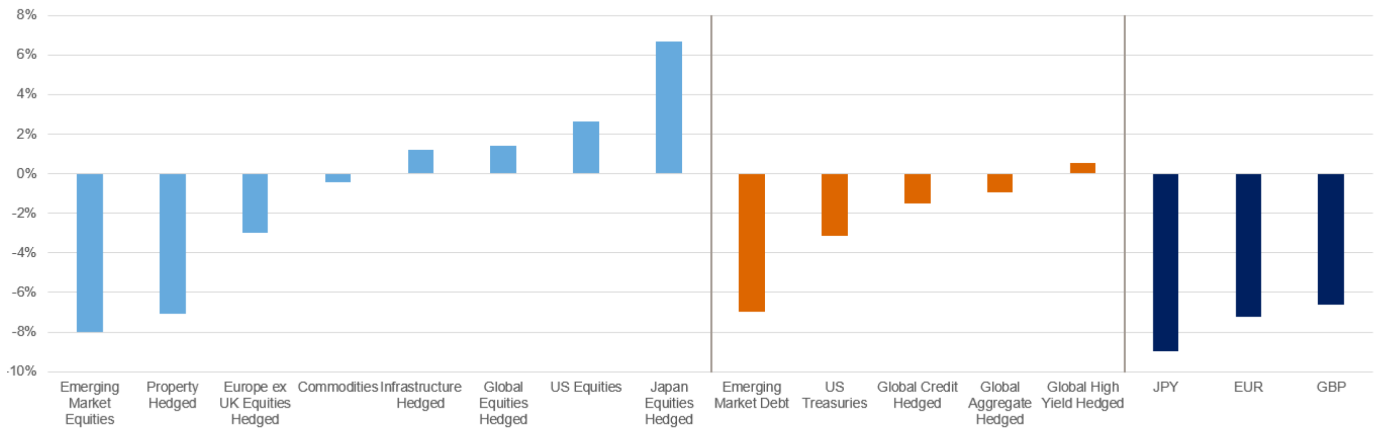
JGC - WPP Performance Summary Q4 2024

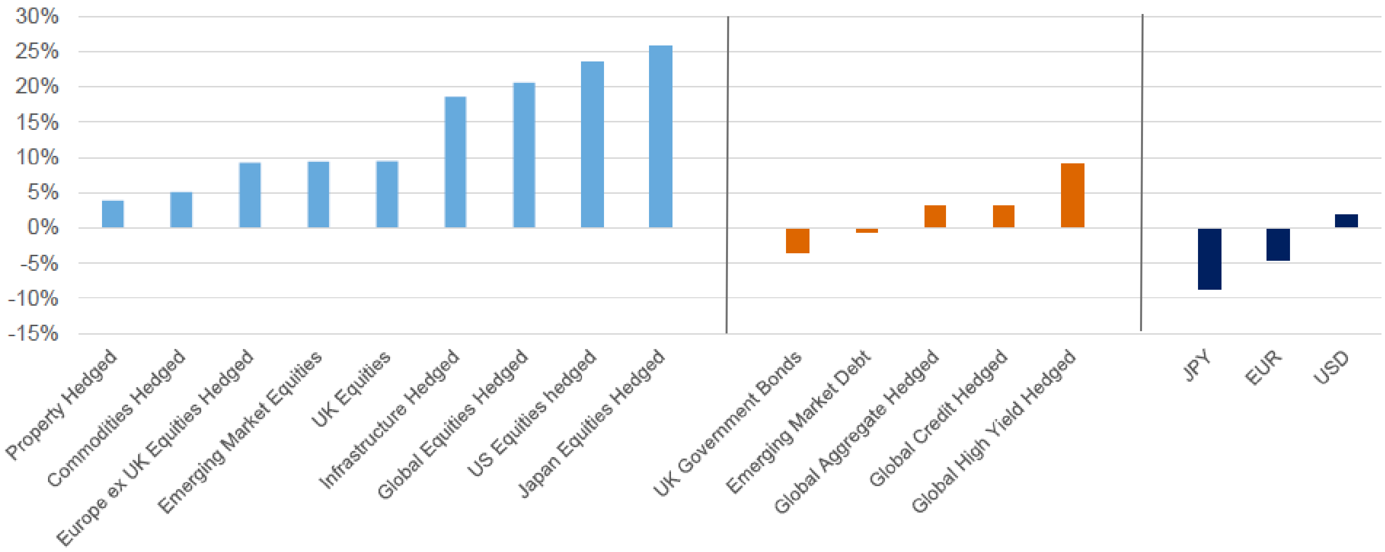
Global Market Commentary

Global equities rose in sterling terms in the fourth quarter but fixed income markets lagged. US equities powered global equities higher following the US election result. Positive sentiment was fuelled by optimism that President-elect Trump's policies, including tax cuts and tariffs, would be business-friendly. Europe was the laggard, impacted by a weak economic outlook and political uncertainty in Germany and France. Asia ex Japan and emerging markets (EM) also underperformed. In fixed income, long yields rose on central bank caution over further rate cuts. The Federal Reserve (Fed) and the European Central Bank (ECB) both lowered rates by 25 basis points (bps) twice, while the Bank of Canada made two 50-bps cuts. The Bank of England (BoE) cut rates by 25 bps in November but left them unchanged in December.

Asset class performance – Quarter to Date (December) 2024



Asset class performance – Year to Date (December) 2024



This document is prepared for officers of the WPP based on performance from Northern Trust. Inception dates are based on the starting NAV for the sub-fund. Inception dates (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Benchmarks : Global equity hedged (MSCI World ACWI), UK equity (FTSE All Share), US equity hedged (Russell 1000 Net GBPH), Europe ex UK equity (MSCI Europe ex UK Equity Net GBPH), Japan equity (TOPIX Net GBPH), Emerging equity (MSCI Emerging Markets Net), Global HY bonds (BofAML Global High Yield 2% Constrained Index), EMD LC (JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index), Global credit hedged (Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Credit Index), Global aggregate hedged (Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index GBPH), UK Government Bonds (ICEBofAML UK Gilts All Stocks (GB), Property hedged (FTSEEPRA Nareit Dev Re GBP)

Global Growth Equity Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Since Inception
Gross	4.1	13.6	5.0	9.2	10.6
Net	4.0	13.2	4.6	8.7	10.2
MSCI AC World Index Net*	4.3	17.6	7.6	10.9	12.0
Excess returns (gross)	-0.2	-4.0	-2.6	-1.7	-1.4
Excess returns (Net)	-0.3	-4.4	-3.0	-2.2	-1.8

Inception Date: 31st January 2019
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Benchmark: MSCI AC World Net Total Return Index GBP

***Figures include a performance holiday in November 2024 around the transition of the Fund.**
Objective: The sub-fund aims to achieve a long-term capital appreciation, net of fees.
Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

For December, the first complete month since Russell inception on 18th November 2024, the Fund registered negative absolute returns and finished behind the benchmark on a relative basis. The Fund's tilt to small caps was a headwind. Its value exposure was also unrewarded. In sectors, an overweight to and stock selection within health care was a notable detractor. This included overweights to CVS Health Corp and Novo Nordisk. Although an overweight to consumer discretionary was helpful, stock selection was unrewarded (underweight Tesla, Amazon). Underweight exposure to and stock selection within information technology was also unhelpful (underweight Broadcom, Apple) albeit an overweight to chipmaker TSMC contributed positively. Underweight exposure to energy was effective as this was among the worst-performing sectors in the period. This included underweights to Exxon Mobil and Chevron. Elsewhere, an overweight to Alphabet within communication services was beneficial.

Global Opportunities Equity Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Since Inception
Gross	5.4	18.2	9.0	11.9	13.0
Net	5.3	17.9	8.7	11.6	12.7
MSCI AC World Index Net	6.0	19.6	8.2	11.3	12.3
Excess returns (gross)	-0.6	-1.4	0.8	0.6	0.7
Excess returns (Net)	-0.7	-1.7	0.5	0.3	0.4

Inception Date: COB 31st January 2019
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Benchmark: MSCI AC World Net Total Return Index GBP
Objective: The sub-fund aims to achieve long-term capital appreciation, net of fees.
Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

The Fund registered positive absolute returns over the fourth quarter but finished behind the benchmark on a relative basis. Throughout the quarter the Fund's tilt to small caps was unrewarded, in contrast to the previous quarter. In sectors, stock selection within financials was detrimental (overweight Commerzbank). Overweight exposure to materials, the worst-performing sector, was also punished, including an overweight to miner Antofagasta. In health care, an overweight to the sector and stock selection detracted (overweight HCA Healthcare, Elevance Health) although an underweight to Novo Nordisk was helpful. Stock selection within consumer discretionary was negative (underweight Tesla, Amazon). Underweight exposure to information technology was also ineffective (underweight Broadcom, Nvidia, Apple).

However, the negative impact was partly offset by overweights to TSMC and Topcon, which contributed positively. In industrials, overweights to United Airlines and Delta Airlines were beneficial. Underweight exposure to utilities was also effective as this underperformed most other sectors.

Sustainable Active Equity Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	Since Inception
Gross	2.9	14.3	-	13.7
Net	2.9	13.9	-	13.3
MSCI AC World Index Net	6.0	19.6	-	19.0
Excess returns (gross)	-3.1	-5.3	-	-5.3
Excess returns (Net)	-3.1	-5.7	-	-5.7

Inception Date: COB 23rd June 2023
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Benchmark: MSCI AC World Net Total Return Index GBP
Objective: The sub-fund aims to achieve a total return (the combination of income and capital growth) of the equivalent of the MSCI AC World Net Total Return Index GBP plus 1.5% per annum, net of fees, over a rolling five year period.

Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

The Fund registered a positive absolute return of 2.9% over the quarter but underperformed the benchmark on a relative basis. All markets recorded losses over the period except the US where equities were propelled by Donald Trump's unexpectedly decisive victory in the US presidential election and growth was the best-performing style over the quarter. Within this market environment, the Fund's tilt towards low volatility stocks was unfavourable. In terms of sectors, stock selection within technology (underweight Apple) and consumer discretionary (underweight Tesla) detracted. An overweight to and selection within health care (overweight Novo Nordisk, Danaher Corporation) was also unhelpful.

However, overweights to financial firms Visa, Jefferies and Mitsubishi Ufj Financial Group contributed positively. In terms of managers, Neuberger Berman was the best-performing manager, although it still returned negative excess returns. Meanwhile, Mirova lagged the most.

EM Market Commentary

Despite a positive overall performance for 2024, Emerging Markets ended the year on a negative note. Investors evaluated the potential impact of US trade tariffs on select stocks and countries under Donald Trump, who won the US presidential election during the period. Further strength in the US dollar (USD) was an additional headwind as expectations for future Federal Reserve rate cuts were recalibrated. Numerous EM countries took monetary policy action during the period.

Brazil ended the quarter and year as one of the weakest-performing countries. The real remained under pressure and investors remained unconvinced at the feasibility of the government's latest cost-cutting plan. South Korea suffered from wider concerns of US trade tensions, a depreciation in the won and continued weak performance from the technology sector. India returned some of its early-year performance. China marginally outperformed the benchmark return. Stocks initially benefitted from hopes of further government stimulus. However, the latest round of measures, which included a significant fiscal package for local governments to restructure debts, fell short of expectations. Trump's tariff threats also weighed on investor sentiment.

EM Equity Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	Since Inception
Gross	0.6	9.8	0.5	-0.5
Net	0.4	9.4	0.1	-0.9
MSCI Emerging Market Index	-1.5	9.4	0.7	-0.4
Excess returns (gross)	2.1	0.4	-0.2	-0.1
Excess returns (Net)	1.9	0.0	-0.6	-0.5

Inception Date: COB 20th October 2021
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Benchmark: MSCI Emerging Markets Index Net
Objective: To achieve capital appreciation, the equivalent of the MSCI Emerging Market Index Net plus 1.5% per annum, over any five year period, after all costs and charges have been taken.

Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

The Fund outperformed this quarter. Within the Emerging Market environment, the Fund benefitted from positive exposure to momentum, although the modest tilt away from large caps was a slight headwind. Effective stock selection underpinned outperformance. This was strong within Taiwan (overweight Bizlink Holding, MediaTek), South Korea (underweight Samsung Electronics and POSCO,) as well as India and the UAE. Negative stock selection within China (underweight state-owned enterprises in financials, real estate) weighed on relative returns.

Country allocation detracted on aggregate, as an overweight to Brazil and underweight to Taiwan did not suit the market environment. This was partially mitigated by positive contribution from an underweight to India and overweight to the UAE.

In terms of managers, Numeric added to its strong 2024 outperformance via its positive exposure to momentum. Axiom's and Artisan's tilts towards growth helped them outperform the benchmark. Barrow Hanley and Bin Yuan underperformed, whilst Oaktree was the weakest-performing strategy as their stock-selection within China weighed on relative returns.

UK Market Commentary

UK equities lagged global equities but outperformed Europe, Asia ex Japan, and emerging markets. Within the region, financials was the best-performing sector while materials lagged. Early in the quarter there was good news on inflation which fell below the BoE's target to a three-year low of 1.7% YoY in September, down from August's 2.2%. Later in October the Labour's government's first budget proved to be ambitious in scale, including £40 billion of tax rises and £30 billion of extra borrowing to fund the Chancellor's spending plans. The BoE governor warned that the budget would lift inflation by just under half a percentage point at its peak.

The central bank's caution on further rate cuts appeared justified by fresh data that showed headline inflation rose to a six-month high of 2.3% YoY in October and increased further in November to 2.6%. Core inflation was 3.5% YoY in November, up from 3.3%. Meanwhile, pay growth (excluding bonuses) rose to 5.2% YoY in the three months to October, accelerating from 4.4%. In further bad news for the government, the economy contracted by 0.1% in October versus expectations of 0.1% growth and was flat over the quarter. Retail sales disappointed, rising 0.5% YoY in November, well below October's 2.0% increase and the 1.0% rise expected. In further evidence of a slowing economy the manufacturing PMI weakened, and new factory orders plummeted to a four-year low in December according to the Confederation of British Industry. However, there was better news in services activity, which rose above expectations in December's preliminary PMI reading.

UK Opportunities Equity Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	5 Years	Since Inception
Gross	0.3	10.7	4.8	4.3	5.5
Net	0.2	10.4	4.4	3.9	5.1
FTSE All Share	-0.4	9.5	5.8	4.8	5.5
Excess returns (gross)	0.6	1.2	-1.0	-0.5	0.0
Excess returns (Net)	0.6	0.9	-1.4	-0.9	-0.4

Inception Date: COB 23rd September 2019
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Benchmark: FTSE All Share Index
Objective: The Sub-fund aims to achieve long-term capital appreciation, net of fees.
Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

Within the market environment, the Fund finished ahead of the benchmark over the quarter. Factor positioning detracted overall, with large capitalisation stocks outperforming small cap names. Sector allocation was positive on aggregate, particularly the underweights to both materials and health care. However, this was slightly mitigated by negative stock selection.

Effective selection within the consumer discretionary sector was a key contributor, with exposure to Games Workshop, Burberry Group and Dowlais Group all contributing at the stock level. Stock selection was weakest within the information technology and industrials sectors which weighed on additional outperformance.

In terms of managers, Fidelity was the only manager to underperform this quarter driven by their underweight to financials. J O Hambro's and Ninety One's tilt towards value helped the outperform in the final quarter of the year, whilst Baillie Gifford's growth positioning and selection within consumer discretionary were key contributors to excess returns.

Fixed Income Market Commentary

Government yields rose as central banks became more cautious in their interest rate decision-making. The US presidential election outcome and the anticipated impact of the incoming administration's policies was a major driver of performance. The economic outlook and political uncertainty also impacted market sentiment, particularly in Europe. The Federal Reserve (Fed) and the European Central Bank (ECB) both lowered interest rates by 25 basis points (bps) twice while the Bank of England cut rates by 25 bps in November but left them unchanged in December. The 10-year benchmark US Treasury yield rose 79 bps to 4.57%, grinding higher towards quarter-end. The benchmark 10-year UK gilt yield rose 57 bps to 4.57%. Elsewhere, the yield on the 10-year German bund rose 25 bps to 2.37%.

Credit spreads narrowed over the period. As in the previous quarter, high yield (HY) credit outperformed investment grade (IG). European HY spreads tightened the most (-36 bps to 309), with global HY not far behind (-35 bps to 329). US HY spread tightening was more modest (-8 bps to 287). In the IG market, UK credit was the best performer, with spreads narrowing 18 bps to 80. This compares to European HY spreads which narrowed by 13 bps to 89 and global IG (-10 bps to 82). As with US HY, US IG spread tightening was more limited (-7 bps to 77). Hard currency emerging market debt (EMD) outperformed local currency EMD, mainly due to the strengthening US dollar. The JPM EMBI Global Index rose by 4.8% while the JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index was 0.4% lower over the fourth quarter.

Global Government Bond Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	Since Inception
Gross	-3.1	0.1	-2.0	-1.6
Net	-3.2	-0.1	-2.2	-1.9
FTSE World Gvt Bond Index (GBP Hedged)	-1.2	2.0	-2.4	-2.2
Excess returns (gross)	-1.9	-1.9	0.4	0.6
Excess returns (Net)	-2.0	-2.1	0.2	0.3

Inception Date: COB 30th July 2020
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Benchmark: FTSE World Government Bond Index (GBP Hedged)
Objective: The Sub-fund aims to achieve total return (the combination of income and growth), in excess of the FTSE World Government Bond Index (GBP Hedged), over any five year period, after all costs and charges have been taken.

Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

The Fund underperformed. Positioning in emerging market countries weighed on relative returns this period. An underweight to rates within China and overweight to Brazil were key detractors, while the overweight to Mexico was a further negative. An overweight to 5-year core European bonds and overweight to Norwegian rates were also unrewarded. However, underweight exposure to Japanese rates and longer-dated US Treasuries contributed positively this quarter.

In terms of managers, RBC underperformed due to an underweight to European rates and an overweight to rates in Brazil. Colchester also underperformed due to overweight of Mexican rates and an underweight of rates in China.

Global Credit Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	Since Inception
Gross	-1.4	3.6	-2.4	-1.2
Net	-1.4	3.5	-2.6	-1.4
Bloomberg Barclays Global Agg Credit Index (GBP Hedged)	-1.6	3.1	-2.1	-1.2
Excess returns (gross)	0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.0
Excess returns (Net)	0.2	0.4	-0.5	-0.2

Inception Date: COB 27th July 2020
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Benchmark: Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Credit Index (GBP Hedged)
Objective: The Sub-fund aims to achieve a total return (the combination of income and growth), in excess of the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Credit Index (GBP Hedged), over any five-year period, after all costs and charges have been taken.

Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

The Fund overperformed over the final quarter of the year driven by the Fund's overweight exposure to European high yield and investment grade credit as spreads tightened the most in this region. Allocations to investment grade in other markets were also helpful. In US credit, an underweight to investment grade industrials detracted although this was partly offset by allocations to investment grade financials, which was positive. An overweight to US high yield financials also helped. Positioning in the UK and Canada detracted due to underweight exposure to investment grade credit. Exposure to hard currency emerging market debt was negative due to underweights to investment grade in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. However, the impact was somewhat mitigated by an underweight to investment grade in Europe, which was beneficial. Elsewhere, underweight exposure to sovereign debt in Spain detracted, as in the previous quarter.

In terms of managers, Robeco and MetLife outperformed whereas Fidelity underperformed largely due to rates positioning by being overweight 10-year German bunds.

Multi Asset Credit Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	Since Inception
Gross	-0.7	7.8	1.9	3.4
Net	-0.8	7.5	1.6	3.0
3 Month GBP SONIA + 4%	2.2	9.5	8.0	6.7

Inception Date: COB 27th July 2020
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Objective: To achieve a total return (the combination of income and capital growth), the equivalent of the 3 Month GBP SONIA + 4%, over any five year period, after all costs and charges have been taken. We have not shown excess return as this is a target.

Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

The Fund recorded a negative return in the fourth quarter.The Fund's positive contributions from credit were offset by negative impacts from rates and currency positioning. In rates, allocations to US Treasuries detracted despite overweights to one and two-year issues contributing positively. Underweight exposure to one-year UK gilts also detracted. In currencies, although an overweight to UK sterling was effective this was counterbalanced by an underweight to the US dollar and the euro. In credit, the overweight to European high yield (particularly industrials) was beneficial (RBC UK (BlueBay), ICG). An overweight to investment grade in the region also helped.

In US credit, overweights to high yield financials and industrials were rewarded (RBC UK (BlueBay). An overweight to UK high yield financials and industrials was also additive. Exposure to US securitised credit was effective largely due to securitised credit specialist Voya's overweights to agency credit risk transfers, the top-performing segment, although positive contributions in securitised credit were broad-based. Apart from Voya, RBC UK (BlueBay) and ICG recorded positive absolute returns while Barings and Man GLG registered negative absolute returns.

Absolute Return Bond Strategy Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	Since Inception
Gross	2.9	8.7	5.6	4.4
Net	2.8	8.7	5.5	4.1
3 Month GBP SONIA + 2%	1.7	7.4	5.9	4.7

Inception Date: COB 30th September 2020
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Objective: To achieve a total return (the combination of income and capital growth), the equivalent of the 3 month GBP SONIA plus 2%, over any five year period, after all costs and charges have been taken. we have not shown excess return as this is a target.
Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

The WPP Absolute Return Bond Fund returned 2.9% relative to its target return of SONIA +2%, which returned 1.7%. Within the environment, all three underlying manager strategies added to their positive 2024 performance. The larger allocation to Wellington was rewarded as it ended the quarter as the best-performing strategy.

Overall, the Fund benefitted from short duration positions to core bond markets including the US, UK and Japan. Insight's duration positioning weighed on performance this period. Yield curve positioning was mixed, as Wellington benefitted from its European curve steepener while Insight suffered from its US curve steepener. Credit strategies contributed as spreads continued to tighten. Currency positioning was also positive and included short positions in the Canadian dollar, New Zealand dollar, Swiss franc and Swedish krona.

Sterling Credit Fund:

	Three Months	1 Year	3 Year	Since Inception
Gross	-0.7	2.5	-2.1	-1.2
Net	-0.7	2.4	-2.2	-1.3
ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch Euro-Sterling Index plus 0.65%	-0.3	2.4	-2.5	-1.5

Inception Date: COB 27th July 2020
Source: Northern Trust as of 31 December 2024
Benchmark: ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch Euro-Sterling Index Plus 0.65%.
Objective: The sub-fund aims to achieve a total return (the combination of income and capital growth), the equivalent of the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch Euro Sterling Index plus 0.65% each year, over any three year period after all costs and charges have been taken.

Inception date is based starting NAV for the sub-fund. This inception date (and therefore performance) may differ from the investment manager, who typically takes over following a transition period.

Overall Fund Commentary

The portfolio posted negative returns and underperformed the index over the quarter. Both duration and credit positioning detracted from performance while coupon income added value. Adverse positioning across the sterling duration weighed on returns.

The rise in yields aligned with global trends as inflation expectations were revised upwards. However, in the UK, this increase was amplified by apprehensions regarding the fiscal policies introduced by the new government in its Autumn Budget. Meanwhile, favourable positioning across the US dollar duration enhanced gains.

Within credit, the overweight stance in banks & brokers and insurance supported returns while underweight stance in tech & communications detracted from returns. The Fund's structural underweight position in Quasi supra including KFW and SNCF Reseau also weighed on returns. Meanwhile, an overweight position in insurance names such as RL Finance and New York Life Global supported returns.