Statement of Ethical Investment Policy

Queen Mary, University of London, seeks to follow the guidance on ethical investment provided by the Charity Commission in the Basic Principles and Detailed Guidance for the investment of charitable funds published in December 2004.

Accordingly, the College’s Investment Committee has devised an overarching Statement of Investment Principles in order to achieve, through the work of its fund managers, maximum return from a set of investments which have been selected prudently. This Ethical Investment Policy is intended to be entirely consistent with the duty to secure maximum returns from the investment of charitable funds. The Investment Committee believes that taking ethical and environmental considerations into account in an investment decision will enhance the returns available in the long term. The College asks its fund managers to consider the social and environmental policies of companies alongside other factors that will affect their long-term investment prospects.

In accordance with Charity Commission guidelines, it is possible to avoid investments, in particular business that would for practical reasons conflict with the charitable aims of the College. Given that the College seeks to promote good health through its School of Medicine and Dentistry, direct investment is avoided in any company a major part of whose business activity or focus is tobacco products.

The College’s investments shall be restricted to exclude direct investment in companies where business activity in armaments exceeds 25% of group activity.

It is important that the College also ensures that sources of funding for educational or research projects are consistent with the Ethical Investment Policy.

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