

# NI CENTRAL INVESTMENT FUND FOR CHARITIES

Investment Factsheet as at 30 September 2017



Department for  
**Communities**  
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

## Background

The Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (NICIFC) was set up in 1965 through the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 1964, with the aim of providing charities with the opportunity to invest all or part of their assets in a centrally pooled fund, administered by the Department for Communities. The Fund is managed by recognised fund managers, with its investment policy and performance reviewed on a quarterly basis by a locally based advisory committee appointed by the Department.

The NICIFC operates as a discretionary managed fund, with participating charities allocated a proportionate number of shares based on the size of their investment and the most recent valuation (share price). The Fund invests in fixed-interest securities, UK and foreign equities and selected unitised funds. The allocation between these asset classes is reviewed and adjusted periodically, in line with the Fund's investment policy.

## Temporary Suspension of the Fund Lifted

The Department has concluded a review of the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities and has decided to reopen the Fund to new investment, including reinvestment of dividends earned.

## Fund Information

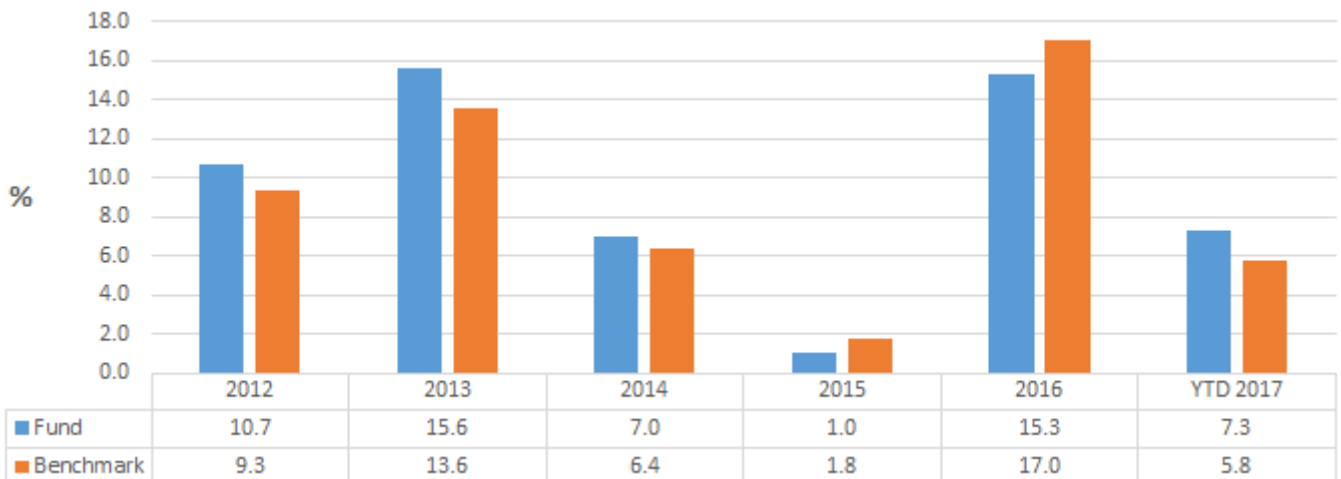
**Aim :** The primary objective of the Fund is to generate income and thereafter long-term capital growth (>5 years) in real terms.

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

**Share Value (30/09/17) :** 1281.42 pence      **Units held (30/09/17) :** 3,058,695 (3,068,453 30/06/17)      **Currency :** Sterling

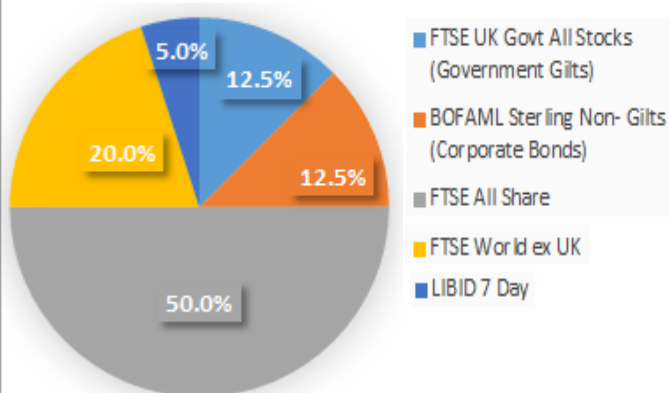
**Year End :** 30 September 2017      **SLW Annual Management Fee :** 0.4%      **Dividend Payment :** Jun & Dec

## Percentage Return (Gross)

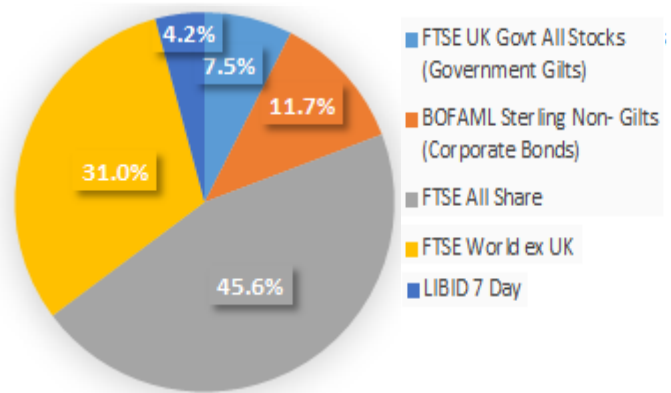


## Benchmark

### Benchmark Composite



### Portfolio Composite (30/09/17)



Portfolio and benchmark returns for the quarter to 30/9/17 are preliminary estimates provided by Standard Life Wealth and have not been verified externally. They could, therefore, be liable to subsequent adjustment.

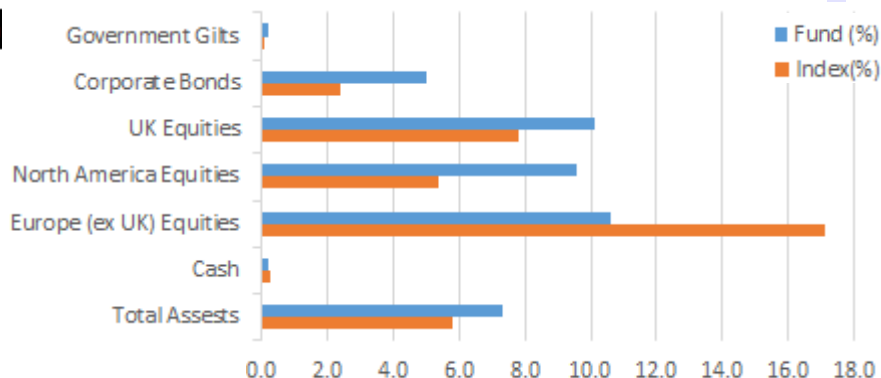
Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities is a registered charity with HMRC

This is a financial promotion and is not intended as investment advice.

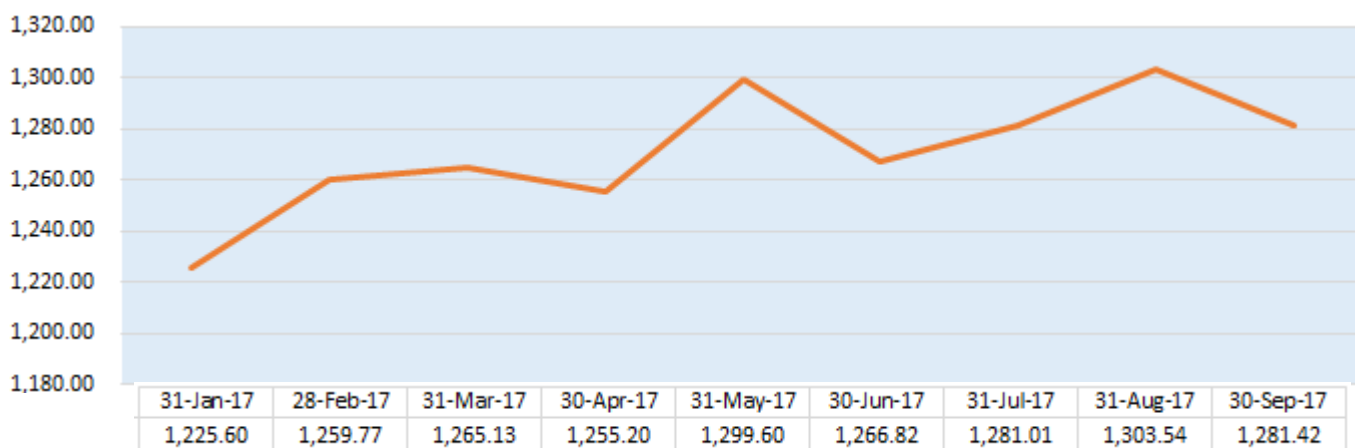


### Performance Attribution to 30 September 2017

Asset Class	Fund (%)	Index(%)
Government Gilts	0.2	0.1
Corporate Bonds	5.0	2.4
UK Equities	10.1	7.8
North America Equities	9.6	5.4
Europe (ex UK) Equities	10.6	17.1
Cash	0.2	0.3
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>5.8</b>



### NICIFC Share Price (Pence)



### Portfolio Key Points

Developed markets continued to test and strike new highs during the quarter, before falling back in September. Perhaps this 'winter is coming' moment reflects a degree of sense-checking by the market as western central-bank policy begins to alter from the supportive / loose stance that has characterised the last eight years or so.

In this changed environment of rising interest rates and balance sheet reduction, it is not surprising that higher yielding equities and fixed interest securities have underperformed broader equity indices. Gilts delivered a negative return over the quarter with corporate bonds remaining relatively flat over the period. Credit spreads remain at historically low levels indicating that global investors are still comfortable with a low likelihood of corporate defaults even in a rising rate environment.

As global economic data remained supportive of growth continuing, equities continued their march onwards over the quarter. UK equities performed the best with a return of 2.1% versus 1.7% for overseas equities with both broad indices generating year to date returns of 7.8% and 8.1% respectively. Currency fluctuations contributed towards an underlying volatile picture for equities over the quarter with the US Dollar and Swiss Franc (both important currencies as far as portfolio construction is concerned) weakened against sterling by 2.8% and 3.8% respectively thereby creating a headwind for sterling denominated international investors.

### 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 applies 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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Website: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-central-investment-fund-charities>