Financial Reporting Council Stewardship Code Statement

Morningstar Wealth June 2025

Introduction

This document sets out the approach of Morningstar Investment Management Europe Limited and Smart Investment Management Limited (collectively, 'Morningstar Wealth UK') regarding the UK Financial Reporting Council's Stewardship Code ("the Code").

Morningstar Investment Management Europe Limited and Smart Investment Management Limited (Morningstar Wealth UK')

Morningstar Investment Management Europe Limited ("MIME") and Smart Investment Management Limited ("SIM") are subsidiaries of Morningstar Investment Management LLC and indirect subsidiaries of Morningstar Inc., a global financial services firm, based in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

MIME and SIM are both authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA"). The registered office of MIME and SIM is 1 Oliver's Yard, 55-71 City Road, London, EC1Y 1HQ.

Morningstar Wealth UK provides additional financial services through Morningstar Wealth Administration Limited and Morningstar Wealth Retirement Services Limited. However, for the purposes of this document and related FCA rule requirements, reference to Morningstar Wealth UK refers only to the activity of managing investments through MIME and SIM.

Morningstar Wealth UK – Services, Products and Activities

Morningstar Wealth UK offers discretionary investment management services, managing portfolios and regulated funds. Morningstar Wealth UK also provide portfolio construction and asset allocation services and investment advisory solutions.

Morningstar Wealth UK serve two core segments:

- Retail intermediaries and adviser firms using managed portfolios, or funds, to support client outcomes, under agent as client arrangements.
- Institutional and enterprise clients, including platforms, wealth managers, and pension providers, who integrate managed portfolios and investment insights into their offerings.

Code Application – Morningstar Wealth UK

Morningstar Wealth UK clients are provided with investment management services and comprise professional clients and eligible counterparties which are not natural persons. Accordingly, Morningstar Wealth UK is required to describe commitment to the Code, or an alternative strategy.

Code Commitment – Morningstar Wealth UK

Morningstar Wealth UK follows an alternative investment strategy, described further in the following section, and therefore does not directly commit to observing the Code. However, it does support and appreciate the Code's aims.

Morningstar Wealth UK will not generally exercise voting rights, due to the nature of its service provision and offered products. Should Morningstar Wealth UK be required to exercise discretion to vote for, or against, a particular proposal, Morningstar Wealth UK will vote in a manner consistent with its clients' best interests.

Alternative Investment Strategy – Morningstar Wealth UK

Morningstar Wealth UK invests in listed companies, via third-party passive and active funds and exchange traded funds and, as such, does not have voting rights and does not engage directly with listed companies.

Morningstar Wealth UK's engagement with third party fund houses is aimed at enhancing value for clients and improving outcomes, in line with Morningstar's mission to empower investor success and our investment principles. Morningstar Wealth UK selects fund and ETF providers that meet stringent selection criteria and seeks to engage with providers to enhance client total portfolio investment outcomes.

Morningstar Wealth UK strives to support investors reaching their goals, in keeping with Morningstar's mission. It seeks to adhere to this mission by applying Morningstar's investment principles through a valuation-orientated investment process resulting in holistic investment strategy that has valuation at its core and a risk framework that ensures the process remains robust and repeatable.

This approach reflects Morningstar Wealth UK's commitment to the responsible allocation, management and oversight of capital that is needed to deliver long-term sustainable value for clients.

The Morningstar Wealth UK investment strategy is guided by 3 principles:

- (1) Putting investors first;
- (2) Taking a fundamental approach; and
- (3) Believing that price matters.

Putting investors first means designing and managing diversified product offerings with investor objectives at the forefront. Having a fundamental approach means carrying out rigorous research to make decisions, as Morningstar Wealth UK seeks to understand what drives the return and risk of each investment. Believing that price matters highlights Morningstar Wealth UK's effort to control costs as this is key to helping investors build wealth by keeping more of what they earn.

The statement is distributed by Morningstar Investment Management Europe Limited, a part of the Morningstar Wealth group, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority to provide services to Professional clients. Registered Address: 1 Oliver's Yard, 55-71 City Road, London, EC1Y 1HQ. Information about Morningstar Wealth can be accessed on https://bit.ly/MSWEMEADisclaimers

About Morningstar, Inc.

Morningstar, Inc. is a leading provider of independent investment insights in North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. The Company offers an extensive line of products and solutions that serve a wide range of market participants, including individual and institutional investors in public and private capital markets, financial advisors and wealth managers, asset managers, retirement plan providers and sponsors, and issuers of fixed-income securities. Morningstar provides data and research insights on a wide range of investment offerings, including managed investment products, publicly listed companies, private capital markets, debt securities, and real-time global market data. Morningstar also offers investment management services through its investment advisory subsidiaries, with approximately \$341.3 billion in AUMA as of 31 March, 2025*. The Company operates through whollyowned subsidiaries in 32 countries. For more information, visit <u>www.morningstar.com/company</u>. Follow Morningstar on X (formerly known as Twitter) <u>@MorningstarInc</u>.