

Annual Long Report and Audited Financial Statements Year ended 31 October 2022

# **AXA Framlington Health Fund**





# Issued by AXA Investment Managers UK Ltd authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

# **Contents Page**

Fund Objective & Important Events During the Year *	3
Investment Review*	4
Portfolio Changes*	6
Managing Risks	
Fund Information	10
Comparative Tables	12
Portfolio Statement*	16
Statement of Total Return	19
Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders	19
Balance Sheet	20
Notes to the Financial Statements	21
Distribution Tables	28
Statement of Manager's Responsibilities	31
Report of the Trustee	32
Report of the Independent Auditor	33
Further Information (Unaudited)*	36
Directory*	38

More detailed information about AXA Investment Managers' UK funds is available on the Fund Centre of our website where you can find the Prospectus, Key Investor Information Document (KIID), annual reports and monthly fund factsheets at https://retail.axa-im.co.uk/fund-centre.

<sup>\*</sup> These collectively comprise the Authorised Fund Manager's ("the Manager's") Report for the Trust.



# **Fund Objective**

The aim of AXA Framlington Health Fund ("the Fund") is to provide long-term capital growth.

The Fund invests in shares of listed healthcare companies including producers of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology firms, medical device and instrument manufacturers, distributors of healthcare products, care providers and managers and other healthcare services companies, which the Manager believes will provide above-average returns. The Fund invests in companies of any size which can be based anywhere in the world albeit the Fund tends to be biased towards the US, as this is where the majority of healthcare related companies are based. The Manager selects shares based upon analysis of a company's financial status, quality of its management, expected profitability and prospects for growth.

The Manager has full discretion to select investments for the Fund in line with the above investment policy and in doing so may take into consideration the MSCI World Healthcare index. The MSCI World Healthcare index is designed to measure the performance of large and mid-cap segments across a number of developed markets as selected by the index provider. This index best represents the types of companies in which the Fund predominantly invests.

This Fund is actively managed in reference to the MSCI World Healthcare index, which may be used by investors to compare the Fund's performance.

### **Important Events During the Year**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine launched on 24 February 2022 has been negative for the global economy primarily as a result of the disruption it has caused in the supply of energy and other commodities. Inflation had already arisen as a concern following supply issues related to COVID and energy price hikes resulting from the conflict have worsened the situation. This, and the continuing geopolitical uncertainties raised by the war have led to high levels of market volatility. Bond yields have risen in anticipation of interest rate hikes, credit spreads have increased and there have been pronounced swings in equity prices as investors digest how the unpredictable news flow affects company earnings and countries' projected growth rates.



#### **Investment Review**

#### **Market Review**

In GBP terms, healthcare equities posted positive returns in the year to the end of October 2022, against a backdrop of significant macroeconomic uncertainty. The current macroeconomic uncertainty encompasses a wide range of concerns, including inflation, central bank interest rate rises, potential recessions in multiple economies and COVID-19 lockdowns in certain geographies. Healthcare outperformed broader market equities during this period. The sector is often perceived by investors as more defensive than the broader market and therefore has typically outperformed during periods of equity market volatility.

#### Portfolio Review

The AXA Framlington Health Fund underperformed its benchmark during the period under review. The Fund remains overweight the innovation focused, higher growth subsectors and underweight large cap pharmaceuticals which, given the above macro concerns, detracted from relative performance. This is not necessarily unexpected; during periods of short-term macroeconomic uncertainty stocks perceived as higher risk typically decline more than more, so-called, defensive stocks. Our portfolio aims to focus on companies with above average long-term growth potential and

Top Ten Holdings	
as at 31 October 2022	%
UnitedHealth	9.14
US Equities	
Merck & Co	6.06
US Equities	
Eli Lilly	6.06
US Equities	
AstraZeneca	4.59
UK Equities	
Thermo Fisher Scientific	4.52
US Equities	
Bristol-Myers Squibb	4.44
US Equities	
Elevance Health	3.49
US Equities	
Roche	3.02
Swiss Equities	
Humana	2.87
US Equities	
Novo Nordisk	2.66
Danish Equities	

we invest with a long-term investment horizon and thus may be biased towards stocks perceived as higher risk by the market. This can present a headwind to performance in volatile markets, but we believe it is the most appropriate positioning for long-term share price appreciation.

Large market capitalisation (market cap) pharmaceutical companies often outperform the broader market during period of economic uncertainty because demand for the industry's products does not typically vary as much as some more cyclical industries. Given our growth focus, we typically hold an underweight position in pharmaceutical companies because we believe there are better growth prospects in other healthcare subsectors. Due to the recent macroeconomic uncertainty, this underweight allocation drove significant underperformance, although this was partially offset by stock selection in the large pharma sector.

In contrast, our overweight position in medtech companies such as Transmedics and Axonics contributed positively to performance. Transmedics stands out as a particularly strong performer. The company has developed a novel device that preserves and maintains the quality of organs for transplant, resulting in a higher number of transplantable organs and potentially revolutionising the field of organ transplantation. In 2022, Transmedics has driven further adoption of its technology by impressive execution of an innovative commercial model that supports surgeons in the acquisition of transplantable organs.

Similarly, our exposure to biotech stocks such as Argenx and Alnylam Pharmaceuticals contributed positively to performance. Argenx has emerged as one of the most exciting mid-cap stocks in the biotech sector. Focused on immunology, Argenx has been launching its first approved antibody, efgartigimod, after receiving approval in late 2021. What is exciting about Argenx's technology is its potential broad utility across a range of immunology conditions, offering new treatment options for patients and greater revenue potential for the company. Consequently, 2023 will also be an important year for the company as it is expecting to report results from three more late-stage clinical trials of efgartigimod in different immunology conditions.



### **Investment Review (continued)**

#### Outlook

The value of healthcare innovation to the global economy has been undeniable over the last few years, delivering multiple safe and effective vaccines, treatments and diagnostics for a previously unknown disease. The industry demonstrated its capabilities in a high-profile way with COVID-19, but what is exciting for the long-term is that disruptive innovation is happening across the healthcare ecosystem. To highlight just a few examples, in the past year we have seen tantalising evidence that, in the future, many cancers could be accurately diagnosed at an early stage by a simple blood test. Further, we have seen potentially practise changing clinical data for obesity treatments that are finally on par with bariatric surgery. Within the next 12 months these drugs could show that they prevent heart attacks and stroke in obese, at-risk patients. Positive data here would likely change the way obesity is managed medically and open one of the larger market opportunities for pharmaceutical sales globally. We have also seen positive late-stage clinical trial data on new treatments for Alzheimer's disease from Biogen/Eisai, while waiting for data from Eli Lilly. However, Roche's recent clinical trial disappointment shows Alzheimer's disease continues to be very difficult for drug developers.

The developments above represent investible innovations that offer long-term growth opportunities for the Fund. However, we must also be cognisant of the broader economic environment. Rising inflation, disruption to global supply chains and labour shortages in some industries present risks to growth for the broader market and healthcare companies specifically. The impact on individual firms is difficult to predict in the short-term, increasing the risk of share price volatility if financial results do not keep pace with investor expectations and challenging market sentiment. While retaining a balanced holding in larger capitalisation, defensive stocks with quality fundamentals, the Fund continues to seek long-term growth and we retain our investment approach to build a balanced portfolio with growth and innovation at its core.

Potential changes in US healthcare legislation are an ever-present risk for healthcare investors because the US is the largest market for healthcare, and the country's complex system is a common topic of political discourse. Democrats enacted the Inflation Reduction Act, which included some changes for the healthcare sector, the impact of which is not yet fully known, but there has been some suggestion it is creating uncertainty in the development pathway for some drugs, including new drugs for cancer. We continue to monitor the potential impact of this and other legislation on the industry. The recent US mid-term elections (which occurred after the period under review) resulted in a so-called "split" Congress with Republicans gaining control of the US House of Representatives, this may reduce the risk of significant changes to US healthcare legislation.

Overall, the tailwinds driving healthcare utilisation are likely to continue and we believe key stakeholders in the healthcare system will continue to value innovation that drives up the standard of care and reduces burden on limited healthcare resources. We believe the fund is well-positioned to benefit from these trends.

#### Peter Hughes 31 October 2022

Source of all performance data: AXA Investment Managers, Morningstar to 31 October 2022.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. All performance figures calculated as follows: Single Priced NAV (Net Asset Value) with net income reinvested, net of fees in GBP, gross of tax. Performance is representative of Z Acc Class.



# **Portfolio Changes**

# For the year ended 31 October 2022

Major Purchases	Cost (£'000)	Major Sales	roceeds (£'000)
Bristol-Myers Squibb	25,407	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	15,603
Abbott Laboratories	16,801	McKesson	14,881
Novo Nordisk	15,788	AbbVie	13,361
Sanofi	12,031	Roche	13,124
McKesson	11,104	Zoetis	12,870
Align Technology	9,575	Horizon Therapeutics	12,810
HCA Healthcare	9,552	Gilead Sciences	8,715
Argenx ADR	9,168	GSK	7,936
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals	8,430	Medtronic	7,911
Eli Lilly	5,466	LHC	6,469
Other purchases	39,460	Other sales	84,349
Total purchases for the year	162,782	Total sales for the year	198,029

Stocks shown as ADRs represent American Depositary Receipts.



# **Managing Risks**

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The price of units and the revenue from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. An initial charge is usually made when you purchase units. Changes in exchange rates will affect the value of Fund investments overseas. Investment in smaller companies and newer markets offers the possibility of higher returns but may also involve a higher degree of risk.

The Fund is managed in accordance with the objective set out on page 3. By investing in financial markets there are associated risks and the following explains the Manager's approach to managing those risks.

#### **RISK PROFILE**

The Fund invests primarily in the shares of quoted companies on worldwide financial markets drawn from companies in the healthcare and medical services and product companies. As the Fund invests in a single sector it has the potential to be more volatile than the Fund which invests in a more diversified portfolio of equities across a range of sectors. As many of these investments will be made in non sterling denominated listed equities, the value of the Fund will not only be impacted by the market risk associated with investing in equities but also by exchange rate movements between those currencies and sterling in which the Fund is based. The Fund also invests a limited proportion in emerging and newer markets which may involve a higher risk than investing in established markets. Such investments may involve a higher degree of risk than established markets due to heightened geopolitical risk in such countries (see below) and potential large currency volatility. The Fund's investment in companies fulfilling current medical needs is regarded as adopting a positive ethical stance, although investors should be aware that pharmaceutical companies are required by law to test their products on animals before entering clinical trials. Investors should consider carefully whether this investment risk is suitable for them.

#### **EQUITY RISK**

The value of shares in which the Fund invests fluctuate pursuant to market expectations. The value of such shares will go up and down and equity markets have historically been more volatile than fixed interest markets. Should the price of shares in which the Fund has invested fall, the Net Asset Value of the Fund will also fall.

Funds investing in shares are generally more volatile than funds investing in bonds or a combination of shares and bonds, but may also achieve greater returns.

Internal investment guidelines are set, if necessary, to ensure equity risk is maintained within a range deemed suitable based on the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

#### **CURRENCY RISK**

Assets of the Fund (including cash), and any income paid on those assets, may be denominated in a currency other than the base currency of the Fund. Changes in the exchange rate between the base currency and the currency of an asset may cause the value of the asset/income (expressed in the base currency) to fall as well as rise even if there is no change of the value of such assets in its local currency. This may also cause additional volatility in the Fund's price. It may not be possible or practicable to hedge against such exchange rate risk.

The Manager aims to reduce the risk of movements in exchange rates on the value of all or part of the assets of the Fund through the use of currency exchange transactions. The Fund may enter into currency exchange transactions either on a spot basis (i.e., exchanging at the current price) or through forward currency transactions (i.e., agreeing to purchase the currency at an agreed price at a future date). Neither spot transactions nor forward currency transactions will completely eliminate fluctuations in the prices of the Fund's securities or in foreign exchange rates, or prevent loss if the prices of these securities should decline. The performance of the Fund may be strongly influenced by movements in foreign exchange rates because currency positions held by the Fund may not correspond with the securities positions held.



Although these transactions are intended to minimise the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, they also limit any potential gain that might be realised should the value of the hedged currency increase. Forward currency transactions may also have the effect of reducing or enhancing the Fund's performance due to the difference between the exchange rate available on such transactions compared to the current (spot) exchange rate. Under normal market conditions this difference in exchange rates is mainly caused by the different short term interest rates applicable to the currency of the assets and the base currency of the Fund. Where the interest rate applying to the foreign currency is higher than that of the Fund's base currency, this can reduce the Fund's performance and vice-versa. This impact on performance is usually far less pronounced than the effect of fluctuations of exchange rates that the use of such transactions is intended to reduce, but the impact can be significant over time, particularly where there is a wide gap between the interest rates applicable to the two currencies. The precise matching of the relevant contract amounts and the value of the securities involved will not generally be possible because the future value of such securities will change as a consequence of market movements in the value of such securities between the date when the relevant contract is entered into and the date when it matures. Therefore, the successful execution of a hedging strategy which matches exactly the profile of the investments of any Fund cannot be assured. Furthermore, it may not be possible to hedge against generally anticipated exchange or interest rate fluctuations at a price sufficient to protect the Fund from the anticipated decline in value of its assets as a result of such fluctuations.

Internal investment guidelines are set, if necessary, to ensure currency risk is maintained within a range deemed suitable based on the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

#### INDUSTRY SECTOR OR REGION RISK

The Fund may invest in a portfolio of shares which is focused towards one particular market sector or geographic region. This focus may result in higher risk when compared to the Fund that has spread or diversified investments more broadly. Some sectors and regions can experience rapid and extreme price movements when compared with movements in securities markets generally. Investors should note that Funds with a specific focus should be considered for investment as part of a wider diversified portfolio.

Internal investment guidelines seek to ensure suitable levels of diversification based on the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

#### **SMALLER COMPANIES RISK**

Investments in smaller companies offers the possibility of higher return but also involve a higher degree of risk than investment in well established, larger companies. The shares of smaller companies can be more volatile which may lead to increased volatility in the price of the units of the Fund.

This is an inherent risk for funds invested within smaller companies. Investment guidelines (including diversification measures), scenario testing as well as other regular monitoring seek to ensure the level of risk is aligned with the Fund's investment objectives and investment policy.

#### STOCK LENDING RISK

The Fund may participate in a stock lending programme managed by an affiliate of the Manager (acting as stock lending agent) for the purpose of lending the Fund's securities via entering into a stock lending authorisation agreement. If the Fund engages in stock lending it will be exposed to counterparty credit risk in that the borrower may default on a loan, become insolvent or otherwise be unable to meet, or refuse to honour, its obligations to return loaned or equivalent securities. In this event, the relevant Fund could experience delays in recovering the loaned securities, may not be able to recover the loaned securities and may incur a capital loss which might result in a reduction in the net asset value of the relevant Fund. The Fund's exposure to its counterparty will be mitigated by the fact that the counterparty will be requested to post collateral, in the form of cash or debt or equity securities, as from time to time set out in the relevant stock lending agreement, and will forfeit its collateral if it defaults on the transaction. If a counterparty defaults and fails to return equivalent securities to those loaned, the Fund may suffer a loss equal to any shortfall between the value of the realised collateral and the market value of the replacement securities. Such collateral shortfall may arise as a result of



inaccurate pricing of the collateral, unfavourable market movements in the value of the collateral, or a lack of liquidity in the market on which the collateral is traded. If the relevant transaction with a counterparty is not fully collateralised, then the Fund's credit exposure to the counterparty in such circumstances will be higher than if the transaction had been fully collateralised. When entering into stock lending the Fund may also be exposed to settlement risk (i.e. the possibility that one or more parties to the transactions will fail to deliver the assets at agreed-upon time) and legal risk, which is the risk of loss due to the unexpected application of a law or regulation, or because a court declares a contract not legally enforceable. In addition to the specific risks identified above stock lending carry other risks, as described in this Risk Factors section, notably (i) counterparty risk, ii) custody insolvency and iii) liquidity risk.

For Stock Lending the risks are partially mitigated by: (i) the lending agent seeking to lend only to counterparties who are considered to have a strong financial standing; (ii) the requirement to receive collateral of good quality and liquidity (the anticipated ability to sell the collateral if needed) covering the value of assets lent, and this amount being regularly reviewed to reflect any market movement in the value of assets lent and received; (iii) carrying out the transaction under legal documentation corresponding to recognised market standards; (iv) limiting the amount of lending to individual counterparties; (v) ensuring the terms of the loan allow it to be requested to be recalled at any time.

#### **RISK AND REWARD PROFILE**

Lower Risk						igher Risk
<				$\longrightarrow$		
Potentially lower reward					tentially hig	her reward
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

The risk category is calculated using historical performance data and may not be a reliable indicator of the Fund's future risk profile. The risk category shown is not guaranteed and may shift over time. The lowest category does not mean risk free. There has been no change from prior year.

#### WHY IS THIS FUND IN THIS CATEGORY?

The capital of the Fund is not guaranteed. The Fund is invested in financial markets and uses techniques and instruments which may be subject to sudden and significant variation, which may result in substantial gains or losses.

#### **ADDITIONAL RISKS**

<u>Liquidity risk</u>: Under certain market conditions, it may be difficult to buy or sell investments for the Fund. For example, smaller company shares may trade infrequently and in small volumes and corporate and emerging market bonds may be affected by the demand in the market for such securities carrying credit risk, particularly in times of significant market stress. As a result, it may not be possible to buy or sell such investments at a preferred time, close to the last market price quoted or in the volume desired. The Manager may be forced to buy or sell such investments as a consequence of unitholders buying or selling units in the Fund. Depending on market conditions at the time, this could lead to a significant drop in the Fund's value.

Monthly monitoring is conducted, using an in-house liquidity tool, to ensure a high degree of confidence that Fund liquidity will meet the Fund's expected liquidity requirements. Any concerns indicated by the tool are analysed by the Manager's risk team who may also discuss the results with portfolio management staff, or other senior professionals within the firm, as needed, to ensure an appropriate scrutiny.

Based on the analysis, the Manager believes that the liquidity profile of the Fund is appropriate.

Further explanation of the risks associated with an investment in this Fund can be found in the prospectus.



### **Fund Information**

#### **FIVE YEAR PERFORMANCE**

In the five years to 31 October 2022, the price of Z Accumulation units, with net income reinvested, rose by +74.36%. The MSCI World Health Care Index (Net Return) increased by +83.54% over the same time period. During the same period, the price of Z Income units, with zero income reinvested, rose by +71.85%. (Source: AXA Investment Managers and Morningstar) (Prices in GBP).

#### FIVE YEAR DISCRETE PERFORMANCE (DISCRETE YEARS TO LATEST REPORTING DATE)

Date	AXA Framlington Health Z Acc	MSCI World Health Care (NR)
31 Oct 2017 - 31 Oct 2018	+12.03%	+12.31%
31 Oct 2018 - 31 Oct 2019	+3.22%	+8.94%
31 Oct 2019 - 31 Oct 2020	+16.64%	+9.54%
31 Oct 2020 - 31 Oct 2021	+20.17%	+22.59%
31 Oct 2021 - 31 Oct 2022	+7.58%	+11.71%

Source: AXA Investment Managers & Morningstar. Basis: Single Price NAV, with net revenue reinvested, net of fees in GBP.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

#### **YIELD**

A Acc	0.29%
D Inc*	Nil
D Acc*	Nil
R Inc	Nil
R Acc	Nil
Z Inc	0.20%
Z Acc	0.20%

#### **CHARGES**

	Initial Charge	Annual Management Charge
A**	Nil	0.65%
D*	Nil	1.10%
R	Nil	1.50%
Z	Nil	0.75%

<sup>\*\*</sup> Units in Class A are only available at the Manager's discretion by contractual agreement.

#### **ONGOING CHARGES\*\*\***

A Acc	0.72%
D Inc*	1.17%
D Acc*	1.17%
R Inc	1.57%
R Acc	1.57%
Z Inc	0.82%
Z Acc	0.82%

st D unit class launched on 25 May 2022.



\*\*\* For more information on AXA's fund charges and costs please use the following link: https://retail.axa-im.co.uk/fund-charges-and-costs

### **UNIT TRUST INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

The AXA Framlington Health Fund is available as a Stocks and Shares ISA through the AXA Investment Managers Stocks and Shares ISA.



# **Comparative Tables**

		A Acc	
Change in net assets per unit	31/10/2022	31/10/2021	31/10/2020
_	(p)	(p)	(p)
Opening net asset value per unit <sup>†</sup>	237.57	194.70	166.73
Return before operating charges <sup>^</sup>	16.46	44.43	29.32
Operating charges	(1.71)	(1.56)	(1.35)
Return after operating charges <sup>^</sup>	14.75	42.87	27.97
Distributions	(0.73)	(0.91)	(0.67)
Retained distributions on			
accumulation units	0.73	0.91	0.67
Closing net asset value per unit <sup>†</sup>	252.32	237.57	194.70
*^after direct transaction costs of:	0.07	0.09	0.10
Performance			
Return after charges	6.21%	22.02%	16.78%
Other Information			
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	3,201	2,374	2,080
Closing number of units	1,268,720	999,288	1,068,339
Operating charges	0.72%	0.73%	0.72%
Direct transaction costs*	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%
Prices			
Highest unit price #	252.40	234.70	209.10
Lowest unit price #	210.00	198.00	147.90



# **Comparative Tables (Continued)**

	D Inc-	D Acc-
Change in net assets per unit	31/10/2022	31/10/2022
	(p)	(p)
Opening net asset value per unit <sup>†</sup>	2,777.00	2,777.00
Return before operating charges <sup>^</sup>	267.28	267.27
Operating charges	(14.87)	(14.87)
Return after operating charges <sup>^</sup>	252.41	252.40
Distributions	-	-
Retained distributions on		
accumulation units		
Closing net asset value per unit <sup>†</sup>	3,029.41	3,029.40
*^after direct transaction costs of:	0.81	0.81
Performance		
Return after charges	9.09%	9.09%
Other Information		
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	2,318	45,943
Closing number of units	76,511	1,516,557
Operating charges	1.17%	1.17%
Direct transaction costs*	0.03%	0.03%
Prices		
Highest unit price #	3,030.00	3,030.00
Lowest unit price #	2,608.00	2,608.00



# **Comparative Tables (Continued)**

		R Inc			R Acc	
Change in net assets per unit	31/10/2022	31/10/2021	31/10/2020	31/10/2022	31/10/2021	31/10/2020
	(p)	(p)	(p)	(p)	(p)	(p)
Opening net asset value per unit <sup>†</sup>	2,871.79	2,373.60	2,049.87	2,872.44	2,373.78	2,050.03
Return before operating charges <sup>^</sup>	196.82	539.40	359.59	196.44	539.90	359.59
Operating charges	(44.48)	(41.21)	(35.86)	(44.52)	(41.24)	(35.84)
Return after operating charges <sup>^</sup>	152.34	498.19	323.73	151.92	498.66	323.75
Distributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retained distributions on						
accumulation units	_	-			-	
Closing net asset value per unit <sup>†</sup>	3,024.13	2,871.79	2,373.60	3,024.36	2,872.44	2,373.78
*^after direct transaction costs of:	0.78	1.04	1.18	0.78	1.04	1.18
Performance						
Return after charges	5.30%	20.99%	15.79%	5.29%	21.01%	15.79%
Other Information						
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	6,141	8,204	8,352	166,895	215,763	196,475
Closing number of units	203,078	285,670	351,851	5,518,352	7,511,482	8,276,903
Operating charges	1.57%	1.58%	1.57%	1.57%	1.58%	1.57%
Direct transaction costs*	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%
Prices						
Highest unit price #	3,039.00	2,841.00	2,550.00	3,040.00	2,841.00	2,550.00
Lowest unit price #	2,532.00	2,413.00	1,813.00	2,532.00	2,414.00	1,813.00



# **Comparative Tables (Continued)**

		Z Inc			Z Acc	
Change in net assets per unit	31/10/2022	31/10/2021	31/10/2020	31/10/2022	31/10/2021	31/10/2020
	(p)	(p)	(p)	(p)	(p)	(p)
Opening net asset value per unit <sup>†</sup>	191.76	157.77	135.57	387.74	318.09	272.66
Return before operating charges <sup>^</sup>	13.26	35.99	23.84	26.83	72.56	47.94
Operating charges	(1.56)	(1.44)	(1.25)	(3.17)	(2.91)	(2.51)
Return after operating charges <sup>^</sup>	11.70	34.55	22.59	23.66	69.65	45.43
Distributions	(0.40)	(0.56)	(0.39)	(0.80)	(1.13)	(0.78)
Retained distributions on						
accumulation units	-	-		0.80	1.13	0.78
Closing net asset value per unit <sup>†</sup>	203.06	191.76	157.77	411.40	387.74	318.09
*^after direct transaction costs of:	0.05	0.07	0.08	0.11	0.14	0.16
Performance						
Return after charges	6.10%	21.90%	16.66%	6.10%	21.90%	16.66%
Other Information						
Closing net asset value <sup>†</sup> (£'000)	54,006	58,603	49,288	341,794	326,817	272,578
Closing number of units	26,596,562	30,560,121	31,240,287	83,080,076	84,287,940	85,691,444
Operating charges	0.82%	0.83%	0.82%	0.82%	0.83%	0.82%
Direct transaction costs*	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%
Prices						
Highest unit price #	203.60	190.10	169.80	411.70	383.20	341.60
Lowest unit price #	169.50	160.40	120.20	342.70	323.40	241.80
20 201 Wille price ii	103.50	100.10	120.20	512.70	323.10	2 11.00

<sup>†</sup> Valued at bid-market prices.

# High and low price disclosures are based on quoted unit prices. Therefore the opening and closing NAV prices may fall outside the high / low price threshold.

The figures used within the table have been calculated against the average Net Asset Value for the accounting year.

<sup>^</sup> Operating charges include indirect costs incurred in the maintenance and running of the Fund, as disclosed in the detailed expenses within the Statement of Total Return.

<sup>\*</sup> Direct transaction costs include fees, commissions, transfer taxes and duties in the purchasing and selling of investments, within the accounting year.

<sup>~</sup> D unit class launched on 25 May 2022.



# **Portfolio Statement**

The AXA Framlington Health Fund as at 31 October 2022 consisted of the following investments, which are ordinary shares unless otherwise stated.

Holding		Market value	Total ne
		£'000	assets (%
	EUROPE (excluding UK & EASTERN EUROPE): 14.11%		
	(31/10/2021: 17.19%)		
	Belgium: 0.83%		
	(31/10/2021: 1.22%)		
79,247	UCB	5,145	0.8
		5,145	0.8
	Denmark: 2.66%		
	(31/10/2021: 0.00%)		
175 205		16 470	2.0
175,205	Novo Nordisk	16,470	2.6
		16,470	2.6
	France: 1.84%		
	(31/10/2021: 0.00%)		
153,398	Sanofi	11,429	1.8
		11,429	1.8
	Ireland: 2.33%		
	(31/10/2021: 8.09%)		
77,277	Horizon Therapeutics	4,273	0.6
23,582	ICON	4,067	0.6
81,546	Medtronic	6,134	0.9
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		14,474	2.3
	Netherlands: 1.42%		
	(31/10/2021: 0.00%)		
26,220	Argenx ADR	8,840	1.4
,		8,840	1.4
	Sweden: 0.52%		
	(31/10/2021: 1.06%)		
296,229	Medicover	3,239	0.5
230,223	Wedleover	3,239	0.5
		3,233	0.5
	Switzerland: 4.51%		
	(31/10/2021: 6.82%)		
17,215	Lonza	7,659	1.2
64,155	PolyPeptide	1,597	0.2
64,925	Roche	18,710	3.0
		27,966	4.5



# **Portfolio Statement (Continued)**

Holding		Market value	Total ne
		£'000	assets (%
	JAPAN: 0.76%		
	(31/10/2021: 0.00%)		
169,700	Daiichi Sankyo	4,714	0.7
		4,714	0.7
	NORTH AMERICA: 74.45%		
	(31/10/2021: 72.50%)		
	Cayman Islands: 0.00%		
	(31/10/2021: 1.08%)		
	United States of America: 74.45%		
	(31/10/2021: 71.42%)		
184,070	Abbott Laboratories	15,870	2.5
113,549	AbbVie	14,533	2.3
54,452	Alnylam Pharmaceuticals	9,650	1.5
40,390	Amedisys	3,409	0.5
149,054	Axonics	9,276	1.5
54,089	Becton Dickinson	11,017	1.7
48,453	Biogen	11,937	1.9
166,186	Bio Marin Pharmaceutical	12,494	2.0
251,464	Boston Scientific	9,405	1.5
413,896	Bristol-Myers Squibb	27,569	4.4
102,150	Catalent	5,855	0.9
70,748	CONMED	4,912	0.7
28,222	Cooper	6,734	1.0
120,737	DexCom	12,646	2.0
111,774	Edwards Lifesciences	6,863	1.1
45,906	Elevance Health	21,639	3.4
120,521	Eli Lilly	37,595	6.0
239,204	Exact Sciences	7,161	1.1
101,827	Globus Medical	5,932	0.9
77,165	Guardant Health	3,199	0.5
84,662	HCA Healthcare	16,406	2.6
143,029	Hologic	8,301	1.3
36,958	Humana	17,779	2.8
327,664	Insmed	4,964	0.8
44,100	IQVIA	7,961	1.2
35,555	McKesson	12,160	1.9
430,481	Merck & Co	37,602	6.0
484,609	Mirum Pharmaceuticals	9,980	1.6
149,561	Phreesia	3,624	0.5
151,996	Tandem Diabetes Care	7,389	1.1
64,180	Thermo Fisher Scientific	28,009	4.5
195,514	TransMedics	8,237	1.3
142,118	Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical	5,016	0.8
118,716	UnitedHealth	56,695	9.1
110,710	Officaricality	461,819	74.4



# **Portfolio Statement (Continued)**

Holding		Market value	Total net
		£'000	assets (%)
	UNITED KINGDOM: 6.62%		
	(31/10/2021: 7.89%)		
281,809	AstraZeneca	28,457	4.59
154,354	Bicycle Therapeutics ADR	3,329	0.54
437,877	GSK	6,189	1.00
1,154,000	Oxford Nanopore Technologies	3,070	0.49
		41,045	6.62
Investments as	shown in the balance sheet	595,141	95.94
Net current as	sets	25,157	4.06
Total net asset	s	620,298	100.00

Stocks shown as ADRs represent American Depositary Receipts.



# **Statement of Total Return**

# For the year ended 31 October

			2022		2021
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income					
Net capital gains	3		33,156		111,694
Revenue	4	7,015		7,497	
Expenses	5	(6,410)		(6,362)	
Interest payable and similar charges		-		-	
Net revenue before taxation		605		1,135	
Taxation	6	(885)		(870)	
Net (expense)/revenue after taxation			(280)		265
Total return before distribution			32,876		111,959
Distribution	7		(772)		(1,141)
Change in net assets attributable to					
unitholders from investment activities			32,104		110,818

# **Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders**

## For the year ended 31 October

		2022		2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders		611,761		528,773
Amounts receivable on creation of units	26,743	,	25,065	,
Amounts payable on cancellation of units	(50,992)		(53,857)	
		(24,249)		(28,792)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders				
from investment activities		32,104		110,818
Retained distribution on accumulation units		682		962
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders		620,298		611,761



# **Balance Sheet**

## As at 31 October

		2022	2021
	Notes	£'000	£'000
ASSETS			
Fixed assets			
Investments		595,141	596,946
Current assets			
Debtors	8	3,364	548
Cash and bank balances	9	23,268	15,655
Total assets		621,773	613,149
LIABILITIES			
Creditors			
Distribution payable		50	171
Other creditors	10	1,425	1,217
Total liabilities	·	1,475	1,388
Net assets attributable to unitholders		620,298	611,761



#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### 1.1 Accounting policies

a) The Financial Statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102") and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association ("IMA") in May 2014, and amended in June 2017. The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ("COLL").

There are no material events that have been identified that may cast significant doubt about the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for the next twelve months from the date these financial statements are authorised for issue. The Manager believes that the Fund has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, following consideration of the impact of COVID-19, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

- b) Dividends on quoted ordinary shares and preference shares are recognised when the securities are quoted exdividend. Where such securities are not quoted, dividends are recognised when the right to receive payment is established.
- c) The listed investments of the Fund are valued at bid-market prices ruling at 12 noon on the last business day of the accounting year. Where certain securities are listed on global markets which are closed at the 12 noon valuation point, the last available closing bid-price will be utilised, subject to the application of any fair value pricing adjustment. The fair value of unlisted securities, and unquoted securities where the quotation has been suspended, is estimated by the Manager, using independent sources where available.
- d) The functional currency of the Fund is Sterling (GBP). Any transactions in overseas currencies are translated to Sterling at the rates of exchange ruling on the day of any such transaction. Foreign currency balances and investments priced in overseas currencies at the end of the year are converted into Sterling at the exchange rates ruling at 12 noon on the last business day of the accounting year.
- e) All expenses are charged in full against revenue on an accruals basis, with the exception of transaction charges which are charged directly to capital. The Manager is entitled to receive (with effect from the dealing day on which units of any class are first allotted) an annual management charge payable on and out of the scheme property of each unit class of the Fund. The annual management charge will be based on the value of the scheme property of the Fund on the immediately preceding dealing day as determined in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Regulations for the purpose of calculating the price of units.
- f) Corporation Tax is provided at 20% on revenue, after deduction of expenses. Overseas dividends are disclosed gross of any foreign tax suffered, the tax element being disclosed in the tax note. Where overseas tax has been deducted from overseas revenue, that tax can, in some cases, be set off against Corporation Tax payable, by way of double taxation relief. Deferred taxation is provided on a full provision basis on timing differences arising from the different treatment of items for accounting and tax purposes. Potential future liabilities and assets are recognised where the transactions or events giving rise to them occurred before the balance sheet date. A deferred tax asset is only recognised to the extent that a timing difference will be of future benefit.
- g) Bank interest is accounted for on an accruals basis.
- h) Revenue equalisation currently applies to the Fund, with the result that part of the purchase price of a unit reflects the relevant share of accrued revenue received or to be received by the Fund. This sum is returned to a unitholder with the first allocation of revenue in respect of a unit issued during a distribution period. The amount representing the revenue equalisation in the unit's price is a return of capital and is not taxable in the hands of the unitholder. The amount of revenue equalisation is calculated by dividing the aggregate of the amounts of revenue included in the price of units issued or sold to unitholders in an annual or interim distribution period by the number of those units and applying the resultant average to each of the units in question. Equalisation on distributions received is deducted from the cost of the investment.



- i) With the exception of the annual management charge, which is directly attributable to individual unit classes, all revenue and expenses are allocated to unit classes pro rata to the value of the net assets of the relevant unit class on the day the revenue or expense is recognised.
- j) The Fund is not required to produce a cash flow statement as it meets the exemption criteria set out in FRS102.7.IA.

#### 1.2 Distribution policy

- a) The Fund will distribute any net revenue two months after the accounting year end. Any net revenue deficit will be transferred to the capital account. The type of distribution being made by the Fund is a dividend distribution.
- b) Special dividends and share buybacks are treated as revenue or capital depending on the facts of each particular case. It is likely that where the receipt of a special dividend results in a significant reduction in the capital value of the holding, then the special dividend should be treated as capital in nature so as to ensure that the matching principle is applied to gains and losses. Otherwise, the special dividends should be recognised as revenue. Where special dividends are treated as revenue, they are included in the amount available for distribution. The tax accounting treatment follows the principal amount.
- c) If a distribution payment of the Fund remains unclaimed for a period of 6 years after it has become due, it will be forfeited and will revert to and become part of the scheme property.
- d) The annual management charge is charged against revenue for the purposes of calculating the amount available for distribution.

#### 2 Financial instruments

The analysis and tables provided below refer to the narrative disclosure on financial instruments risks on pages 7 to 9 of the Manager's Report.

#### Price risk sensitivity

At 30 October 2022, if the price of investments held by the Fund increased or decreased by 5%, with all other variables remaining constant, the net assets would increase or decrease by £29,757,070 (2021: £29,847,299) respectively.

#### Foreign currency risk sensitivity

Assuming all other factors remain stable, if GBP strengthens by 5% the resulting change in the net assets attributable to unitholders of the Fund would be a decrease of approximately £27,891,317 (2021: £27,453,854). A 5% weakening in GBP would have an equal but opposite effect.

#### Interest rate risk sensitivity

As the majority of the Fund's financial assets are non-interest bearing, the Fund is only subject to limited exposure to fair value interest rate risk due to fluctuations in levels of market interest rates. No interest rate risk sensitivity analysis is therefore provided.



#### **Currency exposures**

A proportion of the financial assets of the Fund are denominated in currencies other than Sterling, with the effect that the Fund's balance sheet and total return can be directly affected by currency movements.

	Monetary Exposure	Non Monetary exposure	Total
2022	£'000	£'000	£'000
Danish Krone	10	16,470	16,480
Euro	11	16,574	16,585
Japanese Yen	12	4,714	4,726
Swedish Krona	_	3,239	3,239
Swiss Franc	1	27,966	27,967
US Dollar	368	488,462	488,830
	402	557 425	557 827

	Monetary Exposure	Non Monetary exposure	Total
2021	£'000	£'000	£'000
Euro	42	7,443	7,485
Swedish Krona	_	6,509	6,509
Swiss Franc	_	41,710	41,710
US Dollar	359	493,013	493,372
Total	401	548,675	549,076

#### 3 Net capital gains

The net gains during the year comprise:

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Gains on non-derivative securities	33,444	111,830
Losses on foreign currency exchange	(268)	(118)
Transaction charges	(20)	(18)
Net capital gains	33,156	111,694

#### 4 Revenue

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
UK dividends	1,365	2,133
Overseas dividends	5,603	5,364
Bank interest	47	
Total revenue	7,015	7,497



### 5 Expenses

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Payable to the Manager		
Annual management charge	5,992	5,943
Registrar's fees	358	347
	6,350	6,290
Other expenses		
Audit fee	8	9
Safe custody charges	32	32
Trustee's fees	20	31
	60	72
Total expenses	6,410	6,362

Expenses include irrecoverable VAT where applicable.

#### 6 Taxation

#### a) Analysis of tax in the year:

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Irrecoverable overseas tax	885	870

#### b) Factors affecting total tax charge for the year:

The tax assessed for the year is lower than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK for an authorised unit trust (20%) (2021: 20%).

The differences are explained below:

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Net revenue before taxation	605	1,135
Corporation tax at 20%	121	227
Effects of:		
Irrecoverable overseas tax	885	870
Movement in excess management expenses	1,271	1,272
Revenue not subject to taxation	(1,392)	(1,499)
Total effects	764	643
Total tax charge for the year (see note 6a)	885	870

Authorised unit trusts are exempt from tax on capital gains.

#### c) Deferred taxation:

There is no provision required for deferred taxation at the Balance sheet date (2021: nil).

#### d) Factors that may affect future tax charges:

At the year end, after offset against income taxable on receipt, there is a potential deferred tax asset of £24,549,913 (2021: £23,278,616) relation to surplus management expenses. It is unlikely that the Fund will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise these amounts and therefore no deferred tax asset has been recognised.



#### 7 Distributions

At year end, there was insufficient income on D and R classes to meet expenses and taxation and, as permitted by the Trust Deed, an amount of £1,051,683 (2021: £875,968) has been transferred from the capital account to revenue account to meet this shortfall.

The distributions take account of income received on the creation of units and income deducted on the cancellation of units, and comprise:

units, and comprise:			
		2022	2021
		£'000	£'000
Interim		425	-
Final		372	1,134
		797	1,134
Add: Income deducted on cancellation of units		(141)	22
Deduct: Income received on creation of units		116	(15)
Net distribution for the year		772	1,141
Reconciliation to net revenue after taxation:			
Net distribution for the year		772	1,141
Shortfall transfer to capital		(1,052)	(876)
Net (expense)/revenue after taxation		(280)	265
8 Debtors			
		2022	2021
		£'000	£'000
Sales awaiting settlement		-	165
Amounts receivable on creation of units		2,963	139
Accrued revenue		380	202
Overseas tax recoverable		21	42
Total debtors		3,364	548
9 Cash and bank balances			
		2022	2021
		£'000	£'000
Cash and bank balances		23,268	15,655
Total cash and bank balances		23,268	15,655
10 Other creditors			
		2022	2021
		£'000	£'000
Amounts payable on cancellation of units		261	544
Purchases awaiting settlement		=	7
Accrued expenses	- Manager	999	581
•	- Other	165	85
Total other creditors		1,425	1,217



#### 11 Unitholders' funds

The Fund currently has seven unit classes in issue.

	A Acc	D Inc*	D Acc*	R Inc	R Acc	Z Inc
Opening units in issue	999,288	-	-	285,670	7,511,482	30,560,121
Units issued	690,022	79,164	1,548,999	24,423	131,154	1,555,239
Units cancelled	(420,590)	(2,653)	(32,442)	(107,015)	(2,124,284)	(5,518,798)
Unit conversions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing units in issue	1,268,720	76,511	1,516,557	203,078	5,518,352	26,596,562

	Z Acc
Opening units in issue	84,287,940
Units issued	5,348,834
Units cancelled	(6,556,698)
Unit conversions	-
Closing units in issue	83,080,076

<sup>\*</sup> D class launched on 25 May 2022.

#### 12 Related parties

AXA Investment Managers UK Limited acts as principal on all the transactions of units in the Fund. The aggregate monies received through creations and liquidations are disclosed in the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders and Note 7, amounts due to/from AXA Investment Managers UK Limited in respect of unit transactions are disclosed in Note 8 and Note 10 respectively.

At 31 October 2022, there were no unitholders that hold more than 50% of units in the Fund. Other than disclosed elsewhere in the Financial Statements, there were no transactions between the Fund and related parties during the year.

Amounts paid to AXA Investment Managers UK Limited in respect of administration and registration services are disclosed in Note 5.

#### 13 Portfolio transaction costs

#### 2022

	Net purchase	Commissions				Total
	cost	paid		Taxes		purchase cost
Analysis of purchases	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000
Equity	162,663	54	0.03	65	0.04	162,782
Total	162,663	54		65		162,782

#### 2022

	Net sale	Commissions				Total sale
	proceeds	paid		Taxes		proceeds
Analysis of sales	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000
Equity	198,081	(50)	(0.03)	(2)	-	198,029
Total	198,081	(50)		(2)		198,029



#### 2021

	Net purchase	Commissions				Total purchase
	cost	paid		Taxes		cost
Analysis of purchases	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000
Equity	191,296	78	0.04	51	0.03	191,425
Total	191,296	78		51		191,425

#### 2021

	Net sale	Commissions				Total sale
	proceeds	paid		Taxes		proceeds
Analysis of sales	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000
Equity	229,382	(98)	(0.04)	(1)	-	229,283
Total	229,382	(98)		(1)		229,283

Commission as a % of average net assets
Taxes as a % of average net assets

0.02% (2021: 0.03%) 0.01% (2021: 0.01%)

#### Portfolio dealing spread

The average portfolio dealing spread as at the year end was 0.05% (2021: 0.07%).

#### 14 Fair value disclosure

	31 Octobe	r 2022	30 October 2021	
	Assets £'000	Assets £'000	Assets £'000	Liabilities £'000
Valuation technique				
Level 1 <sup>^</sup>	595,141	-	596,946	-
Level 2^^	-	-	-	-
Level 3^^^	<u>-</u>	-	-	-
Total	595,141	-	596,946	-

<sup>^</sup> Level 1: The unadjusted quoted price in an active market for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

The fair value of the Fund's investments has been determined using the hierarchy above.

#### 15 Commitments, contingent liabilities and contingent assets

There are no commitments, contingent liabilities and contingent assets as at the balance sheet date (2021: none).

#### 16 Post balance sheet events

There are no significant post balance sheet events which require adjustment or disclosure at the year end.

<sup>^^</sup> Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable (i.e. developed using market data) for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

<sup>^^^</sup> Level 3: Inputs are unobservable (i.e. for which market data is unavailable) for the asset or liability.



## **Distribution Tables**

### For the year ended 31 October 2022

		Net Equalisation		Distribution	payable/paid
		revenue		Current year	Prior year
A Acc					
Interim	Group 1	0.375	-	0.375	-
	Group 2	0.021	0.354	0.375	-
Final	Group 1	0.355	-	0.355	0.908
	Group 2	0.016	0.339	0.355	0.908
D Inc*					
Final	Group 1	-	-	-	
	Group 2	-	-	-	
D Acc*					
Final	Group 1	-	-	-	
	Group 2	-	-	-	
R Inc					
Interim	Group 1	-	-	-	-
	Group 2	-	-	-	-
Final	Group 1	-	-	-	-
	Group 2	-	-	-	-
R Acc					
Interim	Group 1	-	-	-	-
	Group 2	-	=	-	-
Final	Group 1	-	-	-	-
	Group 2	-	-	-	-
Z Inc					
Interim	Group 1	0.209	-	0.209	-
	Group 2	0.133	0.076	0.209	-
Final	Group 1	0.188	-	0.188	0.561
	Group 2	0.051	0.137	0.188	0.561
Z Acc					
Interim	Group 1	0.423	-	0.423	-
	Group 2	0.213	0.210	0.423	
Final	Group 1	0.381	-	0.381	1.131
	Group 2	0.085	0.296	0.381	1.131

(All figures shown in pence per unit)

Units are classified as Group 2 for the following periods in which they were acquired, thereafter they rank as Group 1 units.

Equalisation is the average amount of income included in the purchase price of Group 2 units and is refundable to holders of these units as a return of capital. Being a capital item it is not liable to income tax, but must be deducted from the cost of units for capital gains tax purposes.

<sup>\*</sup> D unit class launched on 25 May 2022.



The relevant periods for Group 2 units and the payment/transfer dates are shown below:

	Group 2 units		Group 1 & 2 units
	from	to	paid/transferred
Interim	01.11.21	30.04.22	30.06.22
Final	01.05.22	31.10.22	30.12.22



#### **DIRECTORS' APPROVAL**

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ("COLL"), the contents of this report have been approved on behalf of AXA Investment Managers UK Limited by:

Marcello Arona Director

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Amanda Prince Director

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023



# **Statement of Manager's Responsibilities**

# STATEMENT OF THE MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE FUND

The Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook requires the Authorised Fund Manager to prepare financial statements for each annual accounting year which give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland), of the financial affairs of the Fund and of its revenue and expenditure and capital gains for the year.

In preparing the accounts the Manager is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- comply with the disclosure requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds and the Trust Deed;
- follow applicable accounting standards;
- keep proper accounting records which enable it to demonstrate that the accounts prepared comply with the above requirements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in business.

The Manager is responsible for the management of the Fund in accordance with its Trust Deed, Prospectus and the Regulations, and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



### **Report of the Trustee**

# STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF AXA FRAMLINGTON HEALTH FUND FOR THE YEAR END 31 OCTOBER 2022

The Depositary in its capacity as Trustee of AXA Framlington Health Fund must ensure that the Trust is managed in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended, (together "the Regulations"), the Trust Deed and Prospectus (together "the Scheme documents") as detailed below.

The Depositary must in the context of its role act honestly, fairly, professionally, independently and in the interests of the Trust and its investors.

The Depositary is responsible for the safekeeping of all custodial assets and maintaining a record of all other assets of the Trust in accordance with the Regulations.

The Depositary must ensure that:

- the Trust's cash flows are properly monitored and that cash of the Trust is booked in cash accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- the sale, issue, repurchase, redemption and cancellation of units are carried out in accordance with the Regulations:
- the value of units of the Trust are calculated in accordance with the Regulations;
- any consideration relating to transactions in the Trust's assets is remitted to the Trust within the usual time limits;
- the Trust's income is applied in accordance with the Regulations; and
- the instructions of the Authorised Fund Manager ("the AFM"), which is the UCITS Management Company, are carried out (unless they conflict with the Regulations).

The Depositary also has a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that the Trust is managed in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Trust in relation to the investment and borrowing powers applicable to the Trust.

Having carried out such procedures as we considered necessary to discharge our responsibilities as Depositary of the Trust, it is our opinion, based on the information available to us and the explanations provided, that, in all material respects the Trust, acting through the AFM:

(i) has carried out the issue, sale, redemption and cancellation, and calculation of the price of the Trust's units and the application of the Trust's income in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Trust; and (ii) has observed the investment and borrowing powers and restrictions applicable to the Trust in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Trust.

Trustee HSBC Global Trustee & Fiduciary Services (UK) 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023



# **Report of the Independent Auditor**

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF THE AXA FRAMLINGTON HEALTH FUND.

#### **OPINION**

We have audited the financial statements of AXA Framlington Health Fund ("the Fund") for the year ended 31 October 2022, which comprise the Statement of Total Return, the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders, the Balance Sheet, the related notes and the Distribution Tables, and the accounting policies of the Fund, which include a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund as at 31 October 2022 and of the net expense and the net capital gains on the scheme property of the Fund for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

#### **BASIS FOR OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (the "FRC") Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of twelve months from when the financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Manager with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our audit report thereon. The Manager is responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the



work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# OPINIONS ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE RULES OF THE COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEMES SOURCEBOOK OF THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY (THE "FCA")

In our opinion:

- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice relating to Authorised Funds, the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the FCA and the Trust Deed; and
- there is nothing to indicate that adequate accounting records have not been kept or that the financial statements are not in agreement with those records; and
- the information given in the Manager's report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

#### MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matter in relation to which the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the FCA requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

• we have not received all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MANAGER

As explained more fully in the Manager's responsibilities statement set out on page 31, the Manager is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Manager is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Manager either intends to wind up or terminate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



# EXPLANATION AS TO WHAT EXTENT THE AUDIT WAS CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF DETECTING IRREGULARITIES, INCLUDING FRAUD

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

#### Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Fund and determined that the most significant are United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP), Investment Management Association's Statement of Recommended Practice (IMA SORP), the FCA Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook, the Fund's Trust Deed and the Prospectus.
- We understood how the Fund is complying with those frameworks through discussions with the Manager and the Fund's administrators and a review of the Fund's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Fund's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the risk of management override, specifically management's propensity to influence revenue and amounts available for distribution. We identified a fraud risk with respect to the incomplete or inaccurate income recognition through incorrect classification of special dividends and the resulting impact to amounts available for distribution. We tested appropriateness of management's classification of material special dividends as either a capital or revenue return.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the reporting to the Manager with respect to the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to test compliance with the reporting requirements of the Fund.
- Due to the regulated nature of the Fund, the Statutory Auditor considered the experience and expertise of the engagement team to ensure that the team had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify non-compliance with the applicable laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **USE OF OUR REPORT**

This report is made solely to the Fund's unitholders, as a body, pursuant to Paragraph 4.5.12 of the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the FCA. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's unitholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Fund and the Fund's unitholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ernst & Young LLP Statutory Auditor Edinburgh 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023



# **Further Information (Unaudited)**

#### REMUNERATION POLICY OF THE MANAGER

The Manager has approved and adopted AXA IM's Global Remuneration Policy, in accordance with the Regulations, which is consistent with, and promotes, sound and effective risk management; does not encourage risk-taking which is inconsistent with the risk profiles of the Fund's or the Trust Deeds, and does not impair compliance of the Manager's duty to act in the best interests of each of the Fund's.

AXA IM's Global Remuneration Policy, which has been approved by the AXA IM Remuneration Committee, sets out the principles relating to remuneration within all entities of AXA IM (including the Manager) and takes into account AXA IM's business strategy, objectives, and risk tolerance, as well as the long-term interests of AXA IM's shareholders, employees and clients (including the Fund's). The AXA IM Remuneration Committee is responsible for determining and reviewing the AXA IM remuneration guidelines, including the AXA IM Global Remuneration Policy, as well as reviewing the annual remuneration of senior executives of the AXA IM Group and senior officers in control functions.

AXA IM provides both fixed and variable remuneration. An employee's fixed remuneration is structured to reward organizational responsibility, professional experience and the individual's capability to perform the duties of the role. Variable remuneration is based on performance and may be awarded annually on both a non-deferred and, for certain employees, a deferred basis. Non-deferred variable remuneration may be awarded in cash or, where appropriate and subject to local laws and regulation, in instruments linked to the performance of AXA IM Funds. Deferred remuneration is awarded through various instruments structured to reward medium and long-term value creation for clients and AXA IM and long-term value creation for the AXA Group. AXA IM ensures appropriate balances between fixed and variable remuneration and deferred and non-deferred remuneration.

Details of the up-to-date Global Remuneration Policy are published online at https://www.axa-im.com/remuneration. This includes the description of how remuneration and benefits are awarded for employees, and further information on the AXA IM remuneration committee. A paper copy of the up-to-date Global Remuneration Policy is also available from the Manager free of charge upon request.

In line with the requirements of the Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities (UCITS) V, AXA Investment Managers UK Limited is required to make quantitative disclosures of remuneration. These disclosures are made in line with the currently available guidance on quantitative remuneration disclosures. The amounts shown below reflect payments made in respect of the financial year 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021:

Total amount of remuneration paid and / or allocated to all staff for the year ended December 31, 2021 (1)			
Fixed Pay (2) (£'000)	197,213		
Variable Pay (3) (£'000)	230,700		
Number of employees (4)	2,537		

<sup>(1)</sup> Excluding social charges.

- the amounts awarded for the performance of the previous year and fully paid over the financial year under review,
- deferred variable remuneration,
- and long-term incentives set up by the AXA Group.

<sup>(2)</sup> Fixed Pay amount is based on 2020/21 compensation review final data.

<sup>(3)</sup> Variable compensation, includes:

<sup>(4)</sup> Number of employees includes Permanent and Temporary contracts excluding internships (based on Staff list as of 31/12/2021).



#### Remuneration to Identified Employee:

Aggregate amount of compensation paid and / or allocated to risk takers and senior management whose activities have a significant impact on the risk profile of investment vehicles				
	Risk Takers	Senior Management	Total	
Fixed Pay and Variable Remuneration (£'000)	101,432	80,571	182,003	
Number of employees	258	79	337	

#### **UK Identified Employee Remuneration:**

Weighted amount of compensation paid and / or allocated to risk takers and senior management whose activities have a significant impact on the risk profile of all investment vehicles where AXA IM UK act as Authorised Fund Manager or Alternative Investment				
Fund Manager				
	Risk Takers	Senior Management	Total	
Fixed Pay and Variable Remuneration (£'000)	2,779	2,207	4,986	
Number of employees	57	13	70	

#### THE SECURITIES FINANCING TRANSACTIONS REGULATION

The Securities Financing Transactions Regulation, as published by the European Securities and Markets Authority, aims to improve the transparency of the securities financing markets. Disclosures regarding exposure to Securities Financing Transactions (SFTs) or total return swaps will be required on all reports & accounts published after 13 January 2017. During the year to 31 October 2022 and at the balance sheet date, the Fund did not use SFTs or total return swaps, as such no disclosure is required.

#### **VALUE ASSESSMENT**

It is our duty as Authorised Fund Manager ("AFM") to act in the best interests of our investors. As part of fulfilling this duty, we need to consider whether the charges taken from our Funds are justified in the context of the overall service and value that we provide to our investors.

The FCA have introduced new rules requiring the Boards of AFMs to consider robustly and in detail whether they are delivering value for money to their investors and to explain the assessment annually in a Value Statement made available to the public.

The Value Statement report is available on the AXA IM website: https://retail.axa-im.co.uk/fund-centre



# **Directory**

#### The Manager

AXA Investment Managers UK Limited 22 Bishopsgate London, EC2N 4BQ

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Registered in England and Wales No. 01431068.

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of AXA S.A., incorporated in France.

Member of the IA.

#### The Administrator and address for inspection of Register:

SS&C Financial Services International Limited and SS&C Financial Services Europe Limited

SS&C House

St Nicholas Lane

Basildon Essex, SS15 5FS

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

#### Trustee

HSBC Global Trustee & Fiduciary Services (UK)

8 Canada Square,

London, E14 5HQ

HSBC Bank plc is a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

#### **Fund Accounting Administrator**

State Street Bank & Trust Company 20 Churchill Place

London, E14 5HJ

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

#### Legal advisers

Eversheds LLP

One Wood Street

London, EC2V 7WS

#### Auditor

Ernst & Young LLP

Atria One, 144 Morrison Street

Edinburgh, EH3 8EX

#### **Dealing and Correspondence**

PO Box 10908

Chelmsford, CM99 2UT

Telephone Dealing & Enquiries 0345 777 5511

IFA Dealing & Enquiries 0370 707 0073

If you are calling from outside the UK, please call +44 1268 443976

Our lines are open Monday to Friday between 9am and 5:30pm