

# FSSA China Growth Fund (Irish VCC)

## Investment objective and policy

The Fund aims to grow your investment.  
 The Fund invests at least 70% of its assets in shares of companies based in, or closely associated with, mainland China. The Fund may invest up to 100% of its assets in any industry and in companies of any size.  
 The Fund will invest less than 100% of its assets in China A Shares. The Fund may use derivatives with the aim of risk reduction or efficient management.

## Fund information

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund launch date   | 20 May 1992           |
| Fund size (US\$m)  | 2443.2                |
| Benchmark          | MSCI China Net Index* |
| Number of holdings | 50                    |
| Fund manager(s)    | Martin Lau/Winston Ke |
| Research rating ^  | Morningstar@:Silver   |

\* The benchmark changed from MSCI Golden Dragon Index to the above on 01/06/2002. The benchmark of the Fund changed from MSCI China Gross to MSCI China Net with effect from 1 July 2016. This change has been reflected in the calculation of the benchmark performance.

^ This does not constitute an investment recommendation and is not indicative of future results. Methodology available on rating provider's website.

## Available share classes

| Share class  | Sedol   | ISIN         |
|--|---------|--------------|
| FSSA China Growth Fund USD Class I (Accumulation)          | 0844877 | IE0008368742 |
| FSSA China Growth Fund USD Class I (Distributing)          | B031HY2 | IE00B031HY20 |
| FSSA China Growth Fund USD Class V (Distributing)          | BDRM775 | IE00BDRM7756 |
| FSSA China Growth Fund GBP Class VI (Distributing)         | BDRM786 | IE00BDRM7863 |
| FSSA China Growth Fund USD Class VI (Accumulation)         | BG1V0V4 | IE00BG1V0V41 |
| FSSA China Growth Fund EUR Class VI (Accumulation)         | BYXW390 | IE00BYXW3909 |
| FSSA China Growth Fund USD Class VI (Distributing)         | BQMPXY9 | IE00019VAKG2 |
| FSSA China Growth Fund USD Class V (Accumulation)          | BJFT2B9 | IE00BJFT2B93 |
| FSSA China Growth Fund CNH Class I Hedged N (Accumulation) | BLGYC2  | IE000KX3CXG6 |

## About FSSA Investment Managers

FSSA Investment Managers is an autonomous investment management team within First Sentier Investors, with dedicated investment professionals based in Hong Kong and Singapore. We are specialists in Asia Pacific and Global Emerging Markets equity strategies, managing assets on behalf of clients globally.

We are bottom-up investors, using fundamental research and analysis to construct high-conviction portfolios. We conduct more than a thousand direct company meetings a year, seeking to identify high quality companies to invest in. We look for founders and management teams that act with integrity and risk awareness; and dominant franchises that have the ability to deliver sustainable and predictable returns over the long term. As responsible, long-term shareholders, we have integrated ESG analysis into our investment process and engage extensively on environmental, labour and governance issues.

### Risk factors

This document is a financial promotion for the FSSA China Growth Fund in the EEA and elsewhere where lawful. Investing involves certain risks including:

- **The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and are not guaranteed. Investors may get back substantially less than the original amount invested.**
- **Currency risk:** The Fund invests in assets which are denominated in other currencies; changes in exchange rates will affect the value of the Fund and could create losses. Currency control decisions made by governments could affect the value of the Fund's investments and could cause the Fund to defer or suspend redemptions of its shares.
- **China market risk:** Although China has seen rapid economic and structural development, investing there may still involve increased risks of political and governmental intervention, potentially limitations on the allocation of the Fund's capital, and legal, regulatory, economic and other risks including greater liquidity risk, restrictions on investment or transfer of assets, failed/delayed settlement and difficulties valuing securities.
- **Single country / specific region risk:** investing in a single country or specific region may be riskier than investing in a number of different countries or regions. Investing in a larger number of countries or regions helps spread risk.

Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell. Reference to the names of any company is merely to explain the investment strategy and should not be construed as investment advice or a recommendation to invest in any of those companies.

For a full description of the terms of investment and the risks please see the Prospectus and Key Information Document.

**If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of our funds for your investment needs, please seek investment advice.  
If you are unsure of the terminology used in this report, please seek independent financial advice.**

### Annual performance in USD (%) to 31 March 2025

|                        | 12 mths to<br>31/03/25 | 12 mths to<br>31/03/24 | 12 mths to<br>31/03/23 | 12 mths to<br>31/03/22 | 12 mths to<br>31/03/21 |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| FSSA China Growth Fund | 12.6                   | -21.2                  | -3.3                   | -21.2                  | 59.5                   |
| MSCI China Net Index   | 40.4                   | -17.1                  | -4.7                   | -32.5                  | 43.6                   |

### Cumulative performance in USD (%) to 31 March 2025

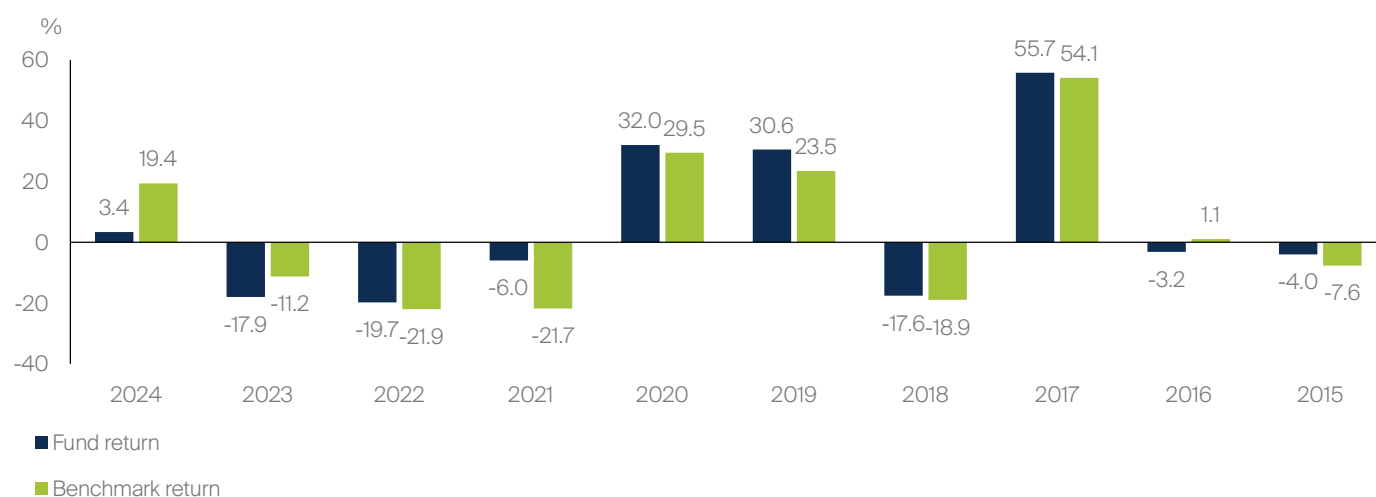
|                        | Since<br>Inception | 10 yrs | 5 yrs | 3 yrs | 1 yr | YTD  | 6 mths | 3 mths |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------|-------|-------|------|------|--------|--------|
| FSSA China Growth Fund | 1625.0             | 31.3   | 7.8   | -14.2 | 12.6 | 6.4  | -3.5   | 6.4    |
| MSCI China Net Index   | 505.9              | 28.6   | 7.5   | 11.0  | 40.4 | 15.0 | 6.2    | 15.0   |

### Performance review

Over the past 12 months, key contributors to performance included **Tencent**, as its rapid integration of the DeepSeek model into WeChat as well as various other business segments suggests that it should be able to continue to strengthen its ecosystem – and continue to enjoy the network effects – in the coming AI era. **Midea** added to performance after reporting steady results for FY2024 and a higher-than-expected payout ratio of 69.3% (vs. the market's expectations of 60%). The management also announced further plans to improve shareholder returns, including the addition of a semi-annual dividend in 2025-27 and the repurchase RMB 5-10bn of shares in 2025.

On the negative side, **Shenzhou International** declined, despite reporting robust earnings results, on concerns about US import tariffs and an escalating trade war. However, while China accounts for around 45% of its manufacturing capacity, 15% is exported to non-Europe and non-US regions, while the rest is consumed domestically. The US comprises only a small proportion of its revenue. **Shenzhen Mindray** also declined on concerns about US tariffs, even though there should be limited impact on its business (North America contributed around 6% of its revenue in 1H2024). Mindray currently has 13 overseas production facilities and could establish additional capacity overseas to offset the potentially higher tariffs.

### Calendar year performance (% in USD) to 31 March 2025



These figures refer to the past. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. Since inception performance figures have been calculated from 17 August 1999. All performance data for the FSSA China Growth Fund Class I (Accumulation) USD as at 31 March 2025. Source for fund - Lipper IM / First Sentier Investors (UK) Funds Limited. Performance data is calculated on a net basis by deducting fees incurred at fund level (e.g. the management fee and other fund expenses), save that it does not take account of initial charges or switching fees (if any). Income reinvested is included on a net of tax basis. Source for benchmark - MSCI, income reinvested net of tax.

▲ On 22 September 2020, First State China Growth Fund was rebranded as FSSA China Growth Fund.

### Portfolio review

New purchases over the quarter included **PDD**, a leading e-commerce company in China on attractive valuations. Founded by Colin Huang – widely respected and recognised as a capable leader – the company is an innovator within China's e-commerce industry, having disrupted the seemingly mature market by bringing customers directly to farmers and manufacturers. Positioned as a "value-for-money" platform, it is a highly profitable and cash flow generative business, while being less capital intensive vs. peers. We believe it has good growth potential, with a franchise that continues to strengthen. We also bought **Full Truck Alliance (FTA)**, a leading digital freight platform in China with a strong competitive moat and a long growth runway. FTA should continue to strengthen with scale, as shippers move more of their business on to the platform, driven by cheaper prices, which then drives more truckers to the platform, and so on. The business is still in the early stages of monetisation (which implies room to grow), margins are expanding, and it is cash flow generative. Meanwhile, new growth opportunities, such as cargo pooling, could also open up once it reaches a minimum viable scale.

We sold **Sinbon Electronics** on strength and divested **Shanghai Hanbell** to consolidate the portfolio.

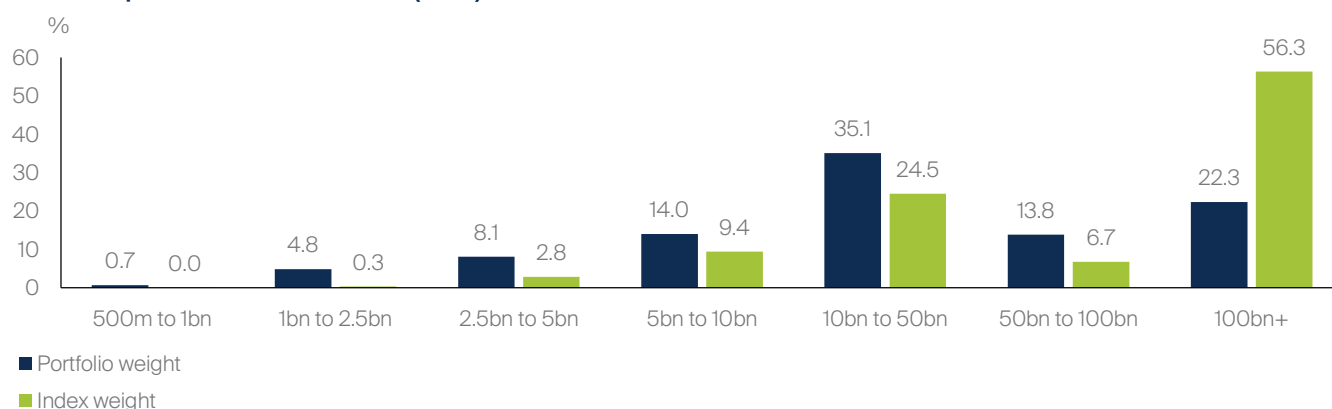
### Stock spotlight

**Meituan** is the largest local services e-commerce platform in China, with more than 600 million users and nine million businesses across the country. As an O2O (online to offline) business, Meituan offers products and services that are transacted online, but consumed offline "in the real world". It is the leader in food delivery services and domestic hotel bookings, while in-store dining and travel services are major profit centres. Food delivery is a solid and cash-generative business for Meituan, with a dominant market share at around 70%, mid-teens revenue growth and sustained margin improvement. It's a strong engine for the business thanks to its dominant share and high delivery efficiency.

The problem was its recent foray into community group buying (CGB), a form of online shopping where residents in the same neighbourhood group together to buy products in bulk at a discount. As a business model, CGB has been loss-making and fraught with competition from Pinduoduo, Didi, JD.com and Alibaba. After recognising that the mounting losses from CGB were not sustainable, Meituan shifted its focus by shutting down unprofitable operations, streamlining logistics and reducing promotional activities. As a result, its CGB losses have narrowed. Peers appear to have retreated from CGB as well, which bodes well for Meituan's remaining CGB efforts.

Overall, we are pleased with the management's willingness to admit mistakes, the steps taken to rectify the losses and its more prudent capital allocation. We believe Meituan still has a long runway of growth ahead, as the market share leader and app traffic front-runner. The company has also been buying back shares to improve total shareholder returns.

### Market capitalisation breakdown (USD)



Data source: For illustration purposes only. Portfolio weights may not add up to 100% as cash holdings are excluded and full coverage of stocks is not always available. This information is calculated by First Sentier Investors. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell the same. All securities mentioned herein may or may not form part of the holdings of First Sentier Investors' portfolios at a certain point in time, and the holdings may change over time. These figures refer to the past. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations.

### Outlook

After a challenging few years, we are starting to see pockets of healthy demand emerging in certain domestically focused sectors. The government is providing more support for businesses and consumers, perhaps in response to rising geopolitical tensions. And, through multi-year investments in R&D and supply chains, Chinese companies have become more competitive on the global stage. These are all reasons to be positive on the long-term outlook for China equities.

However, the recent news about US reciprocal tariffs have raised the uncertainty of the outlook, given the scale and breadth of the taxes. We don't pretend to know the end-result of the disruption to global trade nor are we trying to predict such outcomes. However, it is in times like this that the conservative approach with which we manage our portfolios comes to the fore.

As bottom-up investors, our focus remains on selecting well-run companies with capable leaders, strong franchises, attractive earnings growth and sound balance sheets. Our portfolio is aligned with the structural trends shaping China's economy: innovation, sustainability, and increasing shareholder returns. Overall, we believe our holdings in market-leading businesses, led by secular growth trends and underpinned by rising incomes, are likely to remain resilient through this period.

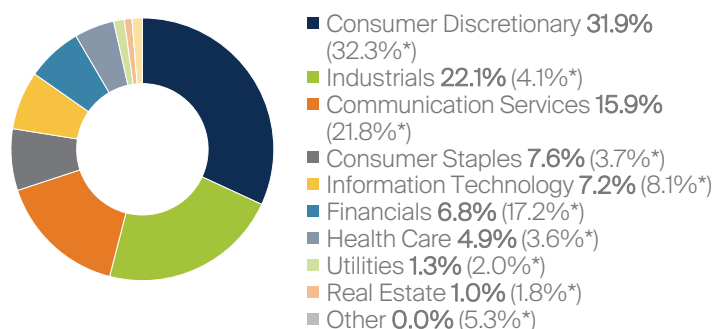
### Our long-term investment themes:

- Dominant consumer franchises which have an edge in brand, distribution and innovation.
- The rise in healthcare spending, due to increasing incomes and healthy consumer choices.
- Beneficiaries of a smarter, more connected world.
- An ageing population and the growing trend of automation.
- Globally competitive exporters with a growing international business.

### Ten largest company holdings as at 31 March 2025

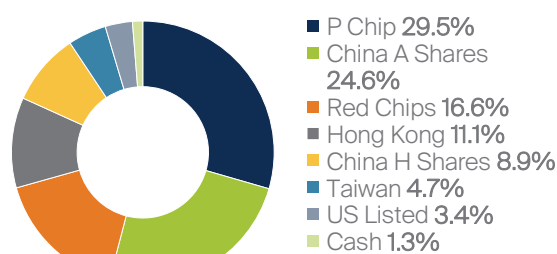
| Stock name                                    | Country | Sector                 | Portfolio weight (%) |
|---|---------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Tencent Holdings Ltd.                         | China   | Communication Services | 9.3                  |
| Netease Inc                                   | China   | Communication Services | 5.4                  |
| Shenzhou International Group Holdings Limited | China   | Consumer Discretionary | 4.3                  |
| Midea Group                                   | China   | Consumer Discretionary | 4.1                  |
| China Mengniu Dairy Co., Ltd.                 | China   | Consumer Staples       | 4.0                  |
| China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd. Class H        | China   | Financials             | 3.7                  |
| Meituan Class B                               | China   | Consumer Discretionary | 3.6                  |
| Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medic-A                  | China   | Health Care            | 3.6                  |
| ANTA Sports Products Ltd.                     | China   | Consumer Discretionary | 3.5                  |
| Huazhu Group Ltd USD0.00001                   | China   | Consumer Discretionary | 3.3                  |

### Sector breakdown



\*Index weight

### Share class breakdown



Sector and Country classifications provided by Factset and First Sentier Investors. The Fund may hold multiple equity securities in the same company, which have been combined to provide the Fund's total position in that company. Index weights, if any, typically include only the main domestic-listed security. The above Fund weightings may or may not include reference to multiple securities. Allocation percentage is rounded to the nearest one decimal place and the total allocation percentage may not add up to 100%.

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell the same. All securities mentioned herein may or may not form part of the holdings of First Sentier Investors' portfolios at a certain point in time, and the holdings may change over time. These figures refer to the past. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations.

## Top 5 contributors to absolute performance

### 3 months to 31 March 2025

| Stock name                             | Country | Sector                 | Value added (bps*) |
|--|---------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Tencent Holdings Ltd.                  | China   | Communication Services | 184                |
| China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd. Class H | China   | Financials             | 71                 |
| Netease Inc                            | China   | Communication Services | 69                 |
| Hongfa Technology Co., Ltd. Class A    | China   | Industrials            | 49                 |
| ACM Research, Inc. Class A             | USA     | Information Technology | 46                 |

### 12 months to 31 March 2025

| Stock name   | Country | Sector                 | Value added (bps*) |
|--|---------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Tencent Holdings Ltd.                                    | China   | Communication Services | 529                |
| China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd. Class H                   | China   | Financials             | 236                |
| Midea Group Co. Ltd. Class A                             | China   | Consumer Discretionary | 126                |
| Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China, Ltd. Class H | China   | Financials             | 107                |
| Hongfa Technology Co., Ltd. Class A                      | China   | Industrials            | 88                 |

## Bottom 5 contributors to absolute performance

### 3 months to 31 March 2025

| Stock name                                    | Country   | Sector                 | Value added (bps*) |
|---|-----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Shenzhou International Group Holdings Limited | China     | Consumer Discretionary | -31                |
| Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medic-A                  | China     | Health Care            | -27                |
| Haier Smart Home Co., Ltd. Class H            | China     | Consumer Discretionary | -27                |
| Trip.com Group Ltd.                           | China     | Consumer Discretionary | -21                |
| Techtronic Industries Co., Ltd.               | Hong Kong | Industrials            | -17                |

### 12 months to 31 March 2025

| Stock name                                    | Country | Sector                 | Value added (bps*) |
|---|---------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Shenzhou International Group Holdings Limited | China   | Consumer Discretionary | -82                |
| CSPC Pharmaceutical Group Limited             | China   | Health Care            | -67                |
| Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medic-A                  | China   | Health Care            | -56                |
| Yifeng Pharmacy Chain Co Ltd Class A          | China   | Consumer Staples       | -55                |
| Airtac International Group                    | Taiwan  | Industrials            | -52                |

Stock contributions show the impact of the individual stock's performance to the total fund performance. These stock contributions show the top 5 and bottom 5 contributors to the fund and are not representative of the performance of the fund as a whole.

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This stock information does not constitute any offer or inducement to enter into investment activity.

Contributions are calculated at the investee company level before the deduction of any fees incurred at fund level (e.g. the management fee and other fund expenses) but after deduction of transactional costs. Stocks held/listed in non-index countries have economic activity > 50% from developing economies.

\* A basis point is a unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent) or 0.0001 in decimal form.

Data source: This information is calculated by First Sentier Investors.



### Portfolio risk analysis - ex-post 3 years annualised to 31 March 2025

| Risk measure                 | Value  | Risk description  |
|------------------------------|--------|---|
| Beta                         | 0.88   | Beta is a measure of volatility relative to the market. A beta of 1 would indicate that the fund tended to move in line with the market; a beta greater than 1 would indicate that the fund has been more volatile than the market; whereas a beta less than 1 would indicate that the fund has been less volatile than the market. |
| Information Ratio            | -0.86  | The fund's excess return divided by its tracking error. It is designed to assess a portfolio's performance relative to its level of benchmark risk. The higher the fund's information ratio, the more excess return it generates for each unit of tracking error.   |
| Portfolio Standard Deviation | 29.47% | A measure of how much the returns of the fund vary relative to the arithmetical average. The higher the fund's standard deviation, the more its returns tend to deviate from the mean.  |
| Benchmark Standard Deviation | 32.49% | A measure of how much the returns of the index vary relative to the arithmetical average. The higher the index's standard deviation, the more its returns tend to deviate from the mean.  |
| Tracking Error               | 7.69%  | The standard deviation of the difference between the fund's returns and those of the index. The higher the fund's tracking error, the more its performance relative to the benchmark may vary.  |

### Portfolio risk analysis - ex-ante at 31 March 2025

| Risk measure              | Value | Risk description   |
|---------------------------|-------|--|
| Dividend Yield (Fund)     | 2.53% | The annual dividend yield paid per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the value of company shares according to the stream of dividend income resulting from share ownership.   |
| Dividend Yield (Index)    | 2.50% | The annual dividend yield paid per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the value of company shares according to the stream of dividend income resulting from share ownership.   |
| Price to Book (Fund)      | 2.62  | The ratio of the company's book value (the sum of shareholders' equity plus accumulated retained earnings from the P & L account) to its share price. This factor has been one of the most successful measures of the intrinsic value of company shares. |
| Price to Book (Index)     | 2.26  | The ratio of the company's book value (the sum of shareholders' equity plus accumulated retained earnings from the P & L account) to its share price. This factor has been one of the most successful measures of the intrinsic value of company shares. |
| Price to Earnings (Fund)  | 15.75 | Annual earnings (adjusted for amortizations of intangibles, extraordinary charges and credits) per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the worth of a company's ability to support each share with after tax earnings.                |
| Price to Earnings (Index) | 12.42 | Annual earnings (adjusted for amortizations of intangibles, extraordinary charges and credits) per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the worth of a company's ability to support each share with after tax earnings.                |

Data source: Ex-post information is calculated by First Sentier Investors, ex-ante information is provided by FactSet.

### Important information

This document has been prepared for informational purposes only and is only intended to provide a summary of the subject matter covered and does not purport to be comprehensive. The views expressed are the views of the writer at the time of issue and may change over time. It does not constitute investment advice and/or a recommendation and should not be used as the basis of any investment decision. This document is not an offer document and does not constitute an offer or invitation or investment recommendation to distribute or purchase securities, shares, units or other interests or to enter into an investment agreement. No person should rely on the content and/or act on the basis of any material contained in this document.

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References to "we" or "us" are references to First Sentier Investors.

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Certain funds referred to in this document are identified as sub-funds of First Sentier Investors Global Umbrella Fund plc, an umbrella investment company registered in Ireland ("VCC"). Further information is contained in the Prospectus and Key Information Documents of the VCC which are available free of charge by writing to: Client Services, First Sentier Investors, 1 Grand Canal Square, Grand Canal Harbour, Dublin 2, Ireland or by telephoning +353 1 635 6798 between 9am and 5pm (Dublin time) Monday to Friday or by visiting [www.firstsentierinvestors.com](http://www.firstsentierinvestors.com). Telephone calls may be recorded. The distribution or purchase of shares in the funds, or entering into an investment agreement with First Sentier Investors may be restricted in certain jurisdictions.

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