

POLICY ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

The University of Hull expects its investment managers, as part of their normal investment research and analysis process, to take account of social, environmental and ethical considerations in the selection, retention and realisation of investments. The investment managers will take reasonable steps to ensure that they follow the University policy on socially responsible investment. This is insofar as these matters are regarded as materially impacting on the current and future valuations of individual investments being mindful of the Charity Commission position that trustees or custodians have a duty to maximise returns on investment for charitable benefit. Taking account of such considerations is seen as forming part of the investment managers’ normal fiduciary duty.

Moreover, the University considers that effective management of the risks associated with social, environmental and ethical matters can lead to long term financial benefits. As such, the University also believes that it has a commitment to ensuring that funds in which it invests adopt high ethical standards and responsible attitudes towards the environment. To this end, the University encourages its investment managers to raise issues with funds in which it invests, to raise standards in a way which is consistent with improvements in long term shareholder value.

The University does not intentionally invest directly in organisations with high exposure to activities or substances which are injurious to health, destabilise community cohesion, threaten international stability or contribute to the development and maintenance of poverty, the abuse of children and the use of torture or in organisations that are clearly subsidiaries or closely linked to the organisations described above. Where appropriate, the University would expect the issues raised with fund managers to include the following:

Environment	The quality of their environmental management, policies and reporting, their efficient use of resources and any pollution convictions that they may have.
Overseas Operations	Their policies towards human rights, the nature of any operations in the third world and their observance of labour standards. Also their marketing techniques, supply chain management and the quality of internal controls.
Workplace	Their approaches to equal opportunities, training, health and safety and employee welfare.
Product/Service	The effect of the manufacture and sale of their products and services on public health and safety. The significance and benefits of any positive products and services.
Community	Their involvement and impact in local communities both in the UK and overseas, the extent and nature of charitable donations and the significance of any advertising complaints.
Political Activity	The extent to which they donate money and/or services to local, national and international political bodies. The extent of any lobbying activity and membership of lobby groups.