

THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT OR YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT AS TO THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN PLEASE CONSULT YOUR STOCKBROKER, ACCOUNTANT, SOLICITOR OR FINANCIAL ADVISER IMMEDIATELY.

14 April 2021

Dear,

# Proposed Closure of AXA Pan European High Yield Bond Fund

AXA Investment Managers UK Limited (referred to in this Letter as ("**AXA IM**" or "**we**")) have taken the decision to close the AXA Pan European High Yield Bond Fund (the "**Fund**"). Our reasons for this decision and the options open to you are explained below.

After careful consideration with the Fund's trustee, Natwest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited, we have concluded that the Fund is no longer of sufficient size to allow for your investment to be managed in an economical way.

We are aware that, due to the reduced size of the Fund, the Fund is no longer providing value for its unitholders when taking account of the fees and costs incurred in running the Fund. Further, there does not appear to be any prospect of a resurgence of demand in this Fund or its strategy to attract sufficient new inflows to make the Fund commercially sustainable.

We therefore believe that it would be in the best interests of all parties to close the Fund. We have the consent of the Fund's trustee to do so and approval from the Financial Conduct Authority (the "FCA") to close the Fund.

The closure of the Fund will begin immediately following the suspension of dealing in the Fund on 16 June 2021 (the "Fund Closure Date"), or on such other date as may be notified to you. We are, however, sending you this Letter now to inform you of our intention of this proposed closure and to give you as much time as possible for you to plan for one of the options below. These include options for you to remain invested with AXA IM.

### **Options for investors (Non-ISA holders)**

There are three options available. You can:

1. switch your shareholding to any other AXA IM fund without any initial or switching charge (including, without limitation, the Z share class of the AXA Global High Income Fund, a sub-fund of the AXA Fixed Interest Investment ICVC, which has similar characteristics to the Pan European High Yield Bond Fund and which seeks to provide a similar return and has a similar risk profile to the Pan European High Yield Bond Fund with a distribution frequency of every quarter). For a full list of AXA IM's funds, please visit our website: <a href="www.axa-im.co.uk">www.axa-im.co.uk</a>\*. You may switch your shareholding by calling us on 0345 777 5511 or by filling in and returning the enclosed switch form. Instructions for this option must reach AXA IM by 12pm on 15 June 2021:

Please note: all Key Investor Information Documents for all funds are available on our website www.axa-im.co.uk

- 2. sell your shareholding and have the proceeds sent to you\*. You can do this at any time up until 12pm on 16 June 2021; or
- 3. hold your investment to the Fund Closure Date, after which your share proceeds of the sale of the Fund's assets in the winding up will be sent to you. Please note that this is also the default option if you do not choose either of the options above.

Please note that all of the options above, including a sale or switch of your shareholding, will constitute a disposal of shares for Capital Gains Tax purposes. If you have any questions about the tax consequences of this Letter please consult your tax or financial adviser.

\* Please note that if you switch your shareholding to any other AXA IM fund or sell your shareholding prior to the Fund Closure Date, you may incur a dilution adjustment on such switch or sale. Please refer to the Scheme's prospectus for further details.

For more information please call 0345 777 5511 or consult our website. Please quote: SWITCH to the Administrator when making your switch.

You may, of course, choose to exercise any of these options at any time from receipt of this Letter.

Please note this Letter does not constitute on the part of AXA IM a solicitation or investment, legal or tax advice. This material does not contain sufficient information to support an investment decision. Before making an investment, investors should read the relevant Prospectus and the Key Investor Information Document / scheme documents, which provide full product details including investment charges and risks. We recommend that you consult with your financial adviser as to the suitability of any alternative AXA IM fund.

Past performance is not a guide to current or future performance. The value of investments, and the income from them, can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

## **Options for ISA Holders**

There are four options available. You can:

- 1. switch your ISA holding to any other AXA IM fund without any initial or switching charge (including, without limitation, the Z share class of the AXA Global High Income Fund, a sub-fund of the AXA Fixed Interest Investment ICVC, which has similar characteristics to the Pan European High Yield Bond Fund and which seeks to provide a similar return and has a similar risk profile to the Pan European High Yield Bond Fund with a distribution frequency of every quarter). For a full list of AXA IM's funds, please visit our website: www.axa-im.co.uk\*. You may switch your shareholding by calling us on 0345 777 5511 or by filling in and returning the enclosed switch form. There will be no impact on the ISA if you exercise this option.;
  - Please note: Key Investor Information Documents for all AXA IM funds are available on our website www.axa-im.co.uk
- 2. choose an alternative ISA plan manager and transfer your ISA investment to another fund not managed by AXA IM. For this Option, please note that if we do not receive instructions, from your new ISA plan manager, to transfer your plan by 16 June 2021, you will lose your ISA allowance for the year in which you invested.

Your chosen plan manager will need to submit the appropriate transfer instructions to us by **16 June 2021**. Provided these are submitted no later than this date, your transfer will be carried out as soon as practicable (and there will be no impact on your ISA);

3. sell your ISA holding and have the proceeds sent to you\* (and your ISA will be terminated);

or

- 4. hold your ISA holding to the Fund Closure Date, after which your proceeds will be sent to you. Your ISA will be terminated\*. Please note that this is also the default option if you choose to do nothing.
  - \* Please note that if you choose option 3 or 4, you will lose the tax benefits of your ISA.

For more information please call 0345 777 5511 or consult our website www.axa-im.co.uk. Please quote: SWITCH to the Administrator when making your switch.

You may, of course, choose to exercise any of these options at any time from receipt of this Letter.

Please note this Letter does not constitute on the part of AXA IM a solicitation or investment, legal or tax advice. This material does not contain sufficient information to support an investment decision. Before making an investment, investors should read the relevant Prospectus and the Key Investor Information Document / scheme documents, which provide full product details including investment charges and risks. We recommend that you consult with your financial adviser as to the suitability of any alternative AXA IM fund.

Past performance is not a guide to current or future performance. The value of investments, and the income from them, can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

### What are the cost implications of this closure?

AXA IM **will not charge you** a switch or redemption fee for transferring investments or for selling your holding and sending you the proceeds.

Furthermore, any costs of the closure of the Fund will not be charged to the Fund, but will be paid by AXA IM.

# Other important information

#### **Dividends**

If we receive dividend entitlements for you after the closure of the Fund, these amounts will be sent to you by cheque along with a tax voucher.

#### What you need to do

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO YOU. IF YOU DO NOT CHOOSE, YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE FUND WILL BE SOLD AND THE PROCEEDS SENT TO YOU AFTER THE FUND CLOSURE DATE ON COMPLETION OF THE FUND'S WINDING UP.

It is important that you understand, in detail, all of the options available to you. If you do not understand any point, you should speak with your tax or financial adviser.

If you have any questions about the contents of this Letter and the action that you need to take, please contact the Customer Services team on 0345 777 5511 (Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm), Please note that telephone calls may be recorded, and the Customer Services team is not authorised to give financial or tax advice.

Yours sincerely,

John Stainsby

Director

For and on behalf of AXA Investment Managers UK Limited