

Introduction

Standard Life Investments is a strong supporter of the principles of good stewardship that are set out in the UK Stewardship Code published by the Financial Reporting Council in July 2010. We believe that it is mutually beneficial for companies and long-term investors such as Standard Life Investments to have a relationship based on accountability, engagement and trust. Such a relationship helps to ensure that each has a good understanding of the other's views and expectations and it enables us to exercise constructive influence as and when appropriate. We believe that this serves to enhance the long-term value of our clients' investments and to protect their interests when necessary.

Voting Profile

We vote our clients' shares at all General Meetings and other shareholder meetings unless, for practical reasons (such as share blocking), this is not appropriate. We implement considered policies based on the Corporate Governance Guidelines approved by our board when voting our clients' shares.

In the event that we vote our clients' shares against a resolution at a UK shareholder meeting, we will always use best endeavours to discuss this with the company beforehand and explain the reasons. We will use reasonable endeavours to do so in respect of abstentions.

Although it is not practical for us to attend the General Meetings of all companies in which we have a major holding, we will attend and speak at shareholder meetings when it is in our clients' best interests. Also, we shall make public statements at appropriate times when we deem such statements as consistent with our responsibilities.

To enable a clear audit trail, we have a bespoke database that allows us to record both our engagement and the details of our voting analysis in contentious situations. Full records of votes cast are available on the proxy voting platforms provided by our proxy voting providers.

Voting Summary

Number of shareholder meetings at which our clients' shares were voted	233
Number of resolutions voted	2,238
Shareholder meetings at which our clients' shares were voted against management recommendations on one or more resolution	78
Number of resolutions voted against management recommendations	178
Shareholder meetings at which our clients' shares abstained on one or more resolution	20
Number of resolutions abstained	36

Breakdown of votes against management	Total
Remuneration and Share Schemes	28
Pre-emption/Dilution Matters	10
Board Matters	128
Other*	12

* Please note that 'Other' votes against management can include areas such as auditor appointment/remuneration, political donations, changes to articles of association and shareholder proposals.

Regional breakdown of votes against management	%
UK	19.7
Europe ex UK	11.2
Canada	2.2
US	8.4
Pacific Basin	9.6
Japan	47.8
Rest of World	1.1

Commentary

Although the bulk of Japanese companies have their Annual General Meeting in June, there were also a significant number of meetings during the first quarter due to early reporting. It is our policy in Japan to vote against director election in situations where the board is less than one third independent although we will not vote against key executives or independent directors.

Contact us

To find out more about our fund range, visit our website standardlifeinvestments.com. Alternatively, please speak to your usual contact at Standard Life Investments.

Useful numbers



Market information

0845 60 60 062

Customer information

0845 27 93 003



standardlifeinvestments.co.uk

Standard Life Investments Limited is registered in Scotland (SC123321) at 1 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2LL. The Standard Life Investments group includes Standard Life Investments (Mutual Funds) Limited, SLTM Limited, Standard Life Investments (Corporate Funds) Limited, SL Capital Partners LLP and AIDA Capital Limited. Standard Life Investments Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Standard Life Investments (Hong Kong) Limited is licensed with and regulated by the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Life Investments Limited. Standard Life Investments Limited (ABN 36 142 665 227) is incorporated in Scotland (No. SC123321) and is exempt from the requirement to hold an Australian financial services licence under paragraph 911A(2)(l) of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (the 'Act') in respect of the provision of financial services as defined in Schedule A of the relief instrument no.10/0264 dated 9 April 2010 issued to Standard Life Investments Limited by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. These financial services are provided only to wholesale clients as defined in subsection 761G(7) of the Act. Standard Life Investments Limited is regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Services Authority under the laws of the United Kingdom, which differ from Australian laws. Standard Life Investments Limited, a company registered in Ireland (904256) 90 St Stephen's Green Dublin 2 and regulated in the UK by the Financial Services Authority. Standard Life Investments (USA) Limited, registered as an Investment Adviser with the US Securities and Exchange Commission Standard Life Investments Inc., with offices in Calgary, Montréal and Toronto, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Life Investments Limited. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded to protect both you and us and help with our training. www.standardlifeinvestments.com © 2012 Standard Life, images reproduced under licence