



# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund

(part of TwentyFour's Short Term Bond Strategy)

*Webinar update*

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# **Why I believe short dated IG is the “best game in town for 2023”**

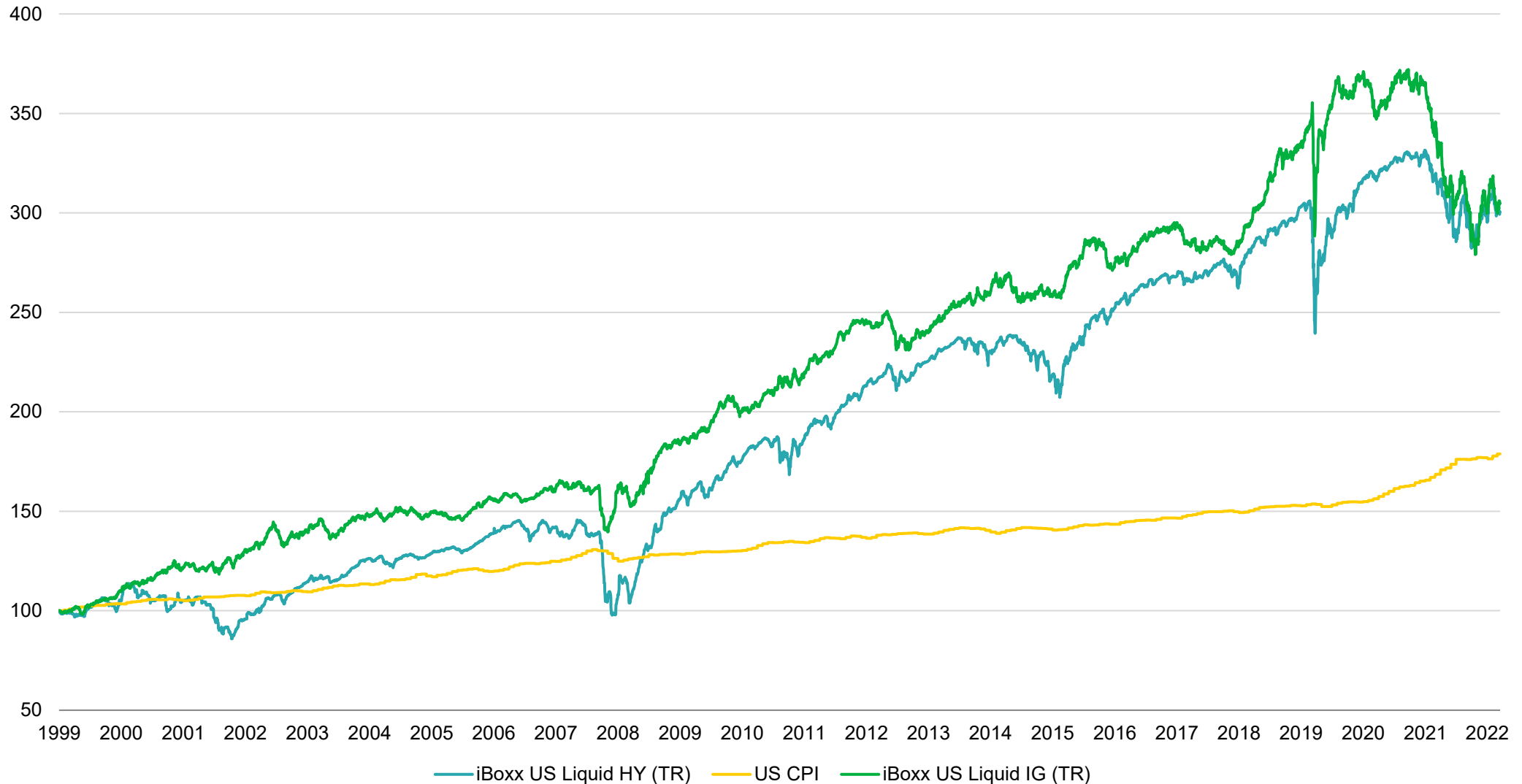


# 2022 was the worst year for bonds in living memory

## *IG had twice the losses of HY, burning through the entire century's outperformance*

Index Level

Rebased: 31/12/1999 = 100



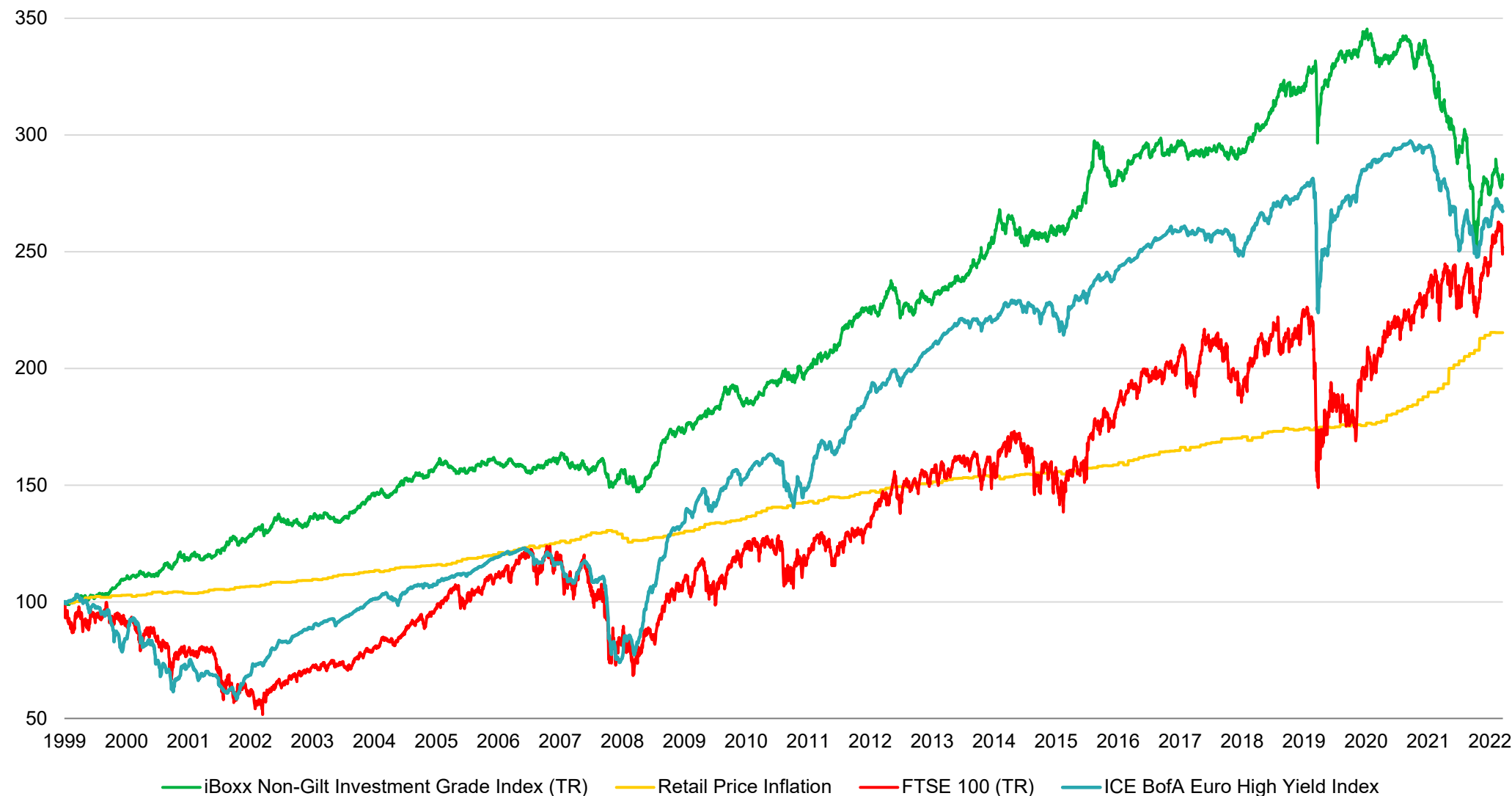
**Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future performance.** The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally invested. It is not possible to invest directly into an index and they will not be actively managed.

Source: TwentyFour, Bloomberg, iBoxx, ICE indices; 14 March 2023

# Asset returns this century, UK/Europe

Index Level

Rebased: 31/12/1999 = 100



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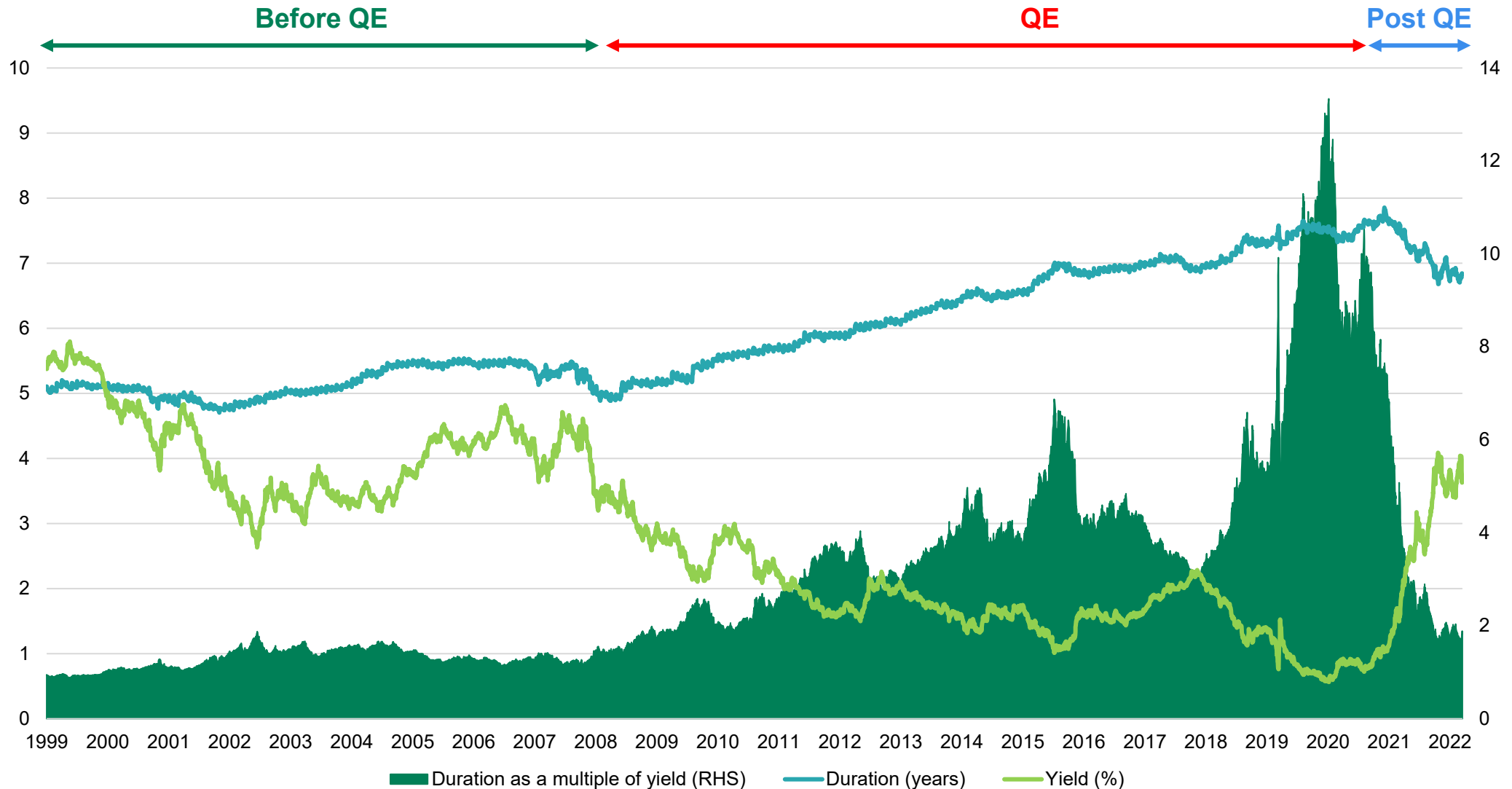
Source: TwentyFour, Bloomberg, iBoxx, ICE indices; 14 March 2023



# The yield rise in 2022 reversed all 13 years of Q.E.

(where Q.E. had previously distorted the risk/reward relationship of the bond market)

## Ratio of Duration (risk) vs. Yield (reward)






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Source: TwentyFour, ICE indices; 14 March 2023

# The terminal rate debate has not finished yet...

*Inflation remains more than transitory, despite US bank crisis*

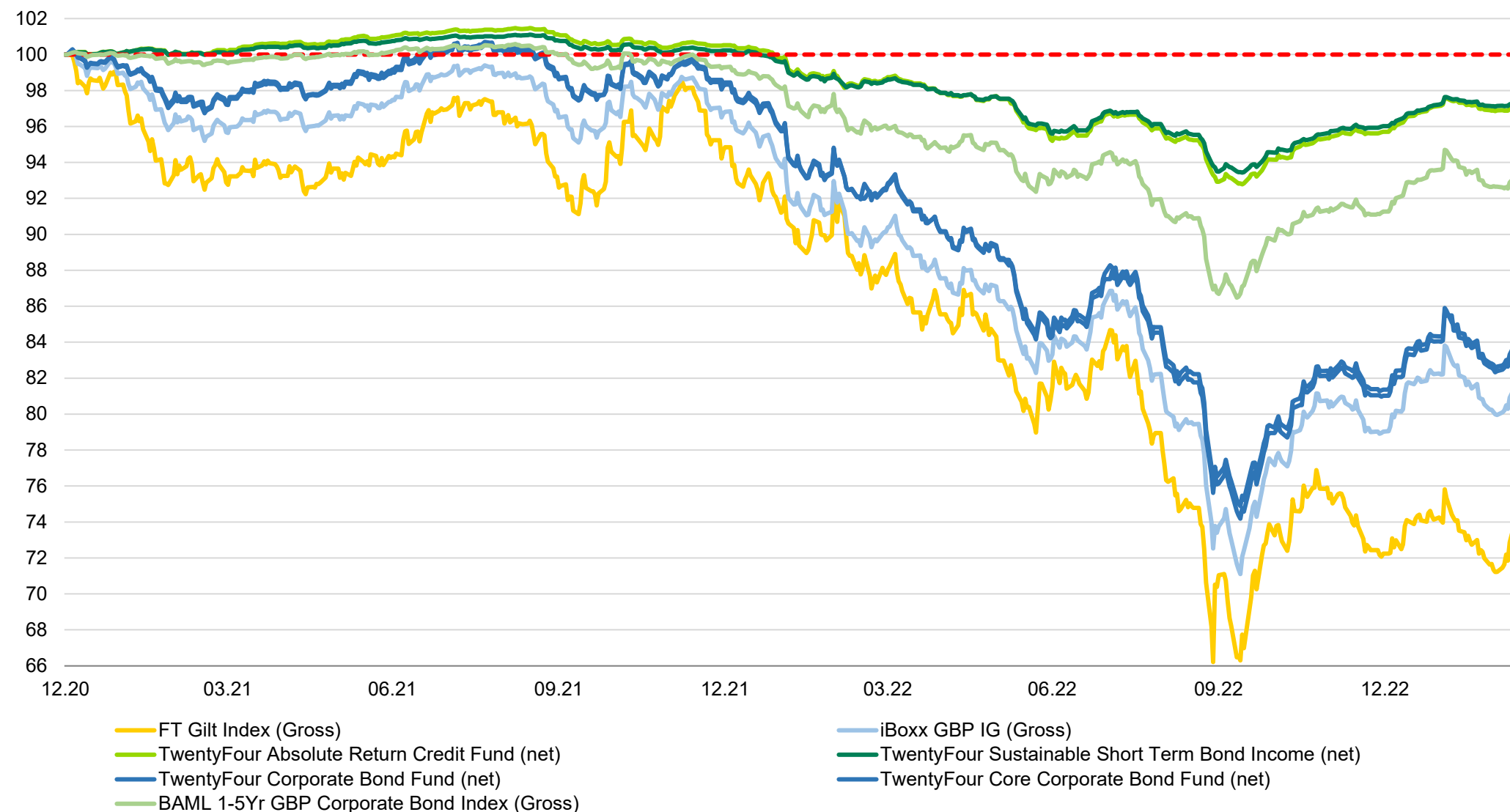
	 <b>US</b>	 <b>Germany</b>	 <b>UK</b>
CPI	6.00% ↓	8.70% ↑	10.10% ↓
Core CPI	5.50% ↓	5.70% ↑	5.80% ↓
PPI	6.00% ↓	17.80% ↓	13.50% ↓
Unemployment	3.60% ↑	5.70% ↑	3.70% ↔
Hikes so far	3 x 25bp, 2 x 50bp, 4 x 75bp	3 x 50bp, 2 x 75bp	5 x 25bp, 4 x 50bp, 1 x 75bp
Hikes expected by end 2023	+1 -> -2	+2 to +3	+2
Official Rate	4.75%	3.00%	4.00%
Terminal rate market expectation	5.01% (Jun 23)	3.65% (Oct 23)	4.46% (Sep 23)
Mandate	Output + Inflation	Inflation	Inflation
Risk of policy error?	Lowest	Highest	Medium
Deposit Rate (3m LIBOR/SONIA)	4.86%	2.96%	4.26%

**Central banks have to walk a dangerous tightrope – hike rates to retain inflation credibility and generate a recession? Or prioritise growth – but at what cost?**

# Nowhere in FI escaped losses last year, but short dated protected better

*(Worst month for gilts since index created was August at -7.64%, September was -8.04%)*

Rebased 100 = 01/01/2021



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# **So where do we think the best opportunities in Fixed Income are now?**



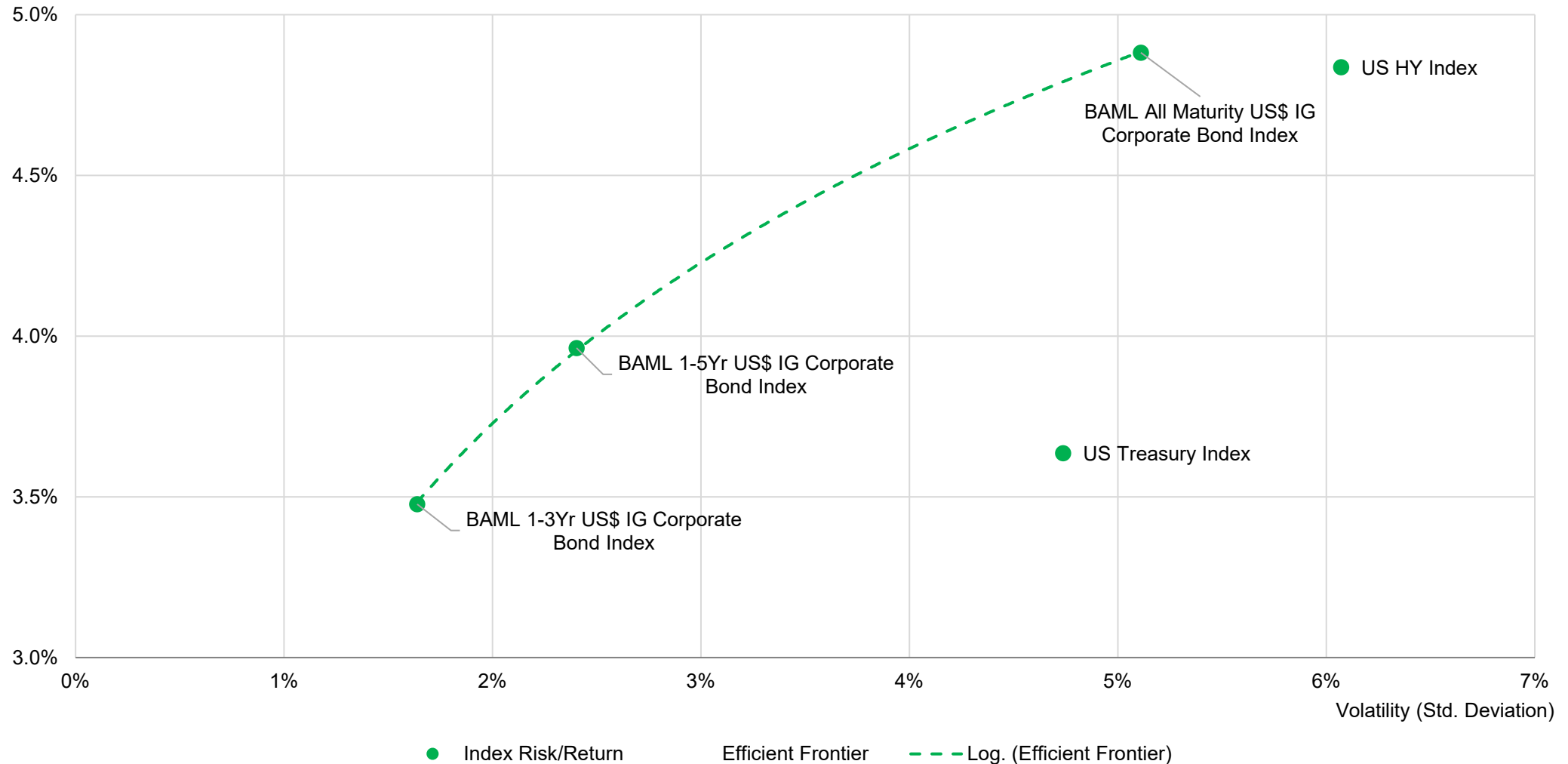


# IG is where risk-adjusted returns are maximised

## *Short dated especially so*

Long term risk-adjusted returns for US\$ Fixed Income  
31/12/99 to 22/02/23

Annualised return

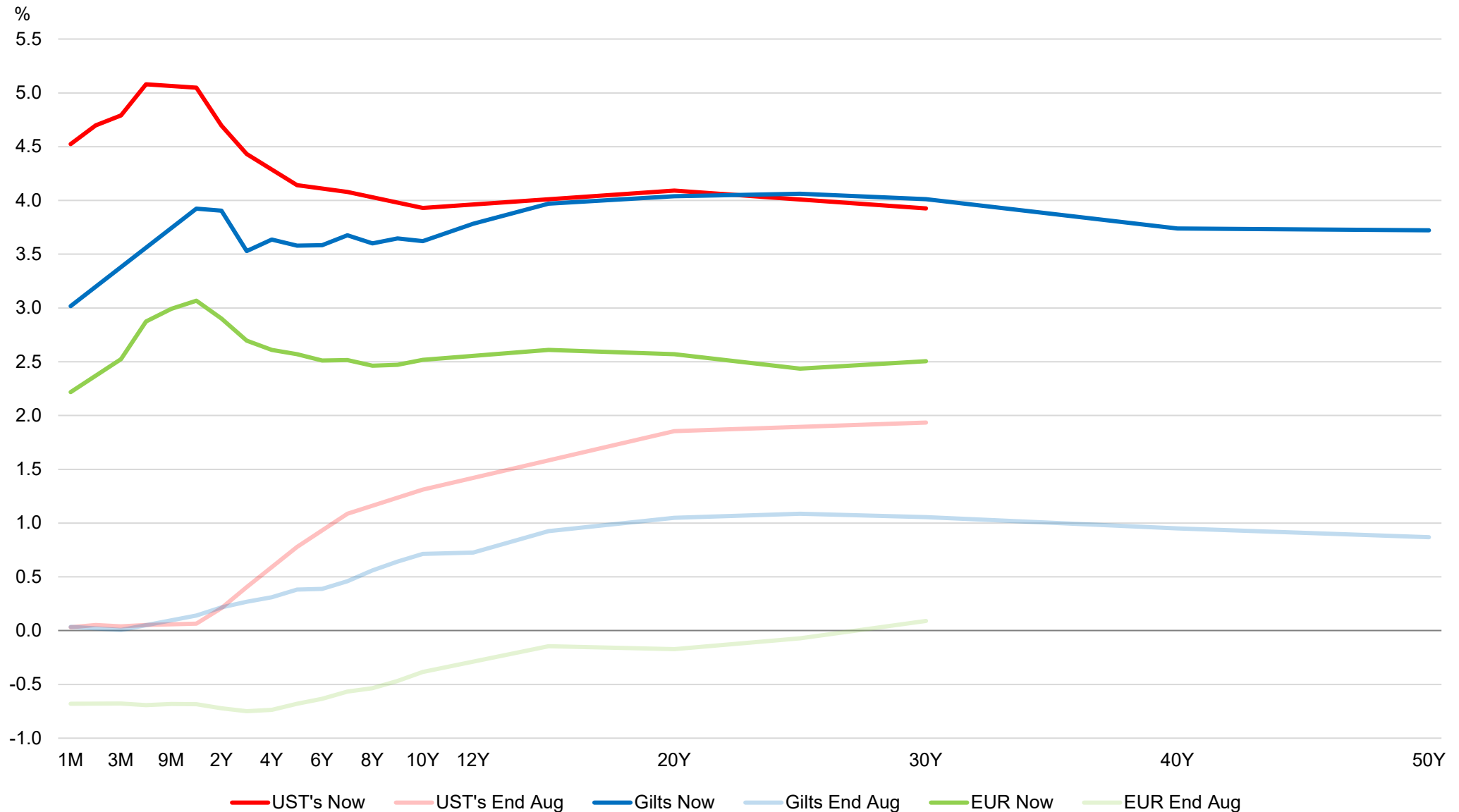


**Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.** It is not possible to invest directly into an index and they will not be actively managed.

Source: TwentyFour, Bloomberg, iBoxx, ICE Indices  
Data as at 22 February 2023

# So where on the curve are the best opportunities right now?

*Beyond 5yrs of maturity there is no additional yield!*



**Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.**

Source: TwentyFour, Bloomberg  
Data as at 31 August 2021 & 28 February 2023

# Meaning credit yields between short and long dated IG are the same...

*Are capital risks the same?*

## ICE/BAML IG Global Indices

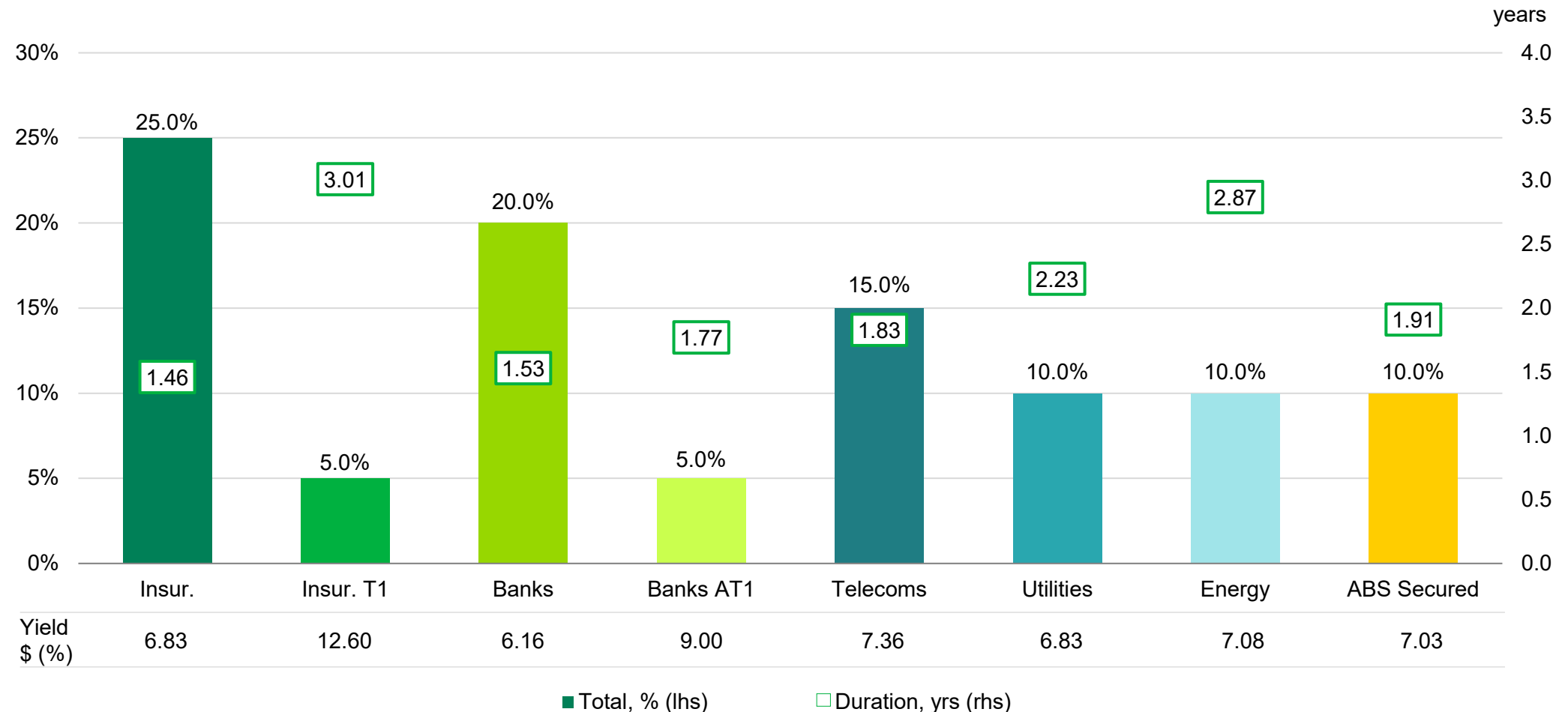
	1-3Yr	1-5Yr	All Maturity
Yield to worst (US\$)	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Duration	1.79	2.57	6.74
Yield ÷ Duration (breakeven)	+307bp	+214bp	+81bp
Identical yield?	✓	✓	✓
Protection against losses?	✓✓	✓	✗

**Objective: Try to maximise your breakeven (protection against losses) by staying at the front end of the curve, where you can get paid exactly the same yield, but have a fraction of the capital risks**

# Focusing on specific index sectors allows you to improve the yield

## BAML 1-5Yr Sector Yields/Durations

### Sector breakdown



**USD yield 7.22%, IR duration 1.89yrs**

Index sector breakdowns have been amended for illustrative purposes only and don't reflect current breakdowns. Modelled performance is subject to inherent limitations, please see the Important Information slides for further details. It is not possible to invest directly into an index and they will not be actively managed.

Source: TwentyFour; ICE Indices; Data as at 23 February 2023

# Risk vs. Reward including focussed index sectors example

## ICE/BAML IG Corporate Indices

	Focussed Example	1-3Yr	1-5Yr	All Maturity
Yield to worst	7.22%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Duration	1.89	1.79	2.57	6.74
Yield ÷ Duration (breakeven)	+382bp	+307bp	+214bp	+81bp
Identical yield?	higher	✓	✓	✓
Protection against losses?	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	✗

**Conclusion: You can improve on the relationship between risk and reward by being selective**

## Summary – why we think short dated IG is the “best game in town in 2023”

- 2022 was the worst year for bonds in living memory
- Risks still remain to all asset classes, as we move from:
  - > Global inflation as a narrative...
  - > To higher terminal rates, global recession fears, and now a possible banking crisis in the US...
- Short dated IG consistently produces some of the best risk-adjusted returns in Fixed Income
- Right now, the yield on short dated credit is *exactly the same* as long-dated credit
  - > But capital risks are far lower in the short dated – so why take longer-dated risk?
- By actively investing in short dated IG, you can:
  - > Improve the yield
  - > Keep duration even lower

***You can park capital in short dated IG for the remainder of 2023, clipping a very attractive yield of ~6% whilst other assets potentially reset to a challenging recession environment***

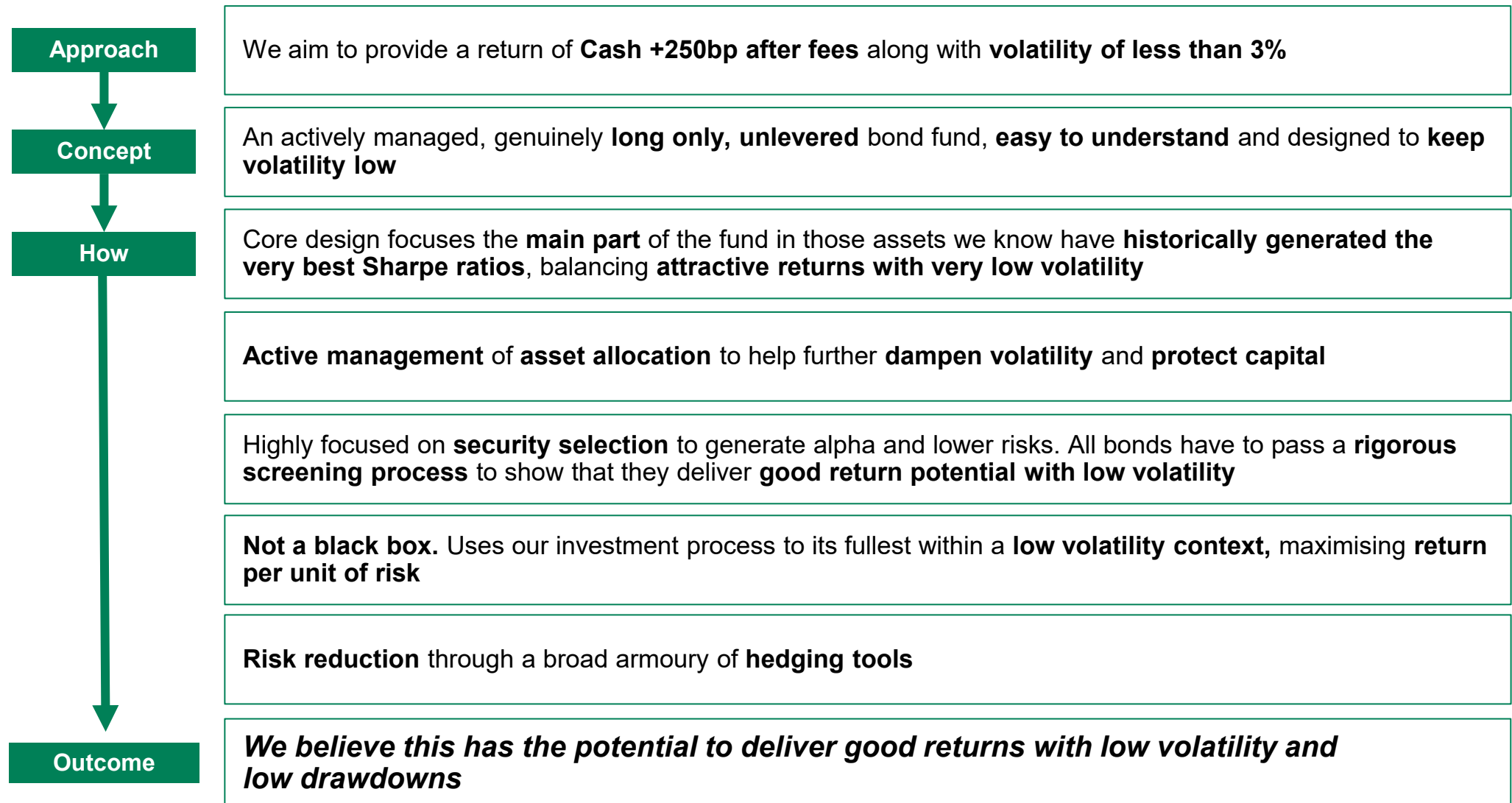
**Past performance are not reliable indicators of actual current or future performance.** Yields shown is Yield to Maturity which is the total return anticipated on a bond if the bond is held until the end of its lifetime. Yield to Maturity is considered a long-term bond yield, but is expressed as an annual rate. The views expressed represent the opinions of TwentyFour as at March 2023, they may change and may have already been acted upon, they may also not be shared by other entities within the Vontobel Group.



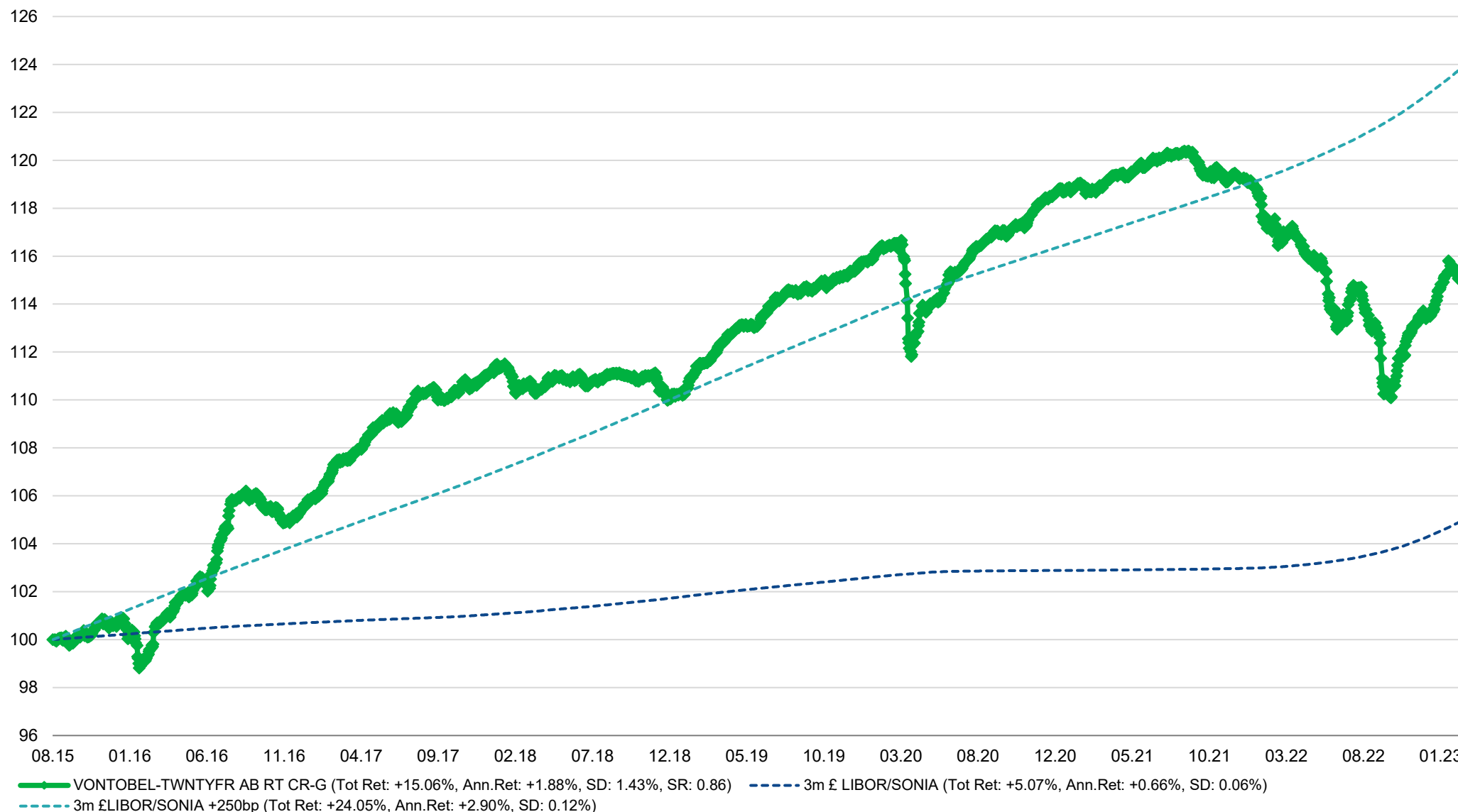
# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund positioning and performance



# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund overview



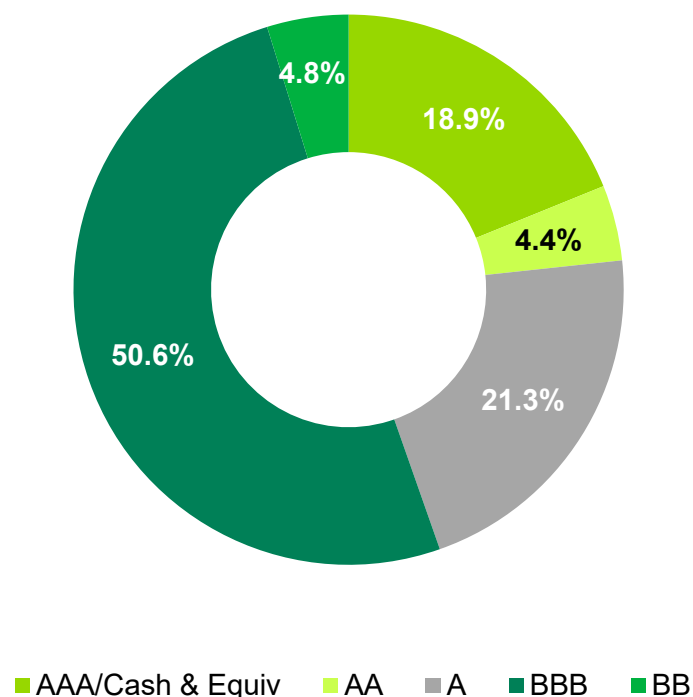
# The solution: good returns with low volatility = potential for very high Sharpe ratio



**Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future performance.** The performance figures shown are of the G GBP share class performance which was launched on 28 August 2015. Performance figures are shown on a mid-to-mid basis inclusive of net reinvested income and net of all fund expenses. Performance data does not take into account any commissions and costs charged when shares of the fund are issued and redeemed, if applicable. The return of the fund may go down as well as up due to changes in exchange rates. It is not possible to invest directly into an index and it will not be actively managed. 3m GBP LIBOR used up to 31 December 2021, SONIA used thereafter following 3m GBP LIBOR's cessation. Source: TwentyFour, Bloomberg; 14 March 2023

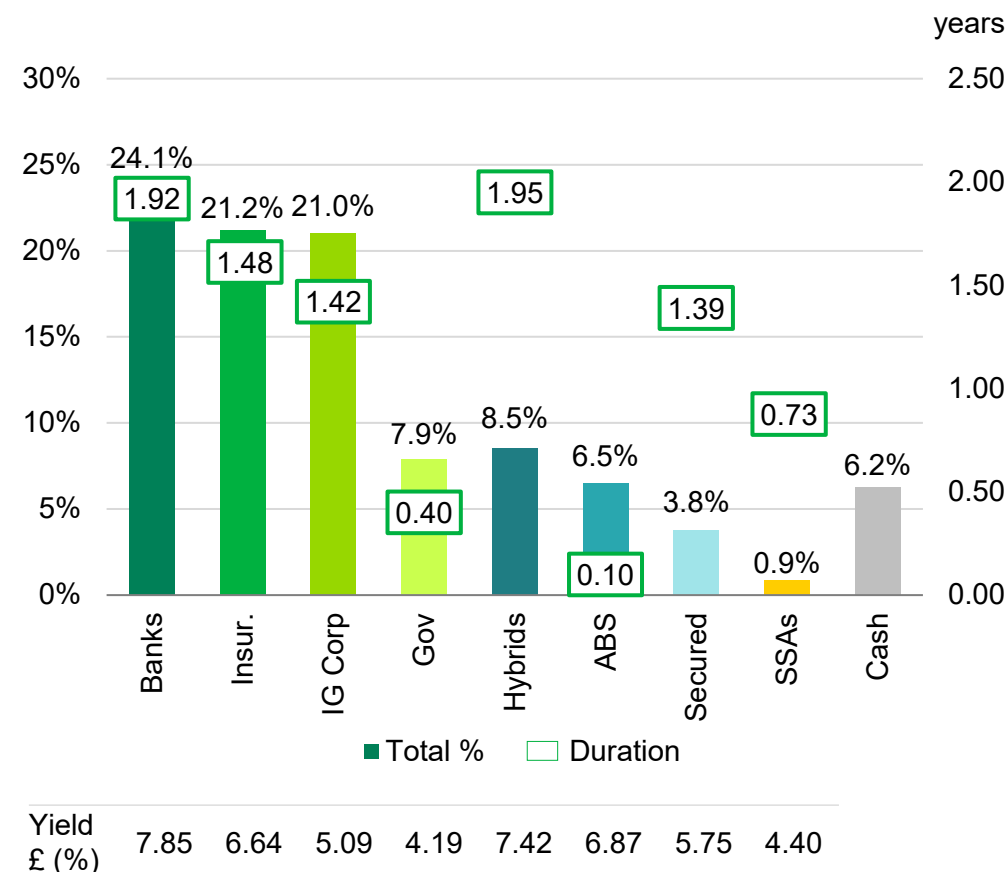
# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund portfolio positioning

## Rating breakdown



**50.6%** in BBBs, **4.8%** in BBs

## Sector breakdown



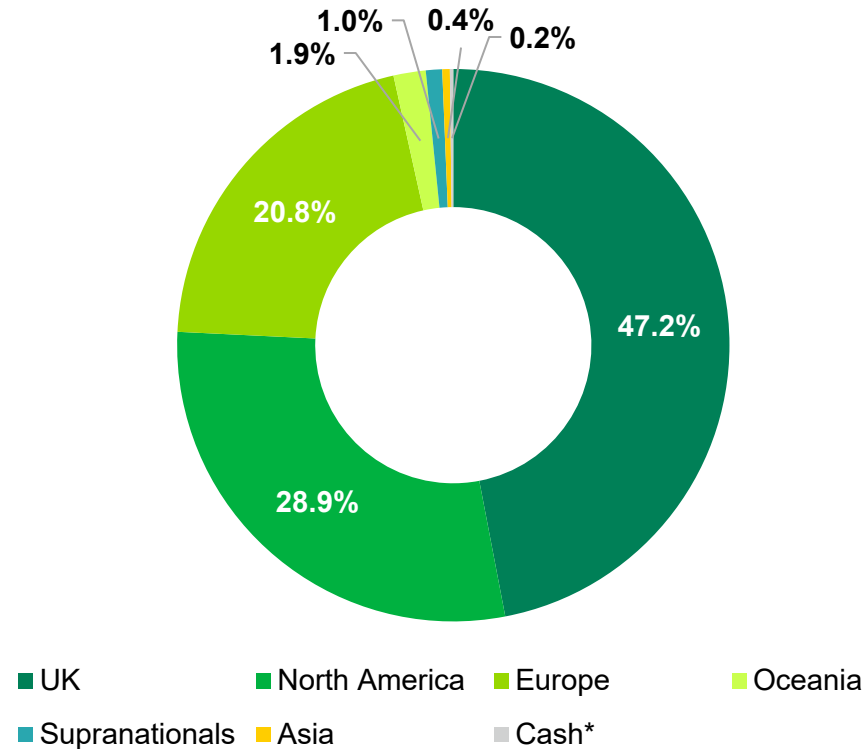
Diversified sector exposure, **94%** in core, **6%** non-core

**GBP yield 6.01%, IR duration 1.42yrs, credit spread duration 1.45yrs, average rating A-**

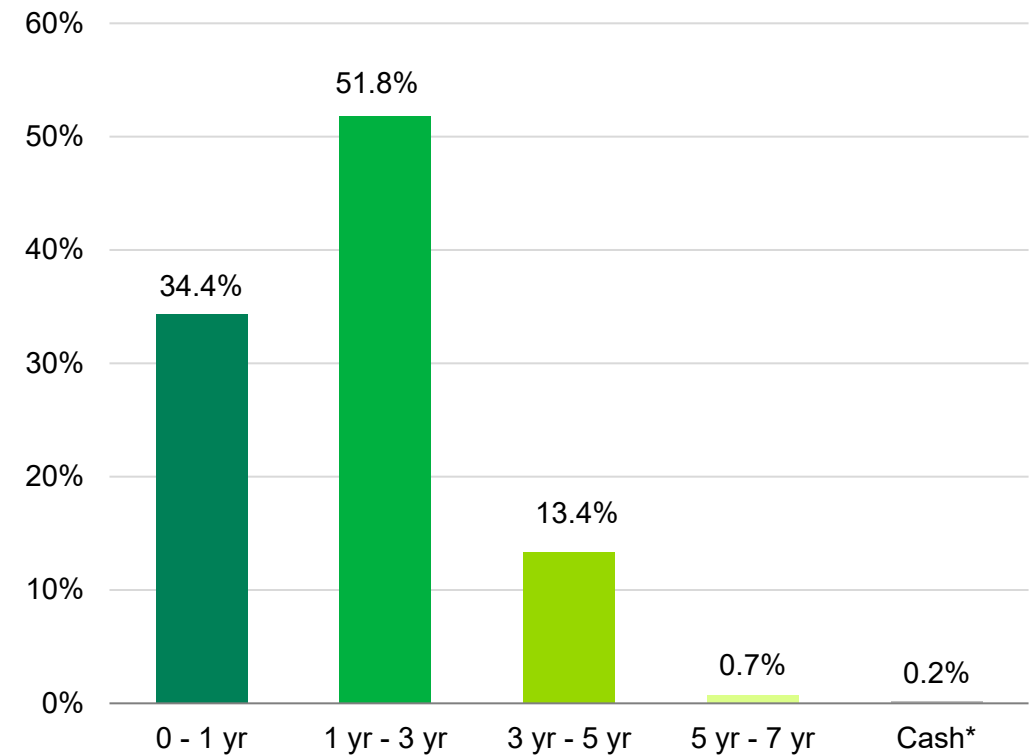
**Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future performance.** \*Yields shown is Yield to Worst which is a measure of the lowest possible yield that can be achieved on a bond with an early retirement provision that fully operates within its contract without defaulting. Yield shown is in GBP at hedged portfolio level and gross of expenses. Performance data is on a mid-to-mid basis inclusive of net reinvested income and net of all fund expenses. Performance data does not take into account any commissions and costs charged when shares of the fund are issued and redeemed, if applicable. The return of the fund may go down as well as up due to changes in exchange rates. See Important Information slides for further information on TwentyFour's credit rating and average credit rating methodology. Source: TwentyFour; 15 March 2023

# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund portfolio positioning

## Geographic breakdown



## Maturity breakdown



**We believe the UK offers the most attractive yield opportunities**

**Focused on the short end of yield curve**

Portfolio allocations and characteristics are subject to change. Geography for ABS is calculated on a direct exposure basis. Figures may not add up to 100% due to FX moves.

\* Excluding FX MTM balance of -0.39%

Source: TwentyFour, 28 February 2023

## Focus on managing downside risk – ‘Break-even yield’

Bond	Maturity / call	Rating	Gross redemption yield*	Modified Duration	Break-even spread $\Delta$	Break-even yield $\Delta$
COVBS 6.875%	18/09/2024	BB+/BBB-	9.80%	1.52yrs	+416bps	+6.45%
CDTFIN 0.625%	22/09/2024	BBB+	3.88%	1.68yrs	+77bps	+2.31%
CNALN 5.25%	10/04/2025	BB+	8.19%	2.05yrs	+146bps	+4.00%
NNGRNV 4.625%	08/04/2024	BBB-	5.26%	1.19yrs	+231ps	+4.40%
DLR 4.25%	17/01/2025	BBB	6.02%	1.88yrs	+122bps	+3.20%

**We find that short dated bonds with good yields and low durations can help provide the best possible mitigation against rising yields whilst still providing good income**



# Banking sector risk

## European Banks are completely different risks to small US community banks

### Capital:

1. Higher quantity, 14% CET1 average in Europe
2. Higher quality
3. Loss absorbing instruments
4. Dodd Frank – less risky businesses
5. MDA's – coupons take priority over equity

	CET1 ratio (%)
Coventry Building Society	29.9
Nationwide Building Society	24.1
Credit Agricole	11.3
NatWest (ex RBS)	14.3
Virgin Money	14.7
Barclays	13.8
BNP	12.2
Investec	12.4

## Small, poorly run tech-focussed US community banks are not in the same ballpark as Basel III

These views represent the opinions of TwentyFour as at March 2023, they may change, may have already been acted upon and may not be shared by other members of the Vontobel Group. Building societies are mutual institutions that can hold banking licenses and therefore we have referred to the above entities collectively as banks. The banks detailed above were the highest 8 by weighting held as at 31 December 2022 and may or may not represent a position held at any other point. Those identified do not represent all of those held in the funds and should not be seen as investment advice or a personal recommendation to hold the same or similar. No assumption should be made as to the profitability or performance of any bank identified or security associated with them. CET1 Ratio is a measurement which compares a bank's capital against its risk-weighted assets to determine its ability to withstand financial distress; CET1 figures based on latest respective reporting data release up to December 2022. Source: TwentyFour, Bloomberg

# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund portfolio highlights

## Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund

<b>Portfolio size</b>	£3,065 million
<b>Yield to worst</b>	6.01% GBP
<b>Interest rate duration</b>	1.42yrs
<b>Average spread</b>	+215bp vs. sovereign bonds
<b>Average rating</b>	A-

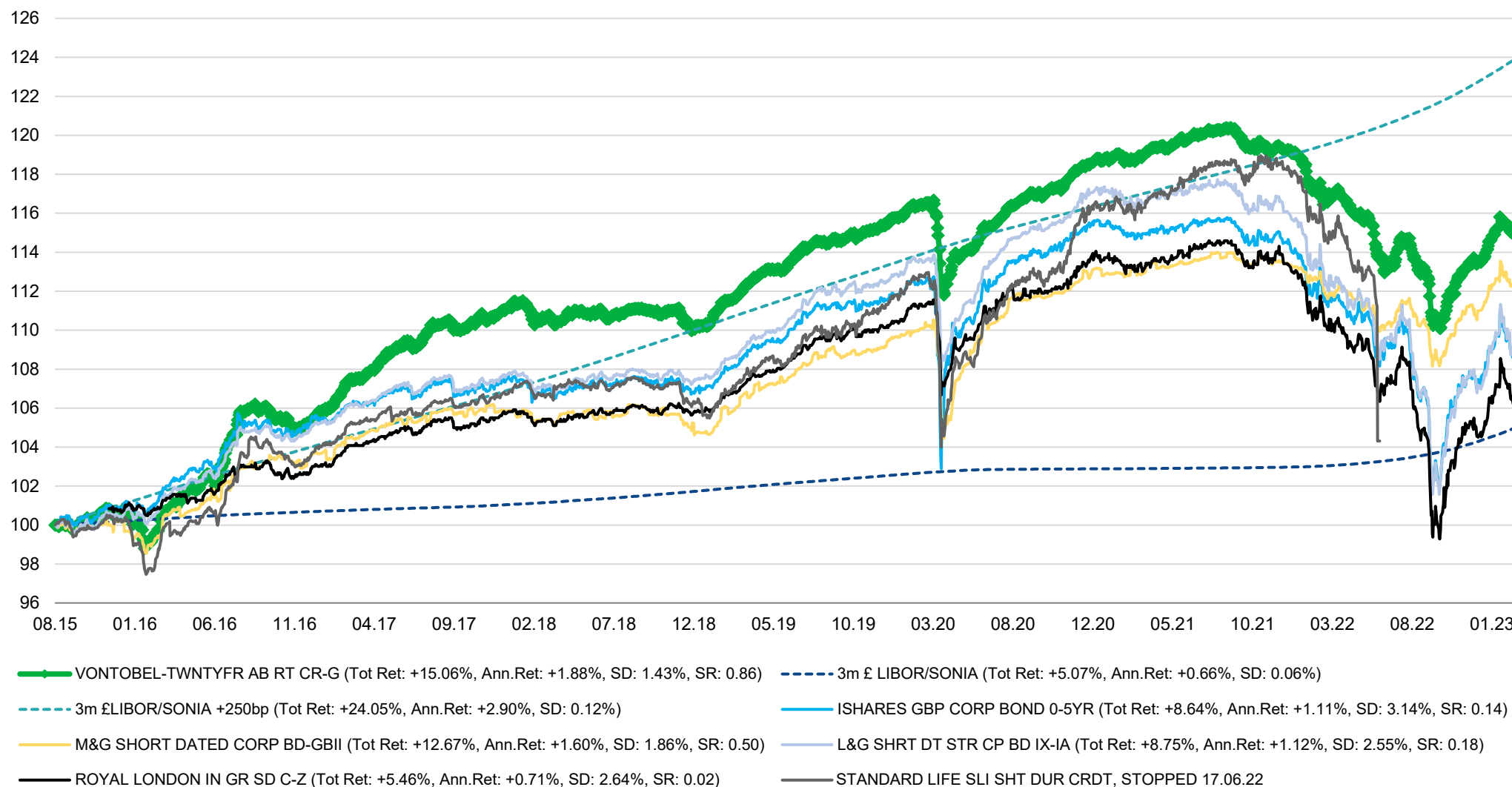
### Dominant themes

- Preference for core over non-core assets
- Highest break-evens to provide yield and protection
- Diversification

Yield shown is at hedged portfolio level and gross of expenses. Performance data is on a mid-to-mid basis inclusive of net reinvested income and net of all fund expenses. Performance data does not take into account any commissions and costs charged when shares of the fund are issued and redeemed, if applicable. The return of the fund may go down as well as up due to changes in exchange rates. See Important Information slides for further information on TwentyFour's credit rating and average credit rating methodology.

Source: TwentyFour, Bloomberg; 15 March 2023

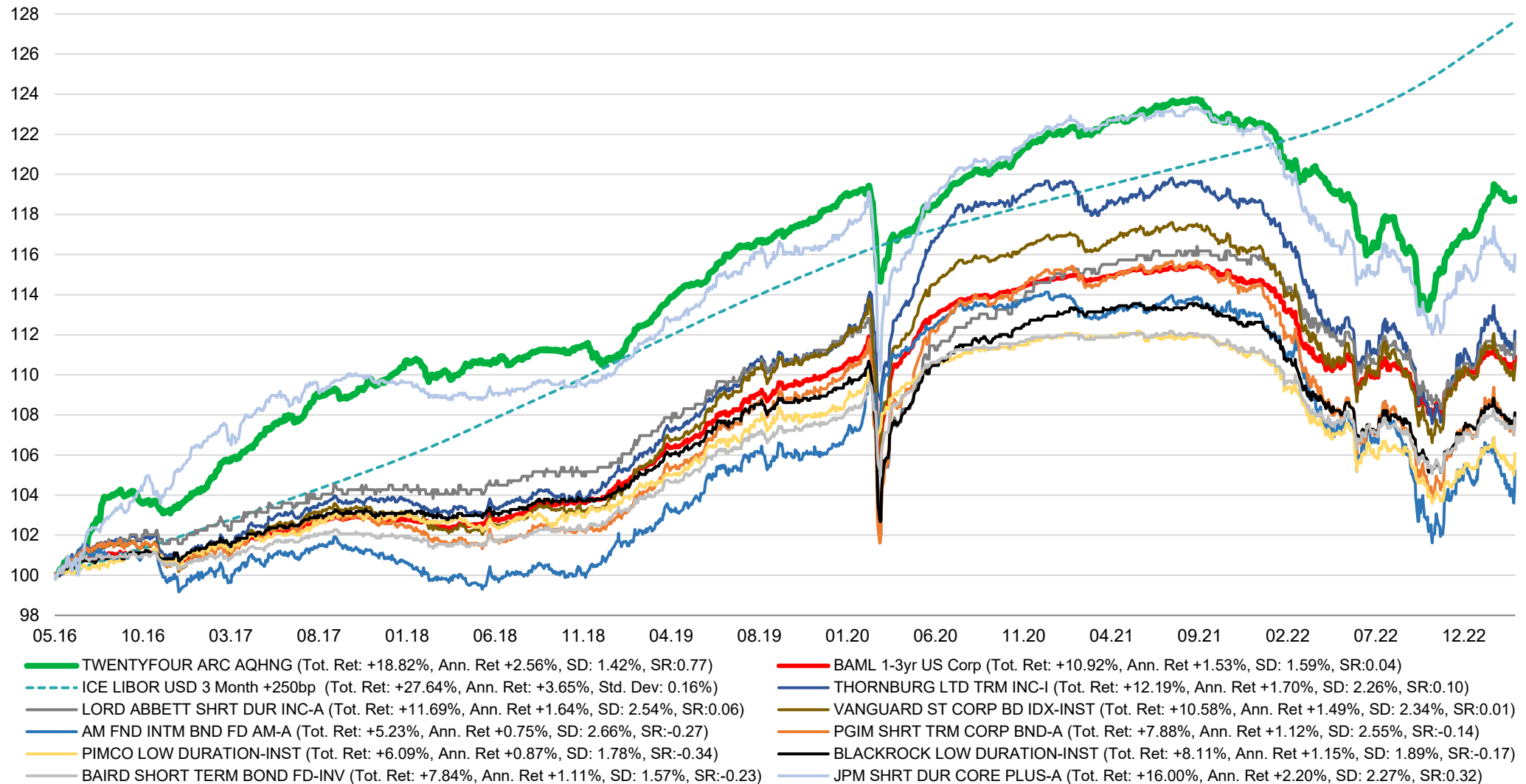
# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund performance since inception vs. short-dated peers (GBP)



Peer group chosen internally based on funds with broadly similar investment objectives regarding performance (LIBOR/SONIA +250bp after fees) and/or volatility (less than 3%). The information for comparison purposes only and each fund shown will have its own investment objectives, risks, expenses, liquidity, and tax features.

**Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future performance.** Performance for the G GBP share class on a mid-to-mid basis inclusive of net reinvested income and net of all fund expenses since inception of G GBP share class on 28 August 2015. Performance data does not take into account any commissions and costs charged when shares of the fund are issued and redeemed, if applicable. The return of the fund may go down as well as up due to changes in exchange rates. It is not possible to invest directly into an index and they will not be actively managed. 3m LIBOR used up to 31 December 2021, SONIA used thereafter following GBP LIBOR's cessation. Source: TwentyFour, Bloomberg, ICE Indices; 14 March 2023

# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund performance since inception vs. Morningstar Short Term Bond Sector (USD)



Morningstar Short Term Bond Sector consists of funds invest in short-dated bonds denominated in or hedged into U.S. dollars. The aggregate maturity for each fund does not tend to exceed three years. Funds chosen for comparison were the largest by AUM in the sector as of March 2022. The information is for comparison purposes only and each fund shown will have its own investment objectives, risks, expenses, liquidity, and tax features.

**Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future performance.** Performance for the AQHNG USD share class on a mid-to-mid basis inclusive of net reinvested income and net of all fund expenses since inception of AQHNG USD share class on 31 May 2016. Performance data does not take into account any commissions and costs charged when shares of the fund are issued and redeemed, if applicable. The return of the fund may go down as well as up due to changes in exchange rates. It is not possible to invest directly into an index and they will not be actively managed. 3m USD LIBOR is used as a proxy for cash as a performance reference for illustration purposes only, there is no specific return objective or benchmark for the fund. Source: TwentyFour, ICE Indices, Bloomberg; 14 March 2023

# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund and peers: Return vs. volatility (USD)



Morningstar Short Term Bond Sector consists of funds invest in short-dated bonds denominated in or hedged into U.S. dollars. The aggregate maturity for each fund does not tend to exceed three years. Funds chosen for comparison were the largest by AUM in the sector as of March 2022. The information is for comparison purposes only and each fund shown will have its own investment objectives, risks, expenses, liquidity, and tax features.

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## Summary

- 2023 is going to remain a tough year for economies and markets
- Terminal rates have not been reached yet
- Inflation is not falling as fast as some would like
- European banks and insurers remain a positive source of risk-adjusted returns
- The yield to duration relationship right now is incredibly attractive in short-dated IG
  - > In fact, “The best game in town” in our view

***Yield of 5.85%\* plus roll-down gains of +36bp =  
6%+ estimated 12m return***

**Forecasted performance is not reliable indicator of actual future performance.** \*Yield to Maturity. Performance data does not take into account any commissions and costs charged when shares of the fund are issued and redeemed, if applicable. Yield figure shown at hedged portfolio level and gross of expenses. The return of the fund may go down as well as up due to changes in exchange rates. There is no guarantee that investment objectives or targets will be achieved. The views expressed represent the opinions of TwentyFour as at March 2023, they may change and may have already been acted upon, they may also not be shared by other entities within the Vontobel Group.



# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund performance (GBP)

	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	Annualised			
					3 years	5 years	10 years	Since inception*
G GBP share class	-0.28%	1.62%	1.43%	-1.98%	-0.39%	0.77%	N/A	1.87%
Cash +250bps	0.47%	1.47%	2.54%	4.22%	3.17%	3.18%	N/A	3.08%

	YTD	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
G GBP share class	1.23%	-4.80%	0.52%	2.47%	5.02%	-0.83%	5.25%	4.99%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cash +250bps	0.98%	3.63%	2.58%	2.81%	3.25%	3.06%	2.75%	2.93%	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future performance.** The performance figures shown are based on the G GBP share class on a mid-to-mid basis inclusive of net reinvested income and net of all fund expenses. Performance data does not take into account any commissions and costs charged when shares of the fund are issued and redeemed, if applicable. The return of the fund may go down as well as up due to changes in exchange rates. 3m GBP LIBOR/SONIA used as a proxy for cash as a performance reference for illustration purposes only, there is no specific return objective or benchmark for the fund. 3m GBP LIBOR used up to 31 December 2021, SONIA used thereafter following 3m GBP LIBOR's cessation. \*Inception date of Vontobel Fund - TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund: 28 August 2015. Source: TwentyFour, Bloomberg; 28 February 2023

# Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund

## Key risks

- Limited participation in the potential of single securities
- Success of single security analysis and active management cannot be guaranteed
- It cannot be guaranteed that the investor will recover the capital invested
- Derivatives entail risks relating to liquidity, leverage and credit fluctuations, illiquidity and volatility
- Interest rates may vary, bonds suffer price declines on rising interest rates
- High-yield bonds (non-investment-grade bonds/junk bonds) may be subject to greater market fluctuations, risk of default or loss of income and principal than higher-rated bonds
- The Sub-Fund's investments may be subject to sustainability risks. The sustainability risks that the Sub-Fund may be subject to are likely to have an immaterial impact on the value of the Sub-Fund's investments in the medium to long term due to the mitigating nature of the Sub-Fund's ESG approach
- The Sub-Fund's performance may be positively or negatively affected by its sustainability strategy
- The ability to meet social or environmental objectives might be affected by incomplete or inaccurate data from third-party providers
- Information on how environmental and social objectives are achieved and how sustainability risks are managed in this Sub-Fund may be obtained from [Vontobel.com/SFDR](https://vontobel.com/SFDR)

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