

For immediate release

15 May 2019

Aberdeen Standard Investments Strengthens ESG Capabilities with Appointment of Bill Hartnett

Aberdeen Standard Investments (ASI) has strengthened its ESG capabilities with the appointment of Bill Hartnett as an *ESG Investment Director*. Bill will report to Euan Stirling, *Global Head of Stewardship and ESG Investment* and will be based in London with a specific remit to support investment colleagues in Emerging Markets and Asia Pacific. Bill will analyse specific long-term factors involving investee companies' environmental and social management and performance, as well as the effectiveness of governance structures.

Bill has over 20 years' experience of responsible investment and active ownership across roles in asset management, research and asset ownership. Immediately prior to joining ASI, Bill was Head of Responsible Investment at Australian superannuation fund, Local Government Super (LGS). At LGS, Bill was responsible for ensuring that AUD 12 billion of pension assets were invested responsibly and achieving the maximum potential long-term, sustainable return.

Euan Stirling, Global Head of Stewardship and ESG Investment commented:

"We are delighted Bill has joined our ESG Investment team, which is growing in importance, as we continue to move ESG considerations further up the investment agenda. As an active investment manager, engagement continues to be at the heart of our approach and it is important for us to influence the standards of governance. With Bill's depth of knowledge and experience, he is a strong addition to the team and will be invaluable in helping develop our expertise in Emerging Markets & Asia Pacific"

Commenting on his appointment Bill Harnett said:

"The opportunity to apply my experience with an asset manager that has such a strong heritage and commitment to ESG is extremely motivating. I am proud to have developed sophisticated ESG-integrated strategies and an extensive and effective active ownership program in my previous roles. I now look forward to working with my ASI colleagues to offer innovative ESG strategies to our existing and prospective clients."

The ESG team is one of the largest in the industry, with a dedicated team of around 20 professionals and more than 30 specialists across the asset class teams. We are committed to integrating ESG factors into all of our investment decisions because we believe that will ultimately generate the best long-term, risk-adjusted returns for our clients. Achieving this objective involves bespoke research, thousands of voting decisions and many engagements with companies and assets that we own directly.

Ends

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Notes to editors

Bill Harnett concise CV

Sept 2010 – Mar 2019	Head of Responsible Investment, Local Government Super
Jan 2005 – Dec 2009	Managing Director, Asia Pacific; Innovest
Aug 2000 – Jan 2003	Product Manager, Growth Funds; Challenger Financial Services Group
Aug 1994 – Aug 2000	Various analyst roles at Westpac
Aug 1993- July 1994	Corporate analyst Australian Corporate Reporting

- Aberdeen Standard Investments is a leading global asset manager dedicated to creating long-term value for our clients, and is a brand of the investment businesses of Aberdeen Asset Management and Standard Life Investments. With over 1,000 investment professionals, we manage AUD total \$913.8 billion* (£505.1 bn) of assets worldwide. We have clients in 80 countries supported by 48 relationship offices. This ensures we are close to our clients and the markets in which we invest. (*as of 31 December 2018)
- We are high-conviction, long-term investors who believe teamwork and collaboration are the key to delivering repeatable, superior investment performance.
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