



Tax Justice

Ensuring that companies pay both an appropriate level of taxation and in the right jurisdiction, has become an issue of increasing focus over the last few years. The media spotlight has been on a number of companies whose tax affairs may be considered questionable.

At Epworth, we feel this is an important ethical issue, and in 2020 we became the first fund manager in the UK to secure the **Fair Tax Mark**.

The Fair Tax Mark is an independent certification scheme that was launched in February 2014. It seeks to encourage and recognise organisations that pay the right amount of corporation tax at the right time and in the right place. National brands and some FTSE listed companies, including **SSE** and **Marshalls Plc.**, have also obtained the certification.



Tax Justice has become one of a long list of ethical matters on which we engage with the management of our investee companies. We were delighted to have our first success in this regard during the last few months. We raised the Fair Tax Mark with **MJ Gleeson**, a UK house builder that we hold in our portfolios, to raise awareness of the scheme. Since then, they have become accredited with the Fair Tax Mark, noting they are the first in their sector to do so.

We are proud to have joined the growing movement of responsible businesses who 'say what they pay with pride' and will continue to engage widely on this important issue on behalf of our charity clients.

“We will not stop there. We are committed to the Fair Tax Mark and shall encourage our investee companies to secure this certification as well”



David Palmer
Chief Executive Officer

Principles of Responsible Investment

The Principles for Responsible Investment (“PRI”) is a UN-supported network of investors, working to promote sustainable investment through the incorporation of environmental, social and governance factors in their investment processes.

The **PRI** runs an annual survey for investment firms and asset owners to outline their responsible investment activities. Epworth takes its obligations as a PRI signatory seriously and recognises the importance of integrating ESG issues across all decision-making processes.

“Epworth scored above the median rating across all categories”

As a result of our commitment to responsible investing, we are pleased to have received an A+ score from PRI for both our Strategy and Governance and Listed Equities. In fact, we scored above the median rating across all categories. This is a positive independent assessment of our Christian ethical investment approach, which we undertake on behalf of all our clients. Our summary scorecard can be seen below.

AUM	Module Name	Epworth Score	Median Score
< 10%	Strategy and Governance	A+	A

Direct & Active Ownership Modules

10-50%	Listed Equity - Incorporation	A+	A
10-50%	Active Ownership	A	B
< 10%	Fixed Income - SSA	A	B
< 10%	Fixed Income - Corporate Financial	A	B
< 10%	Fixed Income - Corporate Non-Financial	A	B

Indirect - Manager Selection

< 10%	Listed Equity	A+	A
< 10%	Property	Not applicable	

Epworth Investment Management Limited
9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE
020 7496 3636

www.epworthinvestment.co.uk

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery and how to tackle it, was our lead article in the January 2019 edition of **Christian Ethics in Practice**. As a reminder, modern slavery is the recruitment, movement or receipt of children, women or men through the use of force or coercion for the purposes of sexual or labour exploitation.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 aims to ensure that businesses are managing their supply chains effectively, keeping them free from slavery and human trafficking.

In a bid to tackle Modern Slavery, we work as part of the **Find It, Fix It, Prevent It** programme, which was set up in 2019. This engagement asks companies **“Have you found modern slavery in your operations or supply chain this year?”**. This aim is to challenge companies to take the issue seriously and to identify and mitigate any potential modern slavery that could be occurring. We are currently engaging with two companies within the hospitality sector: **Compass Group** and **InterContinental Hotels Group**, on this important area, and met both of them during the second half of 2020.

Mining - Tailings Dam

Epworth continues to participate in the **Investor Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative**. A recent success as part of this initiative has been the launch of the **Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management** in August 2020, which established a global standard on tailings management for existing and future tailings facilities. A tailings storage facility is a structure made up of one, or more dams, built for the purposes of storing the uneconomical ore (ground up rock, sand and silt) and water from the mining process.

This standard was originally called for by the **Investor Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative**, in response to the disaster at the Córrego do Feijão iron ore mine in Brumandinho, Brazil in January 2019. There, a tailings dam collapsed, releasing toxic mud into the surrounding areas, which caused the loss of over 250 lives as well as the destruction of homes and farms.



For more information, please contact:

Mark O'Connor
Head Of Business Development

020 7496 3639 | mark.oconnor@epworthinvestment.co.uk



For existing client assistance, please contact:

Christophe Borysiewicz
Head Of Investment Management

020 7496 3646 | christophe.borysiewicz@epworthinvestment.co.uk

Epworth Investment Management Limited (“Epworth”) is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA Registered Number 175451). It is incorporated in England and Wales (Registered Number 3052894), with a registered office at 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE and is wholly owned by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. Epworth-managed funds are designed for long term investors. The value of units in funds can fall as well as rise and past performance is not a guide to future returns. The level of income is also variable and investing in Epworth funds will not be suitable for you if you cannot accept the possibility of capital losses or reduced income. Any estimates of future capital or income returns or details of past performance are for information purposes and are not to be relied on as a guide to future performance.