### **Quarterly Investment Bulletin** Foresters Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed Fund

#### **Fund objective**

The Foresters Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed Funds are professionally managed by Schroders with the aim to generate capital growth over the medium to long term by investing in a portfolio of UK and international company shares, global government and corporate bonds, and cash. No more than 60% of the portfolio is invested in stocks and shares. The fund has a medium-low risk profile.

## Foresters Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed 1 FundFund Size: £2,793.9m\*Launch Date: 1 January 2005

Growth to 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Net of charges)					
	Q2	1yr	<b>3</b> yrs	5yrs	10yrs
1	2.2%	11.2%	4.5%	15.2%	34.2%
<b>1A</b>	2.3%	11.8%	6.1%	18.1%	n/a

## Foresters Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed 2 FundFund Size: £94.8m\*Launch Date: 1 January 2005

Growth to 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Net of charges)					
	Q2	1yr	<b>3</b> yrs	5yrs	10yrs
2	1.6%	9.0%	2.9%	11.9%	29.7%
2A	1.8%	9.5%	4.5%	14.7%	n/a

#### Fund yearly performance

The table below shows the annual growth rate over the past 5 years.

Change in price of units over one year periods to end of June (Net of charges)					
Period	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed 1 Fund	11.2%	3.5%	-9.2%	11.2%	-0.9%
Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed 1A Fund	11.8%	4.0%	-8.7%	11.8%	-0.4%
Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed 2 Fund	9.0%	2.8%	-8.1%	8.8%	-0.1%
Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed 2A Fund	9.5%	3.4%	-7.7%	9.4%	0.4%

#### **Cumulative Performance**

This shows the growth in unit prices of the Funds. Please refer to the important note below.



**Important Note:** Please remember that, with a unit-linked investment, the value of your investment may go down as well as up, and that past performance should not be seen as an indication of future performance.

The Foresters Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed 1 Funds are allocated to tax-efficient investments such as ISAs, while the Foresters Stakeholder (Schroders) Managed 2 Funds are allocated to taxable investments such as Savings & Investment Plans. Both funds follow an identical investment philosophy, although comparative performance can still be influenced by a number of factors. Most notably the Foresters Managed 1 Funds enjoy a tax-efficient way of investing and this is usually the key contributor to the differential in performance between the two fund types.

\* Fund sizes are net of charges and also include the 1A and 2A funds where funds are eligible for a reduced annual management charge for Plans invested for more than 10 years.



# **Schroders**

#### Asset allocation (% of Fund)

The chart below shows the latest mix of investments held within our Funds, highlighting a risk-controlled balanced approach.



#### Top 5 global share holdings (% of shares by region)

Of the listed shares that we currently hold, our top 5 regional holdings are as follows:

	Countries/Regions	% of Shares
1	North America Equities	56.1%
2	UK Equities	17.9%
3	Emerging Markets Equities	9.9%
4	Europe ex-UK Equities	8.6%
5	Asia Pacific ex-Japan Equities	4.2%

### **Schroders Quarterly Review**

#### **Market/ Economic Review**

- US shares gained as stocks related to artificial intelligence outperformed the broader market. Investors closely monitored the projected timing and magnitude of interest rate cuts throughout the quarter. Initially, there were worries about the continued strength of the US economy, leading to negative reactions from investors who had concerns that future interest rate cuts may now be less likely. However, hopes of a soft landing for the economy grew as the quarter progressed.
- Eurozone shares moved lower in the second quarter. Shares fell amid uncertainty caused by the announcement of parliamentary elections in France and dwindling expectations for steep interest rate cuts.
- UK shares rose over the quarter. Having suffered a mild recession over the second half of 2023, it was confirmed that the UK economy rebounded strongly in the first quarter of 2024. Meanwhile, the annual consumer price index revealed inflation fell back to 2.0% in May, hitting the Bank of England's target for the first time since July 2021.
- Emerging market (EM) shares finished ahead of developed markets in the second quarter. This was partly because there were some signs of slower economic growth in the US, which made investors less worried about potential US interest rate hikes. Additionally, China's economy showed signs of improvement over the quarter, which also contributed to the positive performance of EM shares.
- Global government bond performance varied over the quarter. Inflation data remained surprisingly high in some regions and reduced the chances of imminent interest rate cuts, leading to a more volatile period for government bonds.

#### Outlook

Economic growth remains broadly positive, and inflation is moving in the right direction. Several central banks have started to cut interest rates, and we expect the Bank of England to follow suit soon, while the US central bank may wait until autumn. The earnings outlook for most major regions remains positive, and we believe there is still potential for further upside.

Therefore, this supports our positive outlook on equities. We are neutral on government bonds. Inflationary pressures are expected to ease further, but the team feels that bond prices are fairly priced, so we will wait for prices to fall further before upgrading our view.

#### Schroders

Schroders is a global investment manager with broad expertise across international public and private investment markets. With over 200 years of expertise, and c5,750 people based in 38 locations around the world, they use their professional expertise to make active investment choices to help customers achieve their long-term financial goals. Schroders global assets under management were £750.6bn at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

#### **Approach to ESG**

ESG stands for Environmental, Social and Governance. The multi-asset team at Schroders recognise that ESG trends such as globalisation, changing political landscapes, ecosystem disruption, urbanisation and climate change may have a material impact on investments. At the heart of the team's investment philosophy is the belief that through analysis of ESG factors, better investment decisions can be made. Schroders utilise their comprehensive experience and expertise to integrate ESG analysis into their investment process on your behalf.



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