

Top 10 holdings (weightings %)

## MAIA Blended Growth **Portfolio Bulletin**

Investment Objective: The investment objective of the portfolio is to achieve capital growth over the longer term with an above average level of risk, utilising predominantly UK and global equity funds.

Strategy: The portfolio is made up of a blend of funds and exchange traded funds, adopting a multi-asset approach to portfolio construction.

Guidelines: The portfolio is suitable for investors who are prepared to accept an above average level of risk to their capital, to potentially gain higher rates of total return, over the long term. It is designed for investors with a medium to higher tolerance for risk that would accept variation or movement to capital value to achieve their longer term objective. This portfolio is aimed at investors who require an actively managed and diversified portfolio and who have an investment horizon of at least 5 years. Whilst a broad range of asset classes can be used, typically the majority of the underlying portfolio will be invested in equities, diversified across global markets. The funds are blended together to provide a broad exposure to global markets as well as areas chosen for their potential for outperformance to enhance returns.

Portfolio Managers: Laurence Boyle is the CIO. Beccie Williams, Head of Research and Investment Manager, is assisted by Sophie Taylor and Simon Jackson, and actively manage the portfolio based on the asset allocation set by the research team.

## Asset Allocation (weightings %)

As at 31/12/2023



MAIA Risk Rating score	Asset Exposure Range Fixed Interest %	Asset Exposure Range Equities %
1 7	10 0 8 100	0 76 100
Annual Management Charge	Ongoing Fund Charges*	Benchmark**
0.50%	0.53%	IA Flexible Investment

\*Source: MAIA Asset Management & FE Analytics, January 2024. \*\*Source: MAIA Asset Management & Morningstar, January 2024.



## Market Commentary

As we moved into the final months of the year, markets began to provide investors with a more positive footing for 2024 as inflation figures started moving lower, towards central bank targets. This provided the markets with some optimism that 2024 may bring interest rate cuts to many economies, which led to assets rallying and providing investors with positive returns.

Moving into the new year, we believe the backdrop for equities will improve but risks will not fully dissipate. We continue to be selective in where we invest on a geographic, size and style basis. Active selection is key as new opportunities will arise with changing markets. We are favouring funds that are focusing on quality businesses with manageable debt levels, high barriers to entry and solid growth opportunities which should outperform over time.

For the first time in several years, fixed income is providing investors with both the opportunity for positive capital return and positive real yields that are above inflation. Due to the reduction in inflation over the past few quarters, central banks are now pricing in future interest rate cuts which should provide a better backdrop for fixed income, especially for longer duration assets.

Within alternatives, we believe the assets that should provide the best opportunities will have low correlation to equities & bonds and their own sources of alpha. We continue to utilise infrastructure, gold and defined returns assets within our portfolios for these reasons.

Due to the positive changes to the macroeconomic backdrop, the opportunity for investors across asset classes is far more positive than has been the case over the past few years.

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