



### Background

Established in 1965 through the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 1964, the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (the Fund) aims to provide trustees of charities with the opportunity to invest all or part of their funds with the benefit of expert supervision. It is managed by the Department through recognised fund managers, and its investment policy is guided by a locally based Advisory Committee appointed by the Department, which meets in February, May, August and November each year.

The Fund operates as a discretionary managed fund. Participating charities pool their investments and are given a proportionate number of shares based on the most recent valuation (share price).

The Fund invests in fixed-interest securities and selected equities. The allocation between fixed-interest securities and equities is reviewed and adjusted periodically, in line with the Fund's investment policy.

### Fund Information

**Aim** : The primary objective of the Fund is to generate income and thereafter long-term (>5 years) capital growth in real terms.

**Income** : The Fund aims to achieve an annual income return in excess of the benchmark yield.

**Share Value @ 31/03/18 : 1240.85 pence**

**Units @ 31/03/18 : 3,019,273 (31/12/17: 3,024,893)**

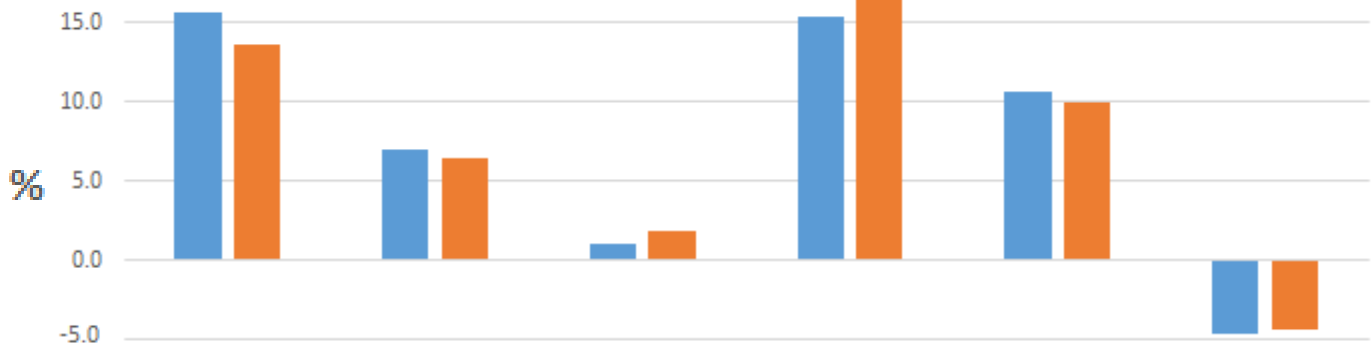
**Currency : Sterling**

**Year End : 30 September 2017**

**SLW Annual Management Fee : 0.4%**

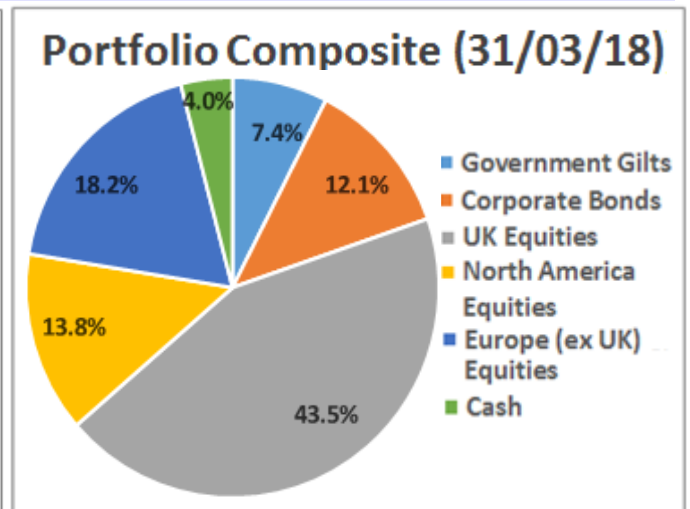
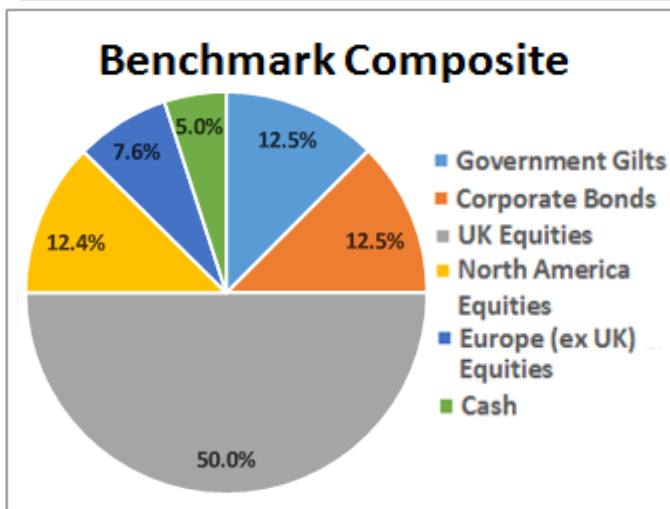
**Dividend Payment : Jun & Dec**

### Percentage Return (Gross)



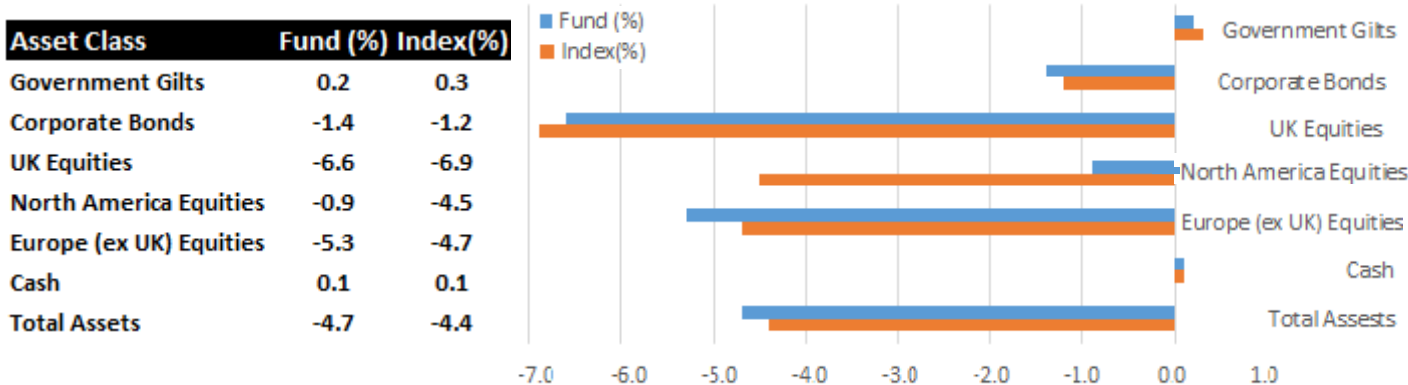
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	YTD 2018
Fund	15.6	7.0	1.0	15.3	10.6	-4.7
Benchmark	13.6	6.4	1.8	17.0	10.0	-4.4

### Benchmark

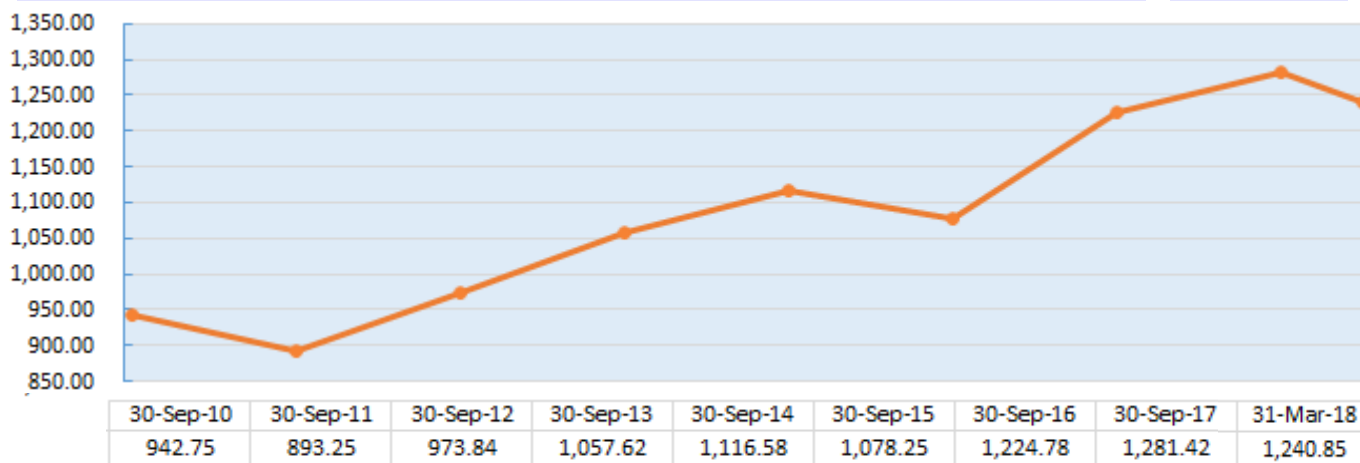




### Performance Attribution to 31 March 2018



### NICIFC Share Price Trend (Pence)



### Portfolio Key Points

The unprecedented equity market rally that defined 2017 continued into the New Year with most markets quickly out of the box and off to the races in January. Since then, however, it has been quite a different story. Central bank rhetoric and politics have pulled the reins of market sentiment at various points over the last year, and Q1 was no exception. The difference this quarter was that market valuations reached such a level that they left little room for error.

The negative impact of three volatility scares since January resulted in negative returns for all asset classes in our investment universe except UK government bonds. Investment grade credit returned -1.15% over the quarter (ICE BoAML £ Non Gilts), and equities were particularly weak. In spite of sterling strength against most major currencies, global equities were marginally stronger than UK equities. In the mix, higher yielding UK equities underperformed the broader UK equity market.

Since the start of 2018 we have witnessed greater volatility in markets than that experienced over the course of the preceding year. However, 2017 was a year of exceptionally low volatility in the markets so, while this year may be a step change from 2017, it is more of a return to the norm, rather than a break from it.

During the quarter, we saw the relative performance of the portfolio driven wholly by strong stock selection, mainly within equities, which was offset by the negative asset allocation impact of being underweight the best performing asset class, Gilts. Within equities we enjoyed particularly strong performance from the consumer goods, healthcare, financials and oil & gas sectors but saw defensive yielding sectors such as telecommunications and utilities.

### Risk Factors

Based on the definitions of risk determined by Standard Life Wealth, the portfolio is categorised as being managed with a *higher medium* risk approach.

The value of any investment may go down as well as up, as can the income generated from it.

### Fund Manager

The current fund manager is Standard Life Wealth, 1 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2LL. Standard Life Wealth are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Standard Life Wealth use United Nations Principles of Responsible Investing & UK Stewardship Code whilst applying a global thematic stock picking strategy. This focus on themes helps to identify the catalysts for change and capture opportunities wherever they occur.

### Contact

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