# M&G Episode Allocation Fund Sterling Class I – Accumulation shares



Monthly Fund Review as at 31 March 2024

For investment professionals only

## **Fund description**

The fund targets combined income and capital growth of at least 5% a year above the Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA), before any charges are taken, over any five-year period. SONIA reflects the average interest rate that banks pay to borrow sterling overnight from other financial institutions. The fund has a very flexible investment approach, with the freedom to invest in different types of assets. The approach combines in-depth research to determine the value of assets over the medium to long term, with analysis of investors' emotional reaction to events to identify investment opportunities. The fund gains access to assets directly and indirectly through derivatives. There is no guarantee that the fund will achieve a positive return over any period. Investors may not get back the original amount they invested.

### The main risks associated with this fund

For any past performance shown, please note that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

The value and income from the fund's assets will go down as well as up. This will cause the value of your investment to fall as well as rise. There is no guarantee that the fund will achieve its objective and you may get back less than you originally invested.

Investments in bonds are affected by interest rates, inflation and credit ratings. It is possible that bond issuers will not pay interest or return the capital. All of these events can reduce the value of bonds held by the fund.

Investing in emerging markets involves a greater risk of loss as there may be difficulties in buying, selling, safekeeping or valuing investments in such countries.

The fund is exposed to different currencies. Derivatives are used to minimise, but may not always eliminate, the impact of movements in currency exchange rates.

The fund may use derivatives to profit from an expected rise or fall in the value of an asset. Should the asset's value vary in an unexpected way, the fund will incur a loss. The fund's use of derivatives may be extensive and exceed the value of its assets (leverage). This has the effect of magnifying the size of losses and gains, resulting in greater fluctuations in the value of the fund.

Further risk factors that apply to the fund can be found in the fund's Prospectus.

### Key information

| Fund manager(s)           | Tony Finding, Stuart Canning             |
|---------------------------|--|
| Fund manager tenure from  | 21 January 2011                          |
| Deputy fund manager(s)    | Alex Houlding                            |
| ISIN                      | GB00B73RVW51                             |
| Launch date of fund       | 16 February 2007                         |
| Launch of share class     | 03 August 2012                           |
| Fund size (millions)      | £ 228.01                                 |
| Benchmark(s)              | SONIA + 5%                               |
| Benchmark type            | Target                                   |
| Sector                    | IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares sector |
| Number of holdings        | 30                                       |
| Historic yield            | 2.85%                                    |
| Modified duration (years) | 4.64                                     |
| VaR                       | 4.92%                                    |
| Payment dates             | Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec                       |
| Ex-dividend dates         | Feb, May, Aug, Nov                       |

#### Charges

| Maximum entry charge | 0.00% |
|----------------------|-------|
| Ongoing charge       | 0.71% |

#### Things you should know

The fund allows for the extensive use of derivatives.

#### Fund ratings as at 31 March 2024

Morningstar Medalist Rating™

10 Data Coverage % 96

Analyst-Driven %

Overall Morningstar rating Defaqto Risk Rating



Dynamic Planner Rating Financial Express Crown Rating

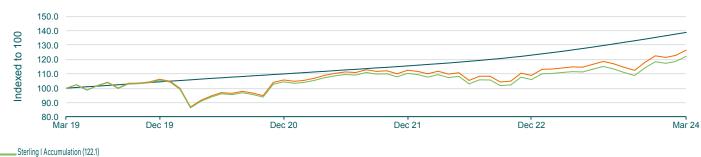
Source of Morningstar ratings: Morningstar Source: Defaqto

Source: Distribution Technology Source: Financial Express Ratings should not be taken as a recommendation

## Single year performance (5 years)

|   | 2023  | 2022  | 2021 | 2020  | 2019  |
|---|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Sterling I Accumulation                           | 11.7% | -3.9% | 5.7% | -1.2% | 12.0% |
| Sterling I Accumulation (gross of ongoing charge) | 12.5% | -3.2% | 6.4% | -0.5% | 12.8% |
| Benchmark   | 10.0% | 6.5%  | 5.1% | 5.3%  | 5.9%  |
| Sector  | 6.9%  | -9.6% | 6.3% | 3.5%  | 12.1% |

## Performance over 5 years



\_Sterling | Accumulation (gross of ongoing charge) (172.4)

Benchmark (138.8)

#### Fund performance

|   | 1 month | 3 months | YTD  | 1 year | 3 years p.a. | 5 years p.a. |
|---|---------|----------|------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| Sterling   Accumulation                           | 2.9%    | 3.1%     | 3.1% | 10.1%  | 5.0%         | 4.1%         |
| Sterling I Accumulation (gross of ongoing charge) | 3.0%    | 3.3%     | 3.3% | 10.9%  | 5.8%         | 4.8%         |
| Benchmark   | 0.9%    | 2.6%     | 2.6% | 10.4%  | 7.6%         | 6.8%         |
| Sector  | 2.4%    | 2.5%     | 2.5% | 7.8%   | 1.4%         | 3.1%         |

#### Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

Prior to 19 July 2021 the benchmark was 3 month GBP LIBOR +5%. With effect from 20 July 2021 the benchmark will be SONIA +5%.

Performance comparison: The Fund is actively managed. The benchmark is a target which the fund seeks to achieve. The rate has been chosen as the fund's target benchmark as it is an achievable performance target given the fund's investment policy. The target benchmark is used solely to measure the fund's performance and does not constrain the fund's portfolio construction.

Fund performance shown here is both gross returns (before the Ongoing Charge Figure is taken), in line with the objective of the fund, and net returns (after the Ongoing Charge Figure has been taken), to illustrate how charges affected the performance. Investors should note that the net return is what they would receive and is therefore the more relevant figure.

Source: Morningstar, Inc and M&G, as at 31 March 2024. Returns are calculated on a price to price basis with income reinvested. Benchmark returns stated in GBP terms.

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## Asset breakdown (%)

|                          | Long<br>exposure | Short<br>exposure | Net<br>exposure |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Equity                   | 44.8             | 0.0               | 44.8            |
| UK                       | 9.7              | 0.0               | 9.7             |
| Europe                   | 17.3             | 0.0               | 17.3            |
| North America            | 5.1              | 0.0               | 5.1             |
| Japan                    | 4.0              | 0.0               | 4.0             |
| Asia Pacific ex Japan    | 2.7              | 0.0               | 2.7             |
| Other Developed Markets  | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Emerging markets         | 6.1              | 0.0               | 6.1             |
| Equity options (nominal) | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Government bonds         | 32.0             | 0.0               | 32.0            |
| UK                       | 7.9              | 0.0               | 7.9             |
| Europe                   | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| North America            | 11.5             | 0.0               | 11.5            |
| Japan                    | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Asia Pacific ex Japan    | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Other Developed Markets  | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Emerging markets         | 12.7             | 0.0               | 12.7            |
| Corporate bonds          | 13.4             | 0.0               | 13.4            |
| Investment grade bonds   | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| High yield bonds         | 13.4             | 0.0               | 13.4            |
| Convertible bonds        | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Bond options (nominal)   | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Infrastructure           | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Property                 | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Other                    | 0.0              | 0.0               | 0.0             |
| Cash                     |                  |                   | 9.8             |

# Largest exposures (excl. cash, %)

|                                    | Fund |
|------------------------------------|------|
| US Government 30Y                  | 11.5 |
| UK Government 30Y                  | 7.9  |
| LYXOR FTSE 100 UCITS ETF - ACC     | 5.9  |
| LYXOR S&P 500 UCITS ETF - DIST (US | 5.1  |
| ISHARES CORE MSCI WORLD UCITS ETF  | 5.1  |
| ISHARES CORE CORP BOND UCITS ETF   | 5.1  |
| M&G TOTAL RETURN CRED GBP C-H ACC  | 4.7  |
| LYXOR CORE MSCI JAPAN (DR) UCITS E | 4.0  |
| XTRACKERS II J.P. MORGAN EM LOCAL  | 3.9  |
| M&G RECOVERY GBP C ACC             | 3.8  |

# Credit rating breakdown (%)

|           | Net exposure |
|-----------|--------------|
| AAA       | 0.0          |
| AA        | 19.3         |
| A         | 0.0          |
| BBB       | 2.0          |
| BB        | 4.1          |
| В         | 0.0          |
| CCC       | 0.0          |
| CC        | 0.0          |
| С         | 0.0          |
| D         | 0.0          |
| No rating | 20.1         |

# Currency breakdown (%)

|                     | Fund |
|---------------------|------|
| British pound       | 89.7 |
| US dollar           | 7.4  |
| Euro                | 3.0  |
| Brazilian real      | 2.2  |
| Mexican peso        | 2.0  |
| South African rand  | 1.9  |
| Thai baht           | 0.0  |
| Turkish lira        | 0.0  |
| China Yuan Renminbi | -0.6 |
| Other               | -5.6 |

# Portfolio construction (%)

|              | Net allocation range                | Neutrality |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Equity       | 20-60                               | 40.0       |
| Fixed income | 30-75                               | 50.0       |
| Other        | 0-20                                | 10.0       |
| Currency     | Min 30% sterling or sterling hedged |            |

## Fund codes and charges

| Share class    | ISIN         | Bloomberg  | Currency | Share class launch<br>date | Ongoing<br>charge | Historic<br>yield | Minimum<br>initial<br>investment | Minimum<br>top up<br>investment |
|----------------|--------------|------------|----------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sterling A Acc | GB00B1P9ZJ26 | MGCMAAC LN | GBP      | 16/02/2007                 | 1.11%             | 2.56%             | £500                             | £100                            |
| Sterling A Inc | GB00B1P9ZK31 | MGCMAIN LN | GBP      | 16/02/2007                 | 1.11%             | 3.59%             | £500                             | £100                            |
| Sterling I Acc | GB00B73RVW51 | MGCMSIA LN | GBP      | 03/08/2012                 | 0.71%             | 2.85%             | £500,000                         | £10,000                         |
| Sterling I Inc | GB00B71QKV66 | MGCMSII LN | GBP      | 03/08/2012                 | 0.71%             | 3.50%             | £500,000                         | £10,000                         |
| Sterling R Acc | GB00B7FPWG84 | MGCMSRA LN | GBP      | 03/08/2012                 | 0.96%             | 2.66%             | £500                             | £100                            |
| Sterling R Inc | GB00B74F4523 | MGCMSRI LN | GBP      | 03/08/2012                 | 0.96%             | 3.56%             | £500                             | £100                            |

Any ongoing charge figure with 'indicates an estimate. The ongoing charge figure may vary from year to year and excludes portfolio transaction costs. The charges are mostly, if not exclusively, the Annual Charge which may be discounted depending on the size of the fund. For further details, please see the fund's Key Investor Information Document (KIID). The fund's annual report for each financial year will include details on the exact charges made. Please go to www.mandg.co.uk/literature to view the Costs and charges illustration which contains information on the costs and charges applicable to your chosen fund and share class.

Please note that not all of the share classes listed above might be available in your country. Please see the Important Information for Investors document and the relevant fund's Prospectus for more information on the risks associated with this fund and which share classes are available for which product and which investor type.

## Approach to responsible investment

|   | Yes          | No | N/A |
|---|--------------|----|-----|
| ESG integration   | $\checkmark$ |    |     |
| Additional ESG specifications                               |              | 1  |     |
| Exclusions  | $\checkmark$ |    |     |
| Cluster munitions & anti personnel landmines                | $\checkmark$ |    |     |
| Other exclusions or restrictions                            |              | 1  |     |
| Voting  | $\checkmark$ |    |     |
| Engagement  | $\checkmark$ |    |     |
| Please see glossary for further explanation of these terms. |              |    |     |

## **ESG Standard Glossary**

Additional ESG specifications: In the context of M&G, these are funds managed with an explicit ESG objective, outcome or in accordance with specific ESG criteria, and will have a number of minimum exclusions in place.

**Engagement:** Interaction with company management on various financial and non-financial, including ESG, issues. Engagement allows investors to better understand how a company is undertaking its operations and how it is interacting with its stakeholders, as well as advising on and influencing company behaviour and disclosures where

appropriate. ESG integration: Describes the explicit and systematic inclusion of Environmental, Social and Governance factors in and business strategy, among others, and may include investment analysis and investment decisions. It underpins a responsible investment approach, and allows investors to

better manage risk and generate sustainable, long-term returns. Exclusions: The exclusion or restriction of investments

based on the sector in which they operate, the products or services they provide or for other specific criteria, i.e. they are deemed to be in breach of the United Nations Global Compact principles on human rights, labour the

environment and anti-corruption. Voting: As the partial owners of a company, shareholders have the right to vote on resolutions put forward at a company's annual general meeting. These resolutions include the re-election of directors, executive remuneration resolutions put forward by shareholders.

#### Important information

With effect from November 2023, we are reporting using our internal accounting book of record (ABOR) moving away from the investment book of record (IBOR) used for reporting up to October 2023.

The M&G Episode Allocation Fund is a sub-fund of M&G Investment Funds (4).

The Morningstar Overall Rating based on the fund's Sterling Class I shares. Copyright © 2024 Morningstar UK Limited. All Rights Reserved. Ratings should not be taken as recommendation.

Where a security has not been rated by Standard & Poor's, Fitch or Moody's, we may use M&G's internal credit rating. Based on a comparison of all available ratings for each security, the most conservative rating (S&P, Fitch, Moody's or M&G's internal rating) is taken into consideration. The ratings so identified are then expressed or converted into M&G's ratings format to obtain uniform information for all securities in the portfolio.

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