BlackRock.

Annual report and audited financial statements

BlackRock Gold and General Fund

For the financial year ended 28 February 2025

Contents

General Information

Manager & Registrar

BlackRock Fund Managers Limited
12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DL

Member of The Investment Association and authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA").

Directors of the Manager

G D Bamping*
W I Cullen* (Resigned 31 January 2025)
D Edgar
T S Hale (Appointed 16 April 2024)
A M Lawrence (Resigned 30 April 2025)
A Lewis* (Appointed 13 January 2025)
H N Mepham (Resigned 30 June 2024)
S Sabin
M Seymour (Appointed 3 December 2024)
M T Zemek*

Trustee & Custodian

The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited
160 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4LA

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the FCA and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

Investment Manager

BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited
12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DL

Authorised and regulated by the FCA.

Stock Lending Agent

BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited
12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DL

Authorised and regulated by the FCA.

Auditor

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

BlackRock's proxy voting agent is ISS (Institutional Shareholder Services).

This Report relates to the packaged products of and is issued by:

BlackRock Fund Managers Limited
12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DL
Telephone: 020 7743 3000
Dealing and Investor Services: 0800 44 55 22
www.blackrock.co.uk

For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

* Non-executive Director.

About the Fund

BlackRock Gold and General Fund (the "Fund") is a UCITS scheme under the COLL Sourcebook. The Fund was established on 16 March 1988. The Fund was previously known as James Capel Gold and General Fund. On 17 December 1991 the Manager took over management of the Fund and its name was changed to Mercury Gold and General Fund. On 30 September 2000 the Fund changed its name to Merrill Lynch Gold and General Fund. The Fund adopted its present name with effect from 28 April 2008. The Fund's FCA product reference number is 113856.

Assessment of value

The FCA requires UK fund managers to complete an annual assessment of whether their UK authorised funds provide value for investors. Our assessment considers fund and unit class level performance, costs and charges, and service quality, concluding with an evaluation of whether investors receive value. BlackRock has fulfilled its obligations for the reporting requirement, including assessing relevant charges, and published the annual assessment of value statements on the BlackRock website on 30 October 2024 in a composite report for all funds managed by BlackRock Fund Managers Limited subject to these requirements.

Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures – TCFD Product Report

The Manager has produced a supplemental TCFD Product Report in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and FCA requirements for TCFD reporting. These disclosures describe how the Manager incorporates climate-related risks and opportunities into governance, strategy, risk management, metrics and targets. The latest report is available at https://www.blackrock.com/uk/literature/public-disclosure/tcfd-product-level-disclosure-report-acsii.pdf.

Sustainability Disclosure Requirements – Sustainability Product Report

The Manager has produced a supplemental Sustainability Product Report in accordance with FCA sustainability disclosure requirements. The Sustainability Product Report provides key annual metrics on sustainability performance, goals, and alignment with environmental, social, and governance ("ESG") principles. This report aims to enhance transparency by outlining how our products contribute to sustainable outcomes, and track against defined objectives. The report will be available at www.blackrock.com/uk/education/library?keyword=SDR+Sustainability+Product+Report+BIF+BCIF+Retail from 30 June 2025.

Fund Managers

As at 28 February 2025, the Fund Managers were Evy Hambro and Tom Holl.

Significant Events

Changes in the Directors of the Manager

T S Hale was appointed as a Director effective 16 April 2024.

H N Mepham resigned as a Director effective 30 June 2024.

M Seymour was appointed as a Director 3 December 2024.

A Lewis was appointed as a Director effective 13 January 2025.

Significant Events continued

W I Cullen resigned as a Director effective 31 January 2025.

Subsequent Events

A M Lawrence resigned as a Director effective 30 April 2025.

There have been no other significant events subsequent to the year end, which, in the opinion of the Manager, may have had an impact on the Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2025.

Risk and Reward Profile

Unit Class	Lower risk Typically lower rewards						Higher risk Typically higher rewards
A Income	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**
A Accumulation	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**
X Accumulation	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**
D Income	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**
D Accumulation	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**
DI Income	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**
DI Accumulation	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**

- The risk indicator was calculated incorporating historical or simulated historical data and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund.
- The risk category shown is not guaranteed and may change over time.
- The lowest category does not mean risk free.

For more information on this, please see the Fund’s Key Investor Information Documents (“KIIDs”), which are available at www.blackrock.com.

Investment Manager's Report

for the year ended 28 February 2025

Investment Objective

The aim of the Fund is to provide a return on your investment (generated through an increase in the value of the assets held by the Fund) (gross of fees) over the long term (5 or more consecutive years beginning at the point of investment) through investment in shares of companies related to gold mining, commodities and precious-metals.

Comparator benchmark	Investment management approach
FTSE Gold Mining Index (capped version)	Active

Performance Summary

The following table compares the Fund's realised performance against the performance of the comparator benchmark during the financial year ended 28 February 2025.

	Fund return %	Comparator benchmark %
Class D Accumulation Units	60.69	55.16

Further information on the performance measures and calculation methodologies used is detailed below:

- Fund returns shown, calculated net of fees, are the performance returns for the primary unit class of the Fund which has been selected as a representative unit class. The primary unit class represents the class of unit which is the highest charging unit class, free of any commissions or rebates, and is freely available. Performance returns for any other unit class can be made available on request.
- Fund returns are based on the NAV per unit as at close of business for reporting purposes only, for the purpose of fair comparison and presentation with the comparator benchmark close of business valuation point.
- Due to the Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102") and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds ("SORP") requirements, including the accounting policy for the valuation point at 12 noon, there may be differences between the NAV per unit as recorded in the financial statements and the NAV per unit calculated in accordance with the Prospectus.

All financial investments involve an element of risk. Therefore, the value of your investment and the income from it will vary and the return of your initial investment amount cannot be guaranteed. Past performance is not a guide to future performance and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product.

Global Economic Overview

Global equities, as represented by the MSCI All Country World Index, returned 15.59% (in GBP terms) during the twelve months ended 28 February 2025. Equities gained significantly amid cooling inflation (the rate of increase in the prices of goods and services) and increased investor optimism as the world's largest central banks started to relax monetary policy. However, rising geopolitical tensions, including conflict in the Middle East and Europe, and the threat of protectionism in the US, raised the prospect of disruption to the global economy.

The US economy was solid throughout most of the twelve-month period, posting stronger growth than other developed nations as consumer spending remained resilient. In Japan, gross domestic product ("GDP") recovered from a period of contraction: the measure expanded by an annualised rate of 0.9% in the third quarter of 2024, following 3.1% growth in the second quarter. The UK economy rebounded in the first six months of 2024 after a disappointing end to 2023. However, output in the third and fourth quarters of 2024 was broadly flat. Growth in the Eurozone recovered over the course of 2024, helped by the strong performance of member nations including Spain, Ireland and Portugal.

Most emerging market economies continued to expand. Although the high interest rate environment presented significant economic challenges, the resilience of the US economy provided support. Chinese GDP grew more slowly than expected amid concerns about the country's real estate sector and weak retail sales. However, China's announcement of a new round of stimulus measures in September 2024 was received positively by investors. The Indian economy expanded at a robust pace, although growth between July and September 2024 was below analysts' expectations. There was a recovery in the final quarter. Growth rebounded in Brazil in the second and third quarters of 2024 due to rise in household and government spending.

Most of the world's largest central banks shifted away from monetary policy tightening as inflation continued to fall over the twelve month period. In September 2024 the US Federal Reserve ("the Fed") reduced interest rates for the first time in over four years. The Fed made further rate cuts in November and December 2024 but signalled a slower pace of reductions in 2025. The Bank of England ("BoE") began cutting interest rates in August 2024, after inflation in the UK had fallen to the BoE's 2.0% target. The European Central Bank ("ECB") reduced interest rates on five occasions between June 2024 and January 2025. Having raised interest rates in March 2024 in response to rising domestic inflation, which had reached levels not seen in decades, the Bank of Japan did so again in July 2024 and at the start of 2025. These were the first increases in borrowing costs in Japan since 2007.

Global equity performance was positive during the twelve month period, as the continuing strength of the world economy averted concerns about a possible recession. Investors generally reacted positively to Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election in November 2024, but there were concerns around the turn of the year that the new administration's economic policies could lead to higher inflation and, therefore, to fewer interest rate cuts than expected. Meanwhile, major technology stocks advanced on hopes that artificial intelligence ("AI") would drive growth, although concerns increased about the extensive infrastructure investment required to support AI platforms.

Globally, bonds and equities that factor companies' environmental, social and governance ("ESG") characteristics faced regulatory concerns and shifting investor sentiment. Despite this, ESG funds experienced positive inflows overall. Over the year 2024, European investment remained strong, although the pace of outflows in the US accelerated.

Yields (which move inversely to bond prices) on the 10-year US Treasury, a benchmark lending rate for the global bond market, finished the twelve-month period flat. Following a spike in spring 2024, yields dipped on expectations of lower interest rates but rose again towards the end of the twelve month period due to concerns that the incoming US President's economic policies could lead to higher inflation. In the UK, gilt yields ended higher despite the BoE's shift to a more accommodative monetary policy stance. Yields rose especially sharply in autumn 2024 and at the start of 2025 on expectations that the UK government was planning to increase taxes and state spending. European government bond yields rose during the twelve month period as a whole, but ended 2024 below the highs recorded in May and June 2024 on expectations of further ECB rate cuts in 2025. Yields in Japan increased after the government adjusted its yield cap for 10-year government bonds and investors anticipated further interest rate increases.

Global corporate bonds posted solid gains overall as markets reassessed credit in light of declining inflation and interest rates. Increased bond yields attracted investors, and continued resilience in the global economy alleviated credit concerns, particularly for high-yield bonds.

Equities in emerging markets also gained, benefiting from the relatively stable global economic environment and the respite from tighter monetary policy. As concerns about a possible global recession diminished, some investors rotated back into emerging market stocks, boosting prices. Emerging market bonds posted a positive return overall as investors reacted to less restrictive monetary policy in developed economies.

Commodities markets were disrupted by rising geopolitical tensions. Brent crude oil prices rose early in 2024 as instability in the Middle East caused concern among investors. However, prices fell back as global oil production increased, with the US and Canada making particularly large contributions to overall output. Natural gas prices rose sharply in the second half of the twelve-month period as cold weather returned and supply issues emerged. Gold prices rose to record highs as a result of geopolitical tensions, along with the possibility of a number of interest rate reductions in the US and increased demand from investors in Asia.

In the foreign exchange markets, the US dollar's performance was positive against other major global currencies. It rose against sterling, the euro, the Japanese yen and the Chinese yuan.

Fund Performance Review and Activity

Over the financial year to 28 February 2025, the Fund's performance return was 60.69% and the active return was 5.53%, outperforming its comparator benchmark which returned 55.16% (active return is the difference between the Fund's return and the comparator benchmark return).

Gold equities significantly outperformed broader equity markets during the financial year with the MSCI All Country World Index returning 15.1%.

The gold price rose 39.4% ending the financial year at US$2,851 per ounce, supported by elevated geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, along with strong central bank demand and Asian retail demand at the start of the financial year. However, in November, President Donald Trump's election victory triggered an apparent unwinding of speculative gold positions that had been built up prior to the elections. This also led to concerns about potential inflationary policies which caused investors to reassess their positions in gold.

In terms of macro drivers of gold prices, the US dollar strengthened over the financial year, with the US DXY Index increasing from 104.2 to 107.6. Additionally, real interest rates fell, with the US 10-year real interest rate decreasing from 1.9% to 1.8%. Physically backed gold exchange traded funds ("ETFs") recorded inflows over the financial year, resulting in total holdings increasing from 2,567 tonnes to 2,638 tonnes. Meanwhile, net length in the Comex gold futures markets increased from 14.0 million ounces to 26.9 million ounces.

Performance for the non-gold precious metals was mixed, with silver and platinum prices rising 37.3% and 6.3%, respectively, whereas the price of palladium fell -3.6%.

During the financial year, the following were the largest contributors to and detractors from the Fund's return relative to the comparator benchmark:

Largest Contributors		Largest Detractors	
Stock	**Effect on Fund return**	**Stock**	**Effect on Fund return**
Barrick Gold^	2.72%	Agnico Eagle^	(3.85%)
Newmont^	2.64%	Bellevue Gold#	(1.71%)
Lundin Gold#	2.11%	Endeavour Mining#	(1.31%)
Founders Metals#	1.55%	Evolution Mining^	(1.04%)
Solidcore Resources^	1.45%	Osisko Gold#	(0.76%)

^ Underweight position - holds less exposure than the comparator benchmark.
# Overweight position - holds more exposure than the comparator benchmark.

The Fund's underweight exposure to Newmont and Barrick contributed positively to relative performance. The companies encountered higher-than-expected cost inflation and struggled to translate higher gold prices into strong free cash flows.

The Fund's underweight exposure to Agnico Eagle detracted from performance as the stock experienced strong gains following the release of robust results.

The following table details the significant active positions, where the Fund was overweight (held more exposure than the comparator benchmark) and underweight (held less exposure than the comparator benchmark), at 28 February 2025 and 29 February 2024:

Top overweight positions			
28 February 2025		**29 February 2024**	
Stock	**Active Weighting**	**Stock**	**Active Weighting**
Endeavour Mining	5.20%	Wheaton Precious Metals	5.45%
Wheaton Precious Metals	4.75%	Endeavour Mining	3.96%
Franco Nevada	3.37%	Pan American Silver	3.47%

Top underweight positions			
28 February 2025		**29 February 2024**	
Stock	**Active Weighting**	**Stock**	**Active Weighting**
Agnico Eagle Mines	(7.76%)	Newmont	(19.97%)
Newmont	(5.82%)	Barrick	(9.40%)
Barrick Gold	(5.73%)	Agnico Eagle	(7.42%)

Where the Fund is underweight to a stock, the return from such stock will have an opposite effect on the Fund's active return. This may result in a stock being listed as a contributor/detractor but not listed on the Fund's Portfolio Statement.

Outlook

The base case for gold for the next 12 months is that is it will continue to trade gradually higher. The structural factors supporting gold prices over the past 20 years are especially pertinent today: high government debt necessitating lower nominal yields, inflation reducing the purchasing power of fiat currency and elevated geopolitical risk. That said, investor positioning has moved more positive on gold, especially in the futures market, which increases the risk of a near-term pull back. The Investment Manager would, however, be buyers on such a move and look to increase risk.

Turning to gold equities, production costs rose significantly through the 2021 to 2024 period which held back corporate equity performance relative to gold prices. However, the Investment Manager is enthusiastic about the outlook for margins from here, given high gold prices and costs appearing to stabilise. The outlook for costs does vary across the sector, however, increasing the need to be selective and active. Despite recent strong performance, gold producer stocks still appear unloved amongst generalist investors and the Investment Manager views them as attractive relative to gold and their historic valuations. Mergers and acquisition activity has increased and further consolidation is expected given issues that the sector faces such as relevance of generalists and declining mine reserve lives. The Investment Manager believes gold producers delivering free cash flows and capital discipline could be catalysts for a re-rating in this space over the next 12 months. Government intervention represents a risk which the Investment Manager is seeking to manage, notably permitting issues in Australia, increasing royalties in Africa and anti-mining sentiment in Mexico.

In terms of the other precious metals, the Investment Manager remains positive on the outlook for silver but is avoiding the platinum group metals given concerns around global automotive demand and capital discipline from producers.

Performance Record

Comparative Table

	A Income Units			A Accumulation Units		
	For the year to 28.2.2025	For the year to 29.2.2024	For the year to 28.2.2023	For the year to 28.2.2025	For the year to 29.2.2024	For the year to 28.2.2023
	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
Change in net assets per unit						
Opening net asset value per unit	908.1	1,017	1,193	966.3	1,082	1,266
Return before operating charges	575.8	(88.45)	(153.7)	612.6	(93.98)	(162.5)
Operating charges	(24.55)	(20.43)	(20.38)	(26.12)	(21.74)	(21.64)
Return after operating charges	551.2	(108.9)	(174.1)	586.5	(115.7)	(184.2)
Distributions	0.00	0.00	(2.20)	0.00	0.00	(2.35)
Retained distributions on accumulation units	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.35
Closing net asset value per unit	1,459	908.1	1,017	1,553	966.3	1,082
After direct transaction costs of	(0.85)	(0.67)	(0.54)	(0.90)	(0.72)	(0.57)
Performance						
Return after charges[1]	60.70%	(10.71)%	(14.59)%	60.69%	(10.70)%	(14.55)%
Other information						
Closing net asset value (£000's)	13,787	9,384	15,392	299,161	193,486	261,023
Closing number of units	944,782	1,033,370	1,513,912	19,266,515	20,023,711	24,127,716
Operating charges[2]	1.90%	1.92%	1.91%	1.90%	1.92%	1.91%
Direct transaction costs[3]	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%
Prices	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
Highest offer unit price	1,668	1,340	1,410	1,775	1,426	1,497
Lowest bid unit price	926.1	907.4	892.9	985.4	965.5	948.0

[1] The return after charges figures are based on the net asset value reported for financial statements purposes prepared under UK GAAP and SORP requirements and are not the same as the performance returns figures quoted in the Performance Table and the Investment Report which are based on close of business prices.

[2] Operating charges are annualised and exclude portfolio trade-related costs, except costs paid to the custodian/depositary and entry/exit charges paid to an underlying collective investment scheme (if any).

[3] Direct transaction costs are annualised and principally comprise commissions and taxes, attributable to the Fund's purchase and sale of equity instruments and collective investment schemes.
See note 14 for further details.

Comparative Table continued

	X Accumulation Units			D Income Units		
	For the year to 28.2.2025	For the year to 29.2.2024	For the year to 28.2.2023	For the year to 28.2.2025	For the year to 29.2.2024	For the year to 28.2.2023
	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
Change in net assets per unit						
Opening net asset value per unit	127.0	139.5	160.2	962.7	1,078	1,265
Return before operating charges	80.94	(12.46)	(20.65)	611.9	(94.54)	(163.0)
Operating charges	(0.02)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(15.82)	(13.25)	(13.18)
Return after operating charges	80.92	(12.50)	(20.68)	596.1	(107.8)	(176.2)
Distributions	(2.35)	(2.65)	(3.05)	(2.19)	(7.54)	(10.90)
Retained distributions on accumulation units	2.35	2.65	3.05	N/A	N/A	N/A
Closing net asset value per unit	207.9	127.0	139.5	1,557	962.7	1,078
After direct transaction costs of	(0.12)	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.90)	(0.72)	(0.57)
Performance						
Return after charges[1]	63.72%	(8.96)%	(12.91)%	61.92%	(10.00)%	(13.93)%
Other information						
Closing net asset value (£000's)	23,616	13,072	14,581	113,592	89,990	125,874
Closing number of units	11,357,819	10,293,362	10,450,444	7,297,338	9,348,017	11,677,649
Operating charges[2]	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	1.15%	1.17%	1.16%
Direct transaction costs[3]	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%
Prices	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
Highest offer unit price	226.1	175.6	180.9	1,696	1,355	1,426
Lowest bid unit price	129.5	126.9	121.1	981.9	969.4	950.7

1 The return after charges figures are based on the net asset value reported for financial statements purposes prepared under UK GAAP and SORP requirements and are not the same as the performance returns figures quoted in the Performance Table and the Investment Report which are based on close of business prices.

2 Operating charges are annualised and exclude portfolio trade-related costs, except costs paid to the custodian/depositary and entry/exit charges paid to an underlying collective investment scheme (if any).

3 Direct transaction costs are annualised and principally comprise commissions and taxes, attributable to the Fund's purchase and sale of equity instruments and collective investment schemes.
See note 14 for further details.

Comparative Table continued

	D Accumulation Units			DI Income Units		
	For the year to 28.2.2025	For the year to 29.2.2024	For the year to 28.2.2023	For the year to 28.2.2025	For the year to 29.2.2024	For the year to 28.2.2023
	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
Change in net assets per unit						
Opening net asset value per unit	1,075	1,195	1,387	1,011	1,133	1,330
Return before operating charges	682.9	(105.3)	(178.0)	643.5	(100.1)	(172.0)
Operating charges	(17.66)	(14.68)	(14.46)	(12.88)	(10.73)	(10.76)
Return after operating charges	665.3	(120.0)	(192.5)	630.6	(110.8)	(182.8)
Distributions	(2.42)	(8.36)	(11.96)	(6.09)	(11.13)	(14.66)
Retained distributions on accumulation units	2.42	8.36	11.96	N/A	N/A	N/A
Closing net asset value per unit	1,740	1,075	1,195	1,636	1,011	1,133
After direct transaction costs of	(1.00)	(0.79)	(0.63)	(0.95)	(0.75)	(0.60)
Performance						
Return after charges[1]	61.89%	(10.04)%	(13.88)%	62.37%	(9.78)%	(13.74)%
Other information						
Closing net asset value (£000's)	340,965	269,252	343,013	51,826	40,482	47,095
Closing number of units	19,592,531	25,046,891	28,716,029	3,168,765	4,003,905	4,158,305
Operating charges[2]	1.15%	1.17%	1.16%	0.89%	0.90%	0.90%
Direct transaction costs[3]	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%
Prices	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
Highest offer unit price	1,894	1,501	1,564	1,786	1,424	1,499
Lowest bid unit price	1,096	1,074	1,043	1,031	1,021	1,000

[1] The return after charges figures are based on the net asset value reported for financial statements purposes prepared under UK GAAP and SORP requirements and are not the same as the performance returns figures quoted in the Performance Table and the Investment Report which are based on close of business prices.

[2] Operating charges are annualised and exclude portfolio trade-related costs, except costs paid to the custodian/depositary and entry/exit charges paid to an underlying collective investment scheme (if any).

[3] Direct transaction costs are annualised and principally comprise commissions and taxes, attributable to the Fund's purchase and sale of equity instruments and collective investment schemes.
See note 14 for further details.

Comparative Table continued

	DI Accumulation Units		
	For the year to 28.2.2025	For the year to 29.2.2024	For the year to 28.2.2023
	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
Change in net assets per unit			
Opening net asset value per unit	1,106	1,226	1,420
Return before operating charges	703.8	(108.0)	(182.5)
Operating charges	(14.08)	(11.61)	(11.50)
Return after operating charges	689.7	(119.6)	(194.0)
Distributions	(6.66)	(12.05)	(15.67)
Retained distributions on accumulation units	6.66	12.05	15.67
Closing net asset value per unit	1,796	1,106	1,226
After direct transaction costs of	(1.04)	(0.82)	(0.64)
Performance			
Return after charges[1]	62.36%	(9.76)%	(13.66)%
Other information			
Closing net asset value (£000's)	165,321	137,637	110,993
Closing number of units	9,206,315	12,440,514	9,052,831
Operating charges[2]	0.89%	0.90%	0.90%
Direct transaction costs[3]	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%
Prices	Pence per unit	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
Highest offer unit price	1,954	1,541	1,602
Lowest bid unit price	1,128	1,105	1,069

1 The return after charges figures are based on the net asset value reported for financial statements purposes prepared under UK GAAP and SORP requirements and are not the same as the performance returns figures quoted in the Performance Table and the Investment Report which are based on close of business prices.

2 Operating charges are annualised and exclude portfolio trade-related costs, except costs paid to the custodian/depositary and entry/exit charges paid to an underlying collective investment scheme (if any).

3 Direct transaction costs are annualised and principally comprise commissions and taxes, attributable to the Fund's purchase and sale of equity instruments and collective investment schemes.
See note 14 for further details.

Distribution Table

for the year ended 28 February 2025

Final Distribution in Pence per Unit

Group 1 – Units purchased prior to 1 March 2024

Group 2 – Units purchased 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025

	A Income Units		A Accumulation Units		X Accumulation Units		D Income Units	
	Group 1	**Group 2**	**Group 1**	**Group 2**	**Group 1**	**Group 2**	**Group 1**	**Group 2**
Net revenue (dividend)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.3495	0.7763	2.1878	0.0000
Equalisation†	–	0.0000	–	0.0000	–	1.5732	–	2.1878
Distribution paid 30.4.2025	**0.0000**	**0.0000**	**0.0000**	**0.0000**	**2.3495**	**2.3495**	**2.1878**	**2.1878**
Distribution paid 30.4.2024	**0.0000**	**0.0000**	**0.0000**	**0.0000**	**2.6535**	**2.6535**	**7.5434**	**7.5434**

	D Accumulation Units		DI Income Units		DI Accumulation Units	
	Group 1	**Group 2**	**Group 1**	**Group 2**	**Group 1**	**Group 2**
Net revenue (dividend)	2.4206	0.0000	6.0930	0.9143	6.6562	0.5861
Equalisation†	–	2.4206	–	5.1787	–	6.0701
Distribution paid 30.4.2025	**2.4206**	**2.4206**	**6.0930**	**6.0930**	**6.6562**	**6.6562**
Distribution paid 30.4.2024	**8.3621**	**8.3621**	**11.1304**	**11.1304**	**12.0513**	**12.0513**

† Equalisation applies only to units purchased during the distribution period (Group 2 units). It is the average amount of revenue included in the purchase price of all Group 2 units and is refunded to holders of these units as a return of capital. Being capital, it is not liable to income tax but must be deducted from the cost of units for capital gains tax purposes.

Report on Remuneration

The below disclosures are made in respect of the remuneration policies of the BlackRock group ("BlackRock"), as they apply to BlackRock Fund Managers Limited (the "ManCo"). The disclosures are made in accordance with the provisions in the UK implementation of Directive 2009/65/EC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities ("UCITS"), as amended, including in particular by Directive 2014/91/EU of the European Parliament and of the council of 23 July 2014, (the "Directive"), the "Guidelines on sound remuneration policies under the UCITS Directive and AIFMD" issued by the European Securities and Markets Authority, the Collective Investment Schemes (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018, the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") Handbook SYSC 19E: The UCITS Remuneration Code (the "UCITS Remuneration Code"), and COLL 4.5.7 R(7).

BlackRock's UCITS Remuneration Policy (the "UCITS Remuneration Policy") will apply to the EEA entities within the BlackRock group authorised as a ManCo of UCITS funds in accordance with the Directive, and will ensure compliance with the requirements of Article 14b of the Directive and to UK entities within the BlackRock group authorised as a ManCo of a UK UCITS fund in accordance with UCITS as implemented, retained and onshored in the UK.

The ManCo has adopted the UCITS Remuneration Policy, a summary of which is set out below.

Remuneration Governance

BlackRock's remuneration governance in EMEA operates as a tiered structure which includes: (a) the Management Development and Compensation Committee ("MDCC") (which is the global, independent remuneration committee for BlackRock, Inc. and (b) the ManCo's board of directors (the "ManCo's Board"). These bodies are responsible for the determination of BlackRock's remuneration policies which includes reviewing the remuneration policy on a regular basis and being responsible for its implementation.

The implementation of the remuneration policy is annually subject to central and independent review for compliance with policies and procedures for remuneration adopted by the MDCC and by the ManCo's Board. The most recent review found no material issues. The remuneration disclosure is produced and owned by the MDCC and the ManCo's Board.

No material changes were made to the remuneration policy in 2024.

(a) MDCC

The MDCC's purposes include:

- providing oversight of:
  - BlackRock's executive compensation programmes;
  - BlackRock's employee benefit plans; and
  - such other compensation plans as may be established by BlackRock from time to time for which the MDCC is deemed as administrator;
- reviewing and discussing the compensation discussion and analysis included in the BlackRock, Inc. annual proxy statement with management and approving the MDCC's report for inclusion in the proxy statement;

- reviewing, assessing and making reports and recommendations to the BlackRock, Inc. Board of Directors (the 'BlackRock, Inc. Board') as appropriate on BlackRock's talent development and succession planning, with the emphasis on performance and succession at the highest management levels; and
- supporting the boards of the Company's EMEA regulated entities in meeting their remuneration-related obligations by overseeing the design and implementation of EMEA remuneration policy in accordance with applicable regulations.

The MDCC directly retains its own independent compensation consultant, Semler Brossy Consulting Group LLC, who has no relationship with BlackRock, Inc. or the BlackRock, Inc. Board that would interfere with its ability to provide independent advice to the MDCC on compensation matters.

The BlackRock, Inc. Board has determined that all of the members of the MDCC are "independent" within the meaning of the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), which requires each meet a "non-employee director" standard.

The MDCC held 8 meetings during 2024. The MDCC charter is available on BlackRock, Inc.'s website (www.blackrock.com).

Through its regular reviews, the MDCC continues to be satisfied with the principles of BlackRock's compensation policy and approach.

(b) The ManCo's Board

The ManCo's Board in its supervisory function has the task of supervising, approving and providing oversight of the UCITS Remuneration Policy as it applies to the ManCo and its Identified Staff (as defined below).

The responsibilities of the supervisory function include:

- approve, maintain and oversee the implementation of the UCITS Remuneration Policy;
- determine and oversee the remuneration of the members of the management body, provided that insofar the relevant ManCo does not have a separate supervisory function, the remuneration of the member of the management body is determined by the MDCC;
- approve any subsequent material exemptions or changes to the UCITS Remuneration Policy and carefully consider and monitor their effects;
- take into account the inputs provided by all competent corporate functions (i.e., risk management, compliance, human resources, strategic planning, etc.) in the design and oversight of the UCITS Remuneration Policy.

Decision-making process

Remuneration decisions for employees are made once annually in January following the end of the performance year. This timing allows full-year financial results to be considered along with other non-financial goals and objectives. Although the framework for remuneration decision-making is tied to financial performance, significant discretion is used to determine individual variable remuneration based on achievement of strategic and operating results and other considerations such as management and leadership capabilities.

No set formulas are established and no fixed benchmarks are used in determining annual incentive awards. In determining specific individual remuneration amounts, a number of factors are considered including non-financial goals and objectives and overall financial and investment performance (including, where relevant, good outcomes for retail customers). These results are viewed in the aggregate without any specific weighting, and there is no direct correlation between any particular performance measure and the resulting annual incentive award. The variable remuneration awarded to any individual(s) for a particular performance year may also be zero.

Annual incentive awards are paid from a bonus pool.

The size of the projected bonus pool, including cash and equity awards, is reviewed throughout the year by the MDCC and the final total bonus pool is approved after year-end. As part of this review, the MDCC receives actual and projected financial information over the course of the year as well as final year-end information. The financial information that the MDCC receives and considers includes the current year projected income statement and other financial measures compared with prior year results and the current year budget. The MDCC additionally reviews other metrics of BlackRock's financial performance (e.g., net inflows of AUM and investment performance) as well as information regarding market conditions and competitive compensation levels.

The MDCC regularly considers management's recommendation as to the percentage of pre-incentive operating income that will be accrued and reflected as a compensation expense throughout the year for the cash portion of the total annual bonus pool (the "accrual rate"). The accrual rate of the cash portion of the total annual bonus pool may be modified by the MDCC during the year based on its review of the financial information described above. The MDCC does not apply any particular weighting or formula to the information it considers when determining the size of the total bonus pool or the accruals made for the cash portion of the total bonus pool.

Following the end of the performance year, the MDCC approves the final bonus pool amount.

As part of the year-end review process the Enterprise Risk and Regulatory Compliance departments report to the MDCC on any activities, incidents or events that warrant consideration in making compensation decisions.

Individuals are not involved in setting their own remuneration.

Control functions

Each of the control functions (Enterprise Risk, Legal & Compliance, Finance, Human Resources and Internal Audit) has its own organisational structure which is independent of the business units and therefore staff members in control functions are remunerated independently of the businesses they oversee. The head of each control function is either a member of the Global Executive Committee ("GEC"), the global management committee, or has a reporting obligation to the board of directors of BlackRock Group Limited, the parent company of all of BlackRock's EMEA regulated entities, including the ManCo.

Functional bonus pools are determined with reference to the performance of each individual function. The remuneration of the senior members of control functions is directly overseen by the MDCC.

Link between pay and performance

There is a clear and well-defined pay-for-performance philosophy and compensation programmes which are designed to meet the following key objectives as detailed below:

- appropriately balance BlackRock's financial results between shareholders and employees;
- attract, retain and motivate employees capable of making significant contributions to the long-term success of the business;
- align the interests of senior employees with those of shareholders by awarding BlackRock Inc.'s stock as a significant part of both annual and long-term incentive awards;
- control fixed costs by ensuring that compensation expense varies with profitability;
- link a significant portion of an employee's total compensation to the financial and operational performance of the business;
- promote sound and effective risk management across all risk categories, including sustainability risk;
- discourage excessive risk-taking (sustainability related or otherwise); and
- ensure that good outcomes are delivered for retail customers and that client interests are not negatively impacted by remuneration awarded on a short-term, mid-term and/or long-term basis.

Driving a high-performance culture is dependent on the ability to measure performance against objectives, values and behaviours in a clear and consistent way. Managers use a 5-point rating scale to provide an overall assessment of an employee's performance, and employees also provide a self-evaluation. The overall, final rating is reconciled during each employee's performance appraisal. Employees are assessed on the manner in which performance is attained as well as the absolute performance itself.

In keeping with the pay-for-performance philosophy, ratings are used to differentiate and reward individual performance – but don't pre-determine compensation outcomes. Compensation decisions remain discretionary and are made as part of the year-end compensation process.

When setting remuneration levels other factors are considered, as well as individual performance, which may include:

- the performance of the ManCo, the funds managed by the ManCo and/or the relevant functional department;
- factors relevant to an employee individually (e.g., relevant working arrangements (including part-time status if applicable); relationships with clients and colleagues; teamwork; skills; any conduct issues; and, subject to any applicable policy, the impact that any relevant leave of absence may have on contribution to the business);
- the management of risk within the risk profiles appropriate for BlackRock's clients;
- strategic business needs, including intentions regarding retention;
- market intelligence;
- criticality to business; and
- supporting the firm's approaches to environmental, social and governance factors and diversity, equity and inclusion.

A primary product tool is risk management and, while employees are compensated for strong performance in their management of client assets, they are required to manage risk within the risk profiles appropriate for their clients. Therefore, employees are not rewarded for engaging in high-risk transactions outside of established parameters. Remuneration practices do not provide undue incentives for short-term planning or short-term financial rewards, do not reward unreasonable risk and provide a reasonable balance between the many and substantial risks inherent within the business of investment management, risk management and advisory services.

BlackRock operates a total compensation model for remuneration which includes a base salary, which is contractual, and a discretionary bonus scheme.

BlackRock operates an annual discretionary bonus scheme. Although all employees are eligible to be considered for a discretionary bonus, there is no contractual obligation to make any award to an employee under its discretionary bonus scheme. In exercising discretion to award a discretionary bonus, the factors listed above (under the heading "Link between pay and performance") may be taken into account in addition to any other matters which become relevant to the exercise of discretion in the course of the performance year.

Discretionary bonus awards for all employees, including executive officers, are subject to a guideline that determines the portion paid in cash and the portion paid in BlackRock, Inc. stock and subject to additional vesting/clawback conditions. Stock awards are subject to further performance adjustment through variation in BlackRock, Inc.'s share price over the vesting period. As total annual compensation increases, a greater portion is deferred into stock. The MDCC adopted this approach in 2006 to substantially increase the retention value and shareholder alignment of the compensation package for eligible employees, including the executive officers. The portion deferred into stock vests into three equal instalments over the three years following grant.

Supplementary to the annual discretionary bonus as described above, equity awards may be made to select individuals to provide greater linkage with future business results. These long-term incentive awards have been established individually to provide meaningful incentive for continued performance over a multi-year period recognising the scope of the individual's role, business expertise and leadership skills.

Selected senior leaders are eligible to receive performance-adjusted equity-based awards from the "BlackRock Performance Incentive Plan" ("BPIP"). Awards made from the BPIP have a three-year performance period based on a measurement of As Adjusted Operating Margin[1] and Organic Revenue Growth[2]. Determination of pay-out will be made based on the firm's achievement relative to target financial results at the conclusion of the performance period. The maximum number of shares that can be earned is 165% of the award in those situations where both metrics achieve pre-determined financial targets. No shares will be earned where the firm's financial performance in both of the above metrics is below a pre-determined performance threshold. These metrics have been selected as key measures of shareholder value which endure across market cycles.

[1] As Adjusted Operating Margin: As reported in BlackRock's external filings, reflects adjusted Operating Income divided by Total Revenue net of distribution and servicing expenses and amortisation of deferred sales commissions.

[2] Organic Revenue Growth: Equal to net new base fees plus net new Aladdin revenue generated in the year (in dollars).

A limited number of investment professionals have a portion of their annual discretionary bonus (as described above) awarded as deferred cash that notionally tracks investment in selected products managed by the employee. The intention of these awards is to align investment professionals with the investment returns of the products they manage through the deferral of compensation into those products. Clients and external evaluators have increasingly viewed more favourably those products where key investors have "skin in the game" through significant personal investments.

Identified Staff

″Identified Staff″ comprises the following categories of staff whose professional activities have a material impact on the risk profiles of the ManCo or the funds it manages:

- Board members (Executive and Non-Executive Directors);
- Conducting officers;
- Members of Senior Management; and
- Individuals responsible for internal senior management, risk takers, control functions.

The list of Identified Staff will be subject to regular review, being formally reviewed in the event of, but not limited to:

- organisational changes;
- new business initiatives;
- changes in significant influence function lists;
- changes in role responsibilities; and
- revised regulatory direction.

BlackRock applies the proportionality principle in respect of staff identified as "Identified Staff". BlackRock bases its proportionality approach on a combination of factors that it is entitled to take into account based on relevant guidelines. The application of proportionality has been assessed based on the criteria set down in the ESMA Guidelines - i.e., criteria in terms of size, internal organisation and nature, scope and complexity of the activities; group of persons, who have only collectively a material impact on the risk profile of the management company; and structure of the remuneration of identified staff.

Quantitative Remuneration Disclosure

The ManCo is required under the Directive to make quantitative disclosures of remuneration. These disclosures are made in line with BlackRock's interpretation of currently available regulatory guidance on quantitative remuneration disclosures. As market or regulatory practice develops BlackRock may consider it appropriate to make changes to the way in which quantitative remuneration disclosures are calculated. Where such changes are made, this may result in disclosures in relation to a fund not being comparable to the disclosures made in the prior year, or in relation to other BlackRock fund disclosures in that same year.

Remuneration information at an individual Fund level is not readily available. Disclosures are provided in relation to (a) the staff of the ManCo; (b) staff who are senior management; (c) staff who have the ability to materially affect the risk profile of the Fund; and (d) staff of companies to which portfolio management and risk management has been formally delegated.

All individuals included in the aggregated figures disclosed are rewarded in line with BlackRock's remuneration policy for their responsibilities across the relevant BlackRock business area. As all individuals have a number of areas of responsibilities, only the portion of remuneration for those individuals' services attributable to the ManCo is included in the aggregate figures disclosed.

Members of staff and senior management of the ManCo typically provide both UCITS and non-UCITS related services in respect of multiple funds, clients and functions of the ManCo and across the broader BlackRock group. Conversely, members of staff and senior management of the broader BlackRock group may provide both UCITS and non-UCITS related services in respect of multiple funds, clients and functions of the broader BlackRock group and of the ManCo. Therefore, the figures disclosed are a sum of individual's portion of remuneration attributable to the ManCo according to an objective apportionment methodology which acknowledges the multiple-service nature of the ManCo and the broader BlackRock group. Accordingly, the figures are not representative of any individual's actual remuneration or their remuneration structure.

The amount of the total remuneration awarded to the ManCo's staff in respect of the ManCo's financial year ending 31 December 2024 is USD 102.4 million. This figure is comprised of fixed remuneration of USD 37.2 million and variable remuneration of USD 65.2 million. There were a total of 4,206 beneficiaries of the remuneration described above.

The amount of the aggregate remuneration awarded by the ManCo in respect of the ManCo's financial year ending 31 December 2024, to its senior management was USD 14.3 million, and to other members of its staff whose actions potentially have a material impact on the risk profile of the ManCo or its funds was USD 16.4 million.

Portfolio Statement

at 28 February 2025

Holding or Nominal Value	Investment	Market Value £000's	% of Total Net Assets
	EQUITIES – 94.80%; 29.2.2024 94.87%		
	Australia – 12.44%; 29.2.2024 12.94%		
32,158,678	Bellevue Gold, Ltd.[Ø]	18,576	1.84
1,930,182	Capricorn Metals, Ltd.	7,223	0.72
30,407,165	Challenger Gold, Ltd.	826	0.08
25,492,680	De Grey Mining, Ltd.	24,668	2.45
5,138,785	Emerald Resources NL[Ø]	10,097	1.00
12,475,244	FireFly Metals, Ltd.	5,944	0.59
5,620,326	Northern Star Resources, Ltd.	47,588	4.72
63,415,782	Predictive Discovery, Ltd.	10,488	1.04
		125,410	**12.44**
	Canada – 67.05%; 29.2.2024 60.68%		
1,031,669	Agnico Eagle Mines, Ltd.	77,844	7.72
2,806,887	Alamos Gold, Inc.	50,404	5.00
4,163,450	Allied Gold Corp.	10,766	1.07
1,702,512	Artemis Gold, Inc.	14,612	1.45
1,612,708	Aya Gold & Silver, Inc.[Ø]	10,434	1.04
3,776,568	B2Gold Corp.	7,999	0.79
4,153,828	Barrick Gold Corp.[Ø]	58,669	5.82
1,798,100	Calibre Mining Corp.	2,740	0.27
3,665,165	Centerra Gold, Inc.	16,515	1.64
4,144,688	Discovery Silver Corp.	3,261	0.32
2,681,792	Dundee Precious Metals, Inc.	24,551	2.44
3,275,185	Eldorado Gold Corp.[Ø]	35,572	3.53
5,251,157	Founders Metals, Inc.	16,178	1.60
302,025	Franco-Nevada Corp.	32,900	3.26
3,209,016	G Mining Ventures Corp.	26,429	2.62
616,936	Kinross Gold Corp. Rights 31/12/2059	105	0.01
7,797,567	Kinross Gold Corp.	65,636	6.51
1,860,371	Lundin Gold, Inc.[Ø]	40,961	4.06
1,555,243	MAG Silver Corp.	18,396	1.82
1,902,312	Osisko Gold Royalties, Ltd.[Ø]	26,949	2.67
1,645,004	Pan American Silver Corp.[Ø]	31,214	3.10
2,213,488	Robex Resources, Inc. Warrants 27/6/2026	55	0.01
2,608,357	Robex Resources, Inc.	3,803	0.38
4,707,985	Rupert Resources, Ltd.	11,630	1.15
1,071,481	Skeena Resources, Ltd.	8,223	0.82
1,892,179	Torex Gold Resources, Inc.	32,833	3.26
880,978	Wheaton Precious Metals Corp.	47,310	4.69
		675,989	**67.05**
	Kazakhstan – 0.00%; 29.2.2024 0.00%		
	Mexico – 0.00%; 29.2.2024 0.45%		
	Russia – 0.00%; 29.2.2024 0.00%		
1	Polyus PJSC[1]	–	0.00
361,521	Polyus PJSC[1]	–	0.00
4,575,500	Vysochaishii PAO[1]	36	0.00
		36	**0.00**
	South Africa – 1.40%; 29.2.2024 4.31%		
986,082	Gold Fields, Ltd.	14,077	1.40
5,286,897	Great Basin Fvp Com[1]	–	0.00
		14,077	**1.40**
	United Kingdom – 8.11%; 29.2.2024 9.55%		
1,243,936	Anglogold Ashanti PLC	28,957	2.87
3,360,199	Endeavour Mining PLC[Ø]	52,871	5.24
		81,828	**8.11**
	United States of America – 5.80%; 29.2.2024 6.83%		
272,440	Banro Newco B Shares[1]	–	0.00
1,748,928	Newmont Corp.	58,471	5.80
		58,471	**5.80**
	BONDS – 0.00%; 29.2.2024 0.00%		
	Canadian Dollar Denominated Corporate Bonds – 0.00%; 29.2.2024 0.00%		
CA$2,299,257	Great Basin Gold, Ltd. 8% 30/11/2014[1]	**–**	**0.00**
	COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEMES – 5.55%; 29.2.2024 5.89%		
	Equity Funds – 4.63%; 29.2.2024 4.43%		
221,629	Royal Mint Responsibly Sourced Physical Gold ETC	4,974	0.49
4,991,562	Sprott Physical Silver Trust	41,770	4.14
		46,744	**4.63**

Holding or Nominal Value	Investment	Market Value £000's	% of Total Net Assets
Short-term Money Market Funds – 0.92%; 29.2.2024 1.46%			
92,541	BlackRock ICS Sterling Liquid Environmentally Aware Fund - Agency Income Class†	**9,255**	**0.92**
Portfolio of investments		**1,011,810**	**100.35**
Net other liabilities		(3,542)	(0.35)
Total net assets		**1,008,268**	**100.00**

Unless otherwise stated, all securities are either listed on a recognised exchange, traded on an eligible securities market or are permitted collective investment schemes.

[1] These securities were valued in consultation with the Manager. These securities were fair valued or suspended at financial year end.

ø All or a portion of this investment represents a security on loan, see note 2(b) iv) for further details.

† Managed by a related party.

Statement of Total Return

for the year ended 28 February 2025

	Notes	£000's	For the year to 28.2.2025 £000's	£000's	For the year to 29.2.2024 £000's
Income					
Net capital gains/(losses)	3		428,952		(92,048)
Revenue	4	14,560		19,346	
Expenses	5	(12,232)		(12,064)	
Interest payable and similar charges	6	(1)		(1)	
Net revenue before taxation		2,327		7,281	
Taxation	7	(1,809)		(2,177)	
Net revenue after taxation			518		5,104
Total return before distributions			429,470		(86,944)
Distributions	8		(2,152)		(5,376)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities			**427,318**		**(92,320)**

Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders

for the year ended 28 February 2025

	£000's	For the year to 28.2.2025 £000's	£000's	For the year to 29.2.2024 £000's
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders		753,303		917,971
Amounts receivable on issue of units	234,489		230,325	
Amounts payable on cancellation of units	(408,196)		(306,540)	
		(173,707)		(76,215)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		427,318		(92,320)
Retained distribution on accumulation units		1,354		3,867
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders		**1,008,268**		**753,303**

Balance Sheet
at 28 February 2025

	Notes	28.2.2025 £000's	29.2.2024 £000's
Assets:			
Fixed assets			
– Investment assets		1,011,810	759,047
Current assets			
– Debtors	9	3,602	3,085
– Cash and bank balances		1,215	960
Total assets		**1,016,627**	**763,092**
Liabilities:			
Creditors			
– Distributions payable		(353)	(1,151)
– Other creditors	10	(8,006)	(8,638)
Total liabilities		**(8,359)**	**(9,789)**
Net assets attributable to unitholders		**1,008,268**	**753,303**

G D Bamping (Director)
M T Zemek (Director)
BlackRock Fund Managers Limited
30 May 2025

Notes to Financial Statements

for the year ended 28 February 2025

1. Accounting and Distribution Policies

Accounting Policies

(a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP) and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds (the "SORP") issued by the Investment Management Association (now known as the Investment Association) in May 2014 and amended in June 2017.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with UK GAAP and the SORP. The Fund is able to meet all of its liabilities from its assets. The performance, marketability and risks of the Fund are reviewed on a regular basis throughout the financial period. Therefore, the Directors of the Manager believe that the Fund will continue in operational existence for a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements and is financially sound. The Directors of the Manager are satisfied that, at the time of approving the financial statements, it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements of the Fund.

(b) Bank interest is recognised on an accruals basis.

Dividends on quoted ordinary shares and preference shares are recognised when the securities are quoted ex-dividend. Where such securities are not quoted, dividends are recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

Any reported revenue from an offshore fund with reporting status from HMRC, in excess of any distribution received in the reporting period, is recognised as revenue no later than the date on which the reporting fund makes this information available. The equalisation element is treated as capital.

All revenue is recognised as a gross amount that takes account of any withholding taxes but excludes any other taxes such as attributable tax credits.

Revenue from securities lending is accounted for net of associated costs and is recognised on an accruals basis.

(c) The underlying circumstances behind both special dividends and share buy backs are reviewed on a case by case basis in determining whether the amount is revenue or capital in nature. Any tax treatment will follow the accounting treatment of the principal amount.

(d) Underwriting commission is wholly recognised as revenue when the issue takes place, except where the Fund is required to take up some or all of the shares underwritten, in which case an appropriate proportion of the commission received is deducted from the cost of those shares.

(e) All expenses, except those relating to the purchase and sale of investments are charged against revenue. All expenses are recognised on an accruals basis.

(f) Provision for corporation tax is made at the current rate on the excess of taxable revenue over allowable expenses. Provision is made on all material timing differences arising from the different treatment of items for accounting and tax purposes. A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is considered more likely than not that there will be taxable profits in the future against which the asset can be offset.

(g) Where the end of the accounting year on the Balance Sheet date is a business day, the valuation point is 12 noon, and where the end of the accounting year on the Balance Sheet date is a non-business day, the valuation point is end of day. All investments are valued at their fair value as at the end of the accounting period. In the case of an investment which is not quoted, listed or dealt in on a recognised market, or in respect of which a listed, traded or dealt price or quotation is not available at the time of valuation, the fair value of such investment shall be estimated with care and in good faith by a competent professional person, body, firm or corporation including the Manager's pricing committee and such fair value shall be determined on the basis of the probable realisation value of the investment. The Manager shall be entitled to adopt an alternative method of valuing any particular asset if it considers that the methods of valuation set out above do not provide a fair valuation of a particular asset or liability.

Investments in dual priced Collective Investment Schemes have been valued at the latest available published bid price market values. Investments in single priced Collective Investment Schemes have been valued at the latest available published market values.

(h) Any transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling on the date of any such transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rates ruling at the end of the accounting period. Revenue items in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rate when the revenue is received.

(i) Where appropriate, certain permitted financial instruments such as derivatives are used for efficient portfolio management. Where such financial instruments are used to protect or enhance revenue, the revenue and expenses derived therefrom are included in 'Revenue' in the Statement of Total Return. Where such financial instruments are used to protect or enhance capital, the gains and losses derived therefrom are included in 'Net capital gains/(losses)' in the Statement of Total Return.

(j) Cash and bank balances consist of deposits held on call with banks and cash held with clearing brokers and counterparties.

Distribution Policies

(k) The ordinary element of stock dividends is treated as revenue but does not form part of the distribution.

(l) Special dividends and share buy backs recognised as revenue form part of the distribution.

2. Financial Instruments and Risks

The Fund's investment activities expose it to the various types of risk which are associated with the financial instruments and markets in which it invests. The following information is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of all risks and investors should refer to the Prospectus for a more detailed discussion of the risks inherent in investing in the Fund.

Risk management framework

The Manager has delegated the day-to-day administration of the investment programme to the Investment Manager. The Investment Manager is also responsible for ensuring that the Fund is managed within the terms of its investment guidelines and limits set out in the Prospectus. The Manager reserves to itself the investment performance, product risk monitoring and oversight and the responsibility for the monitoring and oversight of regulatory and operational risk for the Fund.

The Manager has appointed a risk manager who has responsibility for the daily risk management process with assistance from key risk management personnel of the Investment Manager, including members of the BlackRock Risk and Quantitative Analysis Group ("RQA Group") which is a centralised group which performs an independent risk management function. The RQA Group independently identifies, measures and monitors investment risk. The RQA Group tracks the actual risk management practices being deployed across the different funds. By breaking down the components of the process, the RQA Group has the ability to determine if the appropriate risk management processes are in place for the Fund. This captures the risk management tools employed, how the levels of risk are controlled, ensuring risk/return is considered in portfolio construction and reviewing outcomes.

The principal risk exposure of the Fund is set out as follows:

(a) Market risk

Market risk arises mainly from uncertainty about future values of financial instruments influenced by other price, currency and interest rate movements. It represents the potential loss the Fund may suffer through holding market positions in the face of market movements. The Fund is exposed to market risk by virtue of its investments in equities, warrants, rights and corporate bonds.

A key metric the RQA Group uses to measure market risk is Value-at-Risk ("VaR") which encompasses price, currency and interest rate risk. VaR is a statistical risk measure that estimates the potential portfolio loss from adverse market moves in an ordinary market environment. VaR analysis reflects the interdependencies between risk variables, unlike a traditional sensitivity analysis.

The VaR calculations are based on an adjusted historical simulation model with a confidence level of 99%, a holding period of one day and a historical observation period of not less than one year (250 days). A VaR number is defined at a specified probability and a specified time horizon. A 99% one day VaR means that the expectation is that 99% of the time over a one day period the Fund will lose less than this number in percentage terms. Therefore, higher VaR numbers indicate higher risk.

It is noted that the use of the VaR methodology has limitations, namely that the use of historical market data as a basis for estimating future events does not encompass all possible scenarios, particularly those that are of an extreme nature and that the use of a specified confidence level (e.g. 99%) does not take into account losses that occur beyond this level. There is some probability that the loss could be greater than the VaR amounts. These limitations and the nature of the VaR measure mean that the Fund can neither guarantee that losses will not exceed the VaR amounts indicated, nor that losses in excess of the VaR amounts will not occur more frequently.

The one day VaR as at 28 February 2025 and 29 February 2024 based on a 99% confidence level was 2.73% and 3.06% respectively.

i) Market risk arising from foreign currency risk

Exposure to foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

The Fund may invest in securities which may be denominated in currencies other than its reporting currency.

Management of foreign currency risk

Foreign currency exposures are managed within parameters utilising forward currency contracts. There were no open forward currency contracts at the year end.

ii) Market risk arising from other price risk

Exposure to other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting similar financial instruments traded in the market. Local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issue, recessions, or other events could have a significant impact on the Fund and market prices of its investments.

The Fund is exposed to other price risk arising from its investments. The exposure of the Fund to other price risk is the market value of the investments held as shown in the Portfolio Statement of the Fund.

Management of other price risk

The Investment Manager manages the Fund's other price risk on a daily basis in accordance with the Fund's investment objective.

By diversifying the portfolio, where this is appropriate and consistent with the Fund's objectives, the risk that a price change of a particular investment will have a material impact on the Net Asset Value ("NAV") of the Fund is minimised. The investment concentrations within the portfolio are disclosed in the portfolio statement by investment type.

iii) Market risk arising from interest rate risk

Exposure to interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund is exposed to interest rate risk on its cash and bank balances held at The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited and its investments in fixed and floating rate interest bearing securities where the value of these securities may fluctuate as a result of a change in interest rates. Cash held on deposit at The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited receives/incurs interest at the prevailing daily rate which may be negative depending on the currency in which the cash is held.

Management of interest rate risk

Interest rate risk exposure is managed by constantly monitoring the position for deviations outside a pre-determined tolerance level and, when necessary, rebalancing back to the original desired parameters.

(b) Counterparty credit risk

Exposure to counterparty credit risk

Counterparty credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

The Fund is exposed to counterparty credit risk from the parties with which they trade and will bear the risk of settlement default.

Management of counterparty credit risk

Counterparty risk is monitored and managed by BlackRock's RQA Counterparty & Concentration Risk Team. The team is headed by BlackRock's Chief Counterparty Credit Officer who reports directly to the Global Head of RQA. Credit authority resides with the Chief Counterparty Credit Officer and selected team members to whom specific credit authority has been delegated. As such, counterparty approvals may be granted by the Chief Counterparty Credit Officer or by identified RQA Credit Risk Officers who have been formally delegated authority by the Chief Counterparty Credit Officer as deemed appropriate.

BlackRock's RQA Counterparty & Concentration Risk Team completes a formal review of each new counterparty, monitors and reviews all approved counterparties on an ongoing basis and maintains an active oversight of counterparty exposures.

The Manager maintains a list of approved counterparties. This list is regularly monitored and revised for changes based on the counterparty's creditworthiness, market reputation and expectations of future financial performance. Transactions will only be opened with financial intermediaries on the approved counterparties list.

i) Trustee and Custodian

The Fund's Trustee and Custodian is The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited (the "Trustee" and "Custodian").

All of the investments of the Fund are held by the Custodian at year end. Investments are segregated from the assets of the Custodian, with ownership rights remaining with the Fund. Bankruptcy or insolvency of the Custodian may cause the Fund's rights with respect to its investments held by the Custodian to be delayed or limited. The maximum exposure to this risk is the total amount of equity and bond investments disclosed in the portfolio statement.

The Fund will be exposed to the credit risk of the Custodian, or any depositary used by the Trustee regarding cash balances held in accounts with same. In the event of insolvency or bankruptcy of the Custodian or any depositary used by the Trustee, the Fund will be treated as a general creditor of the Trustee.

Management of counterparty credit risk related to the Trustee and Custodian

To mitigate the Fund's credit risk with respect to the Trustee, the Investment Manager of the Fund employs specific procedures to ensure that the Trustee employed is a reputable institution and that the associated credit risk is acceptable to the Fund. The Fund only transacts with counterparties that are regulated entities subject to prudential supervision, or with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies.

The long term credit rating of the parent company of the Trustee and Custodian, The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, as at 28 February 2025 was A (29 February 2024: A) (Standard & Poor's rating).

ii) Counterparties

All transactions in listed securities are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered minimal, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has received payment. Payment is made on a purchase once the securities have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligation.

Counterparty credit risk arising on transactions with brokers relates to transactions awaiting settlement. Risk relating to unsettled transactions is considered small due to the short settlement period involved and the high credit quality of the brokers used.

Management of counterparty credit risk related to Counterparties

The Manager monitors the credit rating and financial position of the brokers used to further mitigate this risk.

iii) Debt securities

Issuer credit risk is the default risk of one of the issuers of any securities held by the Fund.

Bonds or other debt securities involve credit risk to the issuer which may be evidenced by the issuer's credit rating. Securities which are subordinated and/or have a higher credit risk have a greater possibility of default than more highly rated securities. The Fund invests into sovereign debt which exposes the Fund to the risk that the issuer of the bonds may default on interest or principal payments.

Management of counterparty credit risk related to debt securities

To manage this risk the Investment Manager invests in a wide range of securities, subject to the investment objective of the Fund and monitors the credit ratings of the investments as disclosed in the portfolio statement. The ratings of the debt securities are continually monitored by the BlackRock Portfolio Management Group.

There were no debt securities held by the Fund as at 28 February 2025.

iv) Securities lending

The Fund engages in security lending activities which expose the Fund to counterparty credit risk. The maximum exposure to the Fund is equal to the value of the securities loaned.

Securities lending transactions entered into by the Fund are subject to a written legal agreement between the Fund and the Stock Lending Agent, BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited, a related party to the Fund, and separately between the Stock Lending Agent and the approved borrowing counterparty. Collateral received in exchange for securities lent is transferred under a title transfer arrangement and is delivered to and held in an account with a tri-party collateral manager in the name of the Trustee on behalf of the Fund. Collateral received is segregated from the assets belonging to the Fund's Trustee or the Stock Lending Agent.

The following table details the value of securities on loan (individually identified in the Portfolio Statement) and associated collateral received, analysed by borrowing counterparty as at the Balance Sheet date.

Counterparty	Counterparty's country of establishment	28 February 2025 Securities on loan £000's	28 February 2025 Collateral received £000's	29 February 2024 Securities on loan £000's	29 February 2024 Collateral received £000's
Barclays Bank Plc	UK	–	–	15,663	17,220
Barclays Capital Securities Limited	UK	2,234	2,384	2,297	2,582
BNP Paribas Arbitrage SNC	France	–	–	3,728	4,100
Goldman Sachs International	UK	2,570	2,689	315	343
J.P. Morgan Securities Plc	UK	10,973	12,146	1,037	1,187
The Bank of Nova Scotia	Canada	–	–	412	462
UBS AG	Switzerland	1,512	1,671	2,315	2,738
Total		**17,289**	**18,890**	**25,767**	**28,632**

At 28 February 2025, collateral received from these borrowing counterparties comprised of 21.37% in debt securities and 78.63% in equity securities (29 February 2024: 12.95% in debt securities and 87.05% in equity securities).

Collateral accepted is non-cash in the form of sovereign debt rated AA or better from approved governments only, supranational debt obligations rated AAA or better and equity securities listed on a recognised exchange.

Management of counterparty credit risk related to securities lending

To mitigate this risk, the Fund receives either cash or securities as collateral equal to a certain percentage in excess of the fair value of the securities loaned. The Investment Manager monitors the fair value of the securities loaned and additional collateral is obtained, if necessary. As at 28 February 2025 and 29 February 2024, all non-cash collateral received consists of securities admitted to or dealt on a recognised exchange.

The Fund also benefits from a borrower default indemnity provided by BlackRock Inc. The indemnity allows for full replacement of securities lent. BlackRock Inc. bears the cost of indemnification against borrower default.

(c) Liquidity risk

Exposure to liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will encounter difficulties in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities.

Liquidity risk to the Fund arises from the redemption requests of unitholders and the liquidity of the underlying investments the Fund is invested in. The Fund's unitholders may redeem their units on the close of any daily dealing deadline for cash equal to a proportionate share of the Fund's NAV. The Fund is therefore potentially exposed to the liquidity risk of meeting the unitholders' redemptions and may need to sell assets at prevailing market prices to meet liquidity demands.

All financial liabilities held by the Fund as at 28 February 2025 and 29 February 2024, based on contractual maturities, fall due within one month.

Management of liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is minimised by holding sufficient liquid investments which can be readily realised to meet liquidity demands.

At times of excessive redemptions the Manager may decide to defer redemptions at any valuation point to the next valuation point where the requested aggregate redemptions exceed 10 per cent of the Fund's NAV. This will therefore allow the Manager to protect the interests of continuing unitholders by allowing the Manager to match the sale of scheme property to the level of redemptions. This should reduce the impact of dilution on the Fund. All unitholders who have sought to redeem units at any valuation point at which redemptions are deferred will be treated consistently and any redemption requests received in the meantime will not be processed until the redemption requests that have been deferred to the subsequent valuation points have been processed.

The Fund's liquidity risk is managed on a daily basis by the Investment Manager in accordance with established policies and procedures in place. The portfolio managers review daily forward looking cash reports which project cash obligations. These reports allow them to manage the Fund's cash obligations.

(d) Valuation of financial instruments

The Fund classifies financial instruments measured at fair value using a fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy has the following categories:

Level 1 − Unadjusted quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets

A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis. The Fund does not adjust the quoted price for these instruments.

Level 2 − Valuation techniques using observable inputs other than quoted prices in level 1

This category includes instruments valued using quoted prices in active markets for similar instruments; quoted prices for similar instruments in markets that are considered less than active; or other valuation techniques where all significant inputs are directly or indirectly observable from market data.

Valuation techniques used for non-standardised financial instruments such as OTC derivatives, include the use of comparable recent arm's length transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, option pricing models and other valuation techniques commonly used by market participants making the maximum use of market inputs and relying as little as possible on entity determined inputs.

Level 3 − Valuation techniques using significant unobservable inputs

This category includes all instruments where the valuation techniques used include inputs not based on market data and these inputs could have a significant impact on the instrument's valuation.

This category also includes instruments that are valued based on quoted prices for similar instruments where significant entity determined adjustments or assumptions are required to reflect differences between the instruments and instruments for which there is no active market.

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety is determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. For this purpose, the significance of an input is assessed against the fair value measurement in its entirety. If a fair value measurement uses observable inputs that require significant adjustment based on unobservable inputs, that measurement is a level 3 measurement.

Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgement, considering factors specific to the asset or liability. The determination of what constitutes 'observable' inputs requires significant judgement by the Investment Manager. The Investment Manager considers observable inputs to be that market data that is readily available, regularly distributed or updated, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary, and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market.

The table below is an analysis of the Fund's investment assets and investment liabilities measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date.

	Level 1 £000's	Level 2 £000's	Level 3 £000's	Total £000's
28 February 2025				
Investment assets	1,002,519	9,255	36[1]	1,011,810
Investment liabilities	–	–	–	–
29 February 2024				
Investment assets	747,192	11,528	327[1]	759,047
Investment liabilities	–	–	–	–

[1] Includes securities fair valued by the Manager at zero. These securities are identified on the Fund's Portfolio Statement.

(e) Global exposure

The Manager is required by the COLL Sourcebook to employ a risk management process in respect of the Fund which enables it to accurately monitor and manage the global exposure from Financial Derivative Instruments ("FDIs").

The Manager uses a methodology known as the Commitment Approach in order to measure the global exposure of the Fund. The Commitment Approach is a methodology that aggregates the underlying market or notional values of FDIs to determine the degree of global exposure of the Fund to FDIs. In accordance with the COLL Sourcebook, global exposure for a fund utilising the Commitment Approach must not exceed 100% of the Fund's NAV. The calculation of global exposure represents only one element of the Fund's risk management process and in that respect the Manager will continue to report VaR as a market risk measure to the Board of Directors.

The Fund did not hold any FDIs at 28 February 2025 and 29 February 2024.

3. Net Capital Gains/(Losses)

	For the year to 28.2.2025 £000's	For the year to 29.2.2024 £000's
The net capital gains/(losses) comprise:		
Gains/(losses) on non-derivative securities	429,326	(84,937)
Losses on derivative securities	(482)	(8,348)
Currency gains	113	1,290
Custodian transaction costs	(5)	(53)
Net capital gains/(losses)	**428,952**	**(92,048)**

4. Revenue

	For the year to 28.2.2025 £000's	For the year to 29.2.2024 £000's
Interest from UK bank deposits	78	52
Overseas dividends	12,415	16,270
Revenue from short-term money market funds	415	609
Securities lending revenue	57	47
UK dividends	1,595	2,368
Total revenue	**14,560**	**19,346**

5. Expenses

	For the year to 28.2.2025 £000's	For the year to 29.2.2024 £000's
Payable to the Manager or associates of the Manager:		
– Annual Management charge	11,131	10,880
– Annual service charge	984	1,003
	12,115	11,883
Other expenses:		
– ADR fee#	2	4
– Audit fee	8	8
– Legal and other professional fees	5	5
– Safe custody fees	45	73
– Trustee's fees	89	101
– VAT recoverable	(32)	(10)
	117	181
Total expenses	**12,232**	**12,064**

ADR ("American Depositary Receipt") fees are fees associated with the creating or releasing of ADRs from ordinary shares, charged by the depositary bank.

6. Interest Payable and Similar Charges

	For the year to 28.2.2025 £000's	For the year to 29.2.2024 £000's
Interest on bank overdrafts	1	1
Total interest payable and similar charges	**1**	**1**

7. Taxation

(a) Analysis of tax charge

	For the year to 28.2.2025 £000's	For the year to 29.2.2024 £000's
Overseas tax	1,809	2,177
Total tax charge [see note 7(b)]	**1,809**	**2,177**

7. Taxation continued

(b) Factors affecting the tax charge

The tax assessed for the year is higher than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK for an authorised unit trust. The differences are explained below:

	For the year to 28.2.2025 £000's	For the year to 29.2.2024 £000's
Net revenue before taxation	2,327	7,281
Corporation tax at 20% (29 February 2024: 20%)	465	1,456
Effects of:		
Movement in unrecognised excess management expenses	2,337	2,272
Overseas tax	1,809	2,177
Revenue not subject to tax	(2,802)	(3,728)
Total tax charge [see note 7(a)]	**1,809**	**2,177**

At 28 February 2025, the Fund had surplus management expenses of £373,691,000 (29 February 2024: £362,007,000.) It is unlikely that the Fund will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise these expenses and, therefore, a deferred tax asset of £74,738,000 (29 February 2024: £72,401,000) has not been recognised.

8. Distributions

	For the year to 28.2.2025 £000's	For the year to 29.2.2024 £000's
Final distribution	1,707	5,018
	1,707	5,018
Add: Amounts deducted on cancellation of units	811	1,169
Less: Amounts received on issue of units	(366)	(811)
Distributions	**2,152**	**5,376**
The distributable amount has been calculated as follows:		
Net revenue after taxation	518	5,104
Add: Equalisation on conversions	–	67
Add: Shortfall transferred to capital	1,634	205
Distributions	**2,152**	**5,376**

Details of the interim and final distributions per unit are set out in the tables on page 14.

9. Debtors

	28.2.2025 £000's	29.2.2024 £000's
Accrued revenue	43	1,546
Amounts receivable for issue of units	3,514	1,038
Overseas tax recoverable	45	47
Sales awaiting settlement	–	454
Total debtors	**3,602**	**3,085**

10. Other Creditors

	28.2.2025 £000's	29.2.2024 £000's
Accrued Annual Management charge	954	3,318
Accrued Annual service charge	335	307
Accrued Audit fee	8	8
Accrued Safe custody fees	10	9
Accrued Trustee's fee	34	120
Amounts payable for cancellation of units	6,661	4,865
Custodian transaction costs	4	11
Total other creditors	**8,006**	**8,638**

11. Contingent Assets and Liabilities

There were no contingent assets or liabilities at the Balance Sheet date (29 February 2024: £Nil).

12. Credit Facility

The Fund entered into a credit facility with JPMorgan whereby JPMorgan, together with other syndicated lenders, made a portion of a USD 475 million credit facility available to the Fund. This portion of the USD 475 million credit facility will be allocated to the Fund based on the credit facility agreement dated 19 April 2024. This credit facility may be utilised by the Fund for temporary funding purposes, including, without limitation, the funding of investor redemptions. Any interest and commitment fees in relation to drawdowns from such credit facility are paid out of the assets of the Fund.

The credit facility was not used during the year.

13. Related Parties

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial or operational decisions.

The following entities were related parties of the Fund during the year ended 28 February 2025:

Manager/Registrar: BlackRock Fund Managers Limited
Investment Manager: BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited
Stock Lending Agent: BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited

13. Related Parties continued

The ultimate holding company of the Manager, Registrar, Investment Manager and securities lending agent is BlackRock Inc. (“BlackRock”), a company incorporated in Delaware, USA.

The Manager acts as either principal or agent for the Trustee in respect of all transactions of units of the Fund. The aggregate monies received through issue and paid through cancellation of units are disclosed in the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders and note 8. Any amounts due to or from the Manager at the year end are disclosed in notes 9 and 10. Management fees and registration fees paid to the Manager are shown in note 5. The balances due at the year end in respect of these fees are shown in note 10. Securities lending revenue earned by the Fund is disclosed in note 4.

For holdings in Institutional Cash Series plc (“ICS”), there will be no initial charges or redemption charges payable on investments in the Fund, however, duties and charges may apply. ICS will be subject to fees and expenses which may include fixed management fees, performance fees, administration fees and custodial fees.

The Fund may invest in other Collective Investment Schemes (“CIS”), which may or may not be operated and/or managed by an affiliate of the Manager. As an investor in such other CIS, in addition to the fees, costs and expenses payable by a unitholder in the Fund, each unitholder may also indirectly bear a portion of the fees, costs and expenses of the underlying CIS, including management, investment management and administration and other expenses. However, in respect of investments made in any other investment fund whose manager is an affiliate of the Manager, the Fund will invest, where possible, in classes of the underlying funds which are not subject to any management charges. Alternatively, where this is not possible, the Manager will rebate management charges to the Fund. The Fund will not be subject to any preliminary/initial sales fee in respect of investments made in any other investment fund whose manager is an affiliate of the Manager, although it may be subject to duties and charges in respect of subscriptions and redemptions in such investment funds.

As at 28 February 2025 and 29 February 2024, none of the unitholders:

(i) are funds managed by the BlackRock Group or are affiliates of BlackRock Inc. or

(ii) are investors, other than those included in (i) above, who held 51% or more of the voting units in issue in the Fund and are as a result, considered to be a related party to the Fund.

14. Portfolio Transaction Costs

For the year ended 28 February 2025

Purchases (excluding derivatives)	Transaction Value £000's	Direct Transaction Costs Commissions £000's	%	Taxes £000's	%
Equity instruments	321,604	243	0.08	(2)	(0.00)
Collective investment schemes	12,229	7	0.06	–	–
Total purchases	**333,833**	**250**		**(2)**	
Total purchases including transaction costs	**334,081**				

Sales (excluding derivatives)	Transaction Value £000's	Direct Transaction Costs Commissions £000's	%	Taxes £000's	%
Equity instruments	496,249	367	0.07	4	0.00
Collective investment schemes	12,542	5	0.04	–	–
Total sales	**508,791**	**372**		**4**	
Total sales net of transaction costs	**508,415**				
Total transaction costs		**622**		**2**	
Total transaction costs as a % of average net assets		**0.07%**		**0.00%**	

14. Portfolio Transaction Costs continued

For the year ended 29 February 2024

Purchases (excluding derivatives)	Transaction Value £000's	Direct Transaction Costs Commissions £000's	%	Taxes £000's	%
Equity instruments	396,967	225	0.06	14	-
Collective investment schemes	22,772	35	0.15	–	–
Total purchases	**419,739**	**260**		**14**	
Total purchases including transaction costs	**420,013**				

Sales (excluding derivatives)	Transaction Value £000's	Direct Transaction Costs Commissions £000's	%	Taxes £000's	%
Equity instruments	468,994	311	0.07	–	–
Collective investment schemes	16,936	9	0.05	–	–
Total sales	**485,930**	**320**		**–**	
Total sales net of transaction costs	**485,610**				
Total transaction costs		**580**		**14**	
Total transaction costs as a % of average net assets		**0.06%**		**0.00%**	

The above analysis covers direct transaction costs incurred by the Fund during the year. However it is important to understand the nature of other transaction costs associated with different investment asset classes and instruments types.

Separately identifiable direct transaction costs (such as commissions and taxes) are attributable to the Fund's purchase and sale of equity instruments. Additionally, for equity shares there is a dealing spread cost (the difference between the buying and selling prices) which will be incurred on purchase and sale transactions.

For the Fund's investment transactions in debt and money market instruments any applicable transaction charges form part of the dealing spread for these instruments. Transactions in money market instruments to manage the Fund's daily liquidity position are excluded from the analysis.

For the Fund's investment in collective investment scheme holdings there will potentially be dealing spread costs applicable to purchases and sales. However additionally there are indirect transaction costs incurred in those underlying funds, throughout the holding period for the instruments, which are not separately identifiable and do not form part of the analysis above.

Dealing spread costs suffered by the fund vary considerably for the different asset / instrument types depending on a number of factors including transaction value and market sentiment.

14. Portfolio Transaction Costs continued

At the Balance Sheet date the average portfolio dealing spread (difference between bid and offer prices of all investments expressed as a percentage of the offer price value) was 1.10% (29 February 2024: 0.25%).

15. Units in Issue

The movement in units in issue for the year ended 28 February 2025 is as follows:

	A Income Units	A Accumulation Units	X Accumulation Units	D Income Units
Balance at the beginning of the year	1,033,370	20,023,711	10,293,362	9,348,017
Issued during the year	96,070	4,947,338	3,317,667	2,000,189
Cancelled during the year	(185,371)	(5,687,870)	(2,253,210)	(4,058,233)
Converted during the year	713	(16,664)	–	7,365
Balance at the end of the year	**944,782**	**19,266,515**	**11,357,819**	**7,297,338**

	D Accumulation Units	DI Income Units	DI Accumulation Units
Balance at the beginning of the year	25,046,891	4,003,905	12,440,514
Issued during the year	5,421,423	545,799	2,331,658
Cancelled during the year	(10,875,840)	(1,386,980)	(5,567,785)
Converted during the year	57	6,041	1,928
Balance at the end of the year	**19,592,531**	**3,168,765**	**9,206,315**

Revenue is allocated each day pro rata to the capital value of assets attributable to each class and taxation is computed by reference to the net revenue after expenses attributable to each class. The distribution per unit class is given in the distribution table. All unit classes have the same rights on winding up.

16. Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events subsequent to the year end, which, in the opinion of the Manager, may have had an impact on the Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2025.

Statement of Manager's Responsibilities

The Manager is required by the rules of the COLL Sourcebook to prepare the financial statements for each financial year. These financial statements must be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards in the United Kingdom to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fund at the year end and of the net revenue and net capital gains for the year. In preparing these financial statements the Manager is required to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in operation.

The financial statements should comply with the disclosure requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice (the "SORP") for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association (subsequently The Investment Association) and must comply with any relevant provisions of the Trust Deed.

The Manager is responsible for keeping such accounting records as are necessary to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the COLL Sourcebook, the SORP and the Trust Deed.

Statement of the Trustee's Responsibilities in Respect of the Fund and Report of the Trustee to the Unitholders of the Fund for the Year Ended 28 February 2025

The Depositary in its capacity as Trustee of the Fund must ensure that the Fund is managed in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended, (together "the Regulations"), the Trust Deed and Prospectus (together "the Scheme documents") as detailed below.

The Trustee must in the context of its role act honestly, fairly, professionally, independently and in the interests of the Fund and its investors.

The Trustee is responsible for the safekeeping of all the custodial assets and maintaining a record of all other assets of the Fund in accordance with the Regulations.

The Trustee must ensure that:

- the Fund's cash flows are properly monitored and that cash of the Fund is booked in cash accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- the sale, issue, repurchase, redemption and cancellation of units are carried out in accordance with the Regulations;
- the value of units of the Fund are calculated in accordance with the Regulations;
- any consideration relating to transactions in the Fund's assets is remitted to the Fund within the usual time limits;
- the Fund's income is applied in accordance with the Regulations; and
- the instructions of the Authorised Fund Manager ("the AFM"), which is the UCITS Management Company, are carried out (unless they conflict with the Regulations).

The Trustee also has a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that the Fund is managed in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Fund in relation to the investment and borrowing powers applicable to the Fund.

Having carried out such procedures as we considered necessary to discharge our responsibilities as Trustee of the Fund, it is our opinion, based on the information available to us and the explanations provided, that, in all material respects the Fund, acting through the AFM:

(a) has carried out the issue, sale, redemption and cancellation, and calculation of the price of the Fund's units and the application of the Fund's income in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Fund; and

(b) has observed the investment and borrowing powers and restrictions applicable to the Fund in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Fund.

The Bank of New York Mellon
(International) Limited

London
30 May 2025

Building a better working world

Independent Auditor's Report to the Unitholders of BlackRock Gold and General Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of BlackRock Gold and General Fund ("the Fund") for the year ended 28 February 2025, which comprise the Statement of Total Return, the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders, the Balance Sheet, the related notes and the Distribution Table, and the Accounting and Distribution Policies and Financial Instruments and Risks of the Fund, which include a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund as at 28 February 2025 and of the net revenue and the net capital gains on the scheme property of the Fund for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (the "FRC") Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Building a better
working world

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements we have concluded that the Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a period assessed by the Manager, which is one year from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Manager with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor' report thereon. The Manager is responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Building a better working world

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the Financial Conduct Authority (the "FCA")

In our opinion:

- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice relating to Authorised Funds, the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the FCA and the Trust Deed; and
- there is nothing to indicate that adequate accounting records have not been kept or that the financial statements are not in agreement with those records; and
- the information given in the Manager's report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matter in relation to which the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the FCA requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not received all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Responsibilities of the Manager

As explained more fully in the Manager's responsibilities statement set out on page 43, the Manager is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Manager is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Manager either intends to wind up or terminate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Fund and determined that the most significant are United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP), Investment Management Association's Statement of Recommended Practice (IMA SORP), the FCA Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook, the Fund's Trust Deed and the Prospectus.
- We understood how the Fund is complying with those frameworks through discussions with the Manager and the Fund's administrator and a review of the Fund's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Fund's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the risk of management override, specifically management's propensity to influence revenue and amounts available for distribution. We identified a fraud risk with respect to the incomplete or inaccurate revenue recognition through incorrect classification of special dividends and the resulting impact to amounts available for distribution. The results of our procedures confirmed no special dividends received during the year.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the reporting to the Manager with respect to the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to test compliance with the reporting requirements of the Fund.
- Due to the regulated nature of the Fund, the Statutory Auditor considered the experience and expertise of the engagement team to ensure that the team had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify non-compliance with the applicable laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Fund's unitholders, as a body, pursuant to Paragraph 4.5.12 of the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the FCA. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's unitholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Fund and the Fund's unitholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ernst & Young LLP	Edinburgh
Statutory Auditor	30 May 2025

Supplementary Information

Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques

The Manager may, on behalf of the Fund and subject to the conditions and within the limits laid down by the FCA, the Prospectus, as amended from time to time, and the ESMA Guidelines (as adopted by the FCA), employ techniques and instruments relating to transferable securities. These include repurchases/reverse repurchase transactions ("repo transactions") and securities lending, provided that such techniques and instruments are used for efficient portfolio management purposes.

Securities Lending

The total value of securities on loan as a proportion of the Fund's NAV and total lendable assets, as at the Balance Sheet date, is 1.72% and 1.71% respectively. Total lendable assets represents the aggregate value of assets forming part of the Fund's securities lending programme. This excludes any assets held by the Fund that are not considered lendable due to any market, regulatory, investment or other restriction.

If there is securities lending revenue generated, the securities lending agent will receive a fee of 37.5% of such securities lending revenue and will pay any third party operational and administrative costs associated with, and incurred in respect of, such activity, out of its fee. Income earned during the year by the Fund from securities lending transactions is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The value of securities on loan and associated collateral analysed by counterparty, as at 28 February 2025, is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

All securities on loan have an open maturity tenor as they are recallable or terminable on a daily basis.

Collateral

The Fund engages in activities which may require collateral to be provided to a counterparty ("collateral posted") or may hold collateral received ("collateral received") from a counterparty.

The following table provides an analysis by currency of the underlying cash and non-cash collateral received/posted by way of title transfer collateral arrangement by the Fund, in respect of securities lending transactions, as at 28 February 2025.

Currency	Cash collateral received £000's	Cash collateral posted £000's	Non-cash collateral received £000's	Non-cash collateral posted £000's
Securities lending transactions				
GBP	–	–	2,643	–
HKD	–	–	409	–
JPY	–	–	8,555	–
USD	–	–	7,283	–
Total	**–**	**–**	**18,890**	**–**

Non-cash collateral received by way of title transfer collateral arrangement in relation to securities lending transactions cannot be sold, re-invested or pledged.

The following table provides an analysis of the type, quality and maturity tenor of non-cash collateral received/posted by the Fund by way of title transfer collateral arrangement in respect of securities lending transactions, as at 28 February 2025.

	Maturity Tenor						
Collateral type and quality	**1 - 7 days**	**8 - 30 days**	**31 - 90 days**	**91 - 365 days**	**More than 365 days**	**Open transactions**	**Total**
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Collateral received - securities lending							
Fixed income							
Investment grade	–	–	303	467	3,267	–	**4,037**
Equities							
Recognised equity index	–	–	–	–	–	13,638	**13,638**
ETFs							
Non-UCITS	–	–	–	–	–	1,215	**1,215**
Total	**–**	**–**	**303**	**467**	**3,267**	**14,853**	**18,890**

Investment grade securities are those issued by an entity with a minimum investment grade credit rating from at least one globally recognised credit rating agency; Standard & Poor's, Moody's or Fitch.

A recognised equity index contains at least 20 equities where no single equity represents more than 20% of the total index and no five equities combined represent more than 60% of the total index.

The maturity tenor analysis for fixed income securities received as collateral is based on the respective contractual maturity date, while for equity securities and ETFs received as collateral are presented as open transactions as they are not subject to a contractual maturity date.

As at 28 February 2025, all non-cash collateral received by the Fund in respect of securities lending transactions is held by the Fund's Trustee (or through its delegates).

The following table lists the top ten issuers (or all the issuers if less than ten) by value of non-cash collateral received by the Fund by way of the title transfer collateral arrangement across securities lending transactions as at 28 February 2025.

Issuer	Value £000's	% of the Fund's NAV
United Kingdom Gilt	2,643	0.26
Alphabet Inc	2,429	0.24
United States Treasury Bill	1,394	0.14
SoftBank Group Corp	1,342	0.13
Broadcom Inc	1,215	0.12
Shin-Etsu Chemical Co Ltd	1,215	0.12
SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust	1,215	0.12
Sony Group Corp	1,215	0.12
Toyota Motor Corp	1,215	0.12
Tokyo Electron Ltd	1,214	0.12
Other issuers	3,793	0.38
Total	**18,890**	**1.87**

No securities collateral received from a single issuer, in relation to efficient portfolio management and OTC FDIs, has exceeded 20% of the Fund's NAV at the year end date.

About us

BlackRock is a premier provider of asset management, risk management, and advisory services to institutional, intermediary, and individual clients worldwide. As of 31 March 2025, the firm manages £8.95 trillion across asset classes in separate accounts, mutual funds, other pooled investment vehicles, and the industry-leading iShares® exchange-traded funds.

Through BlackRock Solutions®, the firm offers risk management and advisory services that combine capital markets expertise with proprietarily-developed analytics, systems, and technology.

BlackRock serves clients in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, and the Middle East. Headquartered in New York, the firm maintains offices in over 38 countries around the world.

Want to know more?

blackrockinternational.com | +44 (0)20 7743 3300

BlackRock®

NM0625U-4592187-54/54