

RELATIVE RISK:



Risk level 1 does not mean risk free, it means the lower risk option for the relative time horizon. For more information, please refer to the risk section on page two of the document.

HOW YOU'RE DOING:

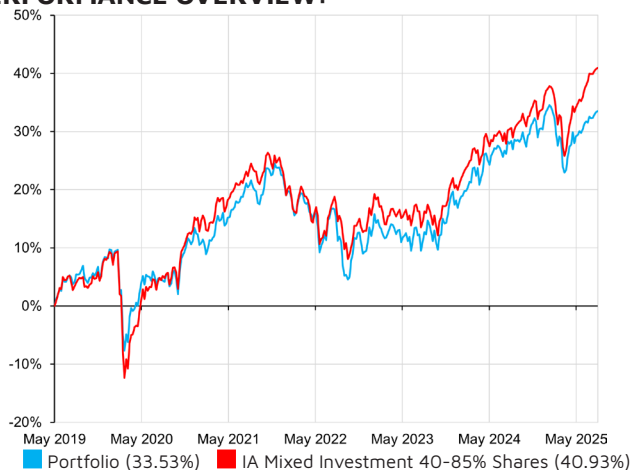
When the portfolio was rebalanced in May, markets were volatile due to President Trump's 'liberation day' tariffs. Since then, equities have recovered as the postponement of higher tariffs gave markets time to adjust and trade negotiations contributed to improved market conditions. Many equity markets have since hit record highs after key trading partners made concessions to the US for reduced tariffs.

US equities gained as concerns about recession receded and demand for AI-related stocks returned. Japanese stocks showed volatility but saw gains following a late-July tariff agreement. UK equities also rose, supported by an early trade agreement with the US. European shares fell in local currency, but sterling investors made a small gain as low growth and low inflation allowed the European Central Bank to cut interest rates. Emerging market equities gains were supported by positive momentum in Chinese stocks and robust, AI-driven performance among technology companies in Korea and Taiwan.

Rising inflation led the US Federal Reserve to maintain its rates, while the Bank of England reduced rates in response to weak economic growth. UK gilts gained but persistent inflation and concerns about the level of government borrowing meant the increase in value was limited. Corporate bonds rose due to lower recession fears and steady demand for investment grade credit.

The portfolio increased in value, led by the strong performance from US equities and corporate bonds. Japanese stocks made a notable gain and developed market equities were positive, although GQG U.S. Equity Partners struggled due to its defensive positioning. Absolute return strategies fell slightly but the portfolio's exposure to gilts added to performance, despite a difficult period for bonds. and the portfolio's investment in the money market produced a modest gain.

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW:¹

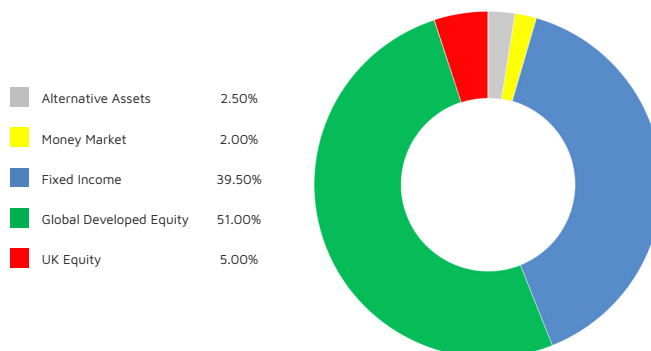


Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

PORTFOLIO POST REBALANCING:

Name	Weighting
HSBC American Index	14.50%
iShares UK Gilts All Stocks Index	10.00%
HSBC S&P 500 Equal Weight Equity Index	10.00%
Man Sterling Corporate Bond Fund	10.00%
HSBC European Index	7.00%
Vanguard Japan Stock Index	6.50%
Royal London Short Duration Credit	6.00%
BNY Mellon US Equity Income	5.00%
Vanguard UK Short-Term Investment Grade Bond Index	5.00%
Royal London Short Duration Gilts	4.50%
Nomura Global Dynamic Bond	4.00%
GMO Quality Investment	3.00%
Man Income Fund	3.00%
BlackRock Continental European Income	3.00%
Janus Henderson Absolute Return	2.50%
GQG Partners U.S. Equity	2.00%
Royal London Short Term Money Market	2.00%
Royal London Sustainable Leaders Trust	2.00%

NEW ASSET CLASS BREAKDOWN:²

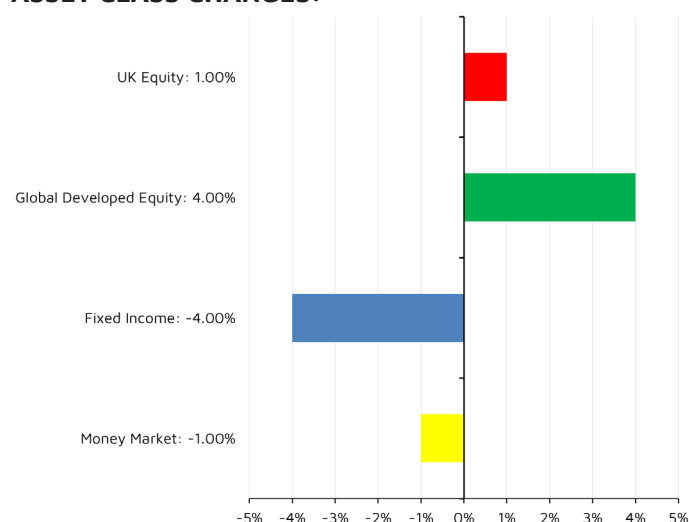


SUMMARY OF PORTFOLIO CHANGES:

The last rebalance was carried out in response to market volatility triggered by US President Donald Trump's 'liberation day' tariffs in April. This meant a more defensive strategy in portfolio positioning was necessary. Since then, many key US trading partners have given concession to the US to secure lower tariff rates, so the worst-case scenario is less likely and US economic growth has remained robust. This rebalance sees the portfolio become less defensive and move back more in line with its long-term asset allocation.

The allocation to the money market is reduced and exposure to UK gilts in preference for a smaller increase in the allocation to corporate bonds. This includes a new allocation to Royal London Short Duration credit as we seek to reduce the portfolio's sensitivity to interest rates and inflation. The reduction in the overall allocation to fixed income sees an increase in the portfolio's equity holdings. This includes a significant increase in US equity holdings. We remain wary of some US equity valuations, so other developed equity markets have also been increased. This includes the UK due to the more defensive characteristics of this markets, and European equities which benefit from lower inflation and falling interest rates. We have retained the allocation to absolute return strategies but have replaced Thesis TM Tellworth UK Select with Janus Henderson Absolute Return due to the latter's more diversified and lower risk approach.

ASSET CLASS CHANGES:



PORTFOLIO CHANGES

BUY

HSBC American Index	6.50%
Man Sterling Corporate Bond Fund	2.00%
▶ HSBC European Index	7.00%
Vanguard Japan Stock Index	1.00%
▶ Royal London Short Duration Credit	6.00%
Vanguard UK Short-Term Investment Grade Bond Index	1.50%
▶ Royal London Short Duration Gilts	4.50%
Man Income Fund	1.00%
▶ BlackRock Continental European Income	3.00%
▶ Janus Henderson Absolute Return	2.50%

SELL

iShares UK Gilts All Stocks Index	-2.00%
HSBC S&P 500 Equal Weight Equity Index	-0.50%
GQG Partners U.S. Equity	-4.00%
Royal London Short Term Money Market	-1.00%
◀ Royal London UK Government Bond	-12.00%
◀ Fidelity European	-9.00%
◀ PIMCO GIS Global Bond ESG	-4.00%
◀ Premier Miton Tellworth UK Select	-2.50%

KEY:

- ▶ New fund to the portfolio
- ◀ Sell completely out of fund

If blank add or subtract from existing holding

Weightings refer to portfolio holdings not individual fund holdings

WHAT IT COSTS:³

Financial Instruments OCF: 0.33%³

Financial Instruments Transactional Costs: 0.16%

Investment Services: 0.19%

Total Cost of Investment: 0.68%

Change in Portfolio Expense: -0.15%

The Financial Instruments OCF refers to the underlying costs of managing the funds. Transactional costs refers to additional costs which this does not capture such as trading fees, investment research and foreign exchange fees. It also includes implicit costs that can have an impact on performance but are not charged directly to the end investor. The Investments Services charge is the cost of managing the portfolio. Other charges may apply that cannot be factored into this report, for instance platform charges and adviser charges. **The charges represent the current maximum charges, for the exact charges please refer to the Platform Portfolio Charges Document and Platform Fund Charges Document.**

FUNDS IN:

■ HSBC European Index

Portfolio Holding: 7.00% **OCF:** 0.06% **Transactional Costs:** 0.03%

This fund provides passive exposure to the FTSE Developed Europe ex-UK Index and helps construct the global developed equity portion of the portfolio. It has been chosen due to its low costs compared to other passive funds and its ability to replicate the index as closely as possible. The fund replicates the market by holding all stocks within the index. It has been added as we diversify our exposure to this region.

■ Royal London Short Duration Credit

Portfolio Holding: 6.00% **OCF:** 0.35% **Transactional Costs:** 0.00%

This fund invests in bonds issued by companies predominantly issuing debt in UK sterling but typically with global revenues. This is primarily investment-grade credit rating, but it can invest up to 20% in lower quality 'high yield' debt and bonds unrated by credit agencies. The manager will seek to keep the fund at a low level of sensitivity to interest rates, via investment in bonds with only a few years to maturity. The fund has been added to reduce exposure to longer-dated gilts which are more sensitive to interest rate changes.

■ Royal London Short Duration Gilts

Portfolio Holding: 4.50% **OCF:** 0.29% **Transactional Costs:** 0.02%

This fund invests almost exclusively in British government bonds but focuses on bonds issued with shorter maturities which offer reduced interest rate risk. The managers use in-house forecasts to identify bonds which are under- or overvalued. The portfolio is actively managed, as the managers adjust overall exposure to interest rate risk while at times also investing minor portions of the portfolio into high-quality corporate bonds, foreign government bonds and inflation-linked gilts. The fund has been added to reduce exposure to longer-dated gilts which are more sensitive to interest rate changes.

FUNDS OUT:

■ Royal London UK Government Bond

Previous Holding: 12.00% **OCF:** 0.25% **Transactional Costs:** 0.00%

This fund invests almost exclusively in British government bonds. The managers compare their outlook for interest rates compared to the market to identify bonds which are under- or over-valued to identify buying opportunities. The portfolio is actively managed, as the managers adjust overall exposure to interest rate risk. The fund is removed as part of the general reduction of UK gilts.

■ Fidelity European

Previous Holding: 9.00% **OCF:** 0.91% **Transactional Costs:** 0.08%

The fund looks for attractively valued companies that exhibit good long-term growth prospects. The manager looks for companies that grow their dividend on a three-to-five-year time horizon, have sustainable margins, a strong balance sheet and fund dividends through growth. The fund has been removed as we reduce exposure to Europe.

■ PIMCO GIS Global Bond ESG

Previous Holding: 4.00% **OCF:** 0.52% **Transactional Costs:** 0.17%

This fund invests in global government and high-quality corporate bonds and can also invest in emerging markets and lower quality 'high yield' bonds when the opportunities arise. Investment decisions are based on macroeconomic research produced inhouse by one of the world's largest bond managers. The fund also uses credit research to identify companies with improving credit profiles. The fund has been removed as part of the realignment of the portfolio's corporate bond allocation.

FUNDS IN:

■ BlackRock Continental European Income

Portfolio Holding: 3.00% **OCF:** 0.92% **Transactional Costs:** 0.29%

The fund can be considered a core European holding within the international equity portion of the portfolio. It is run by Andreas Zoellinger, who focuses on generating a reliable and growing income while outperforming the wider market. The portfolio is split into two, with roughly 60% invested in above-average, income-paying companies where it is believed the dividend is reliable and secure, and the remainder used to invest in companies with opportunity for dividend growth.

■ Janus Henderson Absolute Return

Portfolio Holding: 2.50% **OCF:** 1.07% **Transactional Costs:** 0.40%

This is an excellent fund for anyone who wants to invest in the stockmarket while limiting risk. The managers operate by trying to assess whether a particular stock is too cheap or too expensive and taking a corresponding long (where they think the price will go up) or short (where they think the price will go down) position. They do not make a judgement on the UK economy, concentrating purely on the companies themselves. The fund has a 20 per cent performance fee above the Bank of England base rate, subject to a high water mark.

FUNDS OUT:

■ Premier Miton Tellworth UK Select

Previous Holding: 2.50% **OCF:** 0.93% **Transactional Costs:** 0.35%

The fund will seek to achieve returns that are in excess of one month SONIA interest rate, after fees, over a three-year rolling period, though there is no guarantee that it will do so. In addition, the fund aims for positive annual returns with lower volatility than the Deutsche Numis All Share Index. The fund uses a long/short investment approach where it can benefit from an increase in companies it invests in and can also benefit from the share price falling in stocks where it holds a short position. It typically invests in UK companies with a market cap greater than £500m and usually holds 40 long and 40 short positions. The fund has been removed as we realign this portfolio with the rest of the portfolios in the range.

About FE Investments

FE Investments Portfolios: Our portfolios are a total investment solution designed to help advisers achieve their clients' investment objectives. Our investment team has produced a range of optimised portfolios that aim to maximise overall diversification between fund strategies.

Our approach to portfolio diversification is built on a deep analysis of the relationships between fund strategies. By taking this approach, we aim to find the best possible mix of funds that maximises the overall diversification of the portfolio. This strategy helps to reduce the total risk and allows greater market exposure for the same level of risk. Our portfolios are designed to offer growth and natural income models to cater to different investment objectives.

At FE Investments, we utilise an actuary to create an optimal asset allocation and risk reference that serves as a guide for portfolio construction. This approach allows us to create a portfolio that is designed to meet the specific needs of our clients, while also allowing us to find additional sources of diversification where we can.

We pride ourselves on our approach to portfolio diversification and investment management. Our portfolios are built using an approach developed internally by our investment team, which has been validated by Cass Business School. Our aim is to provide advisers with a range of optimised portfolios that are designed to help their clients achieve their investment objectives.

FE Investments Approved List: Our recommended list of funds undergoes initial quantitative screens using proven metrics such as Crown Ratings, Alpha Manager Ratings, and Group Award to remove behavioural biases and improve sell discipline.

The list is then subject to a qualitative overlay from a dedicated team of fund analysts who identify risks not seen in quantitative data, ensuring that every fund on the list is thoroughly vetted. The aim of the FE Investments Approved List is to create a truly diversified list of funds across investment styles, giving investors peace of mind knowing their portfolio is well-positioned for success.

Awards & Ratings For FE Investments



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