



## August 2024 – Share Class B (USD)



5 year rating out of 732 Global High Yield Bond funds as of 31 August 2024.

## THE FUND:

The Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund is a subfund of Merrion Capital Investment Funds Plc., an open-ended investment company with variable capital incorporated in Ireland with registered number 427248 established as an umbrella fund with segregated liability between sub-funds.

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

The Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund's objective is to target attractive risk adjusted returns through a combination of income and capital appreciation by investing in a concentrated portfolio of higher yielding global corporate bonds.

## INVESTMENT APPROACH:

The Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund looks to gain a meaningful exposure to 'higher alpha' global credit opportunities through an investment approach that focuses on value investing, bottom-up credit selection and delivering absolute investment returns.

## INVESTMENT MANAGER

ICM Investment Management Limited is the sub-investment manager to the Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund. www.icmim.limited

## FUND INFORMATION

Total Net Assets	€13.03m	
NAV per Share (Class USD)	\$141.27	
IAV at Launch (1 May 2018) \$100.		
Underlying Running Yield	5.85%	
Effective Duration	3.47	
Number of Positions	35	
Domiciled	Ireland	
Share Classes	Euro/USD	
Minimum Subscription	€10,000	
Sub Investment Manager	ICM Investment Management Ltd	
Liquidity	Daily	
Total Expense Ratio	1.42%	
Investment Advisor	ICM Limited	
Custodian	Northern Trust	
Fund Administrator	Northern Trust	
Investment Management Company	Merrion Capital Investment Funds PLC	

## PERFORMANCE

#### **GROWTH OF US\$10,000 SINCE INCEPTION**



Jan 13 Jan 14 Jan 15 Jan 16 Jan 17 Jan 18 Jan 19 Jan 20 Jan 21 Jan 22 Jan 23 Aug 24 — Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund — 3 month LIBOR +3.5%

## STRATEGY PERFORMANCE (USD)

	<b>4</b> 11				Annualised Return since	
	1 month	3 month	1-year	3-years	5-years	Inception
Absolute Return	0.2%	2.5%	13.1%	-0.1%	6.6%	8.2%
	YTD*	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Absolute Return	6.1%	14.2%	-16.0%	8.2%	18.6%	13.1%

\* Calendar year to date

#### PENTAGON HIGH CONVICTION BOND STRATEGY - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (USD)



## FUND DETAILS

## SHARE CLASSES & MONTH-END NAV

Share Class	ISIN	Bloomberg	Month End NAV
Share Class A (EUR)	IE00BF1F4X98	BBG00KG5NFM3	€125.12
Share Class B (USD)	IE00BF1F4Y06	BBG00KG5NFS7	\$141.27
Share Class E (GBP)	IE00BHR48L00	BBG00NDP1YN8	£95.91
Share Class G (USD)	IE000HLGDJJ3	BBG0141HCP84	\$106.38
Share Class P (USD)	IE000P52VV31	BBG015HY7961	\$100.74

#### TEAM

Gavin Blessing, Portfolio Manager
Conor Spend

Conor Spencer, Portfolio Manager

The value of investments and the income therefrom may fall or rise. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. For the full Performance disclosure statement, please see the final page of this document.

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### FUND LETTER AUGUST 2024

In August, the Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund (the "Fund") increased by 0.2%, versus 1.5% and 1.6% for the U.S. investment-grade and high-yield indices, respectively.

Year-to-date, the Fund has returned 6.1%, compared to 4.0% and 6.3% for the U.S. investment-grade and high-yield indices, respectively.

Since its inception, the Fund has returned over 148.6% in total or 8.2% annually.

According to Morningstar, the Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund has remained five-star rated and in the top percentile of Global High-Yield Bond Funds out of 732 funds over the past five years.

### **Fund Positioning**

In August, the Fund invested a further 1.5% into the Burford 2031 bonds at a yield of 7.2%, adding to the c. 2.9% already invested in the 2025 bonds. The fund also added 1.5% to the Just perpetual bonds at a yield of 9.6%, bringing the position up to 5%. The Fund also initiated a 3.3% in the Lloyds perpetual bonds at a yield of 6.7%.

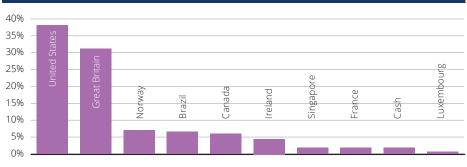
The purchases were funded from cash and by selling a small 1% position in Walmart 2031 bonds, an AA-rated bond with a 4.4% yield. Walmart was in the portfolio as a higher-yielding alternative to cash. We never intended to hold this position across the cycle, so we recycled the proceeds into higher-yielding positions.

The net impact of August's trading activity was to increase yield, lengthen duration, and reduce credit quality. However, it should be noted that Lloyds and Just Group are

**DURATION SPLIT OF INVESTMENTS** 0 - 2 2 - 5 Years 5 - 10 10 +Cash 0% 5% 10% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 15% INDUSTRY GROUP SPLIT OF INVESTMENTS



## **GEOGRAPHICAL SPLIT OF INVESTMENTS**



WARNING: Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance. The value of your investment may go down as well as up. If you invest in this fund you may lose some or all the money you invest. This fund may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates.

#### Important Notes

The information in this factsheet should not be considered an offer, or solicitation, to deal in the Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund (the "Fund"). The information is provided on a general basis for information purposes only, and is not to be relied on as investment, legal, tax or other advice as it does not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any specific investor. Investments in the Fund are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. The value of investments and the income therefrom may fall or rise. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investors should read the prospectus and the supplement or seek relevant professional advice, before making any investment decision. The information presented has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable but no representation or warranty is given or may be implied that they are accurate or complete. The Investment Manager reserves the right to make any amendments to the information at any time, without notice. Issued by ICM Investment Management Limited. Registered in England: 08421482. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

# Investment-Grade bonds, albeit that they are rated BBB rather than Walmart's AA. Burford is rated BB.

Cash has fallen from 12.0% to 1.0% over the past two months.

We have now closed our underweight to credit spread duration. The Fund's credit spread duration is 3.0, equivalent to the US High Yield Index. When we initiated the position in April, spreads on BB bonds were 1.89%. When we closed the call in mid-August, spreads were 2.18%. More attractive valuations and a positive economic outlook leave us more sanguine about taking risks in high-yield credit. We continue to overweight sovereign bonds, although we expect to soon rotate that capital into high-yield bonds.

As always, the Fund continues investing where we see the most significant return while minimising the risk of medium-term capital impairment.

### PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

то	P TEN HOLDINGS <sup>1</sup>	% of gross assets
1	Cosan O/seas 8.25% Perp	5.33
	(Discrete 30 Days Notice)	
2	Phoenix Life 5.75% Perp (Apr 2028)	5.04
3	DNO 7.875% 2026 (Sep 2024)	4.99
4	Just Group 5% Perp (Mar 31)	4.94
5	Aris Gold 7.5% 2027	4.69
6	Coventry Bsoc. 8.75% Perp (2029)	4.68
7	Enquest 11.625% 2027	4.66
8	AIB 6.25% Perp	4.65
9	L&G 5.5% 2064	4.38
10	T 0.0% August 2024	4.14
TO	TAL	47.50

## HIGH CONVICTION STRATEGY ANALYTICS<sup>1</sup>

Average Credit Quality	BBB-
Sharpe Ratio (Risk Free Ref: US 3mth T-Bill)	0.66
Annualised Standard Deviation	10.35%
Correlation to Treasuries	-0.12
% Periods Up:	67
% Periods Down:	33

<sup>1</sup> Source: ICMIM

#### PERFORMANCE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund was launched as a sub-fund of Merrion Capital Investment Funds Plc on 1 May 2018. The fund does not have an established track record as a UCITS before 1 May 2018. Prior to this, from 30 November 2015 to 11 April 2018 the performance relates to the Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund, a Malta based Alternative Investment Fund. From 28 January 2013 to 30 November 2015, the performance relates to the Value Income Multi-strategy Bond Fund Limited with the status of an exempted company. All data presented in this report for periods prior to 1 May 2018 is unaudited. The full performance history for the Pentagon High Conviction Bond Fund "strategy" relates to the same pool of assets, managed by the same investment team using the same investment approach and investment focus throughout the full performance period outlined.