

Conflicts of Interest Policy

January 2020

1. Introduction

As a firm registered in the UK, TwentyFour Asset Management LLP (“TwentyFour”, the “Firm”) must abide by domestic legislation and any EU Directives or Regulations. Accordingly, this document makes due reference to the revised Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (“MiFID II”) and FSMA 2000 as they apply to corporate governance and conflicts of interest.

Furthermore as the Firm is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (the “FCA”) the Firm must observe and comply with Chapter 10 of SYSC, COBS 12 and Principle 8 as they apply to corporate governance and conflicts of interest.

The Firm provides investment management services which are targeted primarily at professional investors and advisors. These services could potentially give rise to conflicts of interest entailing a material risk of damage to the interests of one or more clients.

2. Objective & Scope

The Firm is required to take all reasonable steps to identify and adequately manage conflicts of interest entailing a material risk of damage to a Client’s interests. This policy aims to set out these potential conflicts and the Firm’s arrangements in connection with the identification, documentation, escalation and management of conflicts of interest.

Senior management within the Firm are responsible for ensuring that systems, controls and procedures are adequate to identify and manage conflicts of interest. The Firm’s Compliance Department assists in the identification and monitoring of actual and potential conflicts of interest.

For the purposes of this document, and in accordance with SYSC 10.1.7, this policy applies to those conflicts of interest that may give rise to a material risk of damage to the interests of a Client.

This policy applies globally to the Firm, its subsidiaries, and all staff members of the Firm or its subsidiaries.

3. Principle

3.1 Definition of Conflicts of Interest

An actual or potential conflict of interest may arise between:

- the Firm and a Client;
- a Relevant Person and a Client;
- two or more Clients of the Firm;
- the Relevant Person(s) and third parties within the Firm.

3.2 Identifying situations where a conflict may arise

For the purposes of identifying the types of conflicts of interest that arise, or may arise, TwentyFour must take into account, as a minimum, whether the Firm, a Relevant Person or a person directly or indirectly linked by control to the Firm:

- is likely to make a financial gain, or avoid a financial loss, at the expense of the Client;
- has an interest in the outcome of the service to, or a transaction carried out for, a Client which differs from the Client's interest;
- has a financial or other incentive to favour one Client (or group of Clients) over the interests of another;
- carries on the same or similar business as the Client; and/or
- receives an inducement from a third party in the execution of the service provided to the Client, other than the standard commission/fee for that service.

TwentyFour has identified a variety of situations in which conflicts of interest may arise. Below is a non-exhaustive summary of potential conflicts of interest that may arise in relation to services provided by the Firm:

1. the Firm or an associate undertakes designated investment business for other Clients including its associates (and the clients of its associates);
2. a partner or employee of the Firm, or of an associate, is a director of, holds or deals in securities of, or is otherwise interested in any company whose securities are held or dealt in on behalf of a Client;
3. a transaction is effected in units or shares of a fund or company of which the Firm or an associate is the manager, operator or adviser;

4. a transaction is effected in securities in respect of which the Firm or an associate, or a director, partner or employee of the Firm or an associate, is contemporaneously trading or has traded on its/their own account or has either a long or short position;
5. the Firm may, when acting as agent for a Client, match an order of the Client with an order of another Client for whom it is acting as agent;
6. a partner or employee of the Firm taking personal advantage of information gained, using company assets for personal benefit or profiting from business opportunities identified through a position held at the Firm; and/or
7. a partner or employee of the Firm valuing assets in a fund for personal gain.

3.3 Control and prevention of conflicts of interest

Where conflicts, or potential conflicts, are identified TwentyFour is committed to ensuring that they are effectively and fairly managed so as to prevent these conflicts from constituting or giving rise to a material risk of damage to the interests of Clients.

3.3.1 As a minimum standard the Firm has in place arrangements designed to ensure that:

- specific policies and procedures with regard to among others execution of orders, personal transactions, remunerations and inducements have been implemented
- there are effective procedures in place to control the flow of information where, otherwise, the risk of a conflict of interest may harm the interests of a Client; For example, insider lists, NDAs, and this Conflicts of Interest Policy
- supervisory arrangements provide for separate supervision of staff where necessary for the fair management of conflicts of interest;
- relevant information is recorded promptly in a secure environment to enable identification and management of conflicts of Interest; For example, insider lists, Conflicts of Interest Record (as defined below);
- where necessary, appropriate disclosure may be made to the Client in a clear, fair and not misleading manner to enable the Client to make an informed decision;
- appropriate escalation processes are in place and complied with where a conflict of interest has been identified or may be identified;
- adequate records are maintained of the services and activities of the Firm where a potential conflict of interest has been identified: the Conflicts of Interest Record;
- where necessary, Relevant Persons may be asked to step aside from working on a specific transaction or participating in the management of a potential conflict of interest; and
- there is a periodic review of the adequacy of the Firm's systems and controls.

3.3.2 Where it is not possible to prevent actual conflicts of interest from arising TwentyFour will try to manage the conflicts of interest by:

- i. Disclosure to the Client;
- ii. Establishing an information barrier; or
- iii. Declining to provide the service

Disclosure to the Client - clearly disclose the general nature and source of the conflict of interest to the Client before undertaking business for the client. The disclosure will be made in writing and include sufficient detail to enable the Client to take an informed decision about the service in the context of which the conflict of interest has arisen.

Information Barrier - information held by one part of the business to be withheld from, or not used by, persons in another part of the business. The use of an information barrier will be established and enforced by the Compliance Department.

Declining to provide a service – where it is not possible to avoid a conflict of interest, TwentyFour may have no choice but to decline to provide the service requested.

3.3.3 Specific Controls to Safeguard against Conflicts of Interest

3.3.3.1 Inducements including Gifts & Hospitality

Minor Non-Monetary Benefits (“MNMB”)

TwentyFour maintains business relationships with third parties who may remunerate the Firm in the form of management and performance fees which can constitute monetary or non-monetary benefits thereby impairing TwentyFour’s fiduciary duties to the Client.

A Non-Monetary Benefits that involves a third party allocating valuable resources to TwentyFour is not a MNMB and accordingly should be considered as a potential conflict of interest.

Acceptable MNMBs *must be*:

- clearly disclosed prior to the provision of the relevant service to the Client;
- capable of enhancing the quality of service provided to the Client;
- of a scale and nature that could not be judged to impair compliance with the duty to act honestly, fairly and professionally in the best interests of the Client; and
- reasonable, proportionate and of a scale that is unlikely to influence the Firm’s behaviour in any way that is detrimental to the interests of the relevant Client.

Acceptable MNMBs include:

- information or documentation relating to a financial instrument or investment service, that is generic in nature or personalised to reflect the circumstances of an individual Client;
- written material from a third party that is commissioned and paid for by a corporate issuer or potential issuer to promote a new issuance by the company, or where the third party firm is contractually engaged and paid by the issuer to produce such material on an ongoing basis, provided that the relationship is clearly disclosed in the material and that the material is made available at the same time to any firms wishing to receive it, or to the general public;
- participation in conferences, seminars and other training events on the benefits and features of a specific financial instrument or an investment service;
- hospitality of a reasonable de minimis value, such as food and drink during a business meeting or a conference, seminar or other training events; and
- non-substantive material or services, as set out in COBS 2.3A.22.

Gifts & Hospitality

Gifts and hospitality could lead to potential conflicts of interest. No Relevant Person may accept from, or give to, any person any gift or other benefit that cannot properly be regarded as justifiable in all circumstances.

The Firm has in place policies and procedures to ensure that all members of staff and their connected persons do not offer or accept gifts or inducements which may give the perception that decisions or actions are not impartial. All members of staff are required to record details of any entertainment or corporate hospitality received and seek sign-off from the Compliance Department, which would include prior approval above certain monetary values. The Compliance Department also undertakes regular reviews of such matters, including an assessment of all entertainment or corporate hospitality received by all dealing and fund management personnel.

For the avoidance of doubt TwentyFour considers reasonable business lunches and dinners where the purpose is to discuss topics that are capable of enhancing the quality of service provided to the Client to fall within the category of MNMBs.

3.3.3.2 Personal Account Dealing

A conflict of interest could occur if a member of staff were to invest or undertake transactions in a security which is held within the portfolios that the Firm manages on behalf of Clients or a potential conflict may arise where a member of staff deals in a security ahead of Clients. The Firm's Personal Account Dealing Policy has been implemented in relation to personal account dealing and outside business interests to ensure that any conflicts of interest which may arise between a staff member's personal interests and the need to make impartial decisions are appropriately managed.

A log of all reportable personal account dealing engaged in across the Firm is maintained by the Firm's Chief Compliance Officer. The log also captures evidence of all necessary approvals and contract notes.

3.3.3.3 Client Orders and Allocation of Trades

The Firm's Order Execution Policy is enforced to ensure fairness among the portfolios the Firm manages and to provide market prices from the most appropriate, approved counterparty available. Certain investments may be appropriate for multiple clients. Investment decisions for these clients are made by fund managers in their best judgement, taking account of those factors which they believe relevant. Such factors may include investment objectives, regulatory restrictions, current holdings, availability of cash for investment, the size of investments generally, and limitations or restrictions on a Client's account that are imposed by the Client or under law.

Unless Client specific circumstances dictate otherwise, for example when clients instruct us to use a particular brokerage, the investment teams normally implement transactions in individual stocks for all Clients with similar mandates at the same time.

The allocation of executed trades is also done in accordance with procedures designed to ensure fair treatment. When orders are completed, trades are pro-rated among participating Clients unless there is a significant reason not to do so, such as unforeseen cash commitments for a Client or group of Clients or where so little stock is bought or sold during the day that the costs of settlement outweigh the benefit to Clients if the trades are allocated to all participating Clients.

3.3.3.4 Dealing in Own Funds

TwentyFour may, through its provision of investment management activities provide discretionary management services to its Clients and may invest directly into other funds managed by itself or an affiliate. Any such investments would be in accordance with the relevant Client and fund documentation.

3.3.3.5 Insider Dealing

The Firm has implemented an Insider Dealing Policy to explain insider dealing and articulate how the Firm identifies and manages inside information, and mitigates the risk of insider dealing.

3.3.3.6 Remuneration

The Firm's Remuneration Policy has been implemented to ensure that members of staff are remunerated appropriately and in a manner that promotes effective risk management, fair treatment of clients and mitigates conflicts of interests.

3.3.3.7 Information Barriers

Information barriers and other measures may be put in place to enable the Firm and Relevant Persons to carry out business on behalf of Clients without being influenced by other information held within the Firm that may give rise to a potential conflict of interest.

TwentyFour also maintains, and periodically updates, its Restricted List of financial instruments that are prohibited or restricted from investment as a result of a conflict of interest or inside information.

Staff members should adhere to the following procedures to help prevent the passing of confidential information to unauthorised persons.

Limiting access to information:

- i. confidential material within individual offices or administrative areas should be kept in cabinets or drawers or otherwise covered;
- ii. telephone conversations and meetings that might contain confidential/sensitive information should be held in private;
- iii. confidential information should only be made available to individuals who need the information to perform their duties; and/or
- iv. visitors to the firm should be escorted at all times and not left to wander unrestricted.

3.4 Conflicts of Interest Record

The Firm keeps and regularly updates a record of the types of regulated business activities carried out by or on behalf of the Firm in which conflicts of interest entailing a material risk of damage to the interests of one or more Clients has arisen or, in the case of an ongoing regulated business service or activity, may arise (the Firm's 'Conflicts of Interest Record'). These records will be maintained for a minimum period of 6 years from the date of creation and are maintained on an on-going basis by the Chief Compliance Officer.

3.5 Monitoring & Review

TwentyFour will monitor the effectiveness of its systems and controls surrounding the management of any conflicts of interests to identify, and where appropriate, correct any deficiencies. The Firm will regularly review its Conflicts of Interest Policy and should we amend or replace any version of the policy, the newest version will automatically apply and will supersede all previous versions.

3.6 Reporting Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest situations or potential conflicts situations should be reported to the Chief Compliance Officer immediately.

4. Explanation of Terms

4.1. Client

For the purposes of this policy, Clients include:

- existing Clients of the Firm;
- potential Clients (where the Firm is seeking individually to enter into a contractual relationship in respect of Regulated Business services); and/or
- past Clients where fiduciary or other duties remain in place.

4.2. Relevant Person

For the purposes of this policy, “Relevant Person” means any of the following:

- a partner, manager or appointed representative of the Firm;
- a partner or manager of any appointed representative of the Firm;
- a member of staff of the Firm or of an appointed representative of the Firm;
- a natural person who is involved in the provision of services to the Firm or its appointed representative under an outsourcing arrangement.