M&G Credit Income Investment Trust

Quarterly review as at 31 December 2023

Company description

The Company aims to generate a regular and attractive level of income with low asset value volatility by investing in a diversified portfolio of public and private debt and debt-like instruments ('Debt Instruments'), of which at least 70% will be investment grade. Over the longer term, it is expected that the Company will be mainly invested in private Debt Instruments, which are those instruments not traded on a stock exchange. The Company currently proposes quarterly dividends at an annual rate of SONIA +4% on NAV per calendar year with a variable, fourth interim dividend to be determined after each year end, which will take into account the net income over the whole financial year and, if appropriate, any capital gains. The Company targets SONIA plus 4% over the longer term.

The Company has the ability to borrow up to 30% of net asset value although it is expected that it will primarily be managed without borrowing and typically any borrowings will not exceed 20% of net asset value. Any borrowings may magnify any gains or losses made by the Company.

Risks associated with the company

The value of investments will fluctuate, which will cause share prices to fall as well as rise and you may not get back the original amount you invested. There is no guarantee that the Company's Investment Objective will be achieved.

The Company may be exposed to the possibility that a debtor will not meet its repayment obligations.

Changes in interest rates may adversely affect the market value of some of the Company's investments.

Debt Instruments may be repaid by issuers at short notice: as a result it may be difficult for the Company to reinvest capital at an attractive price or at all, which may affect it adversely.

A variety of factors, such as market conditions, liquidity concerns or Company performance may lead to a reduction in trading volume or shares trading at a discount to their net asset value. Shareholders may also be unable to realise their investment at quoted market prices or at all.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. Please refer to the Risk section in the Prospectus.

Dividend Schedule

Period	Amount GBP
2019	3.74
2020	4.28
2021	4.04
2022	5.35
2023 Q1	1.77
2023 Q2	1.93
2023 Q3	2.12
2023 Q4	2.14

Key information

Portfolio manager	Adam English
Portfolio manager tenure from	14 November 2018
Deputy portfolio managers	Robert Whitten and Yiu-Wai Cheung
Launch date	14 November 2018
ISIN number	GB00BFYYL325
TIDM code	MGCI
Market capitalisation	£129.65m
Number of holdings	137
Dividend dates	Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug and Nov
Yield to maturity	8.46%
Modified duration	1.25
Spread duration	3.27
Weighted Average Life	4.00
Gearing	0.00%

Please see the glossary for an explanation of terms used.

Charges

Annual management charge	0.70%
Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF)	1.23%

Portfolio overview (%)

	Fund
Cash on deposit	0.90
Public	**45.62**
Asset backed securities	17.50
Bonds	23.22
Funds*	4.89
Private	**53.78**
Asset backed securities	5.08
Bonds	2.35
Funds	13.05
Loans	18.89
Private placements	2.27
Other	12.14
Derivatives	**(0.30)**
Debt derivatives	(0.33)
Forwards	0.03

*Investment is in M&G Senior Asset Backed Credit Fund which invests in senior ABS tranches with an average credit rating of AAA. The fund serves as a cash proxy and as such has been classified as 'public'.

Due to rounding, percentage figures displayed in the Factsheet may not add up to exactly 100%.

Market review

It was a positive fourth quarter for most financial assets as investor sentiment was bolstered by the easing of inflationary pressures, optimism about forthcoming rate cuts by central banks and a potential economic 'soft landing'. After an initial period of weakness, the year ended with a powerful two-month rally in bond and equity markets. The trajectory of economies continued to diverge over the period. With a strong labour market supporting consumer spending, the US economy grew at its fastest pace in nearly two years of 4.9% between July and September. Over the same time period, however, both the eurozone and UK economies contracted by 0.1%, fuelling concerns over recession as consumer spending and manufacturing activity continue to stagnate.

Manager commentary

Pleasingly the Company delivered another quarter of strongly positive performance. The Company's NAV total return in Q3 was +3.40% which outperformed the benchmark and concluded a strong year as the portfolio delivered an NAV total return of 10.42% across 2023. Performance in the final quarter of the year was driven by capital gains as the portfolio benefited from the rally in credit spreads, fuelled by optimism for rate cut expectations in 2024.

The tenacity of the rally and the appetite for risk into the close of the year saw bond spreads tighten notably during the period, which benefited asset valuations. Consequently, this also created a more challenging environment in which to add assets to the portfolio which in our opinion would provide attractive risk-adjusted returns. One area of the corporate bond market that did lag the wider rally was Utilities, particularly the water sector where idiosyncratic sector risks have seen credit spreads remain wider. As such, we participated in the South West Water new issue which printed with what we felt was a generous concession to its secondary curve and compared well to peers. Into the market strength we also took the opportunity to sell holdings in issuers that had tightened too far relative to their credit fundamentals (Voyage Care, Hiscox, Asda).

During times such as these, when credit spreads compress, we tend to favour going up in quality rather than chasing yield. Looking across the piece for which areas of the market we felt offered the most attractive relative value led us to focus activity in both public and private ABS new issues. Investing in the higher rated tranches of securitised structures can provide additional protection in more challenging credit environments whilst also offering a significant spread pick-up versus equivalently rated corporate bonds. We purchased £0.4m of the mezzanine tranche in the latest issuance from UK credit card issuer Newday, NDFT 2023-1X, which is A-rated by Fitch and returns SONIA+370bps. We also purchased £0.4m in CASTE 2023-2 C, the mezzanine tranche in a UK RMBS securitisation which is rated A by S&P and returns SONIA+320bps.

In the private market we deployed £0.8m into a regulatory capital transaction from a leading UK bank, with the BBB-rated note backed by a diversified portfolio of senior secured UK SME loans. We also invested £1.5m in the refinancing of an existing private deal, although one that was originally funded prior to the Trust's inception. The borrower is an outdoor media infrastructure owner, investing and managing a 5,000+ billboard portfolio in the UK, Netherlands, Spain, Ireland and Germany with space leased directly to media operators who in turn lease to advertisers. The floating rate, 5-year loan is rated BBB- and returns the equivalent of SONIA+400bps over its term.

Sector breakdown (%)

	Trust
Funds	17.94
ABS (Assorted)	14.18
Real Estate Dev and Mgt	14.06
Banking	9.48
Non-Agency CMBS	9.28
Mortgage Backed	4.09
Cons/Comm/Lease Financing	3.47
Investments and Misc Financial Services	2.99
Life-Insurance	2.88
REITs	2.11
Telecom - Wireless	1.77
ABS Automobiles	1.62
Support - Services	1.59
Electric - Integrated	1.54
Electronics	1.21
Transport Infrastructure/Services	1.05
Media Content	1.01
Restaurants	0.95
Cash on Deposit	0.90
ABS Credit Cards	0.86
Multi-Line Insurance	0.80
ABS Utilities	0.80
Health Services	0.74
Integrated Energy	0.71
Specialty Retail	0.68
Automakers	0.63
Food - Wholesale	0.59
Electric - Generation	0.52
Tech Hardware and Equipment	0.43
Oil Field Equipment and Services	0.39
Brokerage	0.34
Non-Electric Utilities	0.29
ABS Airline Leases	0.19
Gaming	0.18
Forwards	0.03
Food and Drug Retail	0.00
Debt Derivatives	(0.33)

Source: All data contained within the Factsheet is sourced from the Company administrator, State Street as at 31 December 2023.

Outlook

Financial markets have been buoyed by rate cut and 'soft landing' expectations, although central bank officials have been keen to reaffirm that market pricing for the path of interest rates runs strongly counter to their base case. The recent rally in bonds and equities has been driven by the expectation that financial conditions will loosen notably as the year progresses, and current asset valuations are predicated upon this assumption. Though optimism is warranted given the progress made in reducing inflation, it does feel like the market has got ahead of itself both in the magnitude and timing of rate cuts being forecast in 2024. Sticky service prices, high wage growth and rising rental costs are hurdles that suggest inflation will prove particularly stubborn over the 'last mile'. In our opinion, aggressive cutting of interest rates doesn't appear the most likely outcome given the hawkish bias of central banks thus far, with lessons of the past on resurgent inflation likely to factor into decision making. It should also be noted that the Fed look best placed to engineer a 'soft landing', whilst the Bank of England and ECB face bumpier rides given the more difficult economic backdrop in Europe. That said, whether market implied cuts for sterling interest rates do materialise, or we see the slower rate of cuts signalled by Bank of England officials, both scenarios would see the Company's dividend remain elevated, in the range of 8-9% over the year (based on a dividend return of SONIA+4%).

We enter the new year riding a wave of investor exuberance, though in our view it feels complacent to assume smooth sailing from this point onwards. Monetary history has shown that the full effects of interest rate rises typically operate with an 18 month lag, which would suggest the shockwaves from sharp hiking cycles are yet to fully reverberate through the economy. Therefore, it still remains to be seen whether the expected 'soft landing' does in fact turn into a 'hard landing'. Both scenarios will ultimately result in the rate cuts much desired by markets, however if the driver of cuts is to prevent a recession rather than having successfully steered inflation back to target, the economic implications will be far less positive. Consequently, we prefer to remain defensively positioned at current credit spread levels, favouring a move up in quality, rather than reaching for yield. A more challenging and uncertain economic outlook highlights the requirement for fundamental credit analysis as the backbone to fixed income investing in 2024. With maturity walls really coming in to focus this year and corporate issuers starting to feel the bite from the lagged effect of higher interest rates, balance sheet and structural analysis will be key to determining issuers ability to service and refinance debt as well as assessing profitability and revenue generating capabilities.

Both domestic and foreign politics are poised to play a more central role in financial markets in the next twelve months. Geopolitical tensions are as heightened as they have been for decades as the Russia-Ukraine war looks set to move into its third year, whilst the conflict between Israel and Hamas still threatens to engulf the Middle East. Recent attacks by Houthi rebels on commercial shipping in the Red Sea have prompted UK and US armed response, although at present markets appear to have largely shrugged off the threat of escalation. Should tensions between Palestinian backers and Israel's Western allies spill over, the threat to global trade and oil prices could significantly impact an already precariously positioned global economy. Additionally, a lagged inflationary upside effect from increased shipping costs could factor into ECB or Bank of England rate cutting decisions in the latter part of the year. Domestic politics will also be in focus with elections in both the UK and US expected in the second half of 2024. Recent events have shown how sensitive the UK market can be to surprises in fiscal policy, and as the election approaches both parties may look to unveil spending plans in the hope of attracting voters which could unnerve bond markets.

Some termed 2023 as the "Year of the Bond" and as we move into 2024, many of the favourable tailwinds in fixed income markets look set to continue. The technical backdrop remains strong, with all-in bond yields still screening favourably to other asset classes, which should keep credit spreads well anchored. Our focus in the first part of 2024 will be to continue to identify the best available risk-adjusted opportunities in order to maintain the strong income generating properties of the portfolio, whilst remaining disciplined on price, and being both nimble and flexible in investing across both public and private markets.

Credit rating breakdown (%)

	Trust
Unrated	**(0.30)**
Derivatives	(0.30)
Cash and Investment Grade	**81.48**
Cash on Deposit	0.90
AAA	7.56
AA+	0.15
AA	5.14
A+	1.73
A	1.86
A-	3.87
BBB+	12.14
BBB	17.71
BBB-	21.47
M&G European Loan Fund*	8.96
Non-Investment Grade	**18.82**
BB+	3.94
BB	2.00
BB-	3.24
B+	2.21
B	4.08
C	0.00
D	0.82
M&G European Loan Fund*	2.53

*See glossary

Share Price vs NAV

As at	NAV p/s (cum income)	Share price
31 December 2023	96.21	92.20

Total Return

NAV total return (%, p.a.)**	1 month	3 months	6 months	YTD	1 year	2 years	3 years	5 years	Since Inception***
M&G Credit Income Investment Trust	1.62%	3.40%	6.60%	10.42%	10.42%	4.17%	4.20%	4.47%	4.26%
Benchmark*	0.78%	2.34%	4.71%	8.96%	8.96%	7.21%	6.16%	5.22%	5.17%

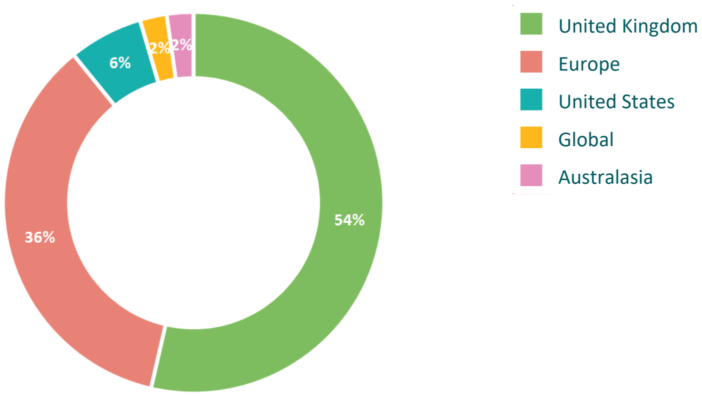
Calendar year NAV total return (%, p.a.)**	2022	2021	2020	2019
M&G Credit Income Investment Trust	-1.74%	4.25%	3.75%	6.04%
Benchmark*	5.47%	4.09%	4.32%	3.34%

Source: Morningstar Inc, State Street and M&G, as at 31 December 2023. Returns stated in GBP terms.

*3 Month Libor +2.5% from inception to 31/12/2019, 3 Month Libor + 4% from 1st January 2020 to December 2021, thereafter SONIA +4%.

**The total return calculation assumes that dividends paid to shareholders are reinvested at NAV at the time the shares are quoted ex-dividend.
***Trust inception 14 November 2018.
The portfolio is actively managed. The Portfolio Manager has complete freedom in choosing which investments to buy, hold and sell in the fund.

Geographical Split %



Source: M&G and State Street as at 31 December 2023.

Top 20 holdings (%)

	Trust
M&G European Loan Fund (Prvt)	11.48
M&G Senior Asset Backed Credit Fund	4.89
Delamare Finance 1.3066% 19 Feb 2029	1.76
M&G Lion Credit Opportunity Fund IV (Prvt)	1.57
Project Hammond (Prvt)	1.42
BSAM 1 1 RegS	1.33
ATLAS 2020 1 Trust AUD Note A2 (Prvt)	1.32
Signet GBP Stretch Term Loan (Prvt)	1.29
RIN II LTD (A) A 144A	1.27
Regenter Myatt Field North GBP Term Loan (Prvt)	1.23
Grover Term Loan A (Prvt)	1.21
GONGG 1 (A) A RegS	1.17
ICSL 1 B RegS	1.17
Aria EUR Term Loan A (Prvt)	1.16
CBNA T12 Mezz (Prvt)	1.15
STCHB 7 A (Prvt)	1.15
Finance for Residential Social Housing 8.569% 04 Oct 2058	1.13
Whistler GBP Term Loan (Prvt)	1.12
Project Grey Senior Term Loan (Prvt)	1.11
DCC Treasury 2014 4.49% Senior Unsecured (Prvt)	1.03

(Prvt) – Private Investment

Glossary

This glossary provides an explanation of terms used in this factsheet and in our literature.

Asset
Anything having commercial or exchange value that is owned by a business, institution or individual.

Asset Backed Security (ABS)
A security whose income payments and value are derived from and collateralized by a specified pool of underlying assets.

Asset class
Category of assets, such as cash, company shares, fixed income securities and their sub-categories, as well as tangible assets such as real estate.

Basis points (bps)
A common unit of measure for interest rates and other percentages in finance. One basis point is equal to 1/100th of 1%, or 0.01%, or 0.0001, and is used to denote the percentage change in a financial instrument.

Bond
A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company, which normally pays a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid.

Capital
Refers to the financial assets, or resources, that a company has to fund its business operations.

Capitalisation
The total market value of all of a company's outstanding shares.

CLO (Collateralised loan obligation)
Actively managed investment vehicle which issues rated tranches of debt from AAA-B and an unrated equity tranche. Underlying assets are predominantly made up of leveraged loans and high yield bonds.

Comparative sector
A group of funds with similar investment objectives and/or types of investment, as classified by bodies such as the Investment Association (IA) or Morningstar™. Sector definitions are mostly based on the main assets a fund should invest in, and may also have a geographic focus. Sectors can be the basis for comparing the different characteristics of similar funds, such as their performance or charging structure.

Consumer Prices Index (CPI)
An index used to measure inflation, which is the rate of change in prices for a basket of goods and services. The contents of the basket are meant to be representative of products and services we typically spend our money on.

Corporate bonds
Fixed income securities issued by a company. They are also known as bonds and can offer higher interest payments than bonds issued by governments as they are often considered more risky.

Credit
The borrowing capacity of an individual, company or government. More narrowly, the term is often used as a synonym for fixed income securities issued by companies.

Credit Default Swaps (CDS)
Are a type of derivative, namely financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets. CDS are insurance-like contracts that allow investors to transfer the risk of a fixed income security defaulting to another investor.

Credit rating
An independent assessment of a borrower's ability to repay its debts. A high rating indicates that the credit rating agency considers the issuer to be at low risk of default; likewise, a low rating indicates high risk of default. Standard & Poor's, Fitch and Moody's are the three most prominent credit rating agencies. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of security's life.

Credit spread
The difference between the yield of a corporate bond, a fixed income security issued by a company, and a government bond of the same life span. Yield refers to the income received from an investment and is expressed as a percentage of the investment's current market value, and a bond is a fixed income security.

Default
When a borrower does not maintain interest payments or repay the amount borrowed when due.

Derivatives
Financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets. Derivatives can be used to gain exposure to, or to help protect against, expected changes in the value of the underlying investments. Derivatives may be traded on a regulated exchange or traded over the counter.

Developed economy / market
Well-established economies with a high degree of industrialisation, standard of living and security.

Dividend
Dividends represent a share in the profits of the company and are paid out to a company's shareholders at set times of the year.

ECB (European Central Bank)
Central bank of the 19 European Union countries which have adopted the euro.

Emerging economy or market
Economies in the process of rapid growth and increasing industrialisation. Investments in emerging markets are generally considered to be riskier than those in developed markets.

Episode
A phase during which investors allow their emotions to affect their decision making, which can cause financial markets to move irrationally.

Equities
Shares of ownership in a company.

Ex-dividend, ex-distribution or XD date
The date on which declared distributions officially belong to underlying investors.

Exposure
The proportion of a fund invested in a particular share/fixed income security, sector/region, usually expressed as a percentage of the overall portfolio.

Fixed income security
A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company, which normally pays a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid.

Floating rate notes (FRNs)
Securities whose interest (income) payments are periodically adjusted depending on the change in a reference interest rate.

Gearing
Is a measure of financial leverage that demonstrates the degree to which the Investment Trust's operations are funded by equity capital versus creditor financing.

Gilts
Fixed income securities issued by the UK government.

Government bonds
Fixed income securities issued by governments, that normally pay a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial investment is repaid.

Hard currency (bonds)
Refers to bonds denominated in a highly traded, relatively stable international currency, rather than in the bond issuer's local currency. Bonds issued in a more stable hard currency, such as the US dollar, can be more attractive to investors where there are concerns that the local currency could lose value over time, eroding the value of bonds and their income.

Hedging
A method of reducing unnecessary or unintended risk.

High yield bonds
Fixed income securities issued by companies with a low credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at higher risk of default than better quality, ie higher-rated fixed income securities but have the potential for higher rewards. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of security's life.

Index
An index represents a particular market or a portion of it, serving as a performance indicator for that market.

Index-linked bonds
Fixed income securities where both the value of the loan and the interest payments are adjusted in line with inflation over the life of the security. Also referred to as inflation-linked bonds.

Inflation
The rate of increase in the cost of living. Inflation is usually quoted as an annual percentage, comparing the average price this month with the same month a year earlier.

Investment Association (IA)
The UK trade body that represents fund managers. It works with investment managers, liaising with government on matters of taxation and regulation, and also aims to help investors understand the industry and the investment options available to them.

Investment grade bonds
Fixed income securities issued by a company with a medium or high credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at lower risk from default than those issued by companies with lower credit ratings. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of a security's life.

Investment trust
An investment trust is a form of collective investment found mostly in the United Kingdom. Investment trusts are closed-end funds and are constituted as public limited companies.

Issuer
An entity that sells securities, such as fixed income securities and company shares.

Leverage
When referring to a company, leverage is the level of a company's debt in relation to its assets. A company with significantly more debt than capital is considered to be leveraged. It can also refer to a fund that borrows money or uses derivatives to magnify an investment position.

LIBOR
The three-month GBP London Interbank Borrowing Rate is the rate at which banks borrow money from each other (in UK pounds) for a three-month period.

Liquidity

A company is considered highly liquid if it has plenty of cash at its disposal. A company's shares are considered highly liquid if they can be easily bought or sold since large amounts are regularly traded.

Local currency (bonds)

Refers to bonds denominated in the currency of the issuer's country, rather than in a highly traded international currency, such as the US dollar. The value of local currency bonds tends to fluctuate more than bonds issued in a hard currency, as these currencies tend to be less stable.

Long position

Refers to ownership of a security held in the expectation that the security will rise in value.

M&G European Loan Fund ("ELF")

An open-ended fund managed by M&G that invests in leveraged loans issued by, generally, substantial private companies located in the UK and Continental Europe. ELF is not rated and the Investment Manager has determined an implied rating for this investment, utilising rating methodologies typically attributable to collateralised loan obligations. On this basis, 78% of the Company's investment in ELF has been ascribed as being investment grade, and 22% has been ascribed as being sub-investment grade. These percentages have been utilised on a consistent basis for the purposes of determination of the Company's adherence to its obligation to hold no more than 30% of its assets in below investment grade securities.

Macroeconomic

Refers to the performance and behaviour of an economy at the regional or national level. Macroeconomic factors such as economic output, unemployment, inflation and investment are key indicators of economic performance. Sometimes abbreviated to 'macro'.

Maturity

The length of time until the initial investment amount of a fixed income security is due to be repaid to the holder of the security.

Modified duration

A measure of the sensitivity of a fixed income security, also called a bond, or bond fund to changes in interest rates. The higher a bond or bond fund's modified duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate movements.

Monetary policy

A central bank's regulation of money in circulation and interest rates.

Morningstar™

A provider of independent investment research, including performance statistics and independent fund ratings.

NAV Total Return

A measure showing how the net asset value (NAV) per share has performed over a period of time, taking into account both capital returns and dividends paid to shareholders.
NAV total return is expressed as a percentage change from the start of the period. It assumes that dividends paid to shareholders are reinvested at NAV at the time the shares are quoted ex-dividend.
NAV total return shows performance which is not affected by movements in share price discounts and premiums. It also takes into account the fact that different investment companies pay out different levels of dividends.

Near cash

Deposits or investments with similar characteristics to cash.

Net

The proportion of a fund invested in, for example, different sectors. Derivatives are included. The latter are financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets.

Net Asset Value (NAV)

A fund's net asset value is calculated by taking the current value of the fund's assets and subtracting its liabilities.

Non-Executive Director (NED)

A non-executive director is a member of a company's board of directors who is not part of the executive team. A non-executive director typically does not engage in the day-to-day management of the organization, but is involved in policymaking and planning exercises.

Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF)

Ongoing charges figure (as a percentage of shareholders' funds) is an annualised rate calculated using average net assets over the period in accordance with the AIC's recommended methodology.

Options

Financial contracts that offer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset at a given price on or before a given date in the future.

Overweight

If a fund is 'overweight' a stock, it holds a larger proportion of that stock than the comparable index or sector.

Payment date

The date on which distributions will be paid by the fund to investors, usually the last business day of the month.

Physical

The fund's exposure excluding derivatives, which are financial instruments whose value, and price, is dependent on one or more underlying securities.

Private

Refers to assets that are not listed or traded on a recognized exchange.

Public

Refers to assets that are listed on and can be traded on a recognized exchange.

REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust)

A REIT is a company that owns, operates or finances income-producing real estate.

Retail Prices Index (RPI)

A UK inflation index that measures the rate of change of prices for a basket of goods and services in the UK, including mortgage payments and council tax.

Securitise/Securitisation

The creation and issuance of tradable securities, such as bonds, that are backed by the income generated by an illiquid asset or group of assets. By pooling a collection of illiquid assets, such as mortgages, securities backed by the mortgages' income payments can be packaged and sold to a wider range of investors.

Share price total return

Total return to shareholders, assuming all dividends received were reinvested at the mid-market price without transaction costs into the shares of the Company at the time the shares were quoted ex-dividend.

Short position

A way for a fund manager to express his or her view that the market might fall in value.

Short-dated corporate bonds

Fixed income securities issued by companies and repaid over relatively short periods.

Short-dated government bonds

Fixed income securities issued by governments and repaid over relatively short periods.

SONIA (Sterling overnight index average)

Aninterest rate index administered by the Bank of England and based on actual transactions. It reflects the average interest rate that banks pay to borrow sterling overnight from other banks and institutional investors.

Spread duration

A measure of the portfolio's sensitivity to changes in credit spreads. The higher a bond or bond fund's spread duration, the more sensitive it is to changes in credit spreads.

Sub-investment grade bonds

Fixed income securities issued by a company with a low rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at higher risk from default than those issued by companies with higher credit ratings. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of a security's life.

Swap

A swap is a derivative contract where two parties agree to exchange separate streams of cashflows. A common type of swap is an interest rate swap to hedge against interest rate risk.

Synthetic inflation-linked bonds

Refers to securities created using a combination of assets to simulate the characteristics of inflation-linked bonds. By buying inflation-linked government bonds and selling protection against companies defaulting on their debts, using credit default swaps, the combined synthetic investment will behave similarly to a physical inflation-linked bond, had one had been issued. Synthetic inflation-linked bonds are usually created where a company does not have any inflation-linked bonds in issue.

Total return

The term for the gain or loss derived from an investment over a particular period. Total return includes income (in the form of interest or dividend payments) and capital gains.

Valuation

The worth of an asset or company based on its current price.

Volatility

The degree to which a given security, fund, or index rapidly changes. It is calculated as the degree of deviation from the norm for that type of investment over a given time period. The higher the volatility, the riskier the security tends to be.

Weighted Average Life (WAL)

The asset-weighted average number of years to final maturity of the portfolio, based on the final maturity for all assets/exposures.

Yield

This refers to either the interest received from a fixed income security or to the dividends received from a share. It is usually expressed as a percentage based on the investment's costs, its current market value or its face value. Dividends represent a share in the profits of a company and are paid out to the company's shareholders at set times of the year.

Yield to maturity

The total return anticipated on the portfolio if the underlying bonds are held until maturity.

Contacts

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M&G Investments