

Fairtree Proton RCIS Retail Hedge Fund

Minimum Disclosure Document - Class A

31 July 2025

Fund Profile

The Fairtree Proton RCIS RHF aims to provide superior risk-adjusted returns over and above cash, irrespective of market conditions. The fund has a targeted return of cash plus 6% over a rolling 3-year period.

Portfolio Strategy and Mandate

The portfolio is managed by balancing fixed income relative value exposures with credit exposures, in a way that minimises market risk and allows the portfolio to achieve its targeted return over the medium term. We believe that the markets are not always efficient and therefore present mispriced assets which can be taken advantage of to generate excess returns. A disciplined approach to fundamental and quantitative analysis helps to identify these mispriced assets. We believe that a team-based fundamental approach to the valuation of assets, combined with cutting-edge quantitative techniques in portfolio construction and risk management help build a fund to achieve the objectives of superior risk -adjusted returns. The manager may create leverage in the Portfolio by borrowing funds, using short positions or engaging in derivative transactions.

Cumulative Performance Since Inception



The investment performance is for illustrative purposes only; the investment performance is calculated by taking the actual initial fees and all ongoing fees into account for the amount shown; assuming income is

Index Source: Bloomberg as at July 2025

Return Analysis (Annualised)

Fund Source: Apex Fund and Corporate Services SA as at July 2025

	Fund	All Bond Index	STeFI Composite
1 Year	8.48%	16.97%	7.98%
3 Years	11.03%	13.47%	7.86%
5 Years	6.91%	11.36%	6.34%
10 Years	8.66%	9.36%	6.76%
Since Inception	10.01%	8.81%	7.05%

All performance figures are net of fees.

Risk Analysis

RISK Affaiysis							
	Fund	All Bond Index	STeFI Composite				
Sharpe Ratio	0.57	0.25	n/a				
Sortino Ratio	0.74	0.42	n/a				
Standard Deviation	4.89%	7.43%	0.50%				
Best Month	4.34%	7.27%	1.04%				
Worst Month	-9.53%	-9.75%	0.28%				
Best Rolling 12 Months	25.70%	26.14%	11.79%				
Worst Rolling 12 Months	-10.50%	-5.61%	3.78%				
Largest Cumulative Drawdown	-17.96%	-9.79%	n/a				
% Positive Months (Since Incept.)	87.92%	68.75%	100.00%				
Correlation (ALBI Index) Monthly	-0.05						
Value at Risk (VaR) 95%	2.92%						

Fund Details

Risk Profile: Low - Medium

Portfolio Manager: Paul Crawford, Louis Antelme

 Fund size:
 R 1,328.32 m

 NAV Price (as at month end):
 2.62

 Number of Units:
 462 941 943.70

 ISIN Number:
 ZAE000271516

 Inception Date:
 August 2005

 CISCA Inception Date:
 1 September 2016

Fund Structure: CISCA (Retail Hedge Fund Portfolio)

Fund Category: Multi - Strategy
Benchmark: STeFi Composite Index

Portfolio Currency: ZAR

Cost Ratios (incl. VAT)

Total Expense Ratio (TER%): 2.14%
Transactions Costs Ratio (TC%): 0.01%
* Total Investment Charges (TIC%): 2.15%
Performance Fee (PF) Included in TER: 0.67%

*Total Investment Charges (TIC%) = TER (%) + TC (%) Prices are made available via Finswitch

on a T + 1 basis

Minimum Investment: R 50 000 Lump sum

Additional Lump Sum R 10 000

Fee Breakdown

Initial Fee: None
Service Fee: 1.09% (ex VAT)
Performance fee (uncapped): 20.00% (ex VAT)

Subscriptions: Daily
Redemptions: Daily

Portfolio Valuation: 15h00 each business day

Transaction Cut-Off Time: 12h00 each business day

Income Distribution (Declaration): First day of March

Investment Manager contact details Fairtree Asset Management (Pty) Ltd

Telephone Number: +27 86 176 0760

Website: www.fairtree.com

Management Company: RealFin Collective Investment Schemes (RF)

Pty Ltd ("RCIS")

Administrator Apex Fund and Corporate Services SA

Trustee FirstRand Bank Limited (Acting through its

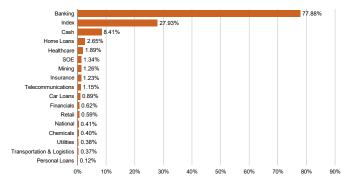
RMB Trustee Service Division)

Auditor Price Waterhouse Coopers

Portfolio Restrictions and Limits

 2^{\ast} GOVI MD, other CISCA restrictions

Sector Allocation



 $The above \ benchmark(s) \ are for \ comparison \ purposes \ with \ the \ fund's \ performance. \ The \ fund \ does \ not \ follow \ the \ benchmark(s).$

*Please note that performance figures include returns earned during the relevant periods prior to the portfolio being regulated under CISCA. The investment performance is for illustrative purposes only and is calculated by taking actual initial fees and all ongoing fees into account for the amount shown; and income is reinvested on the reinvestment date. The annualised total return is the average return earned by an investment each year over a given time period. Annual figures are available from the manager on request. The highest and lowest I year returns represent the highest and lowest returns achieved during any single calendar year since the original launch date of the portfolio.





31 July 2025

Increase in NAV Attributable to Investors

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2005								0.77%	0.53%	1.02%	0.73%	-0.53%	2.54%
2006	0.99%	0.80%	1.35%	0.66%	1.57%	2.11%	0.82%	1.77%	0.60%	-0.10%	0.36%	0.35%	11.86%
2007	0.63%	0.64%	2.60%	0.16%	1.77%	2.65%	1.59%	0.57%	0.27%	1.13%	3.03%	0.92%	17.12%
2008	1.19%	4.31%	1.15%	2.38%	2.31%	4.34%	-4.06%	1.87%	-1.03%	-1.30%	-9.53%	-4.80%	-4.06%
2009	2.11%	-2.29%	1.73%	0.70%	2.22%	4.18%	1.82%	-1.58%	1.08%	1.67%	1.98%	1.24%	15.73%
2010	1.09%	1.60%	-0.07%	1.26%	1.12%	1.28%	0.70%	0.16%	0.81%	0.79%	1.14%	0.27%	10.62%
2011	1.16%	0.12%	1.39%	1.41%	1.64%	1.46%	1.17%	-0.91%	1.77%	0.64%	1.63%	0.70%	12.85%
2012	1.39%	1.50%	1.53%	1.24%	0.14%	0.98%	0.80%	0.79%	1.37%	0.70%	1.28%	1.49%	14.03%
2013	0.94%	0.59%	0.93%	1.76%	1.47%	0.82%	-0.10%	-0.14%	2.36%	2.64%	0.87%	1.63%	14.64%
2014	-6.31%	4.20%	3.72%	1.58%	2.25%	1.06%	0.96%	0.15%	0.37%	1.99%	0.72%	1.22%	12.16%
2015	0.97%	1.57%	0.34%	0.93%	0.88%	0.77%	1.91%	0.74%	0.42%	2.12%	0.69%	-2.82%	8.77%
2016	2.50%	-0.55%	3.53%	1.15%	0.44%	1.37%	0.86%	0.53%	0.52%	0.98%	0.17%	1.11%	13.32%
2017	0.76%	1.22%	1.14%	0.49%	0.65%	0.79%	0.66%	0.84%	0.79%	0.19%	0.51%	1.65%	10.12%
2018	1.24%	0.77%	0.90%	1.23%	0.54%	0.60%	0.91%	0.52%	0.88%	0.73%	1.54%	0.20%	10.53%
2019	0.66%	0.73%	0.91%	1.21%	0.21%	0.05%	0.69%	0.22%	0.98%	0.87%	1.42%	-0.16%	8.04%
2020	-0.13%	0.93%	3.02%	2.19%	1.62%	1.65%	-0.55%	-0.16%	0.03%	1.04%	-1.28%	0.92%	9.61%
2021	-0.25%	0.71%	0.64%	0.18%	0.25%	0.29%	0.43%	0.42%	0.70%	-0.12%	0.71%	0.34%	4.38%
2022	0.53%	1.36%	-1.43%	1.41%	1.16%	-5.46%	-0.17%	0.25%	-1.42%	2.35%	1.28%	2.58%	2.20%
2023	0.62%	2.20%	0.49%	0.63%	-0.12%	2.66%	1.30%	1.34%	-0.14%	1.13%	1.30%	0.40%	12.44%
2024	1.33%	0.79%	0.71%	0.35%	1.41%	0.93%	1.07%	0.66%	0.95%	0.67%	0.65%	0.71%	10.72%
2025	0.51%	0.58%	0.48%	0.04%	1.12%	0.56%	1.22%						4.61%

Please note the fund returns shaded above from August 2005 - October 2016 were achieved prior to the portfolio being regulated under CISCA.

- The NAV of the fund gained 1.22%, bringing the total return to investors to 573.76% and the average annualised return to 10.01%.
- The annualised standard deviation is 4.89% and compares favorably with that of the All Bond Index (Total Return) at 7.43%.
- The downside deviation of the fund is 1.09% compared to 1.28% for the All Bond Index (Total Return).
- The excess return per unit risk, as measured by the Sharpe Ratio, increased to 0.57, whilst that of the All Bond Index (Total Return) increased to 0.25

Additional Risk Disclosures as at the last quarter end

As required in terms of Section 27 of Board Notice 52. Any questions pertaining to the technical nature of the disclosures may be directed to clientservices@realfin.co.za.

Risk Metrics

Leverage The providers of leverage are the fund's prime broker(s).

VAR (limit 20%) 2.92% Max VAR for guarter 3.25% Assets encumbered as 100%

collateral

Re-hypothecation of assets

Changes in liquidity

Stress testing

Re-hypothecation of the fund's assets is prohibited.

The fund's redemption period remained unchanged

Stress testing was conducted to assess the fund's

sensitivity to

The Standard Bank Of South Africa Ltd. 20.06 % FirstRand Bank Limited 15.76 % Investec Bank Limited 15.13 % 12.10 % ABSA Bank Limited Nedbank Limited 9.32 %

Definitions and Methodologies

Collateral: Collateral is the placement of an asset with a counterparty in order to secure an obligation.

Counterparty (credit) exposure represents the potential loss the Counterparty

exposure: Fund would experience in the event a counterparty defaults on its obligations.

Leverage: Leverage is a strategy used to increase the Fund's exposure beyond the capital employed.

Re-hypothecation: Re-hypothecation is the re-use of collateral by the prime broker.

To assess the fund's sensitivity to various market conditions, stress scenarios are created by simulating the impact of historic financial crises, increasing investor repurchase levels and decreasing liquidity

of the fund's underlying assets.

Value at risk (VAR) is a statistical measure of a fund's financial risk

over a specific period. VAR is calculated using historical data to determine the maximum potential loss over a month, 99% of the

Asset Allocation*

Stress testing:

VAR:

SA Fixed Income	55.47 %
SA Money Market	37.69 %
SA Cash & Cash Collateral	8.66 %
SA Fixed Income Derivatives	-1.83 %

*Net exposure as a percentage of net asset value at month end.





Market Commentary

Fairtree Proton RCIS Retail Hedge Fund

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Market Dynamics:

European credit markets continued their bull run with the iTraxx Crossover 5-year spread index compressing by a further 14.5 basis points (bps) to end the month at 268 bps. Apart from the jitters that started at the end of March, it has been essentially one-way traffic for the index as the usual griping about the imminent return of defaults has not come to pass. Obviously, without such permanent capital due to those defaults, the obvious trade is to be long risk to harvest the excess spread afforded by the index, and what a great trade is to be over the years. I will be the first to admit that the management of effective and efficient credit portfolios is not without its risks, and that it certainly should not be outsourced to the mal-informed, but in the right hands, the risk premium offered by the asset class has been, and remains, a rather compelling story that seems to be heading for a finale that ends with "... and they all lived happily ever after". Of course, there will be more volatility, there has to be otherwise we will need to re-write some textbooks, but any pullback seems likely to be contained due to the current bears trying to close out their positions. We would just love to see another pullback in the order of what was witnessed in April, when the spread had a 400 handle. At those sorts of levels, the market is pricing over 22 defaults over the lifetime of the 5-year index. That would be the worst in the history of iTraxx

On the default side of things, it was yet another default-free month. The June Altice France default remains outstanding as far as the recovery auction is concerned, but with the underlying bonds trading in the 75% context, the losses to the current index MTM should be marginal.

The South African bond market was focused on the last trading day of July, with the keenly awaited 4th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) announcement of 2025, scheduled for 3 pm on the 31st. It's always a bit risky for fund managers to have potentially large swings in the market on the last trading day of the month, as there is little wiggle room left for any rebound in market swings. As has been the case of late; the MPC did not disappoint with their announcement. Yes, we all expected a dovish 25 bps cut, and no one was surprised at that outcome. What was a little off-piste, however, was the Governor's continued call for the abolishing of the inflation target band of 3-6% and its replacement with a point target of 3%. These news were greedily consumed by the bond bulls, and the yield curve flattened aggressively at the long end. The R2044/R2030 spread compressed by some 13 bps on the day, ending the month at 257.5bps. When one considers that this spread closed at 288 bps on the 21st of the month, one realises the extent of this flattening between the 19-year and 5-year point on the curve.

Short-dated Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) were a bit more sluggish, though, as traders wrestled with whether or not the South African Reserve Bank would have the latitude to cut more in 2025. The inflation diffusion in the new proposed target is that the MPC cannot really cut when inflation rises above 3%. But that's a little off from where we are now, but it will certainly provide lots to discuss during the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2025.

Performance:

After the rather lacklustre June, the bounce in performance in July was most welcome, with the fund producing 1.22% on an after-all-fees basis. This was a pleasing outcome from both an absolute as well as a relative basis as the STeFI plodded along at 0.62%. The fund has been broadened as far as positions are concerned, with a couple of new trades adding some protection against any extreme rallies that might come to pass. The fund remains long credit risk, long theta, long curve flatteners, but short outright. Our volatility position has been diluted somewhat, which is working out rather well, as the premium received per unit of gamma has been reduced thanks to market movements. We feel comfortable with the overall shape of the book at the moment but do remain cognisant of the underlying risk of deeper global cutting cycles. Of course, the shenanigans currently going on between the Federal Reserve Chairman and the President don't help either.

Looking to August, with summer holidays fully entrenched in the northern hemisphere, we foresee a quieter month and believe that a long theta position is the most likely preferred alpha-producing position.

Please Note: The above commentary is based on reasonable assumptions and is not guaranteed to occur, unless it has already happened

Risk Profile

Risk Level:	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High

The risk category shown is not guaranteed and may change over time. The lowest category does not mean the investment is risk free. There may be other special areas of risk relating to the investment including liquidity risk, credit risk, market risk, and settlement risk. RealFin Collective Investment Schemes (RF) Pty Ltd, ("the manager"), and the Investment Manager do not render financial advice. Our risk indicator does not imply that the portfolio is suitable for all types of investors. You are advised to consult your financial adviser

Contact Information

Investment Mana	ger (FSP)	Manager		Trustee			
Fairtree Asset Management Pty Ltd		RealFin Collective Inve	stment Schemes (RF) Pty Ltd	FirstRand Bank Limited (Acting through its RMB Trustee Service Division)			
Registration Number	2004/033269/07	Registration Number	2013/170284/07	Physical Address	3 Marchant Place, Corner Floor Cnr Fredman & Gwen, Streets		
Physical Address	Willowbridge Place, Cnr. Carl,	Physical Address	347 Main Road,		Johannesburg 2001		
	Cronje Drive & Old Oak Road,Bellville Cape Town, 7530		Kenilworth, Cape Town 7708	Telephone Number	+27 87 577 8730		
Telephone Number	+27 86 176 0760	Telephone Number	+27 21 701 3777	Email Address	trusteeservices@rmb.co.za		
Email address	clientservices@fairtree.com	Email address	clientservices@realfin.co.za	Website	www.rmb.com		
FSP Number	25917	Website	www.realfin.co.za				



www.Fairtree.com

Website



Fairtree Proton RCIS Retail Hedge Fund

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Important Information

RealFin Collective Investment Schemes (RF) Proprietary Limited ("RCIS") is registered and approved by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) as a manager of Collective Investment Schemes approved in terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act. This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute or form part of any offer to issue or sell or any solicitation of any offer to subscribe for or purchase any particular investments. The information contained in the MDD does not constitute financial advice as contemplated in terms of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, and should be read in conjunction with the RCIS Fund Information Document which can be found on the Realfin website www.realfin.co.za. Opinions expressed in this document may be changed without notice at any time after publication. We therefore disclaim any liability for any loss, liability, damage (whether direct or consequential) or expense of any nature whatsoever which may be suffered as a result of or which may be attributable directly or indirectly to the use of or reliance upon the information.

Hedge Fund Risk Disclosure

The risks and characteristics within represent some of the more general risks and characteristics prevalent in hedge fund portfolios. The list below should not be seen as exhaustive. As more risks and characteristics are identified that were not initially mentioned, these will, as they become more prevalent, be included herein.

- Collective Investment Schemes are generally medium-to long-term investments
- The Fairtree Proton RCIS Retail Hedge Fund should be considered an investment with a time horizon of riger than a year.

 The value of participatory interests (units) may go down as well as up.

 Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

 Where different classes of participatory interests apply to certain Portfolio's, they would be subject to

- different charges
- Collective investments are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending

- Collective investments are traced at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending.
 A schedule of fees, charges, minimum fees, and maximum commissions, is available on request from RCIS.
 RCIS does not provide any guarantee in respect to the capital or the return of the portfolio.
 RCIS may suspend repurchases for a period, subject to regulatory approval, to await liquidity.
 RCIS may borrow up to 10% of the market value of the portfolio where insufficient liquidity exists in a portfolio, or where assets cannot be released to withdraw or cancel participatory interests.
 RCIS reserves the right to close the fund to new investors if we deem it necessary to limit further inflows in carde feet to be prepared in secondaries.
- order for it to be managed in accordance with its mandate.
- order for it to be managed in accordance with its mandate.

 12. Forward pricing is used.

 13. In terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act, No.45 of 2002 (CISCA), RMB Custody and Trustee Services (A division of FirstRand Bank Limited) has been appointed by RCIS as the Trustee of Fairtree Proton RCIS Retail Hedge Fund.

 14. The portfolio is valued at 15h00 of each business day.

 15. Investment and Redemption Instructions will be processed according to: The transaction cut-off time as well as the Subscription and Redemption guidance stipulated within the General Information section of the Minimum Disclosure Document.
- Minimum Disclosure Document.

 16. Any capital gain realised on the disposal of a participatory interest in a collective investment scheme is subject to Capital Gain Tax (CGT).

 17. A money market portfolio is not a bank deposit account. The price of a participatory interest is a marked-to-market value. The total return to the investor is made up of interest received and any gain or loss made on any particular instrument, in most cases the return will merely have an effect of increasing or decreasing the daily yield. In the capital value of the portfolio. Excessive withdrawals from a money market portfolio may place the portfolio under liquidity. pressure and in such circumstances a process of ring-fencing of withdrawal instructions and managed pay-outs over time may be followed.

 18. Where foreign securities are included in a portfolio, this may impose potential constraints on liquidity and the

repatriation of funds. The portfolio can be impacted by macroeconomic risks, political risks, foreign exchange settlement risks and potential limitations on the availability of the market Fluctuations or movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying offshore investments to go

- up or down.

 19. A Fund of Funds Portfolio only invests in other portfolio's of collective investment schemes which levies its own charges, which could result in a higher cost structure for these portfolios.

 20. RealFin Collective Investment Schemes (RF) Proprietary Limited has entered into a co-naming agreement with and delegated the investment management function to Fairtree Asset Management Pty Ltd (FSP 25917)
- RCIS retains full legal responsibility for Fairtree Proton RCIS Retail Hedge Fund and performs Risk

- 21. RCIS retains full legal responsibility for Fairtree Proton RCIS Retail Heage Fund and performs RISK Management oversight.

 22. Application forms can be obtained via the RCIS website www.realfin.co.za and any additional information can be requested from RCIS at <a href="mailto:mail
- Policy which is available on request. 25. Annual report and Actual annual figures are available to the investor upon request. 26. Prices are available on a T +1 basis via Finswitch.

Transaction Cut-Off Times

TRANSACTION CUT-OFF TIMES

IRANSACTION CUT-OFF TIMES In order for a daily Investment Instruction to be processed, your Investment form must to be sent before 12h00 on each business day ("Cut Off Date") for your Investment application to be processed on each business day. Your funds need to be reflecting in our bank account before 12h00 ("Cut off") on the each business day of the preceding month and proof of payment sent to clientservices@realfinco.za. Any funds received after the Cut Off shall be retained by the Manager in a separate account and shall be invested (together with any interest which has accrued thereon) on the next available Investment Date.

your participatory interests in the Portfolio to be redeemed at the relevant request date in Date"), your Redemption instruction must be in by 12h00 on each business day for ("Redemption Date"), your Redemption is processing at the end of each business day.

Hedge fund redemptions are processed at the end of each day. All redemptions must be submitted in writing and will be executed following receipt and acceptance of such instruction. Please note in the case of Daily redemptions, settlement may take up to 5 business days.

PERFORMANCE CALCULATION

PERFORMANCE CALCULATION
CIS prices are calculated on a net asset basis, which is the total value of all the assets in the portfolio including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions (brokerage, STT, VAT, auditor's fees, bank charges, trustee and custodian fees and the annual management fee) from the portfolio divided by the number of participatory interests (units) in issue. Performance has been calculated using NAV to NAV figures with actual portfolio ongoing fees taken into account. Income is reinvested at the reinvestment date. Different classes of participatory interests apply to these portfolio's and are subject to different fees and charges. Actual Investment performance will differ based on the initial advice fee, ongoing advice fee, investment date, the date of reinvestment of distributions and dividend withholding tax. Initial advice fees have not been taken into account. Cumulative performance figures are calculated using lump sum investment amounts. Income distributions, prior to the deduction of applicable taxes, are included in the performance calculation. Performance calculations are available on request from RCIS.

PERFORMANCE FEES

PERFORMANCE FEES

Performance fees shall be calculated separately for each class at each Valuation Point. Performance fees are accrued and are payable at the end of the relevant Performance Fee Measurement Period. The calculation is based on whether the respective Class has achieved a return greater than the Fee Hurdle and where applicable, above the high watermark. A detailed description of how performance fees are calculated and applied for this portfolio is available on request from RCIS.

The Fund's Total Expense Ratio (TER) reflects the percentage of the average Net Asset Value (NAV) of the portfolio that was incurred as charges, levies and fees related to the management of the portfolio. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. Calculations are based on actual data where possible and best estimates where actual data is not available.

Transaction Costs are a necessary cost in administering the Financial Product and impacts Financial Product returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many factors over Product recurrs, it should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many factors over time including market returns, the type of Financial Product, the investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

Investment strategies may be inherently risky - Hedge fund strategies may include leverage, short-selling and short-term investments. In addition, hedge fund portfolios often invest in unlisted instruments, low-grade debt, foreign currency and other exotic instruments. All of these expose investors to additional risk. However, not all hedge fund managers employ any or all of these strategies and it is recommended that investors consult their advisors in order to determine which strategies are being employed by the relevant manager and which consequent risks arise.

Leverage usually means higher volatility - Hedge fund managers may use leverage. This means that the hedge fund manager borrows additional funds, or trades on margin, in order to amplify his investment decisions. This means that the volatility of the hedge fund portfolio can be many times that of the underlying investments. The degree to which leverage may be employed in any given hedge fund portfolio will be carefully reviewed in making an investment decision.

Short-selling can lead to significant losses - Hedge fund managers may borrow securities in order to sell them short, in the hope that the price of the underlying instrument will fall. Where the price of the underlying instrument rises, the client can be exposed to significant losses, given that the manager is forced to buy securities (to deliver to the purchaser under the short sale) at high prices.

Unlisted instruments might be valued incorrectly - Hedge fund managers may invest in unlisted instruments where a market value is not determined by willing buyers and sellers. The hedge fund manager may have to estimate the value of such instruments, and these estimates may be inaccurate, leading to an incorrect impression of the fund's value. Investors should ensure that objective valuations are performed for all instruments in a portfolio and that the manager utilises the services of a competent administrator.

Fixed income instruments may be low-grade - Hedge fund managers may invest in low-g

manager to administer and account for properly. Investors should inquire into how these instruments are objectively and independently valued.

The client may be caught in a liquidity squeeze - Given their often short-term nature, hedge fund managers need to be able to disinvest from or close certain positions quickly and efficiently. But market liquidity is not always stable, and if liquidity were to decrease suddenly, the hedge fund manager might be unable to disinvest from or close such positions rapidly or at a good price, which may lead to losses.

The prime broker or custodian may default - Hedge fund managers often have special relationships with so-called "prime" brokers. These are stockbrokers that provide the required leveraging and shorting facilities. Prime brokers usually require collateral for these facilities, which collateral is typically provided using assets of the relevant client, and consequently such collateral might be at risk if the prime broker were to default in secondary. some way. A similar situation could occur with the custodian of the client's funds

Regulations could change - Legal, tax and regulatory changes could occur during the term of the investor's investment in a hedge fund portfolio that may adversely affect it. The effect of any future legal, tax and regulatory change or any future court decision on a hedge fund portfolio could be substantial and adverse. Past performance might be theoretical - Hedge fund portfolios are on occasion marketed using theoretical or paper track records. Past performance is seldom a reliable indicator of future performance. Theoretical past performance is often an even less reliable indicator, and investors should place a lower significance on these.

performance is often an even less reliable indicator, and investors should place a lower significance on these. The manager may be conflicted - The hedge fund manager might be managing other hedge fund portfolios or other traditional investment funds. The investor should ensure that sufficient controls are in place to manage any conflicts of interest between the different funds. Hedge fund structures are often complex - As mentioned above, hedge fund structures are not fully regulated and they are often housed in legal structures not originally meant for pooled hedge funds, for example partnerships and companies. Given the many risks listed above, investors need to ensure that any structure is robust enough to contain any unlimited losses.

Manager accountability may be vague - Hedge fund portfolios are often managed by specific individuals and investors should ensure that sufficient controls are in place for the times when the manager is being covered for by colleagues. In addition, a hedge fund structure (for example, a fund of funds) and its managers or advisors may rely on the trading and/or investing expertise and experience of third-party managers or advisors, the identity of which may not be disclosed to investors. This constitutes an additional risk for investors, which they must take into account.

Fees might be high - Hedge funds. Investments should be made only where the potential returns justify the

traditional investment hedge funds. Investments should be made only where the potential returns justify the

traditional investment hedge funds. Investments should be made only where the potential returns justify the higher fees.

Fees might be performance-based - Hedge fund manager's fees are usually performance-based. This means that the managers typically get a higher fee when their portfolios outperform specified performance targets, which might lead to riskier positions being taken. Investors need to ensure that performance fees allow for a fair sharing of both the good and the bad. Transaction costs might be high - Given the often short-term nature of investment positions, hedge fund portfolios are often traded more aggressively. This implies more stockbroking commission and charges being paid from the portfolio, which is ultimately for the client's account. Again, investments should be made only where the potential returns make up for the costs.

Transparency might be low - A hedge fund manager's performance is often the result of unique proprietary strategies or contrarian investment positions. For obvious reasons, managers will want to keep these confidential. Managers are therefore less likely to disclose trades to their investors, and holdings might be costicused only in part or with a significant delay.

Dealing and reporting might be infrequent - A hedge fund manager's performance can often be disturbed by irregular cash flows into or out of the hedge fund structure. For this reason, hedge fund managers often limit the frequency of investments and withdrawals. Similarly, the manager may choose to report infrequently on performance and other statistics. Investors should ascertain, prior to investing, the nature and frequency of reporting. Withdrawals might not be easy - As mentioned above, the frequency of withdrawals might not be easy - As mentioned above, the frequency of withdrawals might not be easy - As mentioned above, the frequency of withdrawals might be limited to monthly or quarterly dates. In addition, the manager may impose notice periods or lock-ins in order to ensure that they have the necess

