



NI CENTRAL INVESTMENT FUND FOR CHARITIES

Fund Update March 2025

Fund Background

Established in 1965 through the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 1964, the Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities (the Fund) aims to provide trustees of charities with the opportunity to invest all or part of their funds with the benefit of expert supervision. It is managed by the Department through recognised fund managers (currently LGT Wealth Management, formerly abrdn), and its investment policy is guided by a locally based Advisory Committee appointed by the Department.

Fund Aim & Risk Profile

Aim: The primary objective of the Fund is to generate income and thereafter long-term capital growth in real terms. The recommended investment timeframe is 5 years and over. The Fund aims to achieve an annual return of 3.5% (net of fees and charges) above the UK rate of inflation as measured by CPI, over the medium term through a combination of income and capital growth.

Income: The fund aims to distribute an income of 3% per annum to investors.

Risk Profile: Based on the definitions of risk determined by LGT Wealth Management, the portfolio is categorised as being managed with a medium high risk approach.

Fund Facts

Launch Date:	March 1965
Share Price:	1525.79 pence*
Fund Value:	£51,804,684*
Portfolio Manager:	LGT Wealth Management

Cost Associated With Management Of the Fund: 0.62%**

Dividend Payment: Biannual - June & December

* Price & Valuation @ 31 March 2025

**Information based on 2024 calendar year and % calculated against 31 December 2024 valuation.

Performance against Benchmark (%)

	3 Months	Rolling 12 Months	3 Years Annualised	5 Years Annualised
Fund	(1.47)	0.36	1.99	7.35
Benchmark	1.65	6.28	8.95	8.34
Difference	(3.12)	(5.92)	(6.96)	(0.99)

Discrete Calendar Year Performance (%)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Fund	6.4	9.1	-9.3	13.9	7.5	17.7
Benchmark	5.9	7.6	14.4	9.1	4.1	11.9
Difference	0.5	1.5	-23.7	4.8	3.4	5.8

Current Benchmark UK CPI +3.5% p.a. (from 01/04/2019) prior to this the benchmark was a composite of 12.5% FTSE UK Gilts All Stocks, 12.5% ICE BoAML Stg non-Gilts, 50% FTSE All Share, 20% FTSE World Index Series, 5% UK LIBID 7-day rate.

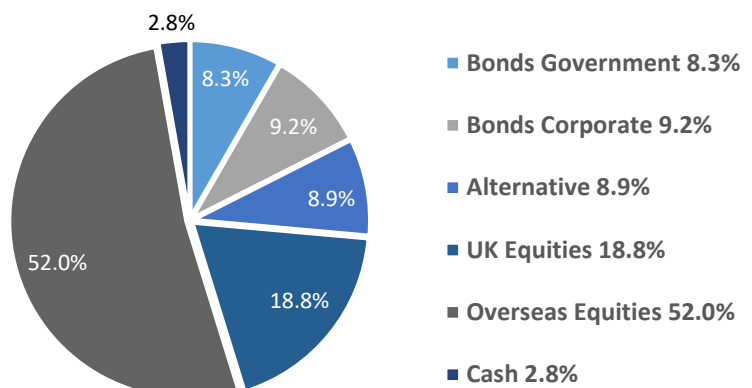
All performance returns are Total Returns unless otherwise specified. Performance figures for the Fund are calculated net of the management fee.

Top 10 Holdings

- Volare Offshore Sterling Fixed Interest
- Shell
- Microsoft Corp Com
- National Grid PLC
- RELX PLC
- Zurich Insurance Group
- DBS Group Holdings
- UK(GOVT OF) 31/01/33
- UK(GOVT OF) 29/01/38
- Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing

Total Holdings: 58 – the top 10 holdings make up 33.9% of the Fund.

Asset Allocation

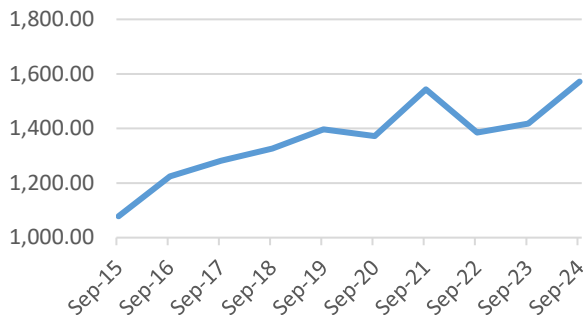




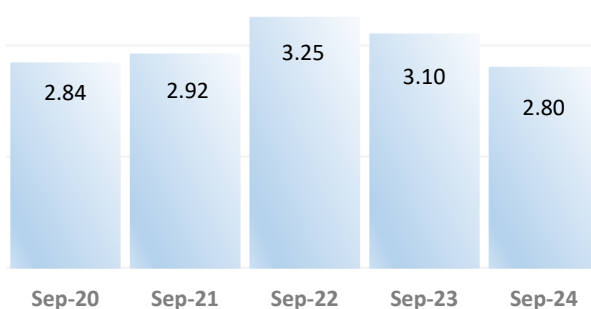
NI CENTRAL INVESTMENT FUND FOR CHARITIES

Fund Update March 2025

Share Price Trend (Pence)



Income Yield Trend (%)



Market Commentary

A tough quarter for US equities, with tariff threats and a sell-off in technology stocks roiling markets. Widespread tariff announcements began in late January, when the Trump administration announced 25% tariffs would be placed on Canada and Mexico. Investors relaxed when these tariffs were delayed, and the S&P 500 hit new highs mid-February. However, tariff uncertainty picked up again when the extension for Canada and Mexico ended and Chinese tariffs were raised from 10% to 20% on 4 March. After the quarter, reciprocal tariffs were announced which led to further turmoil.

In January, Chinese start-up DeepSeek released a new AI model rumoured to be as good as US models and cheaper, leading to questions around US technology companies' valuations. Billions were wiped off Magnificent 7 company valuations with the basket of stocks falling 16%.

European markets posted solid performance. Economists upgraded growth forecasts for the region as Germany led the way in rewriting the continent's historic fiscal regime rule book, with a marked shift towards higher defence and infrastructure spending. Germany's fiscal package, announced after the new coalition was formed, helped send the DAX Index up 11.3% in Q1, while France's CAC Index rose 6%. Increased spend, improving fundamentals and cheap valuations all boosted European equities as well as the euro, which rose 4.5% versus the dollar.

Asian equities rose on DeepSeek enthusiasm, underscoring the valuation differences across global technological firms. The Hang Seng Index rose 16.1%, but Shanghai Composite fell 0.2% over tariff concerns.

UK equities gained 6.1% in Q1, although the outlook remains uncertain, amid sticky inflation and low consumer and business sentiment following the first Labour budget. The Office for Budget Responsibility adjusted their 2025 growth forecasts down to 1% from 2%. The Chancellor's Spring Statement included welfare cuts, departmental savings and increased defence spending.

The first quarter was marked by heightened volatility and geopolitical tensions. Trump's tariffs have increased concerns over a trade war, inflation and a global slowdown. Central banks face tough decisions as they balance inflation with slower growth. We expect volatility will continue and will closely monitor developments. The Trump administration has caused market noise, but we believe this could result in long-term investment opportunities.

NICIFC ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

The NICIFC's Statement of Investment Policy includes accountability standards that will be used for monitoring the progress of the Fund's investment strategy and for evaluating the performance of the investment manager(s) contracted on behalf of the Fund and its stakeholders can be found at **Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities Statement of Investment Policy | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)**

The current manager, LGT Wealth Management has set out its own specific policies on climate change and responsible investing, this can be located at **Sustainability, led by conviction | LGT (lgtwm.com)**

Contact

If you would like further information on the NICIFC you can contact us on:

Tel: (028) 90512604 E-mail: nicifc@communities-ni.gov.uk

Address: NICIFC, Level 5 Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EG

Website: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-central-investment-fund-charities>

Issued by Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities(NICIFC).

All information (excluding Historic Fund Performance) is sourced from LGT Wealth Management.

Past performance (actual or simulated) is not a reliable indicator of future results. The value of an investment in the Fund may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Portfolio and benchmark returns are preliminary estimates provided by LGT Wealth Management and have not been verified externally. They could, therefore, be liable to subsequent adjustment.

All data as of 31st March 2025

This is a financial promotion and is not intended as investment advice.