HSBC Specialist Investment Funds

Annual Report and Accounts



Company Information

Company

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds Registered in England with Company Number IC000074

Registered Office

8 Canada Square London E14 5HQ

Directors

The Authorised Corporate Director (the "ACD") is HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited which is the sole director.

HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and is a member of The Investment Association (IA).

HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited - Directors

- R.E.W. Apenbrink (appointed 1 July 2020)
- C.S. Cheetham (resigned 30 June 2020)
- A.S. Clark (resigned 27 April 2020)
- A.C. Corfield (resigned 27 April 2020)
- P.G.P. Dew
- P.J.F. Glaze (resigned 28 February 2020)
- M.G. McDonald
- J.M. Munro (resigned 23 September 2019)
- T.J. Palmer
- J.R. Paterson
- S. White (appointed 27 April 2020)

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Director's Report

We are pleased to present the Annual Report and Financial Statements for HSBC Specialist Investment Funds Open Ended Investment Company (OEIC), ("the Company"), covering the year from 16 September 2019 to 15 September 2020.

HSBC OEICs are investment companies with variable capital under regulation 12 (Authorisation) of the OEIC Regulations. The Fund within the OEIC is classed as a securities fund.

The ACD, HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited, is incorporated in England and Wales under number 1917956 and authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The Company is an umbrella company comprising of one Fund, which is operated as a distinct Fund, with its own portfolio of investments.

The Fund has the investment powers equivalent to those of a securities company.

Shareholders are not liable for the debts of the Company. A shareholder is not liable to make any further payment to the Company after the purchase price of the shares has been paid for.

S. White

Director

T.J. Palmer

Director

For and on behalf of HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited ACD

27 November 2020

Market Review

Welcome to the Annual Report for the HSBC Specialist Investment Funds Open-Ended Investment Company (OEIC). The report covers the period 16 September 2019 to 15 September 2020.

Please do take the time to look through the report and if you have any questions, contact our Customer Services on 0800 358 3011*.

To help us continually improve our service, and in the interests of security, we may monitor and/or record your communications with us.

*Lines are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). If you also have shares in another HSBC OEIC, you will receive a separate statement and report when it is due.

UK Equities

The year to mid-September 2020 was a disappointing period for UK equities, with the market one of the weakest performers in Europe. UK shares had trended higher in the final months of 2019, as the risks of an imminent no-deal Brexit subsided – Brexit had been a considerable source of angst for investors. Prime Minister Boris Johnson secured a new draft deal with the European Union and delivered a large majority for the Conservative Party, which boosted investor sentiment. However, the onset of coronavirus caused UK equities to sell off dramatically from late February and into March, before climbing, along with other world equity markets, for much of the rest of the period. Sterling, which had recovered in the final months of 2019 as the UK left the EU and the Tories won the general election, was also volatile during the period.

As a result of the pandemic, the UK government introduced measures to support the economy, including a scheme to pay the salaries of 'furloughed' employees (set at 80% of income, up to £2,500 per month). Along with additional fiscal measures, this led to a rise in equities in late March. Additionally, the Bank of England (BoE) cut interest rates from 0.75% to 0.1%, in two back-to-back cuts.

UK economic growth, already tentative in late 2019 and early 2020, dropped markedly as Covid-19 hit UK shores. A recession in the UK was confirmed as GDP fell by a record 20.4%, on a quarterly basis, in the second quarter of 2020 – the worst performance of any major economy. While unemployment remained close to generational lows of 3.8–4.0% throughout the period, expectations grew for a large rise in unemployment, as the Chancellor's furlough scheme was expected to be wound back in the autumn. UK inflation remained subdued, falling to a recent low of 0.5% in May, before recovering to 1.0% in July.

UK Fixed Income

UK bond markets produced a positive return over the period as yields fell further, reflecting falling interest rates, economic recession and the widespread uncertainty caused by the global pandemic. UK yields continued to edge down as they have done since the start of 2019. The onset of the coronavirus provided a further boost to the 'risk-off' trade, causing yields to fall still further. The 10-year gilt yield fell to a new all-time low of below 0.1% in August. The uncertainties over the UK's future trading relationship with the EU also kept yields low.

In response to the coronavirus crisis, the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee reduced interest rates by a cumulative 65 basis points (bps) – via a 50bps then a 15bps cut – to 0.10%. The BoE also increased its quantitative easing (QE) programme to £745 billion, representing its largest-ever round of QE. The BoE's new governor, Andrew Bailey, the former head of the Financial Conduct Authority, said that aggressive action was needed to reduce the risk of a sharp economic downturn. By the end of the period, media reports suggested that the BoE was seriously considering introducing negative interest rates, which are now a feature of several government bond markets across the globe. Yields on UK corporate bonds followed government bond yields lower.

On the economic front, the UK fell into recession as a 2.2% quarterly drop in GDP, in the first quarter of 2020, was followed by a dramatic 20.4% fall in the second quarter, reflecting the impact of Covid-19 on all aspects of the UK economy. Annual consumer price inflation fell to just 0.5% in May, the lowest rate since June 2016, while core inflation of 1.2% was the weakest since October 2016.

US Equities

While the US market did relatively better than nearly all other global equity markets, it was still not immune from the coronavirus-driven selloff early in 2020. During the final months of 2019, US equities established new all-time highs, driven by decent economic performance, positive earnings growth and the likelihood of a trade deal with Mainland China. However, the market experienced a dramatic decline from the end of February and into March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The market recovered from late March, as the US government and the US Federal Reserve (Fed) introduced emergency measures, and subsequently as lockdown restrictions were eased.

The Fed cut interest rates three times in 2019, to a range of 1.50–1.75%, as Chairman Jerome Powell acknowledged the rising risks from slowing growth and trade issues. However, by the end of the period, and faced with the growing turmoil caused by Covid-19, the Fed had slashed rates to just 0–0.25%. The Fed also stated that it would allow the consumer inflation rate to rise above its target rate of 2%.

In economic news, GDP growth slowed but remained relatively resilient during late 2019. However, in 2020, GDP fell 5.0% on an annualised basis, in the first quarter of 2020. This was followed by a fall of 31.7% – the worst figure ever recorded – in the second quarter, indicating the effects of Covid-19. Employment data was robust for much of the period, with the unemployment rate falling to 3.5% in December, the joint-lowest figure for 50 years. However, by early May, jobless claims had surged to over 30 million, close to one quarter of the entire US workforce, as the impact of the pandemic became clearer.

Towards the end of the period, there were worries about rising new cases of Covid-19 in several states of the US, fuelling concern that a second lockdown might be required. Despite this, and reflecting renewed economic growth and improving investor sentiment, US equities breached new all-time highs, driven most especially by technology companies, which were regarded as 'winners' of the lockdown period.

European Equities

European equities were relatively weak over the period against other global equity markets. They had enjoyed a generally calm upward trend through the final months of 2019, encouraged by improved trade relations between Mainland China and the US, and the ultra-low monetary policy pursued by the European Central Bank (ECB) and other major central banks. The arrival of Covid-19 on European shores put paid to this benign period as European bourses plummeted in unison. Italy was at the heart of the pandemic in Europe, initially suffering the largest number of cases of those affected (although UK cases eventually exceeded Italy's). In early April, the ECB announced an emergency package, including cheap loans and an easing of credit restrictions, in an effort to support the ailing eurozone economy.

The European economy had been sluggish in 2019, but quickly fell into recession as the severe economic implications of the coronavirus were felt across the region. Eurozone GDP was down 3.7% quarter on quarter, in the first quarter, and then by 11.8% in the second quarter – the steepest drop since records began. Italy, France and Germany all fell into recession.

European equities recovered, alongside global equities, from late March. The easing of Covid-related restrictions helped to boost markets and allow businesses and social activity to function more fully. Monetary support to the eurozone economy was tangible as the ECB raised its budget, through its Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme, by a further €600 billion, allowing it to purchase bonds across the eurozone. The EU committed €750 billion through its Recovery Fund to distribute to struggling economies.

Brexit negotiations simmered in the background, with the likelihood of a no-deal growing as positions appeared to harden on both sides. The euro strengthened further over the period, rising close to nine-year highs. Worries grew about the euro's strength and its impact on export growth. However, the ECB shied away from direct intervention to weaken the currency.

Asia-Pacific Equities

Asia Pacific stocks were higher over the period. They had enjoyed positive returns, in aggregate, over the final months of 2019, encouraged by improving relations between Mainland China and the US over trade, which culminated, in early 2020, in the signing of a 'phase one' trade agreement. The prevailing loose monetary conditions also supported Asian markets during this period and into early 2020.

The outbreak of Covid-19 caused a marked selloff in markets from late January, through February and most of March, as there was widespread recognition that the virus would have a material impact on both society and economic growth. Restrictions were imposed on business activities and daily life. However, markets began to recover from late March and largely regained all that was lost by the end of the period.

In Mainland China, the central bank continued to ease reserve requirements for banks as well as introducing fresh stimulus measures, such as cutting short- and medium-term loan rates. Mainland China's GDP growth rate continued to slow. The first quarter of 2020 saw Mainland China's GDP slip 6.8% on a year-on-year basis, reflecting the negative impact of the coronavirus on business activity, before recovering by 3.2% in the second quarter. Mainland China was the first country to experience the coronavirus pandemic, and was also the first to recover from it. Hong Kong's economy slumped into a technical recession for the first time since the global financial crisis as the pro-democracy protests took their toll on business and leisure activity in the province.

Nearly all Asian markets suffered Covid-driven economic falls of varying magnitude. In India, GDP dropped by an annual 23.9% in the second quarter, the largest such number ever recorded. This reflected the high numbers of Covid-19 cases across the country, given the country's vast population and difficulty in enforcing social distancing. South Korea's GDP contracted by just 2.7% in the second quarter, albeit still the largest fall since 1998, while GDP fell just 0.6% in Taiwan on the same basis, in the second quarter.

Japanese Equities

Japanese equities were marginally higher over the period, although this masked the dramatic collapse and recovery during 2020. Prior to the pandemic, Japanese equities had risen steadily, taking their cue from the positive sentiment towards accommodative monetary policy overseas and steady policy at home. However, Japanese stocks were intermittently affected by the global trade dispute and relatively sluggish growth at home. The market sold off in late February and March before recovering.

Domestic economic indicators were generally bleak. GDP fell 1.8% over the final quarter of 2019 – the steepest decline for over five years – largely due to the impact of the consumption tax increase implemented at the beginning of October. This was raised from 8% to 10%, in an effort to improve the country's strained fiscal position. A recession was confirmed by the announcement of a decline in first-quarter GDP of 0.6% on a quarter-on-quarter basis. Second-quarter GDP dropped by 7.9%, the steepest fall ever recorded. The much-followed Bank of Japan (BoJ) Tankan survey – a quarterly indicator of sentiment across the economy – deteriorated over the period. In the second quarter, the headline large manufacturing diffusion index touched -34 – the worst figure for 11 years.

Worries mounted about a Chinese slowdown, with several Japanese companies – particularly exporters of consumer electronics and automobiles – reducing their profit forecasts. Moreover, the BoJ's ultra-loose monetary policy continued to weigh on the profits of the banking sector, given its effect on net interest margins. The BoJ maintained its loose monetary policy, targeting -0.1% short-term interest rates, while stating that the long-term inflation target of 2.0% was unlikely to be met in the near future. The inflation rate was subdued for most of the period, growing at a rate of just 0.1% year on year, in three consecutive months from April to June.

The country was surprised when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced his resignation due to ill-health in late August, in the very week that he became the longest-serving Japanese prime minister.

Outlook

The outlook for global equities is delicately positioned, following a significant recovery in markets dating back to March. On the one hand, economies have generally recovered more than was expected, with some normality re-established in the global economy at large. However, there has been a worryingly persistent rise in new coronavirus cases across several countries. Markets can take comfort that governments and central banks will provide the necessary support to their respective economies. Nevertheless, the ever-rising debt spiral and ultra-soft monetary policy cannot go on for ever without storing up significant problems for the future.

Please note that the above information refers to the past and that past performance is not a reliable indication of future returns. Information provided by HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited 15 September 2020.

Notes to the Company Financial Statements

for the year ended 15 September 2020

Accounting Policies

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments and in compliance with FRS102 and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for Financial Statements of Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association ("IA") in May 2014. Unless otherwise stated all other accounting policies are consistent with those of the prior year.

The ACD has considered the impact of the emergence and spread of COVID-19 and potential implications on future operations of the sub-fund of reasonably possible downside scenarios. The ACD has undertaken a detailed assessment, and continues to monitor, the sub-fund's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, including liquidity, declines in global capital markets and investor redemption levels. Based on this assessment, the sub-fund continues to be open for trading and the ACD is satisfied the sub-fund has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for at least the next 12 months and accordingly it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

b. Revenue

Dividends on equities are recognised when the security is quoted ex-dividend. Dividends on investment funds are accounted for on an accruals basis at an estimated rate based on available information. Interest on deposits is accounted for on an accruals basis. Other revenue is accounted for on a receipts basis. The ordinary element of stocks received in lieu of cash dividends is recognised as revenue but does not form part of the distribution. Special dividends are treated as repayments of capital or revenue depending on the facts of each particular case.

Any reported revenue from an offshore fund in excess of any distributions is recognised as revenue after the end of the reporting period, no later than the date when the reporting fund makes this information available.

c. Expenses

All expenses, other than those relating to the purchase and sale of investments and transaction charges, are charged to revenue when incurred.

For purposes of the distribution, transaction charges are transferred to capital. Where a Fund has more than one share class, each share class may suffer different expenses. Consequently, the level of net revenue attributable to each share class will differ.

d. Taxation

Corporation tax is charged at 20% of the revenue liable to corporation tax less expenses.

Where overseas tax has been deducted from overseas revenue, that tax can, in some instances, be set off against corporation tax payable by the Fund by way of a double taxation refund.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events have occurred at that date that will result in an obligation to pay less or receive more tax.

Deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that the ACD considers that it is more likely than not that there will be taxable profits from which the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

e. Investments

Investments are initially recognised at fair value on the date the contract is entered into. The listed investments of the Company have been valued at bid prices at the closing valuation point on 15 September 2020. The valuation of unlisted investments is based on the ACD's assessment of their estimated realisable value. Suspended securities are valued initially at the suspended price but are subject to constant review. Revaluation gains or losses are recognised in the Statement of Total Return. Investments cease to be recognised on the date a contract for sale is entered into or when the Company's interest in the investment is extinguished or terminated.

f. Exchange Rates

All transactions in foreign currencies are converted into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of such transactions. Foreign currency assets and liabilities at the end of the accounting period are translated at the exchange rates at the closing valuation point on 15 September 2020.

Any gains or losses as a result of foreign currency transactions are applied to the capital of the Fund.

g. Distributions

Where the revenue from investments exceeds the expenses, a distribution will be made. Should expenses exceed revenue, there will be no distribution and the shortfall will be transferred to capital.

Stock dividends are excluded for the purposes of calculating the distribution. A reconciliation of the net distribution to the net revenue of the Fund as reported in the Statement of Total Return is shown in note 21 of the sub-fund accounts.

The policies of the Fund is to determine the amount available for distribution, with distributions to shareholders paid annually on 15 November each year.

h. Derivatives

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date the contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at fair value at 15 September 2020. Where the fair value of the derivative is positive, it is carried as a derivative asset and where negative as a derivative liability. The gain or loss on remeasurment to fair value is taken to capital gains or losses.

The ACD monitors that any exposure is covered globally to ensure adequate cover from within the sub-fund is available to meet the sub-fund's total exposure, taking into account the value of the underlying investments, any reasonably foreseeable market movement, counterparty risk, and the time available to liquidate any positions. The ACD has adopted the commitment approach to determine the global market risk exposure in relation to the futures held.

Financial Instruments

In pursuing its Investment Objective, the Company holds a number of financial instruments. The Company's financial instruments, other than derivatives, comprise securities and other investments, cash balances, debtors and creditors that arise directly from its operations, for example, in respect of sales and purchases awaiting settlement, amounts receivable for issues and payable for redemptions and debtors for accrued revenue.

The main risks arising from the Company's financial instruments and the ACD's policies for managing these risks are summarised below. These policies have been applied throughout the year.

General Risk Management Process

The Risk Management Process is managed by the ACD and oversight of the investment managed functions is also carried out by the Depositary, State Street. There is an increased regulatory focus on the role of the ACD and how it protects the interests of investors by delivering good quality fairly priced products. The ACD protects investors by ensuring that it has oversight of key factors such as breaches, complaints and pricing whilst also challenging client initiatives and investment strategy.

The ACD manages conflicts and any investment management issues through the ACD Governance Committee (ACDGC) and the ACD Investment Sub Committee (ACDISC). Both the main ACDGC and the ACDISC have regular opportunities to challenge the appointed investment manager in order to demonstrate that no undue commercial pressure has been applied. Both the main ACDGC and the ACDISC meet quarterly and have been tasked with the responsibilities to challenge the biggest areas of risk. Operational Resilience plans are presented at annually alongside Best Execution Policy and Conflicts Policy.

The ACD has appointed HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited (AMEU) as the investment manager. AMEU is organised by function with distinct separation of responsibilities between the investment teams, dealers, risk, compliance, product, sales and investment administration personnel. Risks specific to each of the underlying funds are primarily managed by the relevant Fund Manager. In addition, these teams are supported by a series of Executive Committees which are responsible for oversight and monitoring of the AMEU risk management process, the investment process, performance and operational processes. Those committees and their responsibilities are discussed below.

AMEU Board Risk Committee and the Risk Management Meeting (RMM)

The most senior risk management forum for the business is the AMEU Board Risk Committee; this meets quarterly. The Executive senior risk committee is the Risk Management Meeting (RMM), chaired by the AMEU Chief Risk Officer, and normally meets monthly. The RMM is responsible for all aspects of AMEU risk policy and control supported by a number of specialist committees. The RMM monitors and controls key business risks, including reviewing the internal control and assurance framework and risk profile, and considering the activities of Business Risk Internal Audit. In addition, the RMM considers reports from other committees that assess the nature and extent of risks.

Operational Risk Framework - Three Lines of Defence

AMEU operates a three lines of defence model. The first line (Business, Operations & Functional Management) owns the risk and is responsible for identifying, recording, reporting and managing risks, and ensuring that the right controls and assessments are in place to mitigate these risks. The second line includes Risk and Compliance specialists who set policy and guidelines for managing risk, and who provide challenge and guidance on effective risk management. The third line is Internal Audit which independently assures that the business is managing its risks effectively.

Pricing Valuation Committee (PVC)

The PVC normally meets on a monthly basis and its role is to ensure robust pricing policies across the Fund range are adhered to by the fund pricing agents and to provide oversight of any exception to these policies that might arise from time to time. The Committee reports into the RMM.

New Business Committee (NBC)

The NBC normally meets monthly and provides independent oversight of product development to ensure that the investment guidelines and risks in new products, or significant changes to existing products have been reviewed and challenged from the perspective of customers, the investment teams, the systems and risk management processes used to deal and monitor positions and the wider business strategy. This includes considering whether a product is consistent with the concept of 'Treating Customers Fairly'.

The same approach applies where the use of new instruments is proposed (including derivatives), whether for a new or an existing product. All new products will in the first instance be considered by AMEU. Proposed changes to existing products will be considered significant when they materially alter the product characteristics. This may occur due to changes in the market or due to changing internal or external risks.

The following details the broad categories of risk covered by both the ACDGC and ACDISC as well as the above mentioned AMEU executive committees:

Market Price Risk

Market price risk is the risk that the value of the investment holdings will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices caused by factors other than interest rate or foreign currency movement. Market price risk arises mainly from uncertainty about future prices of financial instruments any underlying fund holds. It represents the potential loss the funds might suffer through holding market positions in the face of price movements. The fund's investment portfolio is exposed to market price fluctuations which are monitored by the ACDISC with support from AMEU in pursuance of the Investment Objective and Policy as set out in the Instrument of Incorporation.

Adherence to investment guidelines and to investment and borrowing powers set out in the Instrument of Incorporation, the Prospectus and the rules of the FCA's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook mitigates the risk of excessive exposure to any particular type of security or issuer.

There are inherent risks in investing in securities markets. Security prices are subject to market fluctuations and can move irrationally and be unpredictably affected by many and various factors including political and economic events, pandemics and market rumours. There can be no assurance that any appreciation in the value of investments will occur. The value of investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up and investors may receive back less than the original amount invested.

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the value of the investment holdings will fluctuate as a result of changes in foreign currency exchange rates.

A proportion of the underlying funds can be invested in overseas securities and the balance sheet can be affected by movements in foreign exchange rates. The AMEU investment management team may seek to manage exposure to currency movements by using forward exchange contracts or by hedging the sterling value of investments that are priced in other currencies. Revenue received in other currencies is converted to sterling on the date of receipt. Where applicable, the assets by value denominated in foreign currencies is disclosed in the Fund Financial Statements.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the investment holdings will fluctuate as a result of changes in interest rates.

The investment manager can invest in fixed and floating rate securities. The value of the underlying funds may be affected by changes to interest rates relevant to particular securities or as a result of AMEU not being unable to secure similar returns on the expiry of contracts or sale of securities. The value of fixed interest securities may be affected by interest rate movements or the expectation of such movements in the future. Interest receivable on bank deposits or payable on bank overdraft positions will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates. Where applicable, the value of interest bearing assets is disclosed in the Fund Financial Statements.

Liquidity Risk

The fund's assets comprise mainly of readily realisable securities. The main liability of the underlying fund's is the redemption of any shares that investors wish to sell. Assets of the fund may need to be sold if insufficient cash is available to finance such redemptions.

Credit Risk

Certain transactions in securities that AMEU enters into on behalf of the fund can expose it to the risk that the counterparty will not deliver the investment for a purchase, or cash for a sale after the investment manager has fulfilled its responsibilities. The funds only buys and sells investments through brokers which have been approved by the investment manager, as acceptable counterparties.

In current market conditions exposure to cash within the Fund could be at risk if the counterparty fails. Cash held at HSBC (HSBC is rated AA- by Standard and Poor's) and exposures are limited to a maximum 10% of the value of the Fund. All assets held within the Depositary are ring-fenced. The Banks and Depositary used by the Company and the ACD are subject to regular review.

European Growth Fund

Investment Objective

The Fund aims to provide growth over the long term, which is a period of five years or more. The Fund intends to provide higher returns than the FTSE Developed Europe Excluding UK Index plus 2% per year over three-year periods before charges and tax are deducted from the Fund.

Investment Policy

To achieve its objective, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its value in the shares (equities) of European companies, including preference shares. European companies are those that are based in Europe excluding the UK or earn at least 80% of their revenue from Europe.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its value in other assets, such as shares of non-European companies and cash.

The Fund may invest up to 10% of its value in other funds, which may be managed or operated by the HSBC Group.

Typically the Fund will invest in the shares of 40 to 60 companies.

Investment Strategy

The Fund is actively managed and is managed with reference to the FTSE Developed Europe Excluding UK Index.

The fund manager aims to generate returns in excess of the FTSE Developed Europe Excluding UK Index plus 2% per year over three-year periods before charges and tax are deducted from the Fund, based on our current view of returns the Fund may potentially achieve, which may change.

The FTSE Developed Europe Excluding UK Index is also considered as part of our investment risk monitoring process, to check that the overall level of risk taken by the fund manager is not inconsistent with the European equities market. To enable investors to assess the performance of the Fund, it is shown against the performance of the FTSE Developed Europe Excluding UK Index plus 2% per year.

*For details of the full Investment Policy and Strategy please refer to the HSBC Specialist Investment Funds prospectus. We have also published a glossary of key terms used which you may wish to refer to. Both documents can be found at https://www.assetmanagement.hsbc.co.uk/en/individual-investor/fund-centre.

Portfolio Activity

From 16 September 2019 to 15 September 2020, the Fund underperformed its benchmark. The burst of the coronavirus pandemic which triggered a large risk aversion move explains this underperformance.

The Fund's relative return was adversely affected by industry positioning. Our overexposures to banking, telecommunication and energy detracted from performance as did our underweightings in defensive sectors such as semi-conductors, luxury goods or cosmetics. Our overweightings in food retail, capital goods and business services and our underexposure to food and real estate only partially mitigated this impact.

Stock selection also detracted from relative performance over the considered period. Our selection in pharma (Bayer), automobile (Renault), food retailing (Casino Guichard-Perrachon), health equipment (Fresenius), material (ArcelorMittal), banks (Erste Bank), Insurance (Swiss Reinsurance) or media (Publicis Groupe) weighed on performance.

On the other hand, our choices in telecommunication (Iliad), transportation (Deutsche Post), IT services (no Wirecard) or consumer durables (SEB) contributed positively. Moreover, our bets in Airbus Group, Teleperformance, BNP Paribus, Siemens, Capgemini, Enel, DSM, Signify, Arkema or Ahold all had a large positive impact on relative performance.

During the last 12 months, we sold outperforming defensive companies such as Nestlé, Siemens, Novo Nordisk, Novartis, Roche, Enel or SAP or, cyclicals faced with deteriorating fundamentals such as OMV, Telefonica, Natixis, Stora, Total or Société Générale. We reinvested into either higher quality companies with attractive valuation such as Thales, Orange, Engie, KPN, Atos, Poste Italiane, Seb, Galp Energia, Grifols B or Alstom or, into very attractively valued cyclicals such as Peugeot, BNP Paribus, Smurfit Kappa or Galp Energia.

We remain overweight to financials, energy, communication and the eclectic industrials sector. We are underweight to consumer stocks, technology, property and to a lesser extent, health care, utilities and basic industries.

Investment Performance

During the period under review, the value of the shares in the Fund decreased by 3.16% whilst the value of the FTSE Developed Europe Excluding UK Index Plus 2% rose by 8.15%.

(Source: Morningstar Direct, GBP, UK net of tax, for the Accumulation C share class. Returns based on the NAV, which is a single price.)

Please note that the above information refers to the past and that past performance is not a reliable indication of future returns.

Fund Particulars

as at 16 September 2020 (unaudited)

	Retail Income	Retail Accumulation	Institutional A Accumulation	Income C	Accumulation C
Price	666.9p xd	795.7p	752.1p	656.2p xd	842.5p
Distribution payable (on 15 November 2020) per share net	3.627696p	4.010574p	10.234168p	8.077827p	11.087590p
Current net estimated yield	0.54%	0.54%	1.40%	1.27%	1.36%
Annual ACD charge	1.50%	1.50%	0.75%	0.80%	0.80%
		1			1

Portfolio Statement

as at 15 September 2020

Security	Holding	Bid value £′000	Total net assets %
AUSTRIA - 2.46% (4.11%)			70
Erste Bank	121,792	2,275	1.54
OMV	54,748	1,370	0.92
Total Austria		3,645	2.46
BELGIUM - 1.37% (1.48%)			
KBC Group	46,224	2,029	1.37
Total Belgium		2,029	1.37
DENMARK - 0.00% (0.99%)			
FINLAND - 0.00% (1.73%)			
FRANCE - 36.29% (32.13%)			
Alstom	37,671	1,574	1.06
Arkema	22,954	2,080	1.41
Atos	34,601	2,280	1.54
AXA	210,342	3,339	2.25
BNP Paribas	84,501	2,792	1.89
Capgemini	38,213	4,187	2.83
Carrefour	114,455	1,484	1.00
Casino Guichard-Perrachon	44,743	929	0.63
Crédit Agricole	293,874	2,313	1.56
Elis	197,922	2,080	1.40
Engie	226,614	2,486	1.68
Michelin	24,543	2,152	1.45
Orange	224,957	1,972	1.33
Peugeot	249,534	3,805	2.57
Publicis Groupe	51,613	1,396	0.94
#Publicis Groupe Rights	51,613	-	0.00
Saint Gobain Nederland	107,861	3,619	2.44
Sanofi	39,835	3,259	2.20
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken	15,089	1,969	1.33
Teleperformance	10,976	2,638	1.78
Thales	35,491	2,228	1.50
Total	94,922	2,828	1.91
Veolia Environnement	134,707	2,359	1.59
Total France		53,769	36.29

Portfolio Statement

as at 15 September 2020

Security	Holding	Bid value £'000	Total net assets %
GERMANY - 17.11% (17.59%)			/0
Allianz	23,736	4,002	2.70
Bayer	60,921	3,202	2.16
Deutsche Post	108,931	3,890	2.63
Deutsche Telekom	186,176	2,622	1.77
Fresenius	90,776	3,265	2.20
HeidelbergCement	46,045	2,354	1.59
SAP	20,630	2,571	1.74
Siemens	32,031	3,442	2.32
Total Germany		25,348	17.11
IRELAND - 2.22% (1.25%)			
+iShares MSCI Europe ex-UK UCITS ETF	41,559	1,240	0.83
Smurfit Kappa	67,327	2,055	1.39
Total Ireland		3,295	2.22
ITALY - 6.71% (6.41%)			
Enel	549,487	3,865	2.61
Poste Italiane	238,041	1,737	1.17
Prysmian	78,826	1,780	1.20
UniCredit SpA	349,082	2,559	1.73
Total Italy		9,941	6.71
LUXEMBOURG - 1.30% (1.28%)			
ArcelorMittal	192,245	1,928	1.30
Total Luxemborug		1,928	1.30
NETHERLANDS - 12.06% (8.55%)			
Airbus Group	17,705	1,134	0.77
Heineken	33,569	2,413	1.63
ING Groep	457,377	2,986	2.01
Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize	88,324	2,118	1.43
Koninklijke DSM	15,514	1,960	1.32
Koninklijke Philips	78,335	2,889	1.95
KPN Koninklijke	896,485	1,799	1.21
Signify	91,328	2,575	1.74
Total Netherlands		17,874	12.06
PORTUGAL - 0.87% (0.00%)			
Galp Energia	156,103	1,293	0.87
Total Portugal		1,293	0.87

Portfolio Statement

as at 15 September 2020

Security	Holding	Bid value £'000	Total net assets %
SPAIN - 5.22% (6.88%)			70
Actividades de Construccion y Servicios	115,848	2,247	1.52
Banco Santander	1,064,482	1,761	1.19
Grifols B	87,332	1,156	0.78
Industria de Diseno Textil	60,446	1,331	0.90
Repsol	207,103	1,232	0.83
Total Spain		7,727	5.22
SWEDEN - 1.48% (1.27%)			
Volvo B	145,037	2,199	1.48
Total Sweden		2,199	1.48
SWITZERLAND - 10.24% (14.10%)			
Nestlé	43,054	4,045	2.73
Novartis	37,001	2,634	1.78
Roche	15,850	4,556	3.07
Swiss Reinsurance	22,172	1,431	0.97
UBS	260,986	2,503	1.69
Total Switzerland	·	15,169	10.24
UNITED KINGDOM - 0.98% (1.06%)			
RELX	80,500	1,456	0.98
Total United Kingdom	·	1,456	0.98
Portfolio of investments		145,673	98.31
Net other assets		2,497	1.69
Net assets		148,170	100.00
H. C. C. A. L. L.		-1:	

⁺collective investment scheme

Figures in brackets denote comparative percentage holdings as at 15 September 2019.

Unless otherwise stated, all investments are listed securities.

[#]unlisted

Comparative Tables

Retail Income Change in net assets per share	15.9.20	15.9.19	15.9.18
Opening net asset value per share	705.10p	696.70p	723.20p
Return before operating charges*	27.07p	32.20p	(10.79p)
Operating charges**	(11.74p)	(11.35p)	(12.35p)
Return after operating charges*	15.33p	20.85p	(23.14p)
Distributions on income shares	(3.63p)	(12.45p)	(3.36p)
Closing net asset value per share	716.80p	705.10p	696.70p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.45p	0.41p	0.30p
Performance			
Return after charges	2.17%	2.99%	(3.20%)
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£2,120	£1,000,421	£1,224,868
Closing number of shares	296	141,892	175,800
Operating charges - OCF	1.66%	1.69%	1.68%
Direct transaction costs	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%
Prices			
Highest share price	721.70p	723.20p	762.50p
Lowest share price	470.60p	618.30p	680.80p

Retail Accumulation			
Change in net assets per share	15.9.20	15.9.19	15.9.18
Opening net asset value per share	841.10p	816.70p	843.40p
Return before operating charges*	(26.52p)	37.74p	(12.49p)
Operating charges**	(13.18p)	(13.34p)	(14.21p)
Return after operating charges*	(39.70p)	24.40p	(26.70p)
Distributions on accumulation shares	(4.01p)	(14.70p)	(12.21p)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	4.01p	14.70p	12.21p
Closing net asset value per share	801.40p	841.10p	816.70p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.51p	0.48p	0.34p
Performance			
Return after charges	(4.72%)	2.99%	(3.17%)
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£38,150,470	£87,153,294	£90,704,892
Closing number of shares	4,760,301	10,361,780	11,105,870
Operating charges - OCF	1.66%	1.70%	1.68%
Direct transaction costs	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%
Prices			
Highest share price	860.90p	847.70p	889.50p
Lowest share price	561.30p	724.80p	794.20p

^{**}The operating charges include all costs borne by the Fund, except for direct transaction costs.

^{***}The direct transaction costs are made up of fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges as well as transfer taxes and duties.

Comparative Tables

Institutional A Accumulation	15.9.20	15.9.19	15.9.18
Change in net assets per share	10.0.20		10.0.10
Opening net asset value per share	788.00p	758.50p	776.30p
Return before operating charges*	(24.72p)	35.50p	(11.50p)
Operating charges**	(5.78p)	(6.00p)	(6.30p)
Return after operating charges*	(30.50p)	29.50p	(17.80p)
Distributions on accumulation shares	(10.23p)	(20.14p)	(18.79p)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	10.23p	20.14p	18.79p
Closing net asset value per share	757.50p	788.00p	758.50p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.47p	0.45p	0.32p
Performance			
Return after charges	(3.87%)	3.89%	(2.29%)
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£9,560,185	£10,879,301	£13,281,372
Closing number of shares	1,262,080	1,380,659	1,751,053
Operating charges - OCF	0.79%	0.82%	0.81%
Direct transaction costs	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%
Prices			
Highest share price	809.50p	793.00p	821.30p
Lowest share price	528.20p	674.80p	734.70p
		<u> </u>	

Income C Change in net assets per share	15.9.20	15.9.19	15.9.18
Opening net asset value per share	697.20p	688.80p	722.40p
Return before operating charges*	(21.94p)	32.19p	(10.77p)
Operating charges**	(6.08p)	(6.46p)	(6.94p)
Return after operating charges*	(28.02p)	25.73p	(17.71p)
Distributions on income shares	(8.08p)	(17.33p)	(15.89p)
Closing net asset value per share	661.10p	697.20p	688.80p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.41p	0.41p	0.30p
Performance			
Return after charges	(4.02%)	3.74%	(2.45%)
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£54,219,877	£59,502,098	£63,178,000
Closing number of shares	8,201,306	8,535,007	9,172,264
Operating charges - OCF	0.94%	0.97%	0.95%
Direct transaction costs	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%
Prices			
Highest share price	715.70p	719.20p	763.80p
Lowest share price	467.00p	612.50p	683.00p

^{**}The operating charges include all costs borne by the Fund, except for direct transaction costs.

^{***}The direct transaction costs are made up of fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges as well as transfer taxes and duties.

Comparative Tables

Accumulation C			
Change in net assets per share	15.9.20	15.9.19	15.9.18
Opening net asset value per share	883.90p	852.10p	873.60p
Return before operating charges*	(27.90p)	39.79p	(13.10p)
Operating charges**	(7.50p)	(7.99p)	(8.40p)
Return after operating charges*	(35.40p)	31.80p	(21.50p)
Distributions on accumulation shares	(11.09p)	(21.47p)	(19.17p)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	11.09p	21.47p	19.17p
Closing net asset value per share	848.50p	883.90p	852.10p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.51p	0.50p	0.36p
Performance			
Return after charges	(4.00%)	3.73%	(2.46%)
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£46,237,781	£13,729,565	£13,372,975
Closing number of shares	5,449,209	1,553,232	1,569,377
Operating charges - OCF	0.94%	0.97%	0.95%
Direct transaction costs	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%
Prices			
Highest share price	907.50p	889.80p	923.60p
Lowest share price	592.10p	757.80p	825.90p

^{**}The operating charges include all costs borne by the Fund, except for direct transaction costs.

***The direct transaction costs are made up of fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges as well as transfer taxes and duties.

Statement of Total Return

for the year ended 15 September 2020

		15.9.20		15	.9.19
	Notes	£′000	£′000	£'000	£'000
Income					
Net capital (losses)/gains	2		(9,467)		1,275
Revenue	3	3,537		6,524	
Expenses	4	(1,758)		(2,249)	
Interest payable and similar charges		(22)		(9)	
Net revenue before taxation		1,757		4,266	
Taxation	5	(230)		(359)	
Net revenue after taxation			1,527		3,907
Total (deficit)/return before distributions			(7,940)		5,182
Distributions	6		(1,589)		(3,765)
Change in net assets attributable					
to shareholders from investment activities			(9,529)		1,417

Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders

for the year ended 15 September 2020

	15.9.20		15.9.19	
	£′000	£′000	£'000	£'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		172,265		181,762
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	4,549		4,824	
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(20,047)		(17,874)	
		(15,498)		(13,050)
Dilution adjustment		8		2
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from				
investment activities (see Statement of Total Return above)		(9,529)		1,417
Retained distributions on accumulation shares		924		2,134
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		148,170		172,265

Balance Sheet

as at 15 September 2020

		15.	.9.20	15	5.9.19
	Notes	£′000	£′000	£'000	£'000
Assets					
Investments			145,673		170,255
Current assets					
Debtors	8	1,622		1,907	
Cash and bank balances		2,011		2,031	
Total current assets			3,633		3,938
Total assets			149,306		174,193
Liabilities					
Creditors					
Distribution payable on income shares		(663)		(1,497)	
Other creditors	9	(473)		(431)	
Total liabilities			(1,136)		(1,928)
Net assets attributable to shareholders			148,170		172,265

Distribution Table (pence per share)

	Net income	Equalisation	Distribution payable	Distribution paid
	mcome		15.11.20	15.11.19
Retail Income				
Group 1	3.627696	-	3.627696	12.452374
Group 2	3.627696	0.000000	3.627696	12.452374
Retail Accumulation				
Group 1	4.010574	-	4.010574	14.698667
Group 2	3.871650	0.138924	4.010574	14.698667
Institutional A Accumulation				
Group 1	10.234168	-	10.234168	20.137570
Group 2	0.980183	9.253985	10.234168	20.137570
Income C				
Group 1	8.077827	-	8.077827	17.330137
Group 2	7.519338	0.558489	8.077827	17.330137
Accumulation C				
Group 1	11.087590	-	11.087590	21.465174
Group 2	5.981663	5.105927	11.087590	21.465174

_			
		15.9.20	15.9.19
1	Accounting Policies	£′000	£'000
١.	The accounting policies are set out on pages 9 and 10.		
	The decoding policies are set out on pages o and 16.		
2.	Net Capital (Losses)/Gains		
	The net capital (losses)/gains during the year comprise:		
	Currency gains	49	60
	Transaction charges	(6)	(4)
	Capital special dividends	-	293
	(Losses)/gains on non-derivative securities	(9,510)	926
	Net capital (losses)/gains	(9,467)	1,275
3	Revenue		
٥.	UK dividends (net)	39	44
	Overseas dividends	3,415	6,329
	Bank interest	3	3
	Stock dividends	80	148
	Total revenue	3,537	6,524
	_		
4.	Expenses		
	Payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them: ACD's charge	1,553	1 OFF
	Registration fee	1,553 153	1,955 180
	Safe custody fee	19	22
	Sale custody lee	1,725	2,157
	Payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary,	1,725	2,107
	and agents of either of them:		
	and agents of either of them:	18	20
	Depositary fee	18	20
	Depositary fee Other expenses:		
	Depositary fee Other expenses: Audit fee	18 5 -	5
	Depositary fee Other expenses: Audit fee Professional fee	5 -	5 52
	Depositary fee Other expenses: Audit fee		5

5. Taxationa) Analysis of charge in year:Overseas tax	234 (4) 230	£'000 359
a) Analysis of charge in year: Overseas tax	(4)	359 -
Overseas tax	(4)	359 -
Mr. 16 H		
Windfall overseas tax recoveries	230	
Total tax for the year (note 5b)		359
b) Factors affecting taxation charge for the year:		
The tax assessed for the year is lower than the standard rate of		
corporation tax in the UK for an open-ended investment company (20%).		
The differences are explained below:		
Net revenue before taxation	1,757	4,266
Corporation tax at 20%	351	853
Effects of:		
Revenue not subject to taxation	(695)	(1,304)
Current year expenses not utilised	346	451
Irrecoverable overseas tax	234	356
Windfall overseas tax recoveries	(4)	-
Irrecoverable overseas tax on capital special dividends	-	3
Tax relief on overseas tax suffered	(2)	-
Current tax charge for the year (note 5a)	230	359

c) Provision for deferred taxation

At 15 September 2020, there is a potential deferred tax asset of £6,130,234 (15.9.19: £5,783,986) in relation to surplus management expenses. It is unlikely the Fund will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise these expenses and therefore no deferred tax asset has been recognised in the year or prior year.

6. Distributions

The distributions take account of amounts received on the issue of shares and amounts deducted on the cancellation of shares, and comprise:

167 (33) 3,765 3,907 3
3,765
3,907
•
•
3
(148)
3
3,765
3
517
5
1,382
1,907
144
287
431

10. Reconciliation of Shares

	Retail Income	Retail Accumulation	Institutional A Accumulation	Income C	Accumulation C
Opening shares issued at 16.9.19	141,892	10,361,780	1,380,659	8,535,007	1,553,232
Share movements 16.9.19 to 15.9.20					
Shares issued	631	231,797	27,725	292,238	86,349
Shares cancelled	(540)	(1,458,232)	(145,629)	(780,213)	(334,551)
Shares converted	(141,687)	(4,375,044)	(675)	154,274	4,144,179
Closing shares issued at 15.9.20	296	4,760,301	1,262,080	8,201,306	5,449,209

11. Ultimate Controlling Party and Related Party Transactions

The ACD is regarded as a controlling party of the Fund by virtue of having the ability to act in concert in respect of Fund operations. The ultimate controlling party of the ACD is HSBC Group plc.

This entity and its subsidiaries are also related parties of the Fund.

At the year end, the ACD and its associates held the following of the Fund's shares in issue:

	Retail Income			Income C	Accumulation C
	%	%	%	%	%
As at 15.9.20	-	91.21	89.12	94.53	3.93
As at 15.9.19	-	47.85	89.42	-	-

Details of all other material related party transactions during the year and any payment amounts outstanding at the balance sheet date are disclosed in notes 8 and 9 to the financial statements, the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders and the Portfolio Statement.

The balance due to the ACD (including amounts due to associates and agents) at the year end was £458,567 (15.9.19: £416,049), further details of such amounts can be found in notes 8 and 9.

At the year end, the Fund held £nil (15.9.19: £nil) in Authorised Investment Funds managed by HSBC Holdings, the parent company of the ACD. During the year, transactions in Authorised Investment Funds managed by HSBC Holdings totalled £nil (15.9.19: £nil).

Investments in related parties are disclosed in the Portfolio Statement.

12. Financial Instruments

The financial instrument risks and risk management policies are set out on pages 11 and 12.

Foreign Currency Risk

A substantial portion of the net assets of the Fund are denominated in currencies other than sterling with the effect that the balance sheet and total return can be affected by currency movements.

Net currency monetary assets and liabilities consist of:

		folio of tments		other iabilities)	Net assets/(liabilities)		
	15.9.20	15.9.19	15.9.20	15.9.19	15.9.20	15.9.19	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Sterling*	-	-	(649)	(1,092)	(649)	(1,092)	
Danish krone	-	1,708	101	185	101	1,893	
Euro	128,306	142,068	1,922	2,103	130,228	144,171	
Swiss franc	15,168	24,289	1,111	800	16,279	25,089	
Swedish krona	2,199	2,190	5	1	2,204	2,191	
United States dollar	-	-	7	13	7	13	
Total	145,673	170,255	2,497	2,010	148,170	172,265	

^{*}No currency risk as base currency.

Interest Rate Risk

At the year end, 1.36% (15.9.19: 1.18%) of the Fund's assets by value were interest-bearing.

Interest rates are based upon LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate).

13. Shareholders' Funds

This Fund has a retail share class, an institutional A share class and a C share class.

The annual ACD charge on the retail share class is 1.50%, 0.75% on the institutional A share class and 0.80% on the C share class.

The net asset value of the share class, the net asset value per share and the number of shares in each class are given in the Comparative Tables on pages 19 to 21. The distribution per share class is given in the Distribution Table on page 23. All share classes within the OEIC have the same rights on winding up.

14. Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

At the year end, the Fund had no contingent liabilities or commitments (15.9.19: none).

15. Portfolio Transaction Costs

For the year ended 15 September 2020	Purchases	Commissions		Taxes		Other Expenses	
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total purchases costs							
Equity transactions	35,253	40	0.11	43	0.12	-	-
Corporate actions	282	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total purchases before transaction costs	35,535	40		43		-	
Transaction costs	83						
Total purchases after commission, tax and fees	35,618						

	Sales	ales Commissions		Taxes		Other Expenses	
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total sales costs							
Equity transactions	47,781	13	0.03	-	-	-	-
Pooled investment vehicles	885	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corporate actions	2,117	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sales before transaction costs	50,783	13		-		-	
Transaction costs	(13)						
Total sales after commission, tax and fees	50,770						

The Fund had paid £nil as commission on purchases and sale derivative transactions for the year ended 15.9.20.

Commissions, taxes and fees as % of average Net Assets

Commissions 0.03% 0.03% Taxes Other expenses 0.00%

At the balance sheet date the portfolio dealing spread was 0.05%, being the difference between the respective bid and offer prices for the Fund's investments.

For the year ended 15 September 2019	Purchases	Commissions		Taxes		Other Expenses	
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total purchases costs							
Equity transactions	50,124	59	0.12	28	0.06	-	-
Pooled investment vehicles	1,734	1	0.06	-	-	-	-
Total purchases before transaction costs	51,858	60		28		-	
Transaction costs	88						
Total purchases after commission, tax and fees	s 51,946						

	Sales Commissions		Taxes		Other Expenses		
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total sales costs							
Equity transactions	63,195	16	0.03	-	-	-	-
Corporate actions	580	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sales before transaction costs	63,775	16		-		-	
Transaction costs	(16)						
Total sales after commission, tax and fees	63,759						

The Fund had paid £nil as commission on purchases and sale derivative transactions for the year ended 15.9.19.

Commissions, taxes and fees as % of average Net Assets

Commissions 0.04% Taxes 0.02% Other expenses 0.00%

At the balance sheet date the portfolio dealing spread was 0.06%, being the difference between the respective bid and offer prices for the Fund's investments.

Portfolio transaction costs are incurred by the Fund when buying and selling underlying investments. These costs vary depending on the class of investment, country of exchange and method of execution.

These costs can be classified as either direct or indirect transaction costs:

Direct transaction costs: Broker commissions, fees and taxes. Indirect transaction costs: 'Dealing spread' - the difference between the buying and selling prices of the Fund's underlying investments.

In order to protect existing investors from the effects of dilution, portfolio transaction costs incurred as a result of investors buying and selling shares in the Fund are recovered from those investors through a 'dilution adjustment' to the price they pay or receive.

16. Fair Value of Investments

FRS 102 requires an entity to classify fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy shall have the following classifications:

- Level 1: unadjusted quoted prices in an active market for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2: inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable (i.e. developed using market data) for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3: inputs are unobservable (i.e. for which market data is unavailable) for the asset or liability.

For the year ended 15 September 2020

Category	1	2	<i>3</i>	Total
Investment Assets	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Equities	144,433	-	-	144,433
Pooled investment vehicles	1,240	-	-	1,240
	145,673	-	-	145,673

For the year ended 15 September 2019

Category	1	2	3	Total
Investment Assets	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Equities	168,101	-	-	168,101
Pooled investment vehicles	2,154	-	-	2,154
	170,255	_	-	170,255

17. Sensitivity Analysis

Price risk sensitivity:

If the price of investments at 15 September 2020 had increased or decreased by 10% with all other variables held constant, this would have increased or decreased the net assets attributable to shareholders by £14,567,309 (15.9.19: £17,025,475).

Currency risk sensitivity:

If the exchange rate at 15 September 2020 had increased or decreased by 10% with all other variables held constant, this would have increased or decreased the net assets attributable to shareholders by £14,881,841 (15.9.19: £17,335,690).

Interest rate risk sensitivity:

At the balance sheet date, the Fund did not have a significant exposure to interest rate risk, therefore no sensitivity analysis is disclosed (15.9.19: no significant exposure).

Employee Remuneration Disclosure

Remuneration Policy

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds is managed by HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

The firm's remuneration practicies and polices are governed by the HSBC Group Remuneration Committee in compliance with the relevant regualtory requirements. For details please refer to the HSBC Group Remuneration Policy as published on our website (http://www.hsbc.com/our-approach/remuneration).

HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited's remuneration requirements as specified by the Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) Directive are covered in the specific remuneration policy published in the HSBC Global Asset Management website (http://www.global.assetmanagement.hsbc.com/about-us/governance-structure).

Remuneration Disclosures

The following tables show the remuneration details, including fixed and variable remuneration, made by HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited to its employees and UCITS Identified staff (Material Risk Takers) for performance year 2019. Individuals have been identified as Material Risk Takers based on the criteria set out in the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) UCITS Remuneration Code. The disclosures reflect the requirements of the FCA's COLL Sourcebook.

	Headcount No.	Fixed Remuneration £	Variable Remuneration £
HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Ltd Employees	388	38,437,000.00	14,487,000.00
HSBC Specialist Investment Funds - Material risk takers	14	3,188,000.00	1,555,000.00
of which executive and non-executive members of the management			
body of the management company	6	1,875,000.00	1,011,000.00
Senior management	6	899,000.00	268,000.00
Control functions, and staff responsible for heading the administration and marketing	3	486,000.00	167,000.00
Other significant influence functions and other risk takers	3	738,000.00	275,000.00
European Growth Fund*			
Material risk takers	14	3,188,000.00	1,555,000.00
of which executive and non-executive members of the management			
body of the management company	6	1,875,000.00	1,011,000.00
Senior management	6	899,000.00	268,000.00
Control functions, and staff responsible for heading the administration and marketing	3	486,000.00	167,000.00
Other significant influence functions and other risk takers	3	738,000.00	275,000.00

^{*}The individual Fund's figures have been calculated using the net asset value as at 15 September 2020, these have then been divided by the total HSBC Global Asset Management figures to give the split by fund.

Statement of ACD's Responsibilities

Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements of the Company

The Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook published by the FCA, ("the COLL Rules") require the ACD to prepare financial statements for each annual accounting period which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company and of the net income and net gains or losses on the property of the Company for the year.

In preparing the financial statements the ACD is responsible for:

- · selecting suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- following UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland;
- complying with the disclosure requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds issued by The Investment Association in May 2014;
- keeping proper accounting records which enable it to demonstrate that the financial statements as prepared comply with the above requirements;
- assessing the Company and its sub-fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters
 related to going concern;
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or its sub-fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so;
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities.

The ACD is responsible for the management of the Company in accordance with its Instrument of Incorporation, the Prospectus and the COLL Rules.

Statement of the Depositary's Responsibilities in Respect of the Scheme and Report of the Depositary to the Shareholders of the HSBC Specialist Investment Funds OEIC ("the Company")

For the Year 16 September 2019 to 15 September 2020

The Depositary must ensure that the Company is managed in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook, the Open-Ended Investment Companies Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/1228), as amended, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended, (together "the Regulations"), the Company's Instrument of Incorporation and Prospectus (together "the Scheme documents") as detailed below.

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

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

The Depositary must ensure that:

- the Company's cash flows are properly monitored and that cash of the Company is booked into the cash accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- the sale, issue, repurchase, redemption and cancellation of shares are carried out in accordance with the Regulations;
- the value of shares of the Company are calculated in accordance with the Regulations;
- · any consideration relating to transactions in the Company's assets is remitted to the Company within the usual time limits;
- the Company'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 Depositary also has a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that Company is managed in accordance with the Regulations and Scheme documents in relation to the investment and borrowing powers applicable to the Company.

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

- (i) has carried out the issue, sale, redemption and cancellation, and calculation of the price of the Company's shares and the application of the Company's income in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Company, and
- (ii) has observed the investment and borrowing powers and restrictions applicable to the Company.

State Street Trustees Limited Quartermile 3, 10 Nightingale Way Edinburgh EH3 9EG

27 November 2020

Ewan Gillies (Officer)

Faron Jackson (Assistant Vice President)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Shareholders of the HSBC Specialist Investment Funds OEIC ('the Company')

Opinion

We have audited the financial statement of the Company for the year ended 15 September 2020 which comprise the Statement of Total Return, the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders, the Balance Sheet, the Related Notes, Distribution Table and the accounting policies set out on pages 9 and 10.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, of the financial position of the Company as at 15 September 2020 and of the net revenue and net capital losses on the property of the Company for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Instrument of Incorporation, the Statement of Recommended Practice relating to Authorised Funds, and the COLL Rules.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Company in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard.

We have received all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit and we believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The ACD has prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to liquidate the Company or to cease their operations, and as they have concluded that the Company's financial position means that this is realistic. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over their ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements: ("the going concern period").

We are required to report to you if we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting is inappropriate or there is an undisclosed material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt over the use of that basis for a period of at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In our evaluation of the ACD's conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the company's business model, including the impact of Brexit, and analysed how those risks might affect the company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period. We have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the Company will continue in operation.

Other information

The ACD is responsible for the other information presented in the Annual Report together with the financial statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the other information; and
- in our opinion the information given in the ACD's Report 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 matters where under the COLL Rules we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper accounting records for the Company have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

ACD's (HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited) responsibilities

As explained more fully in their statement set out on page 31 the ACD is responsible for: the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Company'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 they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities

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 our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Company's shareholders, as a body, in accordance with Rule 4.5.12 of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('the COLL Rules') issued by the Financial Conduct Authority under the Open-Ended Investment Companies Regulations 2001. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's shareholders 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 Company and the Company's shareholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Grant Archer

for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor **Chartered Accountants** Grant Archer

15 Canada Square London

E14 5GL

27 November 2020

General Information

How to Buy, Sell or Switch your Investment

- Call our Dealers on 0800 358 3011*
- Write to our Administration Office at: HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited, PO Box 3733, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon, SN4 4BG.

Switching your Investment

- Some discounts are available for switching between our OEIC Funds.
- Switching from one OEIC Fund to another may create a capital gains tax liability.

No subscription can be received on the basis of financial reports. Subscriptions are only valid if made on the basis of the current KIID (in conjunction with the Supplementary Information Document (SID)) and Prospectus accompanied by the latest Annual Report and the most recent Interim Report, if published thereafter. Further details of our switching discounts may be obtained by:-

• Telephoning our Customer Services, on 0800 358 3011*

Minimum Additional Subscription

 The minimum additional is £500 for retail, £1,000 for institutional A, £1,000,000 for institutional and £10,000 for C share classes.

Selling your Investment

You can sell or make a withdrawal at any time.

- You must take at least £100 each time.
- We reserve the right to request that you leave the minimum investment of £1,000 or close the investment.
- · Settlement is normally made within 3 business days from the receipt of your instructions.

When we will Buy or Sell your Investment

Share prices are calculated at 12 noon each business day. The price at which shares are bought or sold depends on when we receive your instructions.

- Before 12 noon. That day's share prices will be used.
- After 12 noon. The following business day's prices will be used.

We will send you a contract note within 24 hours of the transaction. This confirms the transaction was made.

Cancellation Rights

- In certain circumstances we will send you a cancellation notice. If so this will be sent within 7 days of making your investment.
- Return this notice to us within 30 days if you do not wish to proceed with your investment.
- It is possible to receive back less than your original investment, if the value of your shares has fallen.

Publication of Prices

The prices of shares are updated daily on the following website: www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com/uk.

Alternatively you can call our Investments Helpline on 0800 358 3011*.

Prospectus

The Prospectus provides further details on our OEICs. For a copy of the latest Prospectus (available free of charge):-

- Telephone our Customer Services on 0800 358 3011*
- Write to our Administration Office

Income

Income is distributed or accumulated in the following way:-

- If you hold income shares, income will be distributed to you on payment dates shown in the table on page 45.
- If you hold accumulation shares, income will be retained within the Fund. No additional shares will be bought.

 The price of shares will reflect the net income received.

We must disclose details of such distributions to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The distribution also needs to be disclosed on your tax return.

Income Tax

A tax voucher is sent to all shareholders when distributions are paid or accumulated which will aid completion of tax returns.

Interest Distributions:

Income that is distributed as interest is paid or accumulated gross of tax to all shareholders.

A Personal Savings Allowance currently applies for UK individual taxpayers. This means that no tax is payable on savings income, which includes interest distributions, of up to £1,000 for basic rate taxpayers and up to £500 for higher rate taxpayers. This allowance is not available for additional rate taxpayers. UK taxpayers, including basic rate taxpayers, are liable to pay UK tax on savings income above the allowance, subject to the starting rate of tax for savings.

For UK corporate shareholders, interest distributions will be paid without the deduction of tax. Such shareholders will be subject to corporation tax on the gross amount of the distribution or accumulation.

For non-UK resident shareholders, interest distributions will be paid without the deduction of tax. Tax may or may not be payable depending on the shareholder's tax position and the provisions of any relevant double tax treaty with the UK.

Dividend Distributions:

A dividend allowance applies for UK resident individual shareholders which charges the first £2,000 of dividends received in the tax year at 0%. A UK resident individual shareholder will have to pay income tax at the applicable basic, higher or additional rate (depending on the shareholder's individual tax position) on dividend income in excess of the £2,000 allowance. Note that dividend income within the £2,000 allowance will still count towards basic, higher and additional rate bands and may therefore affect the rate of income tax that a shareholder pays on dividends they receive in excess of the £2,000 allowance.

Where a corporate shareholder receives a dividend distribution from a Fund, such a shareholder should apportion the amount of the distribution (by way of a formula) between that part representing the Fund's income subject to corporation tax and that part representing the Fund's other income. Only that part which represents the income subject to corporation tax in the Fund will be liable to corporation tax (in the hands of the corporate shareholder) and will be treated as an annual payment received after deduction of income tax at the basic rate. That deemed income tax will be available to offset against the corporation tax liability of the shareholder or may be repaid subject to certain restrictions.

For non-UK resident shareholders, tax may or may not be payable depending on the shareholder's tax position and the provisions of any relevant double tax treaty with the UK.

This information is based on our understanding of current UK law and HM Revenue & Customs practice which may be subject to retrospective change. The future basis and rates of taxation may change without warning. Shareholders are recommended to consult their professional advisers if they are in any doubt as to their individual tax position.

Capital Gains Tax

You will not need to pay capital gains tax unless your net gains from all sources exceed the annual exemption limit. The limit for the 2020/2021 tax year is £12,300.

*To help us continually improve our service, and in the interests of security, we may monitor and/or record your communications with us.

Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm (excluding public holidays).

Important Notes

The Annual Report covers the year 16 September 2019 to 15 September 2020.

Investments in stocks and shares can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount they originally invested. This can affect the price of shares within open-ended investment companies and the income from them.

Past performance should not be seen as an indication of future returns.

Your holding in an open-ended investment company must be regarded as a medium to long-term investment; this means for at least five years.

Where overseas securities are held the prices and income may also be affected by changes in currency exchange rates. It is possible that the value of an investment may fall below its original level.

Markets in some countries are described as 'emerging markets'. Some of these may involve a higher risk than where investment is within a more established market. These risks include the possibility of failed or delayed settlement, registration and custody of securities and the level of investor protection offered. Emerging markets are generally, but not exclusively, those that are not within the United States, Canada, Switzerland and members of the European Economic Area, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Please note any reference to "Fund" or "Funds" means a sub fund of the Company.

This report is issued in the UK by HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

There are risks involved in investing in HSBC Specialist Investment Funds. Please refer to the Prospectus, Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and Supplementary Information Document (SID) for further details.

The information in this report is based on our understanding of current law and HM Revenue and Customs practice as at 15 September 2020. Both law and practice may of course change.

The views expressed are those of HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited and do not constitute investment advice. No liability can be accepted for recipients acting independently on its content.

The Company is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and is structured as an umbrella company, in that the Company proposes to issue shares linked to different Funds which have been established. The Company is a UCITS scheme.

Shareholders are not liable for the debts of the Company. A shareholder is not liable to make any further payment to the Company after the purchase price of the shares has been paid for.

Important Changes to the Company and/or Fund Documentation

The following changes to the Company have resulted in the ACD making changes to the Company's Instrument of Incorporation and its Prospectus.

Amendments to the Company's Instrument of Incorporation

The Instrument of Incorporation was updated on 15 November 2019 to reflect that the UK Freestyle Fund is currently being wound up and is no longer available for investment.

Amendments to the Company Prospectus

The Company Prospectus was updated throughout on 4 October 2019 advising that the ACD had written to Shareholders proposing that the Fund be merged with the UK Growth & Income Fund to be voted on at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on Thursday 31 October 2019.

Subsequently, the Company Prospectus was updated throughout on 31 October 2019 to advise that at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 31 October 2019, Shareholders voted in favour of the proposal to merge the Fund with the UK Growth & Income Fund.

Finally, the Company Prospectus was updated throughout on 15 November 2019 to advise that the UK Freestyle Fund is currently being wound up and is no longer available for investment.

Other Information

Equalisation

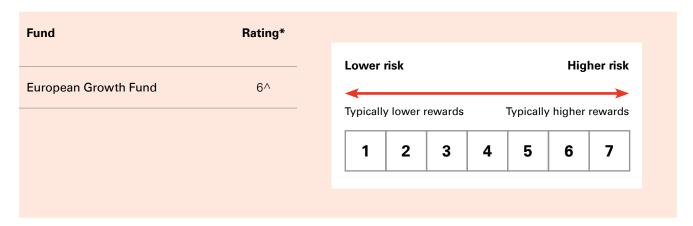
Revenue received by the Fund during the distribution period is reflected in the price of shares until the revenue is distributed. The cost of Group 2 shares bought during a distribution period will therefore include an element of revenue.

Equalisation represents the average amount of accrued revenue included in the purchase price of all Group 2 shares sold in the year, which is refunded as part of a shareholder's first distribution. This amount is treated as a capital repayment for tax purposes. It is not liable to income or corporation tax and is deducted from the original cost of the shares for capital gains tax purposes.

Corporate Shareholders

The Fund in this OEIC has a 100% franked distribution on their annual consolidated tax voucher.

Risk and Reward Profile



^The previous rating for this Fund was 5 until 4 August 2020.

*More About this Rating

The rating is based on price volatility over the last five years, and is an indicator of absolute risk. Historical data may not be a reliable indication for the future. The rating is not guaranteed to remain unchanged and the categorisation may shift over time. The lowest rating does not mean a risk-free investment.

For further information on the specific risks applicable to each Fund please visit www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com/uk.

Directory

The Company

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds, 8 Canada Square, London, E14 5HQ

ACD and Head Office

HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited, 8 Canada Square, London, E14 5HQ

Investment Manager

HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited, 8 Canada Square, London, E14 5HQ

Depositary

State Street Trustees Limited, Quartermile 3, 10 Nightingale Way, Edinburgh, EH3 9EG

Regulator

Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), 12 Endeavour Square, London, E20 1JN

Auditor

KPMG LLP, 15 Canada Square, London E14 5GL

Registrar

HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited delegated to Northern Trust Global Services SE, previously Northern Trust Global Services Limited.

50 Bank Street, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5NT

Telephone: 0800 358 3011*

+44 800 358 3011 (Overseas)*

*Lines are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

Administrator delegated to Northern Trust Global Services SE, previously Northern Trust Global Services Limited - postal address

PO Box 3733, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon, SN4 4BG

Website

www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com/uk

To help us continually improve our services, and in the interests of security, we may monitor and/or record your communications with us.

Quick Reference Guide to HSBC Specialist Investment Funds

Name of OEIC Fund	European Growth
Number of distributions per year	1
Distribution dates	15 Nov
Lump sum minimum investment level	£1,000
Regular saver minimum investment level	£50
ACD charge % †	1.50
Available as an ISA	Yes
In ISA can income be paid	No
Income shares available	Yes
Accumulation shares available	Yes

[†] The above information relates only to retail share classes or C share classes as applicable. Other share classes may differ.

Issued by HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited.	
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.	
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