned little or no interest for many years. As interest rates have risen, banks have passed as little of this benefit onto their customers as possible. Given the levels of liquidity in the global economy, there has been little need for banks

### Top Ten Holdings

as at 15 March 2023

	%
<b>AstraZeneca</b>	<b>5.76</b>
<i>Health Care</i>	
<b>Diageo</b>	<b>5.22</b>
<i>Consumer Staples</i>	
<b>Shell</b>	<b>4.33</b>
<i>Energy</i>	
<b>BP</b>	<b>4.13</b>
<i>Energy</i>	
<b>GSK</b>	<b>4.06</b>
<i>Health Care</i>	
<b>Reckitt Benckiser</b>	<b>3.89</b>
<i>Consumer Staples</i>	
<b>London Stock Exchange</b>	<b>3.42</b>
<i>Financials</i>	
<b>Experian</b>	<b>3.13</b>
<i>Jersey</i>	
<b>Rentokil Initial</b>	<b>2.69</b>
<i>Industrials</i>	
<b>Prudential</b>	<b>2.68</b>
<i>Financials</i>	

## Investment Review (Continued)

to attract additional deposits by increasing savings rates. Businesses and individuals now realise that they can get superior returns by moving cash balances into money market funds (for example) and as a result, bank deposit balances are falling rapidly. In extremis, deposit withdrawals can gain dramatic momentum causing a liquidity crisis and potentially insolvency. Silicon Valley Bank ("SVB"), offering perfect liquidity to its creditors but holding long duration assets recently saw a 'run on deposits' and was subsequently, and through necessity, bailed out by a fast acting Central Bank and regulator. Technology is a great enabler but in the case of SVB, depositors were able to withdraw money electronically without having to queue to take physical cash from tellers (who would be under instruction to count the notes slowly and buy time!). In 2008, US banking company, Washington Mutual suffered a catastrophic run on deposits with \$16.7bn being withdrawn in two weeks. In 2023, SVB saw \$42bn withdrawn in 48 hours! Technology and regulation are not synchronised. We remain underweight banks.

One person's asset is another person's liability. Increasing discount rates reduce both the net present value of assets and liabilities and over the reporting period, the pension fund buy-out market has thrived. Company defined benefit pension schemes, which have seen their liabilities rise as discount rates have fallen, have seen a part reversal of this, resulting in falling funding deficits and in many cases achieving surplus funding positions. This has benefitted holdings such as Legal and General and Just, both of which generate income from taking the assets and liabilities from corporate pension funds and running them to maturity. Given the significant improvement in funding position brought about by rising discount rates, the ability of life insurance companies to take on these pension funds has increased. Funding requirements incurred by the sponsoring companies will fall as a consequence of these transfers, leaving corporates with more free cash to invest in their business and to return to shareholders.

Political change was also a feature of the reporting period. Liz Truss succeeded Boris Johnson in September 2022 and was outlasted by a lettuce in a blond wig, serving 45 days in office before her resignation and the appointment of Rishi Sunak. The 'Kami Kwasi' mini budget that followed, sent UK Sterling down and gilt yields up as an expansionary, tax-cutting budget was met with revulsion by international and domestic investors. Rishi Sunak will hopefully bring some short-term stability, however it is long-term planning and consistency that the economy, investors and companies crave. Without a predictable, stable and durable regulatory, tax and incentive framework in which to operate, the desired capital investment and labour productivity surge required to compete on a global basis and raise GDP and wealth will not happen.

From an investment perspective, the US is leading the way and British politicians on either side of 'The House' realise that the time to be bold and act is fast approaching. The Inflation Reduction Act ("IRA") together with other stimulus programmes are providing a major boost to US onshore investment. Specifically, the IRA is providing \$370bn of stimulus to incentivise investment in clean energy production and manufacturing and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act comprises \$1.2trn in federal spending, with net additional funding of \$550bn. Our holding in Ashtead is benefitting directly from this spend, which is forecast to last for many years.

We have continued to navigate this environment by focussing on those companies best equipped to deal with the world, namely companies with pricing power, a return on capital ahead of cost of capital, strong balance sheets and where the opportunity exists to increase the number of goods or services sold over time. For example, holdings such as Rentokil Initial, LSEG, Rotork and Weir remain well-positioned. As stock pickers, we are entrusted to allocate capital in an unconstrained way and this gives unit holders exposure to a wide spread of companies exposed to multiple end markets and countries. At the time of writing, 30% of the revenue generated by the companies held in the Fund, by origination, were incurred in the UK, with 30% in the US and 20% in Asia Pacific.

Over the reporting period, stock market volatility was used to add to and reduce current holdings. In addition, following its acquisition of 'BuyaGift', the holding in Moonpig was sold. This acquisition, although increasing the 'gifting' offer for Moonpig customers, increased both the cyclical and financial leverage of the listed entity resulting in a negative change to the equity risk. In addition, the holding in AVEVA was acquired by Schneider.

A new holding was taken in GB and SSP. GB provides identity intelligence solutions to both businesses and consumers that transact online to ensure that both parties are who they purport to be. SSP is a market leader in the global Food and Beverage travel concessions market. With a focus on travel - airports, in particular - SSP should deliver

## Investment Review (Continued)

high returns on capital employed as well as multi-national profit growth as it adds additional space, recently added space matures and legacy space benefits from post-COVID global travel recovery.

### Outlook

Inflation, interest rate expectations, macro-economic data points and the path of conflict in Ukraine are likely to govern capital flow, volatility and short term returns of both equities and debt.

Long-term thematic trends remain entrenched despite the ongoing 'normalisation' in the cost of debt, and companies within the fund are well positioned to benefit. The digitisation of the global economy, the threat of cyber-attacks, energy transition, near shoring, altering demographics and the enduring benefits of offering excellent service will continue to contribute to profitable growth and we will continue to meet management teams directly to develop these themes and discover investment opportunities.

The UK equity market is currently trading at a 28% discount on a forward 12-month Price-to-Earnings basis when compared to global equities (Excluding UK) and a much larger discount from a Price-to-Book perspective (Source: Berenberg). Post adjusting for industry weightings, UK equities remain on a substantial discount to US equities – it is therefore cheaper to buy a stream of US cash flows on the UK stock market versus the US. Some of the explanation for this arbitrage opportunity resides in the effects of capital flow. UK equity allocations within UK pension funds have fallen from 29.3% in 2006 to 2.6% in 2020 (Source: RBC) and since the Brexit referendum, UK equity outflows have averaged £1.6bn per month, providing a significant capital flow headwind. It is worth noting, that on 1 June 2016, shortly before the Brexit referendum, UK equities traded at a 2% premium to global equities (Ex UK). Perhaps the Windsor Agreement is the first step to a meaningful reversal.

Market volatility will remain in the near-term as central bankers move into a new data dependant framework and investors will no doubt pay close attention to data releases and the output of Central Bank meetings. We will continue to focus on long-term company fundamentals and take advantage of volatility caused by short-term trading capital. Our approach remains centred on owning good quality businesses that can reinvest and compound their returns over time. Although relative performance has been disappointing, we continue to believe that understanding longer term structural trends and identifying responsible, reliable and ultimately sustainable companies, in a targeted, focused and active approach, remains the key to longer-term success.

### Chris St John

Source of all performance data: AXA Investment Managers, Morningstar to 15 March 2023.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. All performance figures calculated as follows: Single Priced NAV (Net Asset Value) with zero income reinvested, net of fees in GBP, gross of tax. Performance is representative of Z Acc Class.

## Portfolio Changes

For the six months ended 15 March 2023

Total Purchases	Cost (£'000)
GB	5,045
SSP	4,037
Lloyds Banking	3,552
Dechra Pharmaceuticals	3,542
Ashtead	2,283
Prudential	2,222
Legal & General	1,491
Creo Medical	694
Future	167
<b>Total purchases for the period</b>	<b>23,033</b>

Major Sales	Proceeds (£'000)
AVEVA	11,693
TI Fluid Systems	6,868
Ashtead	6,338
Rentokil Initial	5,873
Auto Trader	5,465
Bodycote	4,231
Spirent Communications	4,193
AstraZeneca	3,672
Moonpig	3,473
Experian	3,408
Other sales	31,532
<b>Total sales for the period</b>	<b>86,746</b>

## Managing Risks

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The price of units and the revenue from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. An initial charge is usually made when you purchase units. Changes in exchange rates will affect the value of Fund investments overseas. Investment in smaller companies and newer markets offers the possibility of higher returns but may also involve a higher degree of risk.

The Fund is managed in accordance with the objective set out on page 3. By investing in financial markets there are associated risks and the following explains the Manager's approach to managing those risks.

### RISK PROFILE

The Fund invests principally in UK equities. The Fund may invest a proportion of its assets in smaller companies which offers the possibility of higher returns but may also involve a higher degree of risk. The value of investments and the revenue from them is not guaranteed and can go down as well as up.

### EQUITY RISK

The value of shares in which the Fund invests fluctuate pursuant to market expectations. The value of such shares will go up and down and equity markets have historically been more volatile than fixed interest markets. Should the price of shares in which the Fund has invested fall, the Net Asset Value of the Fund will also fall.

Funds investing in shares are generally more volatile than funds investing in bonds or a combination of shares and bonds, but may also achieve greater returns.

Internal investment guidelines are set, if necessary, to ensure equity risk is maintained within a range deemed suitable based on the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

### SMALLER COMPANIES RISK

Investments in smaller companies offers the possibility of higher return but also involve a higher degree of risk than investment in well established, larger companies. The shares of smaller companies can be more volatile which may lead to increased volatility in the price of the units of the Fund.

This is an inherent risk for funds invested within smaller companies. Investment guidelines (including diversification measures), scenario testing as well as other regular monitoring seek to ensure the level of risk is aligned the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

### STOCK LENDING RISK

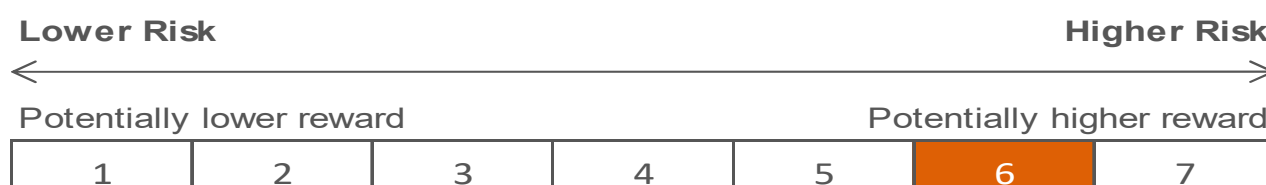
The Fund may participate in a stock lending programme managed by an affiliate of the Manager (acting as stock lending agent) for the purpose of lending the Fund's securities via entering into a stock lending authorisation agreement. If the Fund engages in stock lending it will be exposed to counterparty credit risk in that the borrower may default on a loan, become insolvent or otherwise be unable to meet, or refuse to honour, its obligations to return loaned or equivalent securities. In this event, the relevant Fund could experience delays in recovering the loaned securities, may not be able to recover the loaned securities and may incur a capital loss which might result in a reduction in the net asset value of the relevant Fund. The Fund's exposure to its counterparty will be mitigated by the fact that the counterparty will be requested to post collateral, in the form of cash or debt or equity securities, as from time to time set out in the relevant stock lending agreement, and will forfeit its collateral if it defaults on the transaction. If a counterparty defaults and fails to return equivalent securities to those loaned, the Fund may suffer a loss equal to any shortfall between the value of the realised collateral and the market value of the replacement securities. Such collateral shortfall may arise as a result of inaccurate pricing of the collateral, unfavourable market movements in the value of the collateral, or a lack of liquidity in the market on which the collateral is traded. If the relevant transaction with a counterparty is not fully collateralised, then



the Fund's credit exposure to the counterparty in such circumstances will be higher than if the transaction had been fully collateralised. When entering into stock lending the Fund may also be exposed to settlement risk (i.e. the possibility that one or more parties to the transactions will fail to deliver the assets at agreed-upon time) and legal risk, which is the risk of loss due to the unexpected application of a law or regulation, or because a court declares a contract not legally enforceable. In addition to the specific risks identified above stock lending carry other risks, as described in this Risk Factors section, notably (i) counterparty risk, ii) custody insolvency and iii) liquidity risk.

For Stock Lending the risks are partially mitigated by: (i) the lending agent seeking to lend only to counterparties who are considered to have a strong financial standing; (ii) the requirement to receive collateral of good quality and liquidity (the anticipated ability to sell the collateral if needed) covering the value of assets lent, and this amount being regularly reviewed to reflect any market movement in the value of assets lent and received; (iii) carrying out the transaction under legal documentation corresponding to recognised market standards; (iv) limiting the amount of lending to individual counterparties; (v) ensuring the terms of the loan allow it to be requested to be recalled at any time.

## RISK AND REWARD PROFILE



The risk category is calculated using historical performance data and may not be a reliable indicator of the Fund's future risk profile. The risk category shown is not guaranteed and may shift over time. The lowest category does not mean risk free. There has been no change from prior year.

## WHY IS THIS FUND IN THIS CATEGORY?

The capital of the Fund is not guaranteed. The Fund is invested in financial markets and uses techniques and instruments which may be subject to sudden and significant variation, which may result in substantial gains or losses.

## ADDITIONAL RISKS

**Liquidity risk:** Under certain market conditions, it may be difficult to buy or sell investments for the Fund. For example, smaller company shares may trade infrequently and in small volumes and corporate and emerging market bonds may be affected by the demand in the market for such securities carrying credit risk, particularly in times of significant market stress. As a result, it may not be possible to buy or sell such investments at a preferred time, close to the last market price quoted or in the volume desired. The Manager may be forced to buy or sell such investments as a consequence of unitholders buying or selling units in the Fund. Depending on market conditions at the time, this could lead to a significant drop in the Fund's value.

Monthly monitoring is conducted, using an in-house liquidity tool, to ensure a high degree of confidence that Fund liquidity will meet the Fund's expected liquidity requirements. Any concerns indicated by the tool are analysed by the Manager's risk team who may also discuss the results with portfolio management staff, or other senior professionals within the firm, as needed, to ensure an appropriate scrutiny.

Based on the analysis, the Manager believes that the liquidity profile of the Fund is appropriate.

Further explanation of the risks associated with an investment in this Fund can be found in the prospectus.

## Fund Information

### FIVE YEAR PERFORMANCE

In the five years to 15 March 2023, the price of Z Accumulation units, with net income reinvested, rose by +5.79% . The FTSE All-Share Index (Total Return) increased by +21.68% over the same time period. During the same period the price of Z Income units, with net income reinvested, fell by -2.13%. (Source: AXA Investment Managers and Morningstar) (Prices in GBP).

### FIVE YEAR DISCRETE PERFORMANCE (DISCRETE YEARS TO LATEST REPORTING DATE)

Date	AXA Framlington UK Select Opportunities Z Acc	FTSE All Share-TR
15 Mar 2018 - 15 Mar 2019	+2.68%	+4.66%
15 Mar 2019 - 15 Mar 2020	-15.09%	-21.21%
15 Mar 2020 - 15 Mar 2021	+27.34%	+31.99%
15 Mar 2021 - 15 Mar 2022	+1.18%	+7.45%
15 Mar 2022 - 15 Mar 2023	-5.82%	+4.05%

Source: AXA Investment Managers & Morningstar. Basis: single price basis (NAV) with net income reinvested for Accumulation units, net of fees in GBP.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

### YIELD

D Inc	1.51%
D Acc	1.50%
R Inc	1.18%
R Acc	1.17%
Z Inc	1.86%
Z Acc	1.84%
ZI Inc	1.96%
ZI Acc	1.95%

### CHARGES

	Initial Charge	Annual Management Charge
D	Nil	1.10%
R	Nil	1.50%
Z	Nil	0.85%
ZI	Nil	0.75%

**ONGOING CHARGES\***

D Inc	1.16%
D Acc	1.16%
R Inc	1.56%
R Acc	1.56%
Z Inc	0.91%
Z Acc	0.91%
ZI Inc	0.81%
ZI Acc	0.81%

\*For more information on AXA's fund charges and costs please use the following link

<https://retail.axa-im.co.uk/fund-charges-and-costs>

**UNIT TRUST INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

The AXA Framlington UK Select Opportunities Fund is available as a Stocks and Shares ISA through the AXA Investment Managers Stocks and Shares ISA.

## Comparative Tables

	D Inc~		D Acc~	
	15/03/2023	15/09/2022	15/03/2023	15/09/2022
Closing net asset value per unit (p) <sup>†</sup>	1,824.64	1,871.80	3,515.24	3,592.45
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	6,240	6,652	37,189	39,335
Closing number of units	341,970	355,352	1,057,935	1,094,937
Operating charges <sup>^</sup>	1.16%	1.16%	1.16%	1.16%

	R Inc			R Acc		
	15/03/2023	15/09/2022	15/09/2021	15/03/2023	15/09/2022	15/09/2021
Closing net asset value per unit (p) <sup>†</sup>	1,824.51	1,871.54	2,192.76	3,504.16	3,588.23	4,159.72
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	11,370	12,169	24,745	148,097	221,019	343,915
Closing number of units	623,178	650,197	1,128,500	4,226,329	6,159,575	8,267,725
Operating charges <sup>^</sup>	1.56%	1.56%	1.58%	1.56%	1.56%	1.58%

	Z Inc			Z Acc		
	15/03/2023	15/09/2022	15/09/2021	15/03/2023	15/09/2022	15/09/2021
Closing net asset value per unit (p) <sup>†</sup>	141.26	144.92	169.85	169.68	173.19	199.47
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	4,298	4,341	7,444	13,580	14,333	25,729
Closing number of units	3,043,034	2,995,618	4,382,839	8,003,425	8,275,561	12,898,802
Operating charges <sup>^</sup>	0.91%	0.91%	0.93%	0.91%	0.91%	0.93%

	ZI Inc			ZI Acc		
	15/03/2023	15/09/2022	15/09/2021	15/03/2023	15/09/2022	15/09/2021
Closing net asset value per unit (p) <sup>†</sup>	141.48	145.14	170.12	171.79	175.26	201.65
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	122,939	139,703	219,861	359,326	349,625	450,986
Closing number of units	86,897,173	96,253,035	129,241,190	209,161,509	199,487,390	223,646,103
Operating charges <sup>^</sup>	0.81%	0.81%	0.83%	0.81%	0.81%	0.83%

<sup>†</sup> Valued at bid-market prices.

<sup>^</sup> Operating charges include indirect costs incurred in the maintenance and running of the Fund, as disclosed in expenses within the Statement of Total Return. The figures used within the table have been calculated against the average Net Asset Value for the accounting period.

~ D unit class launched on 25 May 2022.

## Excerpt from income statement

	ZI Accumulation	D Income	D Accumulation	Z Income	Z Accumulation	R Income
Manager's periodic charge	1,292,940.47	36,073.84	212,950.78	18,829.57	60,392.16	88,807.87
Trustees Charges	4,379.13	83.34	492.20	56.33	180.60	150.55
Other expenses (including transaction fees)	105,198.34	2,001.54	11,815.33	1,352.02	4,336.42	3,613.45
	1,402,517.94	38,158.72	225,258.31	20,237.92	64,909.18	92,571.87
Ongoing Charges (Gross) for the year to 15 March 2023	<b>0.81%</b>	<b>1.16%</b>	<b>1.16%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>1.56%</b>
Ongoing Charges (Net) for the year to 15 March 2023	<b>0.81%</b>	<b>1.16%</b>	<b>1.16%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>1.56%</b>

	R Accumulation	ZI Income
Manager's periodic charge	1,478,147.55	503,376.43
Trustees Charges	2,509.40	1,706.45
Other expenses (including transaction fees)	60,163.10	40,964.07
Taxes	-	-
	1,540,820.05	546,046.95
Ongoing Charges (Gross) for the year to 15 March 2023	<b>1.56%</b>	<b>0.81%</b>
Ongoing Charges (Net) for the year to 15 March 2023	<b>1.56%</b>	<b>0.81%</b>
<b>Portfolio Turnover Rate</b>		<b>9.38%</b>

## Portfolio Statement

The AXA Framlington UK Select Opportunities Fund portfolio as at 15 March 2023 consisted of the following investments, which are ordinary shares unless otherwise stated.

Holding	Market value £'000	Total net assets (%)
<b>UNITED KINGDOM: 91.06%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 90.31%)</b>		
<b>BASIC MATERIALS: 2.13%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 1.77%*)</b>		
<b>Chemicals: 0.76%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 0.73%)</b>		
85,552 Croda International	5,368	0.76
2,455,573 Dyson <sup>1</sup>	-	-
	<b>5,368</b>	<b>0.76</b>
<b>Industrial Metals &amp; Mining: 1.37%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 1.04%*)</b>		
656,267 Antofagasta	9,664	1.37
	<b>9,664</b>	<b>1.37</b>
<b>CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY: 5.13%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 5.86%)</b>		
<b>Automobiles &amp; Parts: 0.00%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 1.05%)</b>		
<b>Media: 1.32%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 1.74%)</b>		
839,268 Future	9,308	1.32
	<b>9,308</b>	<b>1.32</b>
<b>Retailers: 3.29%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 3.07%)</b>		
1,291,571 Dunelm	15,060	2.14
2,275,000 Pets at Home	8,058	1.15
	<b>23,118</b>	<b>3.29</b>
<b>Travel &amp; Leisure: 0.52%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 0.00%)</b>		
1,500,000 SSP	3,654	0.52
	<b>3,654</b>	<b>0.52</b>

## Portfolio Statement (Continued)

Holding		Market value £'000	Total net assets (%)
<b>CONSUMER STAPLES: 9.65%</b> (15/09/2022: 9.87%)			
<b>Beverages: 5.76%</b> (15/09/2022: 5.83%)			
1,059,773	Diageo	36,726	5.22
366,163	Fevertree Drinks	3,764	0.54
		<b>40,490</b>	<b>5.76</b>
<b>Personal Care, Drug &amp; Grocery: 3.89%</b> (15/09/2022: 4.04%)			
471,242	Reckitt Benckiser	27,332	3.89
		<b>27,332</b>	<b>3.89</b>
<b>ENERGY: 10.80%</b> (15/09/2022: 10.68%)			
<b>Alternative Energy: 0.25%</b> (15/09/2022: 0.24%)			
8,200,000	AFC Energy	1,748	0.25
		<b>1,748</b>	<b>0.25</b>
<b>Oil, Gas &amp; Coal: 10.55%</b> (15/09/2022: 10.44%)			
5,749,989	BP	29,032	4.13
6,007,042	Diversified Energy	5,493	0.78
4,260,000	Serica Energy	9,223	1.31
1,300,000	Shell	30,414	4.33
		<b>74,162</b>	<b>10.55</b>
<b>FINANCIALS: 16.18%</b> (15/09/2022: 14.92%)			
<b>Banks: 4.52%</b> (15/09/2022: 4.41%)			
38,000,000	Lloyds Banking	17,509	2.49
2,210,000	Standard Chartered	14,303	2.03
		<b>31,812</b>	<b>4.52</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Credit Services: 4.83%</b> (15/09/2022: 4.96%)			
148	BENE IO <sup>1</sup>	-	-
328,946	London Stock Exchange	24,046	3.42
2,100,000	OSB	9,937	1.41
		<b>33,983</b>	<b>4.83</b>

## Portfolio Statement (Continued)

Holding		Market value £'000	Total net assets (%)
<b>Investment Banking &amp; Brokerage: 1.70%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 1.34%)</b>			
2,459,538	AJ Bell	8,161	1.16
3,542,670	Premier Miton	3,826	0.54
		<b>11,987</b>	<b>1.70</b>
<b>Life Insurance: 5.13%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 4.21%)</b>			
7,455,875	Legal & General	17,260	2.45
1,781,238	Prudential	18,837	2.68
		<b>36,097</b>	<b>5.13</b>
<b>Open End &amp; Miscellaneous Investment Vehicles: 0.00%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 0.00%)</b>			
629,063	Stirling Industries <sup>1</sup>	-	-
		-	-
<b>HEALTH CARE: 15.69%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 14.18%)</b>			
<b>Medical Equipment &amp; Services: 3.49%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 3.30%)</b>			
4,613,382	Advanced Medical Solutions	11,303	1.61
6,546,631	Creo Medical	1,735	0.25
966,006	Smith & Nephew	11,495	1.63
		<b>24,533</b>	<b>3.49</b>
<b>Pharmaceuticals &amp; Biotechnology: 12.20%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 10.88%)</b>			
1	Amryt Pharma <sup>1</sup>	-	-
4,188,856	Amryt Pharma EMA CVR	330	0.05
4,188,856	Amryt Pharma Revenue CVR <sup>1</sup>	-	-
376,475	AstraZeneca	40,531	5.76
361,226	Dechra Pharmaceuticals	9,182	1.31
3,395,055	Eco Animal Health	3,395	0.48
20,324,724	Evgen Pharma	752	0.11
2,057,525	GSK	28,530	4.06
2	Silence Therapeutics <sup>1</sup>	-	-
391,416	Silence Therapeutics ADR	3,010	0.43
		<b>85,730</b>	<b>12.20</b>



## Portfolio Statement (Continued)

Holding		Market value £'000	Total net assets (%)
<b>INDUSTRIALS: 18.24%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 17.50%*)</b>			
<b>Aerospace &amp; Defense: 2.03%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 2.17%)</b>			
5,175,636	Chemring	14,285	2.03
		<b>14,285</b>	<b>2.03</b>
<b>Electronic &amp; Electrical Equipment: 3.38%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 2.81%)</b>			
4,049,117	Morgan Advanced Materials	11,540	1.64
4,043,074	Rotork	12,259	1.74
		<b>23,799</b>	<b>3.38</b>
<b>General Industrials: 3.07%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 2.37%)</b>			
11,573,547	Coats	9,016	1.28
8,439,950	Melrose Industries	12,571	1.79
		<b>21,587</b>	<b>3.07</b>
<b>Industrial Engineering: 3.42%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 3.39%*)</b>			
1,173,975	Bodycote	6,856	0.98
957,977	Weir	17,138	2.44
		<b>23,994</b>	<b>3.42</b>
<b>Industrial Support Services: 3.74%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 4.14%)</b>			
3,482,500	Essentra	7,365	1.05
3,723,142	Rentokil Initial	18,906	2.69
		<b>26,271</b>	<b>3.74</b>
<b>Industrial Transportation: 2.60%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 2.62%)</b>			
358,216	Ashtead	18,276	2.60
		<b>18,276</b>	<b>2.60</b>
<b>REAL ESTATE: 3.02%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 3.03%)</b>			
<b>Real Estate Investment &amp; Services: 3.02%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 3.03%)</b>			
4,415,412	Grainger	10,544	1.50
1,996,250	Rightmove	10,708	1.52
		<b>21,252</b>	<b>3.02</b>

## Portfolio Statement (Continued)

Holding	Market value £'000	Total net assets (%)
<b>TECHNOLOGY: 8.75%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 10.06%)</b>		
<b>Software &amp; Computer Services: 8.75%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 10.06%)</b>		
4,083,500 Ascential	10,617	1.51
894,793 Auction Technology	5,467	0.78
2,543,750 Auto Trader	14,621	2.08
2,244,900 Bytes Technology	8,109	1.15
2,415,176 Darktrace	6,584	0.94
1,500,000 GB	4,986	0.71
1,489,412 Sage	11,081	1.58
	<b>61,465</b>	<b>8.75</b>
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS: 1.47%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 2.44%)</b>		
<b>Telecommunications Equipment: 1.47%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 2.44%)</b>		
5,853,338 Spirent Communications	10,355	1.47
	<b>10,355</b>	<b>1.47</b>
<b>EUROPE (excluding UK): 8.51%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 9.01%)</b>		
<b>GUERNSEY: 3.79%</b> <b>(15/09/2022: 4.42%)</b>		
5,353,334 iEnergizer	18,683	2.66
3,784,839 Indus Gas	7,948	1.13
	<b>26,631</b>	<b>3.79</b>

## Portfolio Statement (Continued)

Holding		Market value £'000	Total net assets (%)
	JERSEY: 4.72% (15/09/2022: 4.59%)		
15,350,000	Breedon	11,159	1.59
822,226	Experian	21,970	3.13
		<b>33,129</b>	<b>4.72</b>
Investments as shown in the balance sheet		700,030	99.57
Net current assets		3,009	0.43
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>703,039</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Stocks shown as ADRs represent American Depositary Receipts.

Stocks shown as CVRs represent Contingent Value Rights.

\* Since the previous report industry classifications have been updated. Comparative figures have been updated where appropriate.

<sup>1</sup> Nil valued/delisted/suspended securities not approved within the meaning of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook. The regulations permit a maximum of 10% of the Fund to be invested in unapproved securities. Securities classed as unapproved are those which are not admitted to an official listing in a member state or traded on under the rules of an eligible securities market, as laid down in the Prospectus.

## Statement of Total Return

For the six months ended 15 March

		2023		2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Net capital losses		(18,092)		(101,421)
Revenue	7,180		8,632	
Expenses	(3,931)		(5,399)	
Interest payable and similar charges	(3)		-	
Net revenue before taxation	3,246		3,233	
Taxation	(64)		(64)	
Net revenue after taxation		3,182		3,169
<b>Total return before distributions</b>		<b>(14,910)</b>		<b>(98,252)</b>
Distributions		(3,182)		(3,169)
<b>Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities</b>		<b>(18,092)</b>		<b>(101,421)</b>

## Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders

For the six months ended 15 March

		2023		2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders		787,177		1,072,680
Amounts receivable on creation of units	2,534		4,033	
Amounts payable on cancellation of units	(71,040)		(91,517)	
		(68,506)		(87,484)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		(18,092)		(101,421)
Retained distribution on accumulation units		2,455		2,216
Unclaimed distribution		5		7
<b>Closing net assets attributable to unitholders</b>		<b>703,039</b>		<b>885,998</b>

The above statement shows the comparative closing net assets at 15 March 2022 whereas the current accounting period commenced 16 September 2022.

## Balance Sheet

As at

	15 March 2023 £'000	15 September 2022 £'000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Fixed assets		
Investments	700,030	781,834
Current assets		
Debtors	2,885	3,365
Cash and bank balances	4,177	7,166
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>707,092</b>	<b>792,365</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors		
Bank overdrafts	3	-
Distribution payable	750	2,189
Other creditors	3,300	2,999
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>4,053</b>	<b>5,188</b>
<b>Net assets attributable to unitholders</b>	<b>703,039</b>	<b>787,177</b>

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

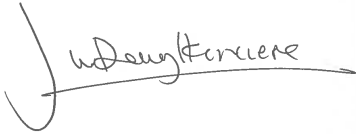
### **Accounting policies**

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102") and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association ("IMA") in May 2014, and amended in June 2017. The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ("COLL").

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 15 September 2022 and are described in those annual financial statements.

**DIRECTORS' APPROVAL**

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ("COLL"), the contents of this report have been approved on behalf of AXA Investment Managers UK Limited by:



Jane Wadia  
Director  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023



Marcello Arona  
Director  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## Distribution Tables

For the six months ended 15 March 2023

		Net revenue	Equalisation	Distribution payable/paid	
				Current year	Prior year
<b>D Inc*</b>					
Interim	Group 1	6.888	-	6.888	
	Group 2	6.888	-	6.888	
<b>D Acc*</b>					
Interim	Group 1	13.222	-	13.222	
	Group 2	7.233	5.989	13.222	
<b>R Inc</b>					
Interim	Group 1	3.145	-	3.145	1.648
	Group 2	1.845	1.300	3.145	1.648
<b>R Acc</b>					
Interim	Group 1	6.031	-	6.031	3.100
	Group 2	4.549	1.482	6.031	3.100
<b>Z Inc</b>					
Interim	Group 1	0.715	-	0.715	0.668
	Group 2	0.455	0.260	0.715	0.668
<b>Z Acc</b>					
Interim	Group 1	0.854	-	0.854	0.782
	Group 2	0.584	0.270	0.854	0.782
<b>ZI Inc</b>					
Interim	Group 1	0.789	-	0.789	0.752
	Group 2	0.463	0.326	0.789	0.752
<b>ZI Acc</b>					
Interim	Group 1	0.952	-	0.952	0.889
	Group 2	0.556	0.396	0.952	0.889

(All figures shown in pence per unit)

Units are classified as Group 2 for the following period in which they were acquired, thereafter they rank as Group 1 units.

Equalisation is the average amount of income included in the purchase price of Group 2 units and is refundable to holders of these units as a return of capital. Being a capital item it is not liable to income tax, but must be deducted from the cost of units for capital gains tax purposes.

\*D unit class launched on 25 May 2022.



The relevant period for Group 2 units and the payment/transfer dates are shown below:

	Group 2 units from	to	Group 1 & 2 units paid/transferred
Interim	16.09.22	15.03.23	15.05.23

## **Further Information**

### **THE SECURITIES FINANCING TRANSACTIONS REGULATION**

The Securities Financing Transactions Regulation, as published by the European Securities and Markets Authority, aims to improve the transparency of the securities financing markets. Disclosures regarding exposure to Securities Financing Transactions (SFTs) or total return swaps will be required on all reports & accounts published after 13 January 2017. During the period to 15 March 2023 and at the balance sheet date, the Fund did not use SFTs or total return swaps, as such no disclosure is required.

## Directory

### The Manager

AXA Investment Managers UK Limited  
22 Bishopsgate  
London, EC2N 4BQ

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.  
Registered in England and Wales No. 01431068.  
The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of AXA S.A., incorporated in France.  
Member of the IA.

### The Administrator and address for inspection of Register:

SS&C Financial Services International Limited and SS&C Financial Services Europe Limited  
SS&C House  
St Nicholas Lane  
Basildon Essex, SS15 5FS  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### Trustee

HSBC Global Trustee & Fiduciary Services (UK)  
8 Canada Square,  
London, E14 5HQ  
HSBC Bank plc is a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.  
Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

### Fund Accounting Administrator

State Street Bank & Trust Company  
20 Churchill Place  
London, E14 5HJ  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### Legal adviser

Eversheds LLP  
One Wood Street  
London, EC2V 7WS

### Auditor

Ernst & Young LLP  
Atria One, 144 Morrison Street  
Edinburgh, EH3 8EX

### Dealing and Correspondence

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