

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Walter Scott & Partners (Walter Scott) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and fairness in all its dealings. This Conflicts of Interest Policy (the "Policy") is designed to identify, manage, and mitigate potential conflicts of interest that may arise in the course of our business. Conflicts of interest are inherent throughout the investment management business, therefore from the outset Walter Scott has organised its activities to ensure the interests of our clients are always placed first. Walter Scott avoids material conflicts of interest that cannot be managed in the best interests of clients.

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that Walter Scott and its employees act in the best interests of our clients and avoid engaging in any activities that could compromise our independence, objectivity, or impartiality. This Policy applies to all employees and is intended to comply with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and other relevant regulatory authorities.

Walter Scott's primary regulator, the FCA (FCA Senior Management Arrangements, Systems and Controls [SYSC], Chapter 10, Conflicts of Interest), the Securities Exchange Commission (Investment Advisers Act 1940, Section 206 and General Instructions to Form ADV, General Instruction 3) and the Canadian Securities Administrators (National Instrument 31-103, Section 13.4) require Walter Scott to address any material conflicts of interest in the

best interest of our clients and disclose these appropriately. This involves taking reasonable steps to identify existing and foreseeable material conflicts of interest between the firm and the client and everyone acting on the firm's behalf and the client.

3. DEFINITION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest arises when the interests of Walter Scott or its employees may conflict with the interests of our clients, or when the interests of one client may conflict with those of another client. Conflicts of interest can be actual, potential, or perceived, and may include:

Personal conflicts: Where an employee has a personal interest in a transaction or investment that may influence their decision-making.

Business conflicts: Where Walter Scott or its employees have a financial interest in a transaction or investment that may influence their decision-making.

Client conflicts: Where the interests of one client may conflict with those of another client.

4. IDENTIFICATION & MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Walter Scott has established procedures to identify and manage potential conflicts of interest, including:

Employee training: All employees are reminded of their obligations regarding

conflicts of interest and the appropriate procedures for managing such situations.

Disclosure: Staff are required to disclose any personal or business interests that may give rise to a conflict of interest.

Registration of interests: Staff are required to register their personal and business interests.

Chinese walls: Walter Scott maintains Chinese walls to prevent the exchange of material non-public information (MNPI).

Segregation of duties: Walter Scott segregates duties to prevent any one person or team from having too much influence over a transaction or investment.

Monitoring and review: Walter Scott regularly monitors and reviews its conflicts of interest procedures to ensure they remain effective.

'Appropriate steps' must be taken to identify conflicts of interest and in doing so consideration will be given as to whether the firm and/or employee:

- Is likely to make a financial gain or avoid a loss at the expense of a client.
- Has an interest in the outcome of a service or transaction conducted on behalf of a client which is distinct from that client's interests.
- Has any incentive to favour the interest of one client over another.
- Carries on the same business as the client.
- Will receive any inducement, such as monies, goods, or services, as a result of providing a service, other than the standard commission and/or fees.

5. KEY CONFLICTS

Walter Scott has identified the following areas which may give rise to a conflict of interest and has mitigating controls in place to manage these:

5.1. OWNERSHIP

Walter Scott is a fully owned subsidiary of the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (BNY). Walter Scott functions independently from BNY with respect to its investment research, portfolio management, investment administration, and other processes integral to delivering investment management services to clients. The investment decisions within Walter Scott client portfolios are based on its independent investment research.

Owing to legal/stock exchange restrictions Walter Scott may be subject to aggregate ownership limits on some financial instruments as part of the wider BNY group.

5.2. AFFILIATES

Walter Scott is a research led organisation. As a subsidiary of BNY, Walter Scott is affiliated with certain entities, some of which are utilised by Walter Scott for activities such as distribution, FX trading, client invoicing and IT infrastructure hosting, software, and security. All agreements have been established and will be maintained at arm's length.

Walter Scott acts as investment advisor / manager to several pooled investment vehicles operated by its affiliates both on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis. All such investment advisory / management services are provided under formal written agreements between both parties.

5.3. PORTFOLIO AND CASH MANAGEMENT

The firm's Portfolio and Cash Management team is responsible for administering Walter Scott's investment decisions into the structure of portfolios in line with client mandate guidelines and restrictions. The firm's Investment Management Committee reviews portfolio performance and the dispersion of similarly mandated portfolios.

For the avoidance of doubt portfolios can and do differ between clients, notwithstanding similar strategies. Reasons for such differences include,

but are not limited to, the starting date of the mandate and existing portfolio composition, differences between client guidelines and restrictions, client structure, portfolio liquidity, frequency of cash flows, the size of the mandate in question and appropriateness for a particular portfolio, while considering appropriate portfolio diversification.

5.4. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)

Walter Scott believes that the companies that make the best investments over the long term typically adhere to high ESG standards. As a result, the firm integrates analysis of a company's ESG status, risks, and opportunities into its investment process. This process has the best financial interest of our clients at its core. We recognise that a company's ESG characteristics is likely to affect its valuation, and investment returns to varying degrees across companies, sectors, and countries. Consequently, associated actual and potential conflicts of interest may materialise.

Walter Scott has controls in place to mitigate the risk of conflicts of interest across a client base that has widely varying interest in ESG considerations. These mitigating controls include Walter Scott's investment process being communicated to new and existing clients, an Additional Objective Portfolio (AOP) process for those clients with a sustainability requirement, corporate governance committee oversight and trading restrictions coded into the firm's trade management system to ensure adherence to client specific investment objectives.

5.5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ISSUED BY A CLIENT OR CLIENT SPONSOR

The firm's clients may be publicly traded companies or corporate-sponsored pension schemes associated with companies in which Walter Scott invests or may invest. Investing in securities issued by a client or corporate pension sponsor may result in a conflict of interest as it may give rise to the perception of the firm seeking support or favour from that client or corporate pension sponsor (e.g. when voting), to the detriment of other clients. Investment in such securities may heighten the risk that

such an investment may not be compatible with clients' investment objectives.

Walter Scott's thorough research process, collegiate decision making, corporate governance committee oversight and coded trading restrictions (which are designed to prevent a client investing in a security it has issued), each act as a mitigating control.

5.6. TRADING COUNTERPARTIES

All new trading counterparties are approved by the Walter Scott Trading Oversight Group (TOG). The firm's Investment Operations team maintains a complete list of active approved trading counterparties for equity trading. No equity trading is conducted with any executing trading counterparties affiliated with BNY. Walter Scott selects trading counterparties regardless of whether that trading counterparty's clearing agent is an affiliate of BNY. In general, all securities trading is conducted on an agency basis. Walter Scott does not use trading commissions to pay trading counterparties for any services other than trade execution. No commission sharing arrangements are in place.

A small number of entities with which Walter Scott has a client relationship are affiliated to entities included on Walter Scott's authorised trading counterparty list. The TOG monitors trading counterparty usage and commission rates paid on a quarterly basis with the Walter Scott Risk & Compliance (R&C) team reviewing this annually.

6. TRADING

6.1. AGGREGATION / EXECUTION / ALLOCATION OF TRADES

It is the general policy of the firm to aggregate purchase or sale trades of the same financial instrument when trading for more than one client. Aggregating trades may transpire to be advantageous or disadvantageous to any client or group of clients. Walter Scott has policies and procedures for best execution and fair allocation. Walter Scott does not cross financial instruments between client accounts.

6.2. TRADE ROTATION

Following the receipt of any subsequent trades in the same financial instrument to

an outstanding aggregated trade (due to other trades having to settle prior to that trade being placed or other reasons) the original aggregated trade will be stopped, and a new one started with the relevant changes. In the event that the aggregated trade is actively working in the market when the new trade(s) are received the new trade(s) will not participate in that day's allocation and will be merged into the block after that day's trade execution has been reported and fairly allocated amongst the original participants.

6.3. NON-DISCRETIONARY (MODEL PORTFOLIO) ACCOUNTS

Where Walter Scott provides securities recommendations as a non-discretionary investment manager (model accounts) there is the potential for conflict between discretionary accounts and such model accounts when competing to trade. Walter Scott believes that parallel communication of investment instructions to the firm's trading desk and any other applicable financial firm is, as a general rule, appropriate in these circumstances. The potential conflict of trading in the market at the same time is mitigated by the majority of models trading in ADRs, time zone differences, the securities involved having significant trading volumes and/or the typical highly liquid nature of the equities held in portfolios. The firm has controls in place to identify detriment to discretionary clients from simultaneous trading, which is overseen by the TOG.

6.4. ERROR CORRECTION

Where Walter Scott is responsible for an error, the firm would advise the client and, where necessary and subject to the details of the specific error, recompense the client's portfolio with appropriate compensation. In all such instances insofar as possible the client(s) will be returned to the position had the error not been made.

7. EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION / PERSONAL TRADING

7.1. COMPENSATION

In addition to base salaries, employees of Walter Scott are eligible to participate in the firm's annual profit share which is a

fixed percentage of the firm's pre-incentive operating profits. For directors and some senior staff, the majority of annual compensation is attributable to profit share. An element of this is deferred via a long-term incentive plan, largely invested in a UK domiciled long term global equity fund sponsored by BNY with Walter Scott acting as investment advisor / manager, and BNY shares. Both have a deferral period which vests on a pro-rata basis over three or four years.

7.2. EMPLOYEE EQUITY TRANSACTIONS

The firm operates strict personal trading rules restricting employees from purchasing shares in any Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) and US mutual fund where Walter Scott is the sub-advisor, and employees may not use discretion to purchase individual securities.

Employees are required to pre-clear transactions in certain financial instruments through the BNY PTA system and attest to quarterly declarations of their holdings at the end of each calendar quarter.

Any inherent conflicts resulting from employees or Walter Scott investing in the same products as clients are therefore managed effectively.

7.3. OUTSIDE INTERESTS / DIRECTORSHIPS

The firm adheres to the requirements set out by BNY in relation to outside activities, affiliations, or employment which may give the appearance of a conflict of interest or could create a direct conflict between an employee's interests and those of the firm or its parent BNY. Employees must obtain approval from BNY Ethics Office for certain outside activities prior to proceeding or accepting the position and annual re-approval.

7.4. INSIDER TRADING / MARKET ABUSE

Policies and procedures exist to prevent employees from insider trading (trading upon receipt of material non-public information). Those employees who possess inside or proprietary information must preserve its confidentiality and disclose it only to other employees who have a valid business reason for receiving it.

8. INDUCEMENTS

8.1. GIFTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Employees are prohibited from giving or accepting anything of value that may be perceived as creating a potential conflict of interest. All gifts or entertainment given or received (apart from those of de minimis value) must be declared with pre-approval required for government entities and where values may exceed pre-determined thresholds. Giving and accepting gifts and entertainment is monitored by the R&C team to ensure these do not influence staff behaviour in a way that conflicts with the interests of clients.

8.2. SPONSORSHIP & CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Within the firm's governance structure, the Walter Scott Giving Group is responsible for reviewing / approving all charitable donations and sponsorships. The Giving Group operates under a Terms of Reference which specifically states no sponsorship of, or donation for any client is permitted.

8.3. INTERNSHIPS / WORK PLACEMENT

To ensure there is no preferential treatment given to clients and their relatives when applying or seeking internships/work placement, Walter Scott adheres to the requirements set out by BNY whereby all applications must be routed through a centralised selection process. In addition, employees are required to attest on an annual basis as part of the Code of Conduct questionnaire that they have not hired through a non-recognised selection channel.

8.4. PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Employees of Walter Scott may have close personal or family relationships which could be viewed as a conflict of interest. Familial relationships are disclosed as part of the screening process for new employees and there is an obligation to disclose any new relationships for existing employees. Employees are not permitted to have direct or indirect authority over the employment status of another relative nor can they be able to jointly control transactions.

8.5. PROXY VOTING

The firm's Proxy Voting Policy outlines Walter Scott's approach to any ambiguity or potential conflicts of interest in relation to proxy voting. The Proxy Voting Policy and associated procedures have been designed to ensure that only the interests of the Walter Scott's clients influence its voting decisions. Unless instructed to the contrary by a client, Walter Scott performs proxy voting on behalf of its clients. Walter Scott receives documentation on forthcoming votes from custodians and ISS, however, the firm arrives at voting decisions independently, based on company meeting materials and, where required, engagement with the company for additional information.

8.6. FEES AND COMMISSIONS

Walter Scott's revenue is derived from investment management fees which align the firm's and its clients' interests. The majority of Walter Scott's clients are charged fees on scales that reflect the value of assets in the client's account. A few clients operate with performance related fees. Walter Scott does not differentiate in the management of portfolios based on the method of fee calculation or by client type.

8.7. FEE SHARING ARRANGEMENTS / REFERRAL FEES

In Australia Walter Scott is the investment advisor for funds sponsored and distributed by Macquarie Bank. Walter Scott shares its fees with Macquarie on a pre-arranged scale when Australian or New Zealand investors award Walter Scott a new portfolio instead of investing in the existing funds.

Walter Scott shares fee income with certain affiliates within the wider BNY group under arrangements like those disclosed above. Walter Scott is solely responsible for the payment of these fees which come out of its own revenue. These payments do not increase the fees paid by investors.

Walter Scott does not charge or receive compensation in respect of the sale of securities, private funds, mutual funds, or other investment products. However, certain employees of the firm's affiliates receive such compensation.

9. REPORTING POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

All employees are required to report actual or potential conflicts of interest to the R&C

team as soon as they are identified. Sufficient detail must be provided to accurately assess the conflict and determine what action, if any, should be taken. The Walter Scott Board members are requested to declare any conflicts of interest.

10. MANAGING/ MONITORING OF CONFLICTS

In addition to the processes and procedures for managing conflicts outlined above Walter Scott's committees of the board are responsible for review of the firm's policies and procedures covering all aspects of its operations. Day to day monitoring is conducted by the R&C team using a risk-based programme. The firm maintains a Conflicts of Interest Register which is reviewed on an annual basis with any changes submitted to the Risk & Compliance Committee for review and approval.

11. OWNERSHIP

The Walter Scott Risk & Compliance Committee has ownership of this policy.

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