

# AB Ethical Balanced Income Portfolio

Data as at 31 May 2024

### **Investment Objectives**

The AB Ethical Balanced Income Model Portfolio will seek to deliver long-term capital growth and income by blending collective strategies and employing our proprietary rating and risk profiling systems. We employ a strict negative screening process in order to highlight investments that do not meet our ethical criteria.

Our process will screen for and seek to avoid investments in areas like Animal testing, Gambling, Intensive farming, Pornography, Tobacco & Weaponry. In addition to this, we seek to exclude companies that support oppressive regimes or operate in a way that does not respect human rights issues.

# 20.0%

**Investment Growth** 



—AB Ethical Balanced Income

54.0% IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares

47.4%

## **Snapshot**

Base Currency	Pound Sterling
12 Month Yield	4.11%
Ongoing Charge	0.71%
Management Fee (VAT where applicable)	0.25%
Portfolio Cost	0.96%

#### **Benchmark**

Comparator Benchmark IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares

# **Trailing Returns**

**Asset Allocation** 

Data Point: Return						
	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception (28/11/2013)
AB Ethical Balanced Income	3.02	7.13	8.09	2.11	15.70	53.97
IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares	2.55	6.60	8.46	2.30	15.46	47.39

The portfolio launched on 05/06/2009, however the data shown is from the first available past performance date, 28/11/2013.

# Risk

Time Period: 01/06/2023 to 31/05/2024				
	Sharpe Ratio	Std Dev		
AB Ethical Balanced Income	0.38	8.10		
IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares	0.45	6.26		

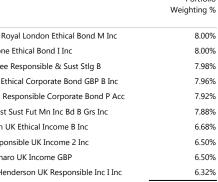
### **Top 10 Holdings**

Portfolio Date: 31/05/2024

	Portfolio Weighting %
RLBF II Royal London Ethical Bond M Inc	8.00%
Rathbone Ethical Bond I Inc	8.00%
EdenTree Responsible & Sust Stlg B	7.98%
Aegon Ethical Corporate Bond GBP B Inc	7.96%
Sarasin Responsible Corporate Bond P Acc	7.92%
Liontrust Sust Fut Mn Inc Bd B Grs Inc	7.88%
Unicorn UK Ethical Income B Inc	6.68%
CT Responsible UK Income 2 Inc	6.50%
Montanaro UK Income GBP	6.50%
Janus Henderson UK Responsible Inc I Inc	6.32%

73.74%

The aggregate total may not add up to the sum shown due to Morningstar roundings.



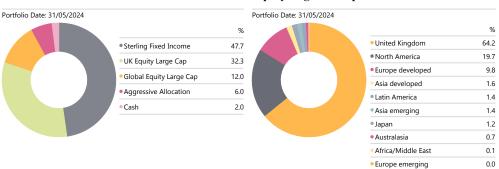
#### **Investment Team**

Investment Manager Alpha Beta SRI Investment Team

#### Please contact:

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# **Equity Regional Exposure**



#### **Manager's Commentary**

In April, portfolio progress continued amid volatility, with uncertain market direction. Despite lower-than-expected US GDP, the economy outpaces others, though subject to adjustments. US CPI inflation plateaued while PCE inflation rose to 2.8%, impacting rate cut expectations to 1 or 2 from an initial 6. Tight labour market and robust business cycle persist. The Federal Reserve may cut rates, aiming to stimulate growth. Expected liquidity provisions include issuing Bills, reducing Reverse Repo facility drain, and increased Treasury spending is to further support the economy.

China is gearing up for an aggressive manufacturing-led export expansion amid significant debts and bankruptcies in the real estate sector, hampering post-pandemic recovery. Modern automated factories and cheap labour, supported by potential currency devaluation, will enhance market competitiveness. China's increased purchase of essential commodities like copper and lithium, along with significant gold acquisitions, hints at a Yuan devaluation. While Chinese equities have slightly risen in April, a notable breakout hasn't occurred yet. In contrast, Japan's economy is robust, with recent expansion gaining momentum. Yen weakness, spurred by the US-Japan interest rate gap, fuels export growth. Anticipated modest rate tightening by Japan's Ministry of Finance and Bank of Japan reflects their incremental approach

In Europe, Germany sees mixed data with services sectors improving while manufacturing, particularly automotive, faces challenges. Eurozone inflation declines but remains slightly above ECB's 2% target, prompting potential rate cuts from Mrs. Lagarde ahead of the US Fed. UK reports pleasing inflation reduction towards Bank of England targets, with CPI dropping to 3.2% in March 2024. FTSE 100 hits an all-time high, while FTSE 250 enters an expansionary phase. Expectations for rate cuts from Bank of England Governor Mr. Bailey are high, reflecting broader efforts to support the economy amid global economic dynamics.

Geopolitical tensions, notably in the Middle East with escalations between Israel and Iran, and ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, remain unpredictable. Despite significant human and material costs, market impact has been relatively muted, unless a broader conflict is expected imminently.

At portfolio level, the Ethical Balanced Income model benefited from its UK equity exposure, with its best performing fund being the Unicorn UK Ethical Income fund. One of the fund's largest holdings is Severfield, the UK's market leader in structural steel. Severfield work to continuously improve their environmental impact across their process and projects, and to support sustainable construction through circularity and working towards net zero. Severfield are accredited with the Gold Membership Standard of the Steel Construction Sustainability Charter.

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