

Asset Management

HSBC Universal Investment Funds

Annual Report and Accounts

31 August 2024



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Company Information

Company

HSBC Universal Investment Funds
Registered in England
with Company Number IC000467

Registered Office

8 Canada Square
London E14 5HQ

Directors

The Authorised Corporate Director (the "ACD") is HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited ("HAMF"), which is the sole director.

With effect from 29 July 2024, the ACD changed from HSBC Global Asset Management UK Limited (AMEU) to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited (HAMF). For more information, please refer to the shareholder notice, available on the HSBC Asset Management website.

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

HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited - Directors

S.T. Brown (appointed 1 June 2022)

P.G.P. Dew (appointed 1 June 2022)

C. Godfrey (appointed 1 September 2021)

M.J. Higginbotham (appointed 1 June 2022)

D.A. McMaster (appointed 1 September 2021)

P. Mittal (appointed 6 October 2023)

L.K. Williams (appointed 30 November 2021)

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Director's Report

We are pleased to present the Annual Report and Financial Statements for HSBC Universal Investment Funds Open-Ended Investment Company (OEIC), ("the Company"), covering the year from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

HSBC OEICs are investment companies with variable capital under regulation 12 (Authorisation) of the OEIC Regulations. All Funds within the OEIC are classed as securities funds.

The ACD, HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services 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 various Funds, each of which is operated as a distinct Fund, with its own portfolio of investments.

Each 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.

M. J. Higginbotham

Director



C. Godfrey

Director



**For and on behalf of HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited
ACD**

26 November 2024

Market Review

Welcome to the Annual Report for the HSBC Universal Investment Funds Open-Ended Investment Company (OEIC). The report covers the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

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).**

Economic and Market Overview

Global equities rallied over the period, with many markets – including the MSCI World Index, the S&P 500, the Stoxx Euro 600 and the Nikkei – setting new all-time highs. Markets were driven by growing hopes of rate cuts during 2024, an improving economic outlook and strong corporate earnings.

After retreating during the autumn, share prices bottomed in late October. They rose strongly in the final months of the year and continued to make headway in the first two months of 2024. There was some disappointment early in 2024 when it became clear that the major central banks would resist any immediate cut to interest rates, stating that they needed to proceed with caution to ensure that above-target inflation was squeezed out of the system. However, investors appeared to readjust their sights and markets continued to rally, despite rising concerns about events in the Middle East and increasing tensions there, especially in Gaza.

Inflation and central banks' response to it continued to be a major focus for markets. Headline inflation rates in most countries continued to drop over the period, although core inflation (excluding more volatile energy and food prices) remained more persistent. Both the US Federal Reserve (Fed) and the Bank of England (BoE) left interest rates unchanged over the period, happy to take a 'wait-and-see' approach and monitor economic data before making any decisions about altering rate levels. The European Central Bank raised interest rates in September by 50 basis points but left them unchanged thereafter. The apparent conclusion of roughly 18 months of monetary tightening encouraged speculation among investors that the central banks would soon be cutting rates, although those hopes had not yet been realized by the end of February.

Economic growth was mixed. The US economy continued to be resilient and confound those who expected a recession, or at least a marked slowdown. US employment trends remained favourable and although job creation showed signs of a slowdown, the unemployment rate did not materially rise, staying below 4%. The UK and eurozone economies were more sluggish, with the former falling into a technical recession in the final quarter of 2023, following two consecutive quarterly falls in GDP. The eurozone just avoided a recession, with growth flat in the final quarter of the year. Preliminary GDP from Japan indicated that the country had fallen into a recession in the final quarter of 2023; the fourth-quarter figure, however, was subsequently revised higher after the end of the period, meaning Japan avoided a recession. Mainland China managed to eke out growth of 5.2% in 2024, just ahead of target, but remained beset by significant challenges in its property sector – with its two largest property developers facing liquidation – and in local government, where material debt issues persisted.

UK Equities

The UK produced a positive return over the period but materially lagged most other major global equity markets, as worries about the economic outlook and political uncertainties kept investor sentiment subdued.

Like other markets, UK equities suffered a sell-off in the early autumn as investors remained concerned that interest rates would be held at high levels by the major global central banks for longer than expected. However, the market bottomed out in late October and rallied into the new year, as investors became convinced – partly encouraged by central bankers' more dovish commentary – that interest rates would be cut during 2024. Unlike other major markets, the UK did not participate in the rally of the first two months of 2024, owing to anxiety about the UK's economic outlook and some reluctance by both large-scale domestic and international investors to invest in UK companies. The make-up of the UK index did not help, given its small technology sector and relatively high exposure to commodity-related stocks, which did not perform well in aggregate.

There was better news on the inflation front in the UK, as headline inflation more than halved from its late 2022 peak of over 11%. It reached 6.7% by September and continued to fall, ending the period at 4% in January and narrowing the gap with both the eurozone and the US. The decline in UK inflation quickened in the final months of 2023 as food and energy prices, and wage inflation peaked. Core inflation (excluding volatile energy and food prices) remained higher.

The BoE left interest rates unchanged, having last raised them in early August to a 15-year high of 5.25%. This closed a period of monetary tightening which featured 14 consecutive rate hikes dating back to late 2021. However, BoE Governor Andrew Bailey remained cautious about cutting rates too soon in 2024 and struck a more hawkish tone than international central banker peers. This did not, however, stop speculation that the BoE would need to cut rates in 2024, as the outlook for the economy remained weak.

The economy tipped into a recession in the final quarter of 2023; GDP fell by 0.3% on a quarterly basis, following on from a 0.1% drop in the third quarter. The cost-of-living crisis and increased tax burden – with UK taxes at their highest for 70 years – undermined consumer spending, the bedrock of the UK economy, and drove the fall in economic growth. There was some optimism, however, that the recession would prove to be short-lived. The labour market stayed relatively robust, with the number of people in work at high levels, while the unemployment rate fell from 4.1% in September to 3.8% in December.

US Equities

The US market was one of the best-performing developed markets over the period. The major local equity indices – the S&P 500, the Dow Jones and the Nasdaq Composite – all hit new all-time highs, breaking new territory during January and February. After mild weakness in September and most of October, US equities subsequently enjoyed a rally lasting from November until the end of February. The rise was driven by growing hopes of interest-rate cuts from the Fed, optimism over the outlook for the economy and strong corporate earnings – most notably in the technology sector. The so-called “Magnificent Seven” continued to lead the market. Nvidia, the manufacturer of AI-related semiconductors, was a spectacular performer, especially in the first two months of 2024 as it announced very strong earnings growth. Microsoft also performed well and, in January, overtook Apple as the largest stock (by market capitalisation) in the world, as well as becoming the first stock to have a market capitalisation of over \$3 trillion.

Headline inflation continued to decline gently, falling from 3.7% in September to 3.1% in November – a figure that was matched in January following a brief pick-up in December. Core inflation also edged lower, but to a lesser extent, falling from 4.1% in September to 3.9% in January. The central bank kept its Fed funds rate unchanged at 5.5%, having last increased it at the end of July to its highest level in over 22 years. While Fed Chairman Jerome Powell warned that rates would probably need to stay high through 2024, this stance began to soften towards the end of 2023, and several Fed policymakers began to talk openly about rate cuts in 2024. While hopes of a January rate cut were dashed, investors still expected the Fed to reduce rates from the middle of the year.

US economic growth remained relatively robust. Annualised GDP expanded to 4.9% in the third quarter of 2023, and this was followed by growth of 3.2% in the final quarter of the year. For 2023 as a whole, the economy expanded by 2.5%, a pick-up from 2022’s economic expansion of 1.9%. Despite a mild rise in the number of those unemployed, the rate of unemployment remained below 4% of the workforce. Job creation – notably the non-farm payrolls – generally exceeded forecasts, while initial jobless claims fell to their lowest levels for a year in early January. However, job openings gradually declined over the period.

Worries about growing tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine, as well as relations with Mainland China, did not ultimately unsettle the positive sentiment that prevailed in US equities. Nor did domestic political developments – not least the increasing likelihood that Joe Biden and Donald Trump would face off again in November’s presidential election.

Japan Equities

Japan was notably strong over the period, outperforming most other developed world markets. Both the TOPIX and Nikkei indices hit their highest levels since 1990 late in 2023, before the Nikkei 225 Index hit a new all-time high in February for the first time in over 34 years. This was largely driven by growing optimism that the Japanese economy was close to escaping its decades-long period of deflation, as well as impressive earnings growth – not least among Japan’s large exporting sector, which has benefited from the weaker yen. The market also rallied, along with other world markets, on expectations that the pace of global interest-rate hikes might slacken, leading to a revival in the global economy.

Investors were focused on the intentions of the Bank of Japan (BoJ), notably a potential shift in its longstanding ultra-loose monetary policy, although the central bank did not radically alter its stance during the period. While the BoJ appeared at times determined to resist a change to its overall loose policy approach, occasional comments from policymakers seemed to suggest it was close to a shift. BoJ Governor Kazuo Ueda admitted that growing wage pressures in the economy, if persistent, could force the central bank to alter its approach.

Annual consumer inflation declined over the period, falling from 3.0% in September to 2.2% in January, exactly a year after it had touched its highest level for approximately 40 years of 4.3%. Japan's so-called 'core-core' inflation rate (which excludes both food and energy costs) also fell from 4.2% in September to 3.5% in January. Although the inflation figures appeared encouraging, the BoJ remained concerned that inflation would not sustainably fall to its 2% target level and that some mild tightening of monetary policy might be required, with most investors expecting an adjustment in the spring.

The Japanese economy remained fragile despite some intermittent signs of recovery. Preliminary GDP figures for the fourth quarter appeared to show that Japan had fallen back into recession, as a quarter-on-quarter fall of 0.8% in the third quarter of 2023 was followed by a 0.1% drop in the fourth. However, the fourth-quarter figure was subsequently revised to a rise of 0.1% in early March.

The BoJ's Tankan survey – a quarterly indicator of economic sentiment across the economy – was buoyant, with the benchmark Large Manufacturers Diffusion Index rising to +12 in the fourth quarter, up from +9 in the previous quarter. This marked the third successive increase in the reading and was the highest figure in almost two years.

The yen weakened mildly against the US dollar, depreciating from approximately 146 to 150 over the period. The currency had touched a one-year low of approximately 151.5 in November, close to its lowest level since 1990. The yen's weakness continued to reflect the divergent policy stances of the Fed and the BoJ, although these are expected to change this year.

Outlook

Equity markets have surprised many investors by their ongoing strength, with several indices hitting new all-time highs. The relatively narrow leadership in the market – most notably the performance of technology stocks, which have accounted for a high proportion of the gains in markets such as the US and Taiwan – is a concern for many and has led to talk of a bubble developing.

From a fundamental viewpoint, however, there are clearly signs of improvements in conditions. While economic growth is still sluggish across much of the world, interest rates appear to be at peak levels and investors can confidently expect rates cuts at some stage during the year. Corporate earnings growth has continued to surprise on the upside despite multiple headwinds for companies. Valuations are not as stretched compared with previous periods of exuberance, and in some countries – the UK, for example – they appear to offer good value.

Taking stock of the risks, worsening geopolitical tensions cannot be ignored and there are clear flashpoints across the world that could ignite suddenly and cause a sell-off in risk assets at any time. Additionally, inflation may remain stuck above central banks' target levels and the global economy may not achieve its hoped-for lift-off.

Overall, however, we are optimistic that equity markets will remain in an upward trend and produce positive returns, both this year and over the medium-to-long term.

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 31 August 2024.

Notes to the Company Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2024

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 undertaken a detailed assessment, and continues to monitor, the sub-funds' ability to meet their liabilities as they fall due, including liquidity, declines in global capital markets and investor redemption levels. Based on this assessment, the sub-funds continue to be open for trading and the ACD is satisfied the sub-funds have 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 and, where applicable, is included in 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 are charged to revenue when incurred.

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 Authorised Corporate Director (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 31 August 2024. The valuation of unlisted investments is based on the Authorised Corporate Director'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 31 August 2024.

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

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 7 of the sub-fund accounts.

The policy of the Funds is to make distributions to shareholders semi-annually on the 30 April for UK Multi-Factor Equity and annually on 31 October for all Funds.

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 31 August 2024. Where the fair value of the derivative is positive, it is carried as a derivative asset and where negative as a derivative liability.

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.

General Risk Management Process

The Risk Management Process is managed by the ACD and oversight of the investment management function is also carried out independently 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 notably via Consumer Duty Regulation, the Assessment of Value and also the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). 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 Board and its appointed sub committees – the Risk Committee (RC) and the Investment Oversight Committee (IOC). Both the Board and its directly appointed subcommittees have regular opportunities to challenge the appointed investment manager in order to demonstrate that no undue commercial pressure has been applied. Both the Board and its sub committees meet quarterly and have been tasked with the responsibilities to challenge both the appointed external manager as well as the HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited (HAMF) Executive. Financial and Non-Financial Risks are monitored quarterly by HAMF with Operational Resilience plans presented annually.

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 AMEU. In addition, these teams are supported by a series of HAMF Executive Committees which are responsible for oversight and monitoring of the AMEU risk management process, the investment process, performance and operational processes.

Operational Risk Framework – Three Lines of Defence

HSBC Group and all its entities 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.

Key HAMF Committees

The most senior risk management forum for the business is the HAMF Board Risk Committee, chaired by an Independent Non-Executive Director and meets quarterly. The HAMF Executive senior risk committee is the Risk Management Meeting (RMM), chaired by the HAMF Chief Risk Officer, and normally meets quarterly. The RMM is responsible for all aspects of HAMF risk policy and control supported by a number of specialist committees e.g. Pricing & Valuation Committee and the Client Asset Governance Committee. The RMM monitors and controls key business risks, including reviewing the Financial and Non-Financial internal control and assurance framework, Conflicts of Interest, Customer Complaints as well as the activities of Internal Audit. The Executive Local Management Committee (LMC) is chaired by the HAMF Chief Executive Officer and again meets at least quarterly. The LMC's key responsibilities include Leadership Oversight for the HAMF Executive, Sales & Distribution, Third Party Oversight, Securities Lending, Operational Resilience and Finance. The key sub-committees are the New Business Committee and the Consumer Duty Forum.

The following details the broad categories of risk covered by both the HAMF Board and its two sub-committees as well as the above mentioned HAMF 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 HAMF Investment Oversight Committee (IOC) with support from the HAMF Risk team, as well as 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 funds 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 the fund enters into expose it to the risk that the counterparty will not deliver the investment for a purchase, or cash for a sale after the fund has fulfilled its responsibilities. The funds only buys and sells investments through brokers which have been approved by the ACD as acceptable counterparties.

In current market conditions exposure to cash within the Fund could be at risk if the counter party fails. All cash is held at HSBC (HSBC is rated AA- by Standard and Poor's) and exposure is 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.

UK Multi-Factor Equity Fund

Investment Objective

The Fund aims to provide growth in the long term, which is a period of five years or more.

Investment Policy and Strategy*

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

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

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

The Fund may invest in different types of derivatives for efficient portfolio management purposes, including hedging. The Fund does not currently use derivatives to reduce the risk of movements in the rate of exchange between sterling and other currencies in which the Fund's assets may be held. The Fund does not intend to use derivatives extensively and their use will be consistent with the risk profile of the Fund.

The investment manager identifies potential shares of companies from the FTSE 350 ex Investment Trust Index and ranks them from the least attractive to most attractive based upon certain factors, such as value, quality and size. The manager's investment approach then aims to maximise exposure to the highest ranked shares whilst maintaining a portfolio diversified by companies and sectors to manage risk.

The Fund is managed with reference to the FTSE 350 ex Investment Trust Index. The sector and stock constraints, relative to the FTSE 350 ex Investment Trust Index, within the investment strategy mean the Fund returns are more likely to be closer to the returns of the FTSE 350 ex Investment Trust Index than if there were no limits on the level of risk the Fund may take.

The FTSE 350 ex Investment Trust 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 UK equities market. The performance of the Fund is therefore shown against the performance of the FTSE 350 ex Investment Trust Index.

*For details of the full Investment Policy and Strategy please refer to the HSBC Universal 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>. Please note that the Investment Strategy has been updated from 13 September 2021. From this date the fund manager may also select from investable stocks that are not constituents of the relevant index. This will allow the fund manager greater flexibility in managing each of the Funds to its overall risk budget.

Portfolio Activity

Over the review period, the Fund outperformed its market cap weighted index. Our overall exposure to our five alpha factors and our exposure to industries contributed to relative performance.

From a factor perspective, our exposures to Quality, Low Risk and Value contributed to performance, while our exposures to Size and Industry Momentum weighed on performance.

At sector level, our overweight allocations to Capital Goods and Financial Services coupled with our underweight exposure to Utilities contributed to performance. Conversely, our overweight allocations to Automobiles & Components, Telecommunication Services and Energy weighed on performance.

On a stock level basis, our overweight allocations to CRH Public Limited, Redrow and Quilter contributed to performance. Conversely, our underweight exposures to Rolls Royce Holdings and HSBC Holdings coupled with our overweight allocation to DOWLAIS Group weighed on performance.

The Fund is managed using a systematic, model driven process that aims to deliver consistent outperformance against a traditional market capitalisation weighted index over the long term by investing in a well-diversified equity portfolio that provides exposure to five factors: Value, Quality, Momentum, Low Risk and Size.

Purchases during the period included: Standard Chartered, Lloyds Banking Group, Rolls Royce, Sainsburys and Close Brothers. Sales included: Shell PLC, CRH PLC, AstraZeneca, Compass Group, RELX PLC and Playtech Plc.

Investment Performance

During the period under review, the value of the shares in the Fund increased by 20.95%, whilst the value of the FTSE 350 ex Investment Trust Index rose by 17.12%.

(Source: Morningstar Direct, GBP, UK net of tax, income reinvested for the Institutional Accumulation 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 2 September 2024

	Institutional Income	Institutional Accumulation
Price	139.1p xd	161.6p
Distribution payable (on 31 October 2024) per share net	3.218456p	3.633788p
Current net estimated yield	3.49%	3.38%
Annual ACD charge	0.00%	0.00%

Portfolio Statement

as at 31 August 2024

<i>Security</i>	<i>Holding</i>	<i>Bid value £'000</i>	<i>Total net assets %</i>
UNITED KINGDOM - 91.03% (89.11%)			
Oil & Gas - 11.24% (12.83%)			
BP	161,051	692	3.74
Harbour Energy	17,450	52	0.28
Ithaca Energy	30,593	39	0.21
Shell	48,293	1,295	7.01
Total Oil & Gas		2,078	11.24
Basic Materials - 3.33% (3.43%)			
Anglo American	3,533	78	0.42
Rio Tinto	11,305	539	2.91
Total Basic Materials		617	3.33
Industrials - 13.50% (14.77%)			
Ashtead Group	720	39	0.21
Babcock	31,799	166	0.90
BAE Systems	34,659	472	2.55
Bodycote International	20,630	136	0.74
Howden Joinery Group	3,961	38	0.21
Keller	2,529	42	0.23
Mitie Group	137,797	171	0.92
Morgan Sindall	5,711	171	0.92
PageGroup	31,618	123	0.67
Renishaw	1,025	36	0.19
Rolls-Royce	57,743	287	1.55
Rotork	36,279	121	0.65
Senior	89,523	147	0.79
Serco Group	87,414	153	0.83
Smiths Group	4,997	90	0.49
SThree	37,752	155	0.84
Travis Perkins	2,699	24	0.13
Vesuvius	30,825	125	0.68
Total Industrials		2,496	13.50
Consumer Goods - 15.79% (14.55%)			
Bakkavor Group	12,732	20	0.11
Barratt Developments	68,474	347	1.88
British American Tobacco	19,646	557	3.01
Diageo	11,895	294	1.59
Dowlais Group	185,845	121	0.65
Imperial Brands	14,060	307	1.66
ME Group International	39,861	77	0.42
Reckitt Benckiser	2,374	104	0.56
TI Fluid Systems	102,066	135	0.73
Taylor Wimpey	75,183	121	0.65
Unilever	17,073	837	4.53
Total Consumer Goods		2,920	15.79

Portfolio Statement

as at 31 August 2024

<i>Security</i>	<i>Holding</i>	<i>Bid value £'000</i>	<i>Total net assets %</i>
Healthcare - 12.60% (11.58%)			
AstraZeneca	10,955	1,454	7.86
GSK	41,933	695	3.76
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	9,173	182	0.98
Total Healthcare		2,331	12.60
Consumer Services - 8.24% (7.59%)			
Compass Group	7,613	183	0.99
Currys	120,777	96	0.52
Frasers Group	11,991	103	0.56
InterContinental Hotels Group	201	15	0.08
JD Sports Fashion	28,044	39	0.21
Kingfisher	36,076	103	0.56
Mitchells & Butlers	9,847	29	0.16
Next	2,331	237	1.28
RELX	12,891	456	2.46
Sainsbury (J)	57,324	168	0.91
Tesco	26,876	95	0.51
Total Consumer Services		1,524	8.24
Telecommunications - 1.47% (2.12%)			
Vodafone Group	364,394	271	1.47
Total Telecommunications		271	1.47
Utilities - 3.37% (3.05%)			
Centrica	91,230	117	0.63
National Grid	29,358	293	1.59
SSE	11,272	213	1.15
Total Utilities		623	3.37
Financials - 20.36% (17.15%)			
3i Group	12,086	384	2.08
Aviva	9,071	46	0.25
Bank of Georgia	328	15	0.08
Barclays	137,348	314	1.70
Beazley	17,633	132	0.71
Close Brothers Group	29,957	163	0.88
+HSBC Holdings	103,128	687	3.72
Just Group	91,289	130	0.70
Lloyds Banking Group	587,180	344	1.86
London Stock Exchange Group	2,523	258	1.40
NatWest Group	42,441	146	0.79
Paragon Banking Group	20,635	158	0.85
Prudential	9,317	61	0.33
Quilter	130,054	180	0.97
Safestore Holdings REIT	15,343	133	0.72

Portfolio Statement

as at 31 August 2024

<i>Security</i>	<i>Holding</i>	<i>Bid value £'000</i>	<i>Total net assets %</i>
Savills	12,385	145	0.78
Shaftesbury Capital	72,644	107	0.58
Standard Chartered	42,541	331	1.79
Target Healthcare	16,254	14	0.08
TBC Bank Group	553	17	0.09
Total Financials		3,765	20.36
Technology - 1.13% (2.04%)			
Computacenter	5,836	159	0.86
Softcat	3,219	50	0.27
Total Technology		209	1.13
Total United Kingdom		16,834	91.03
BERMUDA - 1.65% (0.60%)			
Financials - 1.65% (0.60%)			
Hiscox	11,431	134	0.72
Lancashire Holdings	25,441	171	0.93
Total Financials		305	1.65
Total Bermuda		305	1.65
CHANNEL ISLANDS - 4.20% (3.39%)			
Basic Materials - 2.58% (2.38%)			
Centamin	125,635	156	0.84
Glencore	80,010	321	1.74
Total Basic Materials		477	2.58
Industrials - 0.64% (0.43%)			
Experian Group	3,196	118	0.64
Total Industrials		118	0.64
Financials - 0.98% (0.58%)			
TP ICAP	74,961	182	0.98
Total Financials		182	0.98
Total Channel Islands		777	4.20
GERMANY - 0.00% (0.43%)			
Consumer Services - 0.00% (0.43%)			
IRELAND - 0.91% (2.88%)			
Industrials - 0.91% (2.42%)			
Grafton Group	15,556	168	0.91
Total Industrials		168	0.91
Consumer Services - 0.00% (0.46%)			
Total Ireland		168	0.91
ISLE OF MAN - 0.00% (0.80%)			
Technology - 0.00% (0.80%)			

Portfolio Statement

as at 31 August 2024

<i>Security</i>	<i>Holding</i>	<i>Bid value £'000</i>	<i>Total net assets %</i>
Netherlands - 0.47% (0.00%)			
Industrials - 0.47% (0.00%)			
RHI Magnesita	2,605	86	0.47
Total Industrials		86	0.47
Total Netherlands		86	0.47
SPAIN - 1.14% (1.05%)			
Consumer Services - 1.14% (1.05%)			
International Consolidated Airlines Group	115,519	211	1.14
Total Consumer Services		211	1.14
Total Spain		211	1.14
FUTURES - 0.01% (-0.03%)			
FTSE 100 Index Futures September 2024	-	2	0.01
Total Futures		2	0.01
Portfolio of investments		18,383	99.41
Net other assets		109	0.59
Net assets		18,492	100.00

+Investment managed by the ACD/HSBC Group

Figures in brackets denote comparative percentage holdings as at 31 August 2023.

Unless otherwise stated, all investments are listed equities.

The counterparty for the future is HSBC Bank.

Comparative Tables

for the year ended 31 August 2024

Institutional Income	31.8.24	31.8.23	31.8.22
Change in net assets per share			
Opening net asset value per share	110.60p	119.40p	120.90p
Return before operating charges*	24.90p	4.67p	3.20p
Operating charges**	(0.15p)	(0.23p)	(0.06p)
Return after operating charges*	24.75p	4.44p	3.14p
Distributions on income shares	(4.85p)	(4.34p)	(4.64p)
Closing net asset value per share	139.40p	119.50p	119.40p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.28p	0.28p	0.41p
Performance			
Return after charges	20.71%	3.72%	2.60%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£18,442,959	£18,232,421	£49,213
Closing number of shares	13,226,137	15,257,062	41,212
Operating charges - OCF	0.12%+	0.09%	0.05%
Direct transaction costs	0.22%	0.23%	0.33%
Prices			
Highest share price	143.00p	129.90p	131.00p
Lowest share price	110.60p	110.60p	114.00p

Institutional Accumulation	31.8.24	31.8.23	31.8.22
Change in net assets per share			
Opening net asset value per share	134.00p	129.30p	126.00p
Return before operating charges*	28.18p	4.86p	3.38p
Operating charges**	(0.18p)	(0.16p)	(0.08p)
Return after operating charges*	28.00p	4.70p	3.30p
Distributions on accumulation shares	(5.46p)	(4.72p)	(4.86p)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	5.46p	4.72p	4.86p
Closing net asset value per share	162.00p	134.00p	129.30p
*after direct transaction costs of: ***	0.31p	0.30p	0.43p
Performance			
Return after charges	20.90%	3.63%	2.62%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£48,603	£55,216	£53,291
Closing number of shares	30,000	41,212	41,212
Operating charges - OCF	0.13%+	0.10%****	0.07%
Direct transaction costs	0.22%	0.23%	0.33%
Prices			
Highest share price	163.00p	140.70p	134.00p
Lowest share price	119.80p	119.80p	115.00p

**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.

****The OCF is estimated, due to the exclusion from the calculation of a one-off adjustment made to custody fees relating to previous accounting periods.

+With effect from 28 March 2024, Administrator and Electronic Service Fees have been charged to this Share Class.

Comparative Tables

for the year ended 31 August 2024

Institutional A Income#	31.8.24	31.8.23	31.8.22
Change in net assets per share			
Opening net asset value per share	N/A	118.00p	119.50p
Return before operating charges*	N/A	7.92p	3.14p
Operating charges**	N/A	(0.24p)	(0.37p)
Return after operating charges*	N/A	7.68p	2.77p
Distributions on income shares	N/A	(1.38p)	(4.27p)
Cancellation price		(124.30p)	-
Closing net asset value per share	N/A	-	118.00p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	N/A	0.17p	0.40p
Performance			
Return after charges	N/A	6.51%	2.32%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	N/A	N/A	£19,584,689
Closing number of shares	N/A	N/A	16,590,569
Operating charges - OCF	N/A	N/A	0.31%
Direct transaction costs	N/A	N/A	0.33%
Prices			
Highest share price	N/A	128.30p	126.70p
Lowest share price	N/A	109.30p	112.20p
#The Institutional A Income share class closed on 17 April 2023.			
**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 31 August 2024

	Notes	31.8.24		31.8.23	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income					
Net capital gains	2		2,810		61
Revenue	3	697		716	
Expenses	4	(16)		(54)	
Net revenue before taxation		681		662	
Taxation	5	-		-	
Net revenue after taxation			681		662
Total return before distributions			3,491		723
Distributions	6		(678)		(662)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			2,813		61

Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders

for the year ended 31 August 2024

	31.8.24		31.8.23	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		18,288		19,687
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	1,108		20,355	
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(3,728)		(21,821)	
		(2,620)		(1,466)
Dilution adjustment		9		4
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see Statement of Total Return above)		2,813		61
Retained distribution on accumulation shares		2		2
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		18,492		18,288

Balance Sheet

as at 31 August 2024

	Notes	31.8.24		31.8.23	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Assets					
Investments			18,383		17,970
Current assets					
Debtors	8	155		859	
Cash and bank balances		393		298	
Total current assets			548		1,157
Total assets			18,931		19,127
Liabilities					
Investment liabilities			-		(5)
Creditors					
Distribution payable on income shares		(426)		(424)	
Other creditors	9	(13)		(410)	
Total creditors			(439)		(834)
Total liabilities			(439)		(839)
Net assets attributable to shareholders			18,492		18,288

Distribution Tables (pence per share)

for the year ended 31 August 2024

	<i>Net income</i>	<i>Equalisation</i>	<i>Distribution payable 31.10.24</i>	<i>Distribution paid 31.10.23</i>
Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 1 March 2024				
Group 2: Shares purchased from 1 March 2024 to 31 August 2024				
Institutional Income				
Group 1	3.218456	-	3.218456	2.780947
Group 2	3.209556	0.008900	3.218456	2.780947
Institutional Accumulation				
Group 1	3.633788	-	3.633788	3.040261
Group 2	3.633788	0.000000	3.633788	3.040261
Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 1 September 2023				
Group 2: Shares purchased from 1 September 2023 to 29 February 2024				
	<i>Net income</i>	<i>Equalisation</i>	<i>Distribution paid 30.04.24</i>	<i>Distribution paid 30.04.23</i>
Institutional Income				
Group 1	1.630000	-	1.630000	1.560000
Group 2	0.330000	1.300000	1.630000	1.560000
Institutional Accumulation				
Group 1	1.830000	-	1.830000	1.680000
Group 2	1.830000	0.000000	1.830000	1.680000

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2024

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£'000	£'000
1. Accounting Policies		
The accounting policies are set out on pages 8 and 9.		
2. Net Capital Gains		
The net capital gains during the year comprise:		
Currency losses	(1)	-
Transaction charges	(6)	-
Capital special dividends	17	-
Gains on derivative contracts	34	9
Gains on non-derivative securities	2,766	52
Net capital gains	2,810	61
3. Revenue		
UK dividends (net)	641	671
Property investment income	7	12
Overseas dividends	38	27
Deposit interest	2	2
Bank interest	6	4
Stock dividends	3	-
Total revenue	697	716
4. Expenses		
Payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
ACD's charge	-	31
Registration fee	1	-
Safe custody fee	3	9
	4	40
Payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary, and agents of either of them:		
Depositary fee	2	2
Other expenses:		
Audit fee	8	9
Report and accounts fee	1	1
Administration fee	1	2
	10	12
Total expenses	16	54

31.8.24	31.8.23
£'000	£'000

5. Taxation**a) Analysis of charge in year:**

Corporation tax	-	-
Overseas tax	-	-
Total tax for the year (note 5b)	-	-

b) Factors affecting taxation charge for the year:

The tax assessed for the year is lower (2023: 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	681	662
Corporation tax at 20%	136	132
Effects of:		
Revenue not subject to taxation	(136)	(139)
Current year expenses not utilised	-	7
Total tax charge for the year (note 5a)	-	-

c) Provision for deferred taxation

At 31 August 2024, there is a potential deferred tax asset of £886,603 (31.8.23 : £886,419) in relation to surplus management expenses of £4,432,586 (31.8.23: £4,431,667) and non trading deficits of £431 (31.8.23: £431). 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:

Interim dividend distribution	232	222
Final dividend distribution	427	426
	659	648
Add: Amounts deducted on cancellation of shares	27	137
Deduct: Amounts received on issue of shares	(8)	(123)
Net distribution for the year	678	662

7. Movement Between Net Revenue and Distributions

Net revenue after taxation	681	662
Stock dividends treated as capital	(3)	-
Net distribution for the year	678	662

8. Debtors

Sales awaiting settlement	4	687
Accrued revenue	127	133
Overseas tax recoverable	24	39
Total debtors	155	859

9. Other creditors

Amounts payable for cancellation of shares	-	400
Accrued expenses	13	10
Total other creditors	13	410

10. Reconciliation of Shares

	<i>Institutional Income</i>	<i>Institutional Accumulation</i>
Opening shares issued at 1.9.23	15,257,061	41,212
Share movements 1.9.23 to 31.8.24		
Shares issued	884,263	-
Shares cancelled	(2,915,187)	(11,212)
Shares converted	-	-
Closing shares issued at 31.8.24	13,226,137	30,000

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:

	<i>Institutional Income</i> %	<i>Institutional Accumulation</i> %	<i>Institutional A Income</i> %
As at 31.8.24	100.00	-	-
As at 31.8.23	-	-	100.00

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 and 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 £3,144 (31.8.23: £400,508). Further details of such amounts can be found in notes 8 and 9.

At the year end, the Fund held £687,451 (31.8.23: £672,227) 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 and/or HSBC Holdings totalled £77,613 (31.8.23: £72,870).

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 10 and 11.

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 significantly affected by currency movements.

Net currency monetary assets and liabilities consist of:

	<i>Portfolio of investments</i>		<i>Net other assets</i>		<i>Net assets</i>	
	31.8.24	<i>31.8.23</i>	31.8.24	<i>31.8.23</i>	31.8.24	<i>31.8.23</i>
	£'000	<i>£'000</i>	£'000	<i>£'000</i>	£'000	<i>£'000</i>
Sterling*	18,383	17,965	9	232	18,392	18,197
Euro	-	-	13	24	13	24
United States dollar	-	-	87	67	87	67
Total	18,383	17,965	109	323	18,492	18,288

*No currency risk as Sterling is the base currency.

Interest Rate Risk

At the year end, 2.12% (31.8.23: 1.63%) of the Fund's assets by value were interest-paying.

Interest rates are based upon HSBC's proprietary rates, with the exception of GBP debit rate which is linked to Bank of England rate.

13. Shareholders' Funds

This Fund has an institutional share class.

The annual ACD charge on the institutional share class is 0.00%.

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 and 20. The distribution per share class is given in the Distribution Tables on page 22.

All share classes within the OEIC have the same rights on winding up.

14. Stock Lending Activities

Revenue earned from these activities is shown in note 3 and is net of bank and agents fees amounting to £77 (31.8.2023: £287) payable to HSBC Bank plc.

15. Financial Derivatives

The Fund has used financial derivatives for hedging and meeting investment objectives including risk reduction and implementation of investment policies.

The use of derivatives can create additional counterparty risks. Details of the policy adopted by the ACD for managing counterparty and other risks are set out in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Details of the individual contracts are shown on the Portfolio Statement on pages 15 to 18, The underlying exposure for each category of derivatives were as follows:

The economic exposure of future derivative contracts is equal to the market value. The value of exposure and the related counterparty are disclosed in the Portfolio Statement.

Eligible collateral types are approved by the ACD and may consist of cash, UK gilts, certificates of deposit, treasury bills, sovereign debt, eurosterling bonds and equities.

At 31 August 2024, there was no collateral held in respect of the above derivatives (31.8.23: nil).

16. Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

At the year end, the Fund had no contingent liabilities or commitments (31.8.2023: None).

17. Portfolio Transaction Costs

For the year ended 31 August 2024	Purchases	Commissions		Taxes	Other Expenses		
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total purchases costs							
Equity transactions	7,434	2	0.03	32	0.43	3	0.04
Corporate actions	30	-	-	-	0.00	-	-
Total purchases before transaction costs	7,464	2		32		3	
Transaction costs	37						
Total purchases after commission, tax and fees	7,501						

	Sales	Commissions		Taxes	Other Expenses		
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total sales costs							
Equity transactions	9,853	3	0.03	-	-	-	-
Corporate actions	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sales before transaction costs	9,862	3		-		-	
Transaction costs	(3)						
Total sales after commission, tax and fees	9,859						

The Fund had paid £63 as commission on purchases and sales derivative transactions for the year ended 31.08.24.

Commissions, taxes and fees as % of average net assets:

Commissions	0.03%
Taxes	0.17%
Other expenses	0.02%

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 31 August 2023	Purchases	Commissions		Taxes	Other Expenses		
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total purchases costs							
Equity transactions	8,617	2	0.02	7	0.08	32	0.37
Corporate actions	76	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total purchases before transaction costs	8,693	2		7		32	
Transaction costs	41						
Total purchases after commission, tax and fees	8,734						

	Sales	Commissions		Taxes	Other Expenses		
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total sales costs							
Equity transactions	10,167	3	0.03	-	-	-	-
Corporate actions	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sales before transaction costs	10,227	3		-		-	
Transaction costs	(3)						
Total sales after commission, tax and fees	10,224						

The Fund had paid £11 as commission on purchases and sales derivative transactions for the year ended 31.8.23.

Commissions, taxes and fees as % of average net assets:

Commissions	0.03%
Taxes	0.04%
Other expenses	0.16%

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.

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.

18. 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 31 August 2024

Category	1	2	3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investment Assets	18,381	-	-	18,381
Equities	18,381	-	-	18,381
Derivatives	2	-	-	2
	18,383	-	-	18,383

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Category	1	2	3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investment Assets	17,970	-	-	17,970
Equities	17,970	-	-	17,970
	17,970	-	-	17,970
Investment Assets	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Derivatives	(5)	-	-	(5)
	(5)	-	-	(5)

19. Sensitivity Analysis

Price risk sensitivity:

If the price of investments at 31 August 2024 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 £1,838,287 (31.8.23: £1,796,499).

Currency risk sensitivity:

At the balance sheet date, the Fund did not have a significant exposure to non-Sterling currency, therefore no sensitivity analysis is disclosed (31.8.23: no significant exposure).

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 (31.8.23: no significant exposure).

US Multi-Factor Equity Fund

Investment Objective

The Fund aims to provide growth in the long term, which is a period of five years or more.

Investment Policy*

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

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

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

The Fund may invest in different types of derivatives for efficient portfolio management purposes, including hedging.

The Fund does not currently use derivatives to reduce the risk of movements in the rate of exchange between sterling and other currencies in which the Fund's assets may be held. The Fund does not intend to use derivatives extensively and their use will be consistent with the risk profile of the Fund.

The investment manager identifies potential shares of companies from the S&P 500 Index and ranks them from the least attractive to most attractive based upon certain factors, such as value, quality and size. The manager's investment approach then aims to maximise exposure to the highest ranked shares whilst maintaining a portfolio diversified by companies and sectors to manage risk.

The Fund is managed with reference to the S&P 500 Index. The sector and stock constraints, relative to the S&P 500 Index, within the investment strategy mean the Fund returns are more likely to be closer to the returns of the S&P 500 Index than if there were no limits on the level of risk the Fund may take.

The S&P 500 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 US equities market. The performance of the Fund is therefore shown against the performance of the S&P 500 Index.

*For details of the full Investment Policy and Strategy please refer to the HSBC Universal 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>. Please note that the Investment Strategy has been updated from 13 September 2021. From this date the fund manager may also select from investable stocks that are not constituents of the relevant index. This will allow the fund manager greater flexibility in managing each of the Funds to its overall risk budget.

Portfolio Activity

Over the review period, the Fund outperformed its market cap weighted index gross of fees. Our overall exposure to our five alpha factors contributed to relative performance.

From a factor perspective, our exposures to Industry Momentum, Value and Low Risk contributed to performance, while our exposures to Size and Quality weighed on performance.

At sector level, our overweight allocation to Insurance coupled with our underweight exposures to Transportation and Consumer Services contributed to performance. Conversely, our underweight exposure to Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment coupled with our overweight allocations to Automobiles & Components and Technology Hardware & Equipment weighed on performance.

On a stock level basis, our overweight allocations to Ge Aerospace, American Express and Howmet Aerospace contributed to performance. Conversely, our underweight exposures to Netflix and Costco Wholesale coupled with our overweight allocation to SolarEdge Technologies weighed on performance.

The Fund is managed using a systematic, model driven process that aims to deliver consistent outperformance against a traditional market capitalisation weighted index over the long term by investing in a well-diversified equity portfolio that provides exposure to five factors: Value, Quality, Momentum, Low Risk and Size.

Purchases during the period included: Akamai Technologies, Amazon, BorgWarner and Incyte Genomics.

Sales included: Microsoft, Apple, Amazon.Com, Alphabet Inc and Garmin Ltd.

Investment Performance

During the year under review, the value of the shares in the Fund increased by 23.12% whilst the value of the S&P 500 Index rose by 22.58%.

(Source: Morningstar Direct, GBP, UK net of tax, income reinvested for the Institutional A Accumulation 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 2 September 2024

	Institutional Income	Institutional Accumulation	Institutional A Accumulation
Price	689.8p xd	850.2p	841.3p
Distribution payable (on 31 October 2024) per share net	8.175112p	9.860500p	7.854486p
Current net estimated yield	1.19%	1.16%	0.94%
Annual ACD charge	0.00%	0.00%	0.25%

Portfolio Statement

as at 31 August 2024

<i>Security</i>	<i>Holding</i>	<i>Bid value £'000</i>	<i>Total net assets %</i>
UNITED STATES - 96.06% (97.49%)			
Oil & Gas - 4.58% (5.97%)			
Chevron	39,614	4,458	1.18
ConocoPhillips	33,749	2,921	0.77
Coterra Energy	153,766	2,847	0.75
EOG Resources	36,246	3,552	0.94
Exxon Mobil	39,764	3,567	0.94
Total Oil & Gas		17,345	4.58
Basic Materials - 1.12% (0.90%)			
Nucor	26,981	3,119	0.82
Steel Dynamics	12,389	1,126	0.30
Total Basic Materials		4,245	1.12
Industrials - 8.76% (7.24%)			
A.O.Smith	26,008	1,657	0.44
Arconic	36,326	2,671	0.71
Axon Enterprise	9,173	2,547	0.67
Boeing	4,007	530	0.14
Builders FirstSource	2,835	375	0.10
Cintas	5,536	3,389	0.90
Fastenal	52,685	2,736	0.72
General Dynamics	15,142	3,448	0.91
General Electric	16,552	2,198	0.58
Grainger (W.W.)	4,030	3,017	0.80
Huntington Ingalls Industries	14,630	3,145	0.83
PACCAR	20,857	1,525	0.40
Paychex	9,086	907	0.24
Raytheon Technology	1,777	167	0.04
Republic Services	1,555	246	0.07
Teledyne Technologies	726	239	0.06
Textron	19,028	1,320	0.35
United Rentals	5,403	3,044	0.80
Total Industrials		33,161	8.76

Portfolio Statement

as at 31 August 2024

<i>Security</i>	<i>Holding</i>	<i>Bid value £'000</i>	<i>Total net assets %</i>
Consumer Goods - 9.18% (10.01%)			
Altria Group	91,543	3,743	0.99
BorgWarner	55,270	1,432	0.38
Church & Dwight	39,063	3,026	0.80
Colgate-Palmolive	39,203	3,176	0.84
D.R. Horton	18,832	2,704	0.71
General Motors	58,148	2,201	0.58
Lennar	23,751	3,289	0.87
Molson Coors Beverage	2,126	87	0.02
Monster Beverage	30,287	1,086	0.29
NVR	472	3,293	0.87
Procter & Gamble	3,820	499	0.13
PulteGroup	31,687	3,173	0.84
Snap-on	13,583	2,930	0.77
Tesla Motors	25,332	4,127	1.09
Total Consumer Goods		34,766	9.18
Healthcare - 10.11% (11.23%)			
Abbvie	4,846	724	0.19
Biogen	4,684	729	0.19
Edwards Lifesciences	10,356	551	0.14
Elevance Health	5,925	2,511	0.66
Eli Lilly and Company	8,272	6,034	1.59
Hologic	46,670	2,884	0.76
IDEXX Laboratories	2,236	818	0.22
Incyte Genomics	61,195	3,057	0.81
Johnson & Johnson	27,963	3,528	0.93
Merck & Co.	34,499	3,106	0.82
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	4,542	4,091	1.08
Solventum Corporation	28,418	1,386	0.37
UnitedHealth Group	4,694	2,106	0.56
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	10,604	3,998	1.06
Viatis	300,475	2,764	0.73
Total Healthcare		38,287	10.11
Consumer Services - 5.27% (9.67%)			
Amazon.com	94,606	12,848	3.39
Best Buy	5,759	440	0.12
Copart	78,776	3,174	0.84
Costco Wholesale	169	115	0.03
Home Depot	749	210	0.05
Kroger	50,362	2,039	0.54
TJX Companies	4,184	373	0.10
Ulta Beauty	2,248	603	0.16
Walmart	2,294	135	0.04
Total Consumer Services		19,937	5.27

Portfolio Statement

as at 31 August 2024

<i>Security</i>	<i>Holding</i>	<i>Bid value £'000</i>	<i>Total net assets %</i>
Telecommunications - 0.93% (1.86%)			
AT&T	36,192	548	0.14
T-Mobile US	19,669	2,973	0.79
Total Telecommunications		3,521	0.93
Utilities - 1.65% (2.12%)			
Atoms Energy	25,094	2,496	0.66
NextEra Energy	11,606	711	0.19
Pinnacle West Capital	21,115	1,406	0.37
Xcel Energy	34,676	1,615	0.43
Total Utilities		6,228	1.65
Financials - 17.33% (14.73%)			
Alexandria Real Estate Equities	24,006	2,183	0.58
American Express	21,051	4,141	1.09
American International Group	52,159	3,057	0.81
AvalonBay Communities	2,937	504	0.13
Berkshire Hathaway B	9,950	3,601	0.95
Capital One Financial	32,243	3,603	0.95
Citigroup	20,298	967	0.26
Citizens Financial Group	63,407	2,076	0.55
Discover Financial Services	25,753	2,718	0.72
Equity Residential	31,732	1,808	0.48
Fifth Third Bank	52,007	1,689	0.45
Hartford Financial Services	37,777	3,337	0.88
Host Marriott	87,971	1,185	0.31
Huntington Bancshares	137,908	1,570	0.41
JPMorgan Chase & Company	30,116	5,151	1.36
Loews	49,637	3,094	0.82
MarketAxess	7,583	1,398	0.37
Mastercard	146	54	0.01
Metlife	13,847	816	0.22
Principal Financial Group	17,361	1,075	0.28
Progressive	3,150	604	0.16
Public Storage	7,024	1,836	0.48
Realty Income	4,094	194	0.05
Regency Centers	36,078	1,995	0.53
Synchrony Financial	83,701	3,200	0.85
Travelers	17,096	2,965	0.78
US Bancorp	34,262	1,231	0.33
VICI Properties	127,005	3,233	0.85
Visa A	4,775	1,004	0.27
W. R. Berkley	35,019	1,590	0.42
Wells Fargo & Co.	15,335	682	0.18
Welltower	20,280	1,863	0.49
Weyerhaeuser	50,787	1,177	0.31
Total Financials		65,601	17.33

Portfolio Statement

as at 31 August 2024

<i>Security</i>	<i>Holding</i>	<i>Bid value £'000</i>	<i>Total net assets %</i>
Technology - 37.13% (33.76%)			
Akamai Technologies	29,731	2,303	0.61
Alphabet A	60,812	7,556	2.00
Alphabet C	59,256	7,438	1.96
Apple	149,391	26,014	6.87
Arista Networks	3,928	1,055	0.28
Autodesk	5,349	1,051	0.28
Broadcom corporation	44,171	5,469	1.44
Cisco Systems	86,128	3,311	0.87
Cognizant Technology Solutions	49,708	2,940	0.78
EPAM Systems	15,131	2,310	0.61
F5 Networks	20,007	3,092	0.82
Intuit	1,637	784	0.21
Hewlett-Packard	193,628	2,854	0.75
HP	84,968	2,339	0.62
LAM Research	3,519	2,198	0.58
Meta Platforms	25,608	10,155	2.68
Microsoft	77,031	24,432	6.45
Monolithic Power	390	277	0.07
NetApp	31,658	2,910	0.77
Nvidia	254,945	23,154	6.12
Qualcomm	6,719	896	0.24
Salesforce	1,032	199	0.05
Skyworks Solutions	37,836	3,155	0.83
Teradyne	20,214	2,103	0.56
Texas Instruments	15,744	2,566	0.68
Total Technology		140,561	37.13
Total United States		363,652	96.06
BERMUDA - 0.79% (0.86%)			
Financials - 0.79% (0.86%)			
Everest	10,081	3,007	0.79
Total Financials		3,007	0.79
Total Bermuda		3,007	0.79
IRELAND - 1.10% (0.80%)			
Industrials - 1.01% (0.41%)			
Accenture	14,666	3,814	1.01
Total Industrials		3,814	1.01
Healthcare - 0.09% (0.39%)			
Steris	1,955	359	0.09
Total Healthcare		359	0.09
Total Ireland		4,173	1.10

Portfolio Statement

as at 31 August 2024

<i>Security</i>	<i> Holding</i>	<i> Bid value £'000</i>	<i> Total net assets %</i>
JERSEY - 0.53% (0.00%)			
Consumer Goods - 0.53% (0.00%)			
Aptiv	36,924	2,009	0.53
Total Consumer Goods		2,009	0.53
Total Jersey		2,009	0.53
SWITZERLAND - 0.30% (0.71%)			
Consumer Services - 0.24% (0.00%)			
Bunge Global	11,640	897	0.24
Total Consumer Services		897	0.24
Financials - 0.00% (0.38%)			
Technology - 0.06% (0.33%)			
Garmin	1,686	235	0.06
Total Technology		235	0.06
Total Switzerland		1,132	0.30
Futures - 0.01% (0.00%)			
CME S&P 500 E-Mini Index Future September 2024	21	25	0.01
Total Futures		25	0.01
Portfolio of investments		373,998	98.79
Net other assets		4,585	1.21
Net assets		378,583	100.00

Figures in brackets denote comparative percentage holdings as at 31 August 2023.

Unless otherwise stated, all investments are listed securities.

The counterparty for the future is HSBC Bank.

The Fund does not hold investments in other funds available within the OEIC.

Comparative Tables

for the year ended 31 August 2024

Institutional Income	31.8.24	31.8.23	31.8.22
Change in net assets per share			
Opening net asset value per share	558.50p	540.40p	518.70p
Return before operating charges*	139.31p	26.32p	29.46p
Operating charges**	(0.13p)	(0.17p)	(0.16p)
Return after operating charges*	139.18p	26.15p	29.30p
Distributions on income shares	(8.18p)	(8.05p)	(7.60p)
Closing net asset value per share	689.50p	558.50p	540.40p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.33p	0.25p	0.23p
Performance			
Return after charges	24.92%	4.84%	5.65%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£77,601,680	£73,663,351	£78,668,325
Closing number of shares	11,255,377	13,189,693	14,557,153
Operating charges - OCF	0.02%+	0.03%	0.03%
Direct transaction costs	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%
Prices			
Highest share price	707.70p	570.70p	576.50p
Lowest share price	537.40p	503.70p	486.00p

Institutional Accumulation	31.8.24	31.8.23	31.8.22
Change in net assets per share			
Opening net asset value per share	680.30p	648.90p	614.20p
Return before operating charges*	169.57p	31.60p	34.89p
Operating charges**	(0.17p)	(0.20p)	(0.19p)
Return after operating charges*	169.40p	31.40p	34.70p
Distributions on accumulation shares	(9.86p)	(9.66p)	(9.00p)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	9.86p	9.66p	9.00p
Closing net asset value per share	849.70p	680.30p	648.90p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.40p	0.29p	0.27p
Performance			
Return after charges	24.90%	4.84%	5.65%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£50,980	£59,965	£57,199
Closing number of shares	6,000	8,814	8,814
Operating charges - OCF	0.03%+	0.03%	0.03%
Direct transaction costs	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%
Prices			
Highest share price	862.00p	685.30p	682.60p
Lowest share price	655.00p	604.80p	575.50p

**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.

+With effect from 28 March 2024, Administrator and Electronic Service Fees have been charged to this Share Class.

Comparative Tables

for the year ended 31 August 2024

Institutional A Accumulation	31.8.24	31.8.23	31.8.22
Change in net assets per share			
Opening net asset value per share	674.90p	645.50p	612.50p
Return before operating charges*	168.08p	31.28p	34.84p
Operating charges**	(2.18p)	(1.88p)	(1.84p)
Return after operating charges*	165.90p	29.40p	33.00p
Distributions on accumulation shares	(7.85p)	(7.92p)	(7.32p)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	7.85p	7.92p	7.32p
Closing net asset value per share	840.80p	674.90p	645.50p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.40p	0.29p	0.27p
Performance			
Return after charges	24.58%	4.55%	5.39%
Other information			
Closing net asset value	£300,930,832	£244,330,670	£147,671,949
Closing number of shares	35,789,983	36,200,966	22,878,771
Operating charges - OCF	0.29%+	0.29%	0.29%
Direct transaction costs	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%
Prices			
Highest share price	853.20p	680.00p	679.00p
Lowest share price	649.20p	601.10p	572.80p
**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.			
+With effect from 28 March 2024, Administrator and Electronic Service Fees have been charged to this Share Class.			

Statement of Total Return

for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	31.8.24		31.8.23	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income					
Net capital gains	2		71,757		12,371
Revenue	3	5,244		4,471	
Expenses	4	(741)		(522)	
Interest payable and similar charges		(1)		(3)	
Net revenue before taxation		4,502		3,946	
Taxation	5	(729)		(642)	
Net revenue after taxation			3,773		3,304
Total return before distributions			75,530		15,675
Distributions	6		(3,784)		(3,330)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			71,746		12,345

Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders

for the year ended 31 August 2024

	31.8.24		31.8.23	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		318,054		226,397
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	241,827		200,813	
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(256,307)		(124,616)	
		(14,480)		76,197
Dilution adjustment		451		246
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see Statement of Total Return above)		71,746		12,345
Retained distribution on accumulation shares		2,812		2,869
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		378,583		318,054

Balance Sheet

as at 31 August 2024

	Notes	31.8.24		31.8.23	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Assets					
Investments			373,998		317,610
Current assets					
Debtors	8	337		3,170	
Cash and bank balances		5,456		3,095	
Total current assets			5,793		6,265
Total assets			379,791		323,875
Liabilities					
Creditors					
Distribution payable on income shares		(920)		(1,061)	
Other creditors	9	(288)		(4,760)	
Total creditors			(1,208)		(5,821)
Total liabilities			(1,208)		(5,821)
Net assets attributable to shareholders			378,583		318,054

Distribution Table (pence per share)

for the year ended 31 August 2024

	<i>Net income</i>	<i>Equalisation</i>	<i>Distribution payable</i>	<i>Distribution paid</i>
Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 1 September 2023				
Group 2: Shares purchased from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024				
Institutional Income				
Group 1	8.175112	-	8.175112	8.048314
Group 2	4.174863	4.000249	8.175112	8.048314
Institutional Accumulation				
Group 1	9.860500	-	9.860500	9.664346
Group 2	9.860500	0.000000	9.860500	9.664346
Institutional A Accumulation				
Group 1	7.854486	-	7.854486	7.922094
Group 2	3.949541	3.904945	7.854486	7.922094

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2024

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£'000	£'000
1. Accounting Policies		
The accounting policies are set out on pages 8 and 9.		
2. Net Capital Gains		
The net capital gains during the year comprise:		
Currency (losses)/gains	(160)	39
Transaction charges	(13)	(28)
Capital US REIT income	98	199
Gains on derivative contracts	1,658	464
Gains on non-derivative securities	70,174	11,697
Net capital gains	71,757	12,371
3. Revenue		
UK dividends (net)	-	3
Overseas dividends	5,074	4,373
Deposit interest	14	8
Bank interest	146	76
Stocklending Income	10	11
Total revenue	5,244	4,471
4. Expenses		
Payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
ACD's charge	640	448
Administration fee	43	24
Safe custody fee	9	6
	692	478
Payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary, and agents of either of them:		
Depositary fee	32	27
Other expenses:		
Audit fee	8	8
Report and accounts fee	9	9
	17	17
Total expenses	741	522

31.8.24 31.8.23
£'000 £'000

5. Taxation

a) Analysis of charge in year:

Overseas tax	729	642
Total tax for the year (note 5b)	729	642

b) Factors affecting taxation charge for the year:

The tax assessed for the year is lower (2023: 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	4,502	3,946
Corporation tax at 20%	900	789
Effects of:		
Revenue not subject to taxation	(928)	(837)
Tax relief on overseas tax suffered	(13)	(6)
Current year expenses not utilised	40	54
Irrecoverable overseas tax	718	616
Irrecoverable withholding tax on capital special dividends	11	26
Total tax for the year (note 5a)	728	642

c) Provision for deferred taxation

At 31 August 2024, there is a potential deferred tax asset of £693,099 (31.8.23: £652,836) in relation to surplus management expenses of £3,465,283 (31.8.23: £3,263,964) and non-trading deficits of £213 (31.8.23: £213). 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:

Final dividend distribution	3,732	3,930
	3,732	3,930
Add: Amounts deducted on cancellation of shares	1,371	766
Deduct: Amounts received on issue of shares	(1,319)	(1,366)
Net distribution for the year	3,784	3,330

7. Movement Between Net Revenue and Distributions

Net revenue after taxation	3,773	3,304
Irrecoverable withholding tax on capital special dividends	11	26
Net distribution for the year	3,784	3,330

8. Debtors

Sales awaiting settlement	-	2,712
Accrued revenue	337	458
Total debtors	337	3,170

9. Other creditors

Amounts payable for cancellation of shares	170	4,659
Accrued expenses	118	101
Total other creditors	288	4,760

10. Reconciliation of Shares

	<i>Institutional Income</i>	<i>Institutional Accumulation</i>	<i>Institutional A Accumulation</i>
Opening shares issued at 1.9.23	13,189,693	8,814	36,200,966
Share movements 1.9.23 to 31.8.24			
Shares issued	3,015,465	-	29,816,405
Shares cancelled	(4,949,781)	(2,814)	(30,227,388)
Closing shares issued at 31.8.24	11,255,377	6,000	35,789,983

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:

	<i>Institutional Income</i>	<i>Institutional Accumulation</i>	<i>Institutional A Income</i>
	%	%	%
As at 31.8.24	95.68	-	32.36
As at 31.8.23	95.53	-	34.15

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 and 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 £270,682 (31.8.23: £4,743,179). Further details of such amounts can be found in notes 8 and 9.

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 10 and 11.

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 significantly affected by currency movements.

Net currency monetary assets and liabilities consist of:

	<i>Portfolio of investments</i>		<i>Net other assets/(liabilities)</i>		<i>Net assets/(liabilities)</i>	
	31.8.24	31.8.23	31.8.24	31.8.23	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Sterling*	-	-	(931)	(3,402)	(931)	(3,402)
United States dollar	373,998	317,610	5,516	3,846	379,514	321,456
Total	373,998	317,610	4,585	444	378,583	318,054

*No currency risk as Sterling is the base currency.

Interest Rate Risk

At the year end, 1.44% (31.8.23: 0.97%) of the Fund's assets by value were interest-bearing.

Interest rates are based upon HSBC's proprietary rates, with the exception of GBP debit rate which is linked to Bank of England rate.

13. Shareholders' Funds

This Fund has institutional share classes and an institutional A share class.

The annual ACD charge on the institutional share class is 0.00% and 0.25% on the institutional A 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 Table on pages 36 and 37. The distribution per share class is given in the Distribution Table on page 39.

All share classes within the OEIC have the same rights on winding up.

14. Stock Lending Activities

Revenue earned from stock lending activities is shown in note 3 and is net of bank and agents fees amounting to £3,537 (31.8.23: £3,773) payable to HSBC Bank plc.

15. Financial Derivatives

The Fund has used financial derivatives for hedging and meeting investment objectives including risk reduction and implementation of investment policies.

The use of derivatives can create additional counterparty risks. Details of the policy adopted by the ACD for managing counterparty and other risks are set out in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

The types of derivatives held at the year end were index futures.

The economic exposure of future derivative contracts is equal to the market value. The value of exposure and the related counterparty are disclosed in the Portfolio Statement.

Eligible collateral types are approved by the ACD and may consist of cash, UK gilts, certificates of deposit, treasury bills, sovereign debt, eurosterling bonds and equities.

At 31 August 2024, there was no collateral held in respect of the above derivatives (31.8.23: nil).

16. Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

At the year end, the Fund had no contingent liabilities or commitments (31.8.23: none).

17. Portfolio Transaction Costs

For the year ended 31 August 2024	Purchases	Commissions		Taxes	Other Expenses		
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total purchases costs							
Equity transactions	299,925	86	0.03	-	-	-	-
Total purchases before transaction costs	299,925	86		-		-	
Transaction costs	86						
Total purchases after commission, tax and fees	300,011						
	Sales	Commissions		Taxes	Other Expenses		
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total sales costs							
Equity transactions	313,894	82	0.03	1	-	4	-
Total sales before transaction costs	313,894	82		1		4	
Transaction costs	(87)						
Total sales after commission, tax and fees	313,807						

The Fund had paid £6,891 as commission on purchases and sales derivative transactions for the year ended 31.8.24.

Commissions, taxes and fees as % of average net assets:

Commissions	0.05%
Taxes	0.00%
Other expenses	0.00%

At the balance sheet date the portfolio dealing spread was 0.03%, being the difference between the respective bid and offer prices for the Fund's investments.

For the year ended 31 August 2023	Purchases	Commissions		Taxes	Other Expenses		
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total purchases costs							
Equity transactions	231,480	68	0.03	-	-	-	-
Total purchases before transaction costs	231,480	68		-		-	
Transaction costs	68						
Total purchases after commission, tax and fees	231,548						
	Sales	Commissions		Taxes	Other Expenses		
	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Analysis of total sales costs							
Equity transactions	144,690	42	0.03	1	-	1	-
Corporate actions	59	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sales before transaction costs	144,749	42		1		1	
Transaction costs	(44)						
Total sales after commission, tax and fees	144,705						

The Fund had paid £3,573 as commission on purchases and sales derivative transactions for the year ended 31.8.23.

Commissions, taxes and fees as % of average net assets:

Commissions	0.05%
Taxes	0.00%
Other expenses	0.00%

At the balance sheet date the portfolio dealing spread was 0.03%, 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.

18. 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 31 August 2024

Category	1	2	3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investment Assets				
Equities	373,973	-	-	373,973
Derivatives	25	-	-	25
	373,998	-	-	373,998

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Category	1	2	3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investment Assets				
Equities	317,601	-	-	317,601
Derivatives	9	-	-	9
	317,610	-	-	317,610

19. Sensitivity Analysis

Price risk sensitivity:

If the price of investments at 31 August 2024 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 £37,399,808 (31.8.23: £31,761,043).

Currency risk sensitivity:

If the exchange rate at 31 August 2024 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 £37,951,401 (31.8.23: £32,145,698).

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 (31.8.23: no significant exposure).

Employee Remuneration Disclosure (unaudited)

Remuneration Policy

HSBC Universal Investment Funds are managed by HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

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

HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services 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 Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited to its employees and UCITS Identified staff (Material Risk Takers) for performance year 2023. 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 £'000	Variable Remuneration £'000
HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Ltd Employees*	443	60,475	31,977
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds - material risk takers	22	7,216	7,194
of which executive and non-executive members of the management body of the management company	11	2,479	2,793
Senior management	11	1,664	1,092
Control functions	5	572	352
Staff responsible for heading the portfolio management, administration, marketing, HR and other risk takers	6	2,500	2,957

Note: Material Risk Takers may be aligned to more than one sub-category.

** With effect from 29 July 2024, the ACD has transferred from HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Ltd to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited.*

Statement of ACD's Responsibilities

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

The ACD is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

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

For the Year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

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 Scheme documents and Regulations 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

26 November 2024



Ewan Gillies (Officer)



Faron Jackson (Assistant Vice President)

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statements of Total Return, the Statements of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders, the Balance Sheets, the Related Notes and Distribution Tables for the Company's sub-funds listed below and the accounting policies set out on pages 8 and 9.

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 each of the sub-funds as at 31 August 2024 and of the net revenue and the net capital gains on the property of each of the sub-funds 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 Authorised Corporate Director has prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to liquidate the Company or its sub-funds or to cease their operations, and as they have concluded that the Company and its sub-funds' 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").

In our evaluation of the Authorised Corporate Director's conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the Company's and its sub-funds' business model and analysed how those risks might affect the Company's and its sub-funds' financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Authorised Corporate Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate;
- we have not identified, and concur with the Authorised Corporate Director's assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's and its sub-funds' ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

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 above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Company or its sub-funds will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud (“fraud risks”) we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of directors as to the Company’s high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Assessing the segregation of duties in place between the ACD, the Depositary, the Administrator and the Investment Manager;
- Reading ACD board minutes.

As required by auditing standards, we perform procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because the revenue is principally non-judgemental and based on publicly available information, with limited opportunity for manipulation. We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We evaluated the design and implementation of the controls over journal entries and other adjustments and made inquiries of the Administrator about inappropriate or unusual activity relating to the processing of journal entries and other adjustments. We identified and selected a sample of journal entries made at the end of the reporting period and tested those substantively including all material post-closing entries. Based on the results of our risk assessment procedures and understanding of the process, including the segregation of duties between the Directors and the Administrator, no further high-risk journal entries or other adjustments were identified.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to non-compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience and through discussion with the ACD and the Administrator (as required by auditing standards) and discussed with the Directors the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related authorised fund legislation maintained by the Financial Conduct Authority) and taxation legislation and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Company is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: money laundering, data protection, bribery and corruption legislation recognising the Company’s activities. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Directors and the Administrator and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Authorised Corporate Director 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 Authorised Corporate Director'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 Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited) responsibilities

As explained more fully in their statement set out on page 46 the Authorised Corporate Director is responsible for: the preparation of financial statements that 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 and its sub-funds' 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 its sub-funds 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.



Wiqas Qaiser
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
20 Saltire Court
Edinburgh
EH1 2EG

26 November 2024

General Information

How to Buy, Sell or Switch Your Investment

- Call our Dealers on 0800 358 3011*
or
 - Write to our Administration Office at: HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited, Sunderland, SR43 4BF
-

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*
-

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, including information on fund charges, minimum investment amounts and taxation. 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:-

- You will receive income payments net of tax.
- 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.

Assessment of Value

The Authorised Fund Manager is required to perform a detailed assessment on whether funds are 'providing value to investors'. The resulting findings are published in a consolidated report on the HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited website:

www.assetmanagement.hsbc.co.uk/en/individual-investor/about-us/our-governance

The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

The ACD publishes a TCFD report for each fund of the Company. The report provides information about the climate impact and risks of the assets held by each fund. The content of the report is based on the guidance of the TCFD.

The reports for the funds are available on the HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited website, www.assetmanagement.hsbc.co.uk/en/individual-investor/funds, or by contacting us.

Ongoing charges figure

Where the Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF) for a sub-fund includes underlying fund charges, this includes the charges for underlying open-ended investment company funds. Underlying fund charges for closed-ended investment company funds are excluded, if applicable, as stated in the comparative tables for relevant funds.

*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

This Annual Report covers the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

The material contained herein is for information only and does not constitute legal, tax or investment advice or a recommendation to any reader of this material to buy or sell investments. You must not, therefore, rely on the content of this document when making any investment decisions.

This document is not intended for distribution to or use by any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution or use would be contrary to law or regulation. This document is not and should not be construed as an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to purchase or subscribe to any investment.

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.

The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Where overseas investments are held the rate of currency exchange may also cause the value of such investments to fluctuate. Investments in emerging markets are by their nature higher risk and potentially more volatile than those inherent in some established markets. Stock market investments should be viewed as a medium to long term investment and should be held for at least five years. Any performance information shown refers to the past and should not be seen as an indication of future returns.

Investments in emerging markets are by their nature higher risk and potentially more volatile than those inherent in some established markets. These risks include the possibility of failed or delayed settlement, registration and custody of securities and the level of investor protection offered.

Where a Fund holds gilts or other fixed interest securities, the value of the underlying assets is strongly affected by interest rate fluctuations and by changes in the credit ratings of the underlying issuer of the assets. There is a risk that both the relative yield and the capital value of these may be reduced if interest rates go up.

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

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

The Authorised Corporate Director is HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited and the Investment Manager is HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited.

There are risks involved in investing in HSBC Universal Investment Funds. Please refer to the Prospectus, Key Investor Information Document (KIID), Supplementary Information Document (SID) and most recent annual and semi annual report, which can be obtained upon request free of charge from HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited, 8, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HQ, UK, or the local distributors.

The information in this report is based on our understanding of current law and HM Revenue and Customs practice as at 31 August 2024. Both law and practice may of course change.

Any views expressed were held at the time of preparation and are subject to change without notice. While any forecast, projection or target where provided is indicative only and not guaranteed in any way. HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited accepts no liability for any failure to meet such forecast, projection or target.

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.

To help improve our service and in the interests of security we may record and/or monitor your communication with us. HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited provides information to Institutions, Professional Advisers and their clients on the investment products and services of the HSBC Group.

HSBC Asset Management is the brand name for the asset management business of HSBC Group, which includes the investment activities provided through our local regulated entity, HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited.

Important Changes to the Company and/or Fund Documentation

The following changes to the Company have resulted in the ACD (Authorised Corporate Director) making changes to the Company's Prospectus.

Amendments to the Company's Instrument of Incorporation

There have been no changes made to the Instrument within this reporting period.

Amendments to the Company Prospectus

The Company Prospectus was updated on 15 January 2024 to reflect the following:

- Management and Administration section - The value of the ACD's issued share capital has been amended. The names of the directors of the ACD and any significant activities of each director not connected with the business of the ACD has been updated. The ACD's Conflicts of Interest Policy has been updated to clarify that in the case of exchange traded Funds "ETFs" and certain other collective investment schemes, managed by an associate, which do not operate a share class with a 0% annual management charge, for example where they only operate one share class, the Fund will be subject to the annual management charge of that share class.
- Fees and Expenses section - The Remuneration of the ACD section has been updated to add reference to the OCF including fees relating to the services of the Administrator / Registrar with effect from 28 March 2024. The Table of Charges has been updated to add an additional column for Estimated OCFs with effect from 28 March 2024. The estimated dilution adjustment rates have been updated. The Administrator's Fee section has been amended and renamed Administrator's Fee and Electronic Instruction Routing Services Fee to reflect changes being introduced with effect from 28 March 2024.
- Appendix 2 – The Historical Fund Performance information was updated to 30 November 2023.
- Appendix 6 - The list of Collective Investment Schemes managed by HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited has been updated to remove those schemes that have been wound up.

The Company Prospectus was updated on 28 March 2024 to reflect the following:

- Management and Administration section - The names of the directors of the ACD have been updated.
- Fees and Expenses section - The Table of Charges has been updated to remove columns for OCFs prior to the changes introduced from 28 March 2024. The estimated dilution adjustment rates have been updated.
- General Information section - The 'Stewardship' section has been updated and renamed 'Stewardship and Engagement'.
- Appendix 1 - The 'Impact of Brexit on the rolling out of BMR in the UK' section has been updated to reflect the current position.
- Appendix 2 – The Historical Fund Performance information was updated to 29 February 2024.

The Company Prospectus was updated on 26 April 2024 to reflect the following:

- Dealing in Shares section - In the Share Dealing Restrictions section, we have amended the section regarding the distribution of Shares in Canada. In the Buying Shares section, we have clarified the ACD's position that email instructions for the buying of Shares are not currently accepted and that instructions to buy Shares, in respect of unrestricted Share Classes, from Electronic Instruction Routing service providers that the ACD has contracted with are accepted. In the Selling Shares section, we have clarified the ACD's position that email instructions for the sale of Shares are not currently accepted and that instructions to sell Shares, in the respected of unrestricted Share Classes, from Electronic Instruction Routing service providers that the ACD has contracted with are accepted. We have also advised that with effect from 28 May 2024, redemption monies will be paid within two Business Days for the US Multi-Factor Equity Fund. In the Treatment of Client Money when Buying or Selling Shares section, we have clarified the treatment of Client Money if the ACD is terminated and a replacement ACD is appointed.
 - Management and Administration section – In the Authorised Corporate Director section, we have updated the table of directors' information where necessary to reflect changes to the significant activities undertaken.
 - Taxation section – The taxation section has been updated for the 2024/2025 tax year.
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The Company Prospectus was updated on 31 May 2024 to reflect the following:

- Definitions – For the definition of ‘ACD’ we have advised that a mailing has been issued to Shareholders to provide notice that HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited is transferring its ACD business to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited with effect from 29 July 2024.
- Directory – We have advised that a mailing has been issued to Shareholders to provide notice that HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited is transferring its ACD business to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited with effect from 29 July 2024. HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited will also be appointed as Administrator and Registrar.
- Risks – The ‘Sustainable Funds and Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) data’ risk wording has been updated.
- Integration of Sustainability Risks into Investment Decisions – The Integration of Sustainability Risks into Investment Decisions section has been updated.
- Management and Administration section – We have advised that a mailing has been issued to Shareholders to provide notice that HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited is transferring its ACD business to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited with effect from 29 July 2024. The names of the directors of the ACD and any significant activities of each director not connected with the business of the ACD has been updated.
- Fees and Expenses section - The estimated dilution adjustment rates have been updated.
- General Information section – We have advised that a mailing has been issued to Shareholders to provide notice that HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited is transferring its ACD business to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited with effect from 29 July 2024.
- Appendix 2 – The Historical Fund Performance information was updated to 31 March 2024.

The Company Prospectus was updated on 29 July 2024 to reflect the following:

- Introduction - The ACD has been amended from HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited.
- Definitions - The definition of ‘ACD’ has been amended to refer to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited.
- Directory - The Authorised Corporate Director, Administrator and Registrar have been amended to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited.
- The Constitution of the Funds - We have updated the website reference to confirm that information on our Funds is available on the HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited website.
- Dealing in Shares - We have updated the website references to confirm that information on our Funds is available on the HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited website. The Treatment of Client Money when Buying or Selling Shares section has been updated to confirm the treatment of monthly direct debit payments. In the event that Client Money is transferred to a new ACD, we have advised that Shareholders will be entitled to request the return of any Client Money from the new ACD if they so wish.
- Valuation - We have updated the website reference to confirm that information on our Funds is available on the HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited website.
- Integration of Sustainability Risks into Investment Decisions - The Integration of Sustainability Risks into Investment Decisions section has been updated to confirm that HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited has been appointed as investment manager for the funds.
- Management and Administration - We have amended references to the ACD to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited. The issued share capital of the ACD has been updated following the change of ACD to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited. The date of the ACD Agreement between the ACD and the Company has been updated. The table showing the names of the directors of the ACD and any significant activities of each director not connected with the business of the ACD has been replaced following the change of ACD to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited. The Investment Management section has been updated to confirm that the ACD has appointed HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited as the discretionary investment manager for the funds. The Other delegated functions section has been updated to advise that the ACD has appointed HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited as a distributor for the Funds. The ACD’s Conflicts of Interest Policy has been updated.

- Fees and Expenses - We have updated the website references to confirm that information on our Funds is available on the HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited website. The estimated dilution adjustment rates have been updated. We have added details of the Investment Manager's Fee to advise that where the ACD appoints an associate or other party to act as investment manager for a Fund, the investment manager may receive a proportion of any Annual Management Charges for that Fund.
 - General Information - We have updated the website references to confirm that information on our Funds is available on the HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited website. The Documents of the Company section has been updated to amend the name of the ACD to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited. The Material Contracts section has been updated to add reference to new agreements between the ACD and HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited for discretionary investment management and distribution. The Complaints section has been updated to amend the name of the ACD to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited.
 - Appendix 2 - The Historical Fund Performance has been updated to 31 May 2024.
 - Appendix 6 - We have amended the reference to the ACD to HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited.
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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

All Funds in this OEIC have a 100% franked distribution shown on their annual consolidated tax voucher.

Risk and Reward Profile

Fund	Rating*
UK Multi-Factor Equity Fund	6
US Multi-Factor Equity Fund	5

Lower risk

←

Typically lower rewards

Higher risk

→

Typically higher rewards

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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*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.

Securities Financing Transactions (SFTs) (unaudited)

US Multi-Factor Equity Fund

The Fund carried out stock lending activities for the purpose of efficient portfolio management and in order to generate income. Revenue earned from these activities is shown in note 14.

Global Data

Amount of securities and commodities on loan

	<i>% of total lendable assets*</i>
Securities	2.30%

Amount of assets engaged in each type of SFT

Amount of assets	<i>% of AUM</i>
£8,583,526	2.27%

*Total lendable assets excludes cash and cash equivalents. It also excludes other monetary amounts such as net debtors and creditors which are not deemed 'lendable assets'.

Concentration Data

Top ten collateral issuers (across all SFT)

Issuer	<i>Holding</i>	<i>Collateral Fair value £'000</i>
Government of Germany 15/8/2052	1,024,339	433
Government of Japan 0.6% 20/6/2050	114,850,000	433
Government of Japan 0.3% 20/6/2046	113,900,000	433
Government of Japan 0.9% 20/3/2057	112,600,000	420
US Treasury 1% 15/2/2048	533,900	420
Johnson & Johnson	2,974	372
Alphabet	2,989	372
Micron Technology	5,110	372
Kuehne and Nagel	1,574	372
Experian Group Limited	10,026	371

All counterparties

Counterparty	<i>Gross volume of outstanding transactions Fair value £'000</i>
Barclays Capital Securities	2,621
HSBC Bank	2,338
Healthcare of Ontario	2,034
Natixis	1,591
	8,584

Aggregate Data

Type and quality of collateral

Type	Quality*	<i>Fair Value</i> £'000
Equities	n/a	6,151
Bonds	Investment grade	2,824
		8,975

*Quality of collateral has been interpreted as pertaining to bond instruments, which have been assessed and reported in accordance with whether they are considered investment grade, below investment grade or not-rated.

Maturity tenor of collateral

Maturity	<i>Fair Value</i> £'000
Rolling Maturity	8,975
	8,975

Currency of collateral

Currency	<i>Fair Value</i> £'000
Sterling	736
Canadian Dollar	1,278
Euro	1,420
Japanese Yen	1,637
Swiss Franc	1,119
US dollar	2,785
	8,975

Maturity tenor of SFTs

Maturity	<i>Fair Value</i> £'000
Rolling Maturity	8,584
	8,584

Country in which counterparties are established

Counterparty	<i>Fair Value</i> £'000
All counterparties are UK based	

Return and cost

	£'000	<i>% of overall</i> <i>returns</i>
Fund gross return	14	
Payment to ACD	(2)	10.00%
Agents fee	(2)	15.00%
Fund net return	10	75.00%

Directory

The Company

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

ACD and Head Office

HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services 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, Quatermile 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 Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited, (delegated to Northern Trust Global Services SE)

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) - postal address

HSBC Asset Management (Fund Services UK) Limited, Sunderland, SR43 4BF

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.

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www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com/uk

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