

Standard Life Investments UK Ethical

Standard Life Investments UK Ethical fund combines Aberdeen Standard's excellent company analysis with a 'no compromises' investor-led ethical screening system. The process is aided by Aberdeen Standard's proprietary 'matrix' system, resulting in a portfolio of between 50 and 100 UK companies which manager Lesley Duncan will look to keep for three to five years. Although not a primary aim, the fund produces a small, natural yield.

Fund manager



“ You can invest without compromising on your values and beliefs - and without compromising on your returns. ”

- Lesley Duncan ”

Lesley Duncan worked at Bothwell Asset Management as a trainee analyst before joining Standard Life in 1995. She has run Standard Life Investments UK Ethical fund since 2004. She puts ethics at the heart of her investment strategy and is also the group's housing sector specialist, contributing ideas and analysis for the wider team. Lesley has a BA (Hons) in Business Economics and Finance.

Investment process

Lesley and her team regularly survey their investors to determine evolving ethical themes. The result of these surveys influences which sectors or companies are eliminated by the team's investment screen. For example, gambling, tobacco and alcohol production are avoided completely. This means they are picking companies that truly reflect the values of their investors. If a holding becomes unethical, or falls out of favour, Lesley will sell it completely. Stocks are selected based on ASI's proprietary screening tool, 'matrix'. It looks for four key factors; quality, growth, momentum and value. Lesley then looks for companies whose upside potential is not priced into their shares.

Risk

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Due to the ethical screening, Standard Life Investments UK Ethical will avoid entire sectors, which means its performance can differ quite significantly from the benchmark. There is a noticeable bias to medium-sized companies in the fund, which could at times increase volatility. The process also creates a bias to growth-orientated stocks, which can lead to periods of underperformance when they are out of favour.



Aberdeen Standard Investments (ASI) is a brand of the combined investment businesses of Aberdeen Asset Management and Standard Life Investments. The merger was completed in August 2017 to achieve operational economies of scale, and the group now boasts 1,000+ investment staff in more than 50 locations across Europe, the Americas, Asia and beyond. Standard Life Investments was awarded the Elite Provider for Equities Rating in both 2017 and 2018.

ELITE RATED

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About FundCalibre

With more than 3,000 funds available in the UK, choosing one can be a difficult and daunting task. That's where FundCalibre comes in. We do the hard work for you, researching the funds, interviewing the fund managers and identifying those we believe to be the most skilful. Less than 10% of funds are awarded our proprietary Elite Rating.

Our Opinion

The transparency behind the ethical considerations of this fund are a real stand out feature. By inviting investor opinion annually into what categories they want the fund to include or exclude, the portfolio can justifiably be held up as a best in class ethical fund. The process itself has the weight of Aberdeen Standard's considerable research team behind it, plus a consistent and conscientious manager in Lesley Duncan, making for a very competitive option.

Key facts

ASSET TYPE

RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

SECTOR

UK ALL COMPANIES

FUND SIZE

£335.70M

ONGOING CHARGES FIGURE (OCF)

0.90%

ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE (AMC)

0.75%

ANNUAL INCOME (HISTORIC)

1.69%

FUND MANAGER START DATE

1 JUN 2004

PAYMENT DATE(S)

APR