

## **FUND OVERVIEW**

Fund Manager(s) Azhar Hussain, Stephen Tapley **Fund Size** £2,913.47m Fund Type **ICVC Domicile** Ireland Eligible ISA **Duration to worst** 3.9 years **Benchmark Duration** 3.5 years Benchmark Index ICE BofA BB-B Global Non-Financial High

Investment Association IA Sterling High Yield Sector

Yield Constrained

**GBP** 

0.0%

Sector Currency Initial Charge

Fund Management Fee M Inc: 0.83% (FMF): Z Inc: 0.58%

SFDR Classification Article 8

#### Share Class M (Income)

Unit Launch Date12.03.13Minimum Investment£100,000SEDOLB8GCTN1Mid Price£0.81Distribution Yield5.04%

### Share Class Z (Income)

Unit Launch Date 15.02.13

Minimum Investment £3,000,000

SEDOL B8K3800

Mid Price £0.82

Distribution Yield 5.29%

# ROYAL LONDON GLOBAL HIGH YIELD BOND FUND

31.03.24

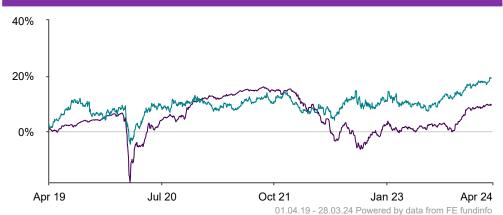
## Overview

The investment objective of the Fund is to provide a combination of investment growth and income, the Fund will seek to achieve its objective on an active basis. The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by outperforming its benchmark, theBofA Merrill Lynch BB-B Global Non-Financial High Yield Constrained Index (the "Benchmark") by 1% per annum over rolling three year periods. The Benchmark is being used by the Fund for performance comparison purposes only and the Fund does not intend to track the Benchmark.

Year-on-year performance						
	31.03.23 to 31.03.24	31.03.22 to 31.03.23	31.03.21 to 31.03.22	31.03.20 to 31.03.21	31.03.19 to 31.03.20	
Share Class M (Income)	8.3%	-7.7%	-2.2%	24.6%	-9.8%	
Share Class Z (Income)	8.6%	-7.5%	-2.0%	25.0%	-9.6%	

Cumulative Performance (as at 31.03.24)					
	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
Share Class M (Income)	1.0%	7.5%	8.3%	-2.2%	9.8%
Share Class Z (Income)	1.1%	7.6%	8.6%	-1.5%	11.3%
ICE BofA BB-B Global Non- Financial High Yield Constrained	2.2%	5.3%	7.8%	9.6%	18.4%

## **Performance Chart**



Global High Yield Bond M Inc ICE BofA BB-B Global Non-Financial High Yield Constrained

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them is not guaranteed and may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Source: RLAM and FE fundinfo as at 31.03.24. Fund performance is shown on a mid to mid price basis, net of fees and gross of taxes, with gross income reinvested unless otherwise stated. Benchmark performance is shown gross of fees and taxes.

Distribution History (Net)				
	29/02/2024	31/08/2023		
Share Class M (Income)	1.9853p	1.9869p		
Share Class Z (Income)	2.0402p	2.0745p		

Table above shows figures as at payment date.

#### Fund Manager(s)



Azhar Hussain Co-manager Fund Manager tenure: 15.02.13



Stephen Tapley Co-manager Fund Manager tenure: 15.02.13

#### Vield Definitions

The distribution yield reflects the amounts that may be expected to be distributed over the next 12 months. The underlying yield reflects the annualised income net of expenses of the Fund as a percentage (calculated in accordance with the relevant accounting standards). Both these yields are calculated as a percentage of the midprice of the Fund as at the date shown and are month end snap shots of the portfolio on that day and do not include any preliminary charges. Investors may be subject to tax on distributions. Reported yields reflect RLAM's current perception of market conventions around timing of bond cash flows.

#### **Unrated Bonds**

Unrated bonds are not rated by a credit rating agency. RLAM ascribes internal ratings for these bonds which will vary for each asset.

#### **Important Information**

This is a financial promotion and is not investment advice.

The Fund is a sub-fund of Royal London Asset Management Funds plc, an open-ended investment company with variable capital (ICVC), with segregated liability between subfunds. Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of Ireland and authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland as a UCITS Fund. It is a recognised scheme under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The Management Company is FundRock Management Company SA, Registered office: 33 rue de Gasperich, L – 5826 Hesperange, Luxembourg and is authorised and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). The Investment Manager is Royal London Asset Management Limited. For more information on the Fund or the risks of investing, please refer to the Prospectus or Key Investor Information Document (KIID), available via the relevant Fund Information page on www.rlam.com. Most of the protections provided by the UK regulatory system, and the compensation under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, will not be available.

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Please note that the impact of Futures is not considered as part of the overall fund Duration calculation; Fund level Duration is based on long only physical assets (incl cash).

Source: RLAM, FE fundinfo and HSBC as at 31.03.24, unless otherwise stated. Yield definitions are shown above.

Our ref: FS RLAM PD 0124

Breakdowns exclude cash and FX hedging.

More information on the sustainability factors for this fund can be found on our website at https://www.rlam.com/intermediaries/policies-and-regulatory/

## **Fund Commentary**

The fund returned 0.65%, gross of fees, in March, which was behind the benchmark, the ICE BofA Merrill Lynch BB-B Global Non-Financial High Yield Constrained Index (100% GBP hedged), return of 1.12%. Against the fund's objective, outperforming its benchmark by 1% per annum over rolling thee-year periods, it is behind of the benchmark, gross of fees (0.08% versus 0.32%). The global high yield market produced a GBP-hedged monthly return of 1.12% to continue the current streak of five months in a row with positive returns. This return came from carry and spread tightening as global high yield spreads (BB-B index) tightened 13bps during the month with the government yield curve tightening by 4bps during the month. The HY market is now yielding 6.95%(YTW) with a duration of 3.6 years. The fund's yield, FX-adjusted, stood at 7.40% (YTW) at the end of March, with a duration of 3.9 years.

The month of March saw a continuation with the amount of global high yield new issuance at \$39.0bn, up \$900m from February and much higher than the average \$20.0bn issued each month over the past two years. In the US, \$27.6bn of high yield debt was issued with over 63% being BB rated. The US high yield default rate edged lower in March to 2.2% from 2.3% in February. The default rate in the US high yield market has not exceeded 3% since May 2021, and never topped 2.5% in all of 2023 and so far in 2024. For comparison, during the GFC the default rate was seen over 20% and it was over 7% during the Covid pandemic. The global high yield rate slipped to 2.7% from 2.8% and lower than the 3.3% seen in March last year. These default levels would be entirely normal in an historic context, but the nature of the economic backdrop and strong company balance sheets means we expect default rates to grind higher, instead of sharply spiking.

In the fund, our total returns were driven by our holdings in energy, technology & electronics, and transportation. Relative to the benchmark, our financial services, telecommunications and utility bonds led to the underperformance and lagged the wider market, producing a negative total return. By rating, both our BB and B rated holdings were behind the benchmark. While outside the benchmark, our BBB & Above holdings saw a strong total return while our CCC & Below bonds saw a negative return. By region, our European holdings saw the largest underperformance, producing negative total returns, while our US and UK bonds were broadly in line with the benchmark but our RoW bonds the relative outperformer. For the market, all regions produced positive returns during the month with the RoW and the US relatively outperforming. With respect to sectors, telecommunications produced negative returns. As occurred in February, real estate was the outperformer on a relative basis in March.

This is not a recommendation or solicitation to buy or sell any particular security. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the manager at the time and are subject to change without notice.

Sector Breakdown			
	Fund	Index	
Basic Industry	8.3%	9.9%	
Capital Goods	9.4%	6.4%	
Consumer Goods	3.2%	4.1%	
Energy	10.4%	15.1%	
Healthcare	8.8%	7.8%	
Leisure	8.4%	7.2%	
Media	14.0%	6.5%	
Services	12.5%	6.4%	
Technology & Electronics	3.9%	4.8%	
Telecommunications	11.2%	7.7%	
Transportation	2.8%	3.5%	
Other	7.2%	20.7%	

The global funds sector classifications are based on ICE BofA sector level 3 classifications.

Credit Breakdown			Maturity Profile		
Name	Fund	Index		Fund	Index
AAA - A	3.7%	0.0%	o - 5 years	66.9%	60.6%
BBB	4.8%	0.0%	5 - 10 years	26.7%	36.1%
BB	41.3%	61.5%	10 - 15 years	0.0%	1.0%
В	45.9%	38.5%	15+ years	6.4%	2.4%
CCC	3.7%	0.0%	Maturity classifications reflect issue maturity date not market interpretation of redemptions.		
CC & Below	0.6%	0.0%			
Unrated	0.0%	0.0%	Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.		ng.

Top 10 Holdings as at 29.02.24	
	Fund
LIVE NATION ENTERTAINMENT INC 4.75 15-OCT-2027 144a (SENIOR)	1.4%
EMERALD DEBT MERGER SUB LLC 6.625 15-DEC-2030 144a (SECURED)	1.1%
CEMEX SAB DE CV PERP 5.125 31-DEC-2079 Reg-S (SUB)	1.0%
SCIH SALT HOLDINGS INC 4.875 01-MAY-2028 144a (SECURED)	1.0%
WESCO DISTRIBUTION INC 7.25 15-JUN-2028 144a (SENIOR)	1.0%
CARNIVAL CORP 7.625 01-MAR-2026 144a (SENIOR)	0.9%
AMC NETWORKS INC 4.75 01-AUG-2025 (SENIOR)	0.9%
TEVA PHARMACEUTICAL FINANCE NETHER 3.15 01-OCT-2026 (SENIOR)	0.9%
TELENET FINANCE LUXEMBOURG NOTES S 5.5 01-MAR-2028 144a	
(SECURED)	0.9%
ROLLS-ROYCE PLC 5.75 15-OCT-2027 Reg-S (SENIOR)	0.9%
Total	10.1%
No of Holdings	259

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of any information provided but no assurances or warranties are given. Nothing in this factsheet should be construed as advice and is therefore not a recommendation to buy or sell shares.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

#### **Private Investors**

For enquiries and dealing: Tel: 0035318538707\*

#### Intermediaries

For enquiries: Tel: 0203 272 5950\* Email: BDSupport@rlam.co.uk

#### Institutional Investors

For enquiries: Tel: 020 7506 6500\* Email: Institutional@rlam.co.uk

#### **Head Office**

Royal London Asset Management Limited 80 Fenchurch Street London, EC3M 4BY Tel: 020 7506 6500\* Telephone calls may be recorded. For further information please see the privacy policy at http://www.rlam.com.

## **Key Concepts to Understand**

**Bonds:** Securities that represent an obligation to repay a debt, with interest. Investment grade bonds are high quality bonds that are viewed as being highly likely to make all scheduled payments of interest and principal. Low quality bonds carry higher risk but also typically pay higher rates of interest. **Derivative:** A financial instrument whose price is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying asset.

**Efficient Portfolio Management:** An investment technique that allows the use of derivatives for at least one of the following purposes: to increase the value of the Fund; to protect the value of the Fund or to reduce the risks of certain investments.

**Currency Hedged Share Classes:** Currency Hedged Share Classes aim to provide investors with a return highly correlated to the return of the base currency share class by minimising the impact of exchange rate fluctuations between the base currency of the Fund and the investor's chosen currency. Derivatives are typically used to hedge the relevant share classes

#### **Fund Risks**

**Investment Risk:** The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

**Credit Risk:** Should the issuer of a fixed income security become unable to make income or capital payments, or their rating is downgraded, the value of that investment will fall. Fixed income securities that have a lower credit rating can pay a higher level of income and have an increased risk of default. **EPM Techniques:** The Fund may engage in EPM techniques including holdings of derivative instruments. Whilst intended to reduce risk, the use of these instruments may expose the Fund to increased price volatility.

**Exchange Rate Risk:** Investing in assets denominated in a currency other than the base currency of the Fund means the value of the investment can be affected by changes in exchange rates.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Fixed interest securities are particularly affected by trends in interest rates and inflation. If interest rates go up, the value of capital may fall, and vice versa. Inflation will also decrease the real value of capital.

**Liquidity Risk:** In difficult market conditions the value of certain fund investments may be difficult to value and harder to sell, or sell at a fair price, resulting in unpredictable falls in the value of your holding. **Emerging Markets Risk:** Investing in Emerging Markets may provide the potential for greater rewards but carries greater risk due to the possibility of high volatility, low liquidity, currency fluctuations, the adverse effect of social, political and economic instability, weak supervisory structures and accounting standards.

**Counterparty Risk:** The insolvency of any institutions providing services such as safekeeping of assets or acting as counterparty to derivatives or other instruments, may expose the Fund to financial loss.