## THE MARKS AND SPENCER UK SELECTION PORTFOLIO

# Manager's interim report

For the period 1 December 2022 to 31 May 2023 (unaudited)



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## The Marks and Spencer UK Selection Portfolio

## Manager, Registrar, dealing, administration and marketing

Marks and Spencer Unit Trust Management Limited

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Investor helpline: 0808 005 5555 or +44 1244 688632 if calling from abroad. Lines are open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday (closed weekends and public holidays). Please be aware that opening hours may be restricted over the Christmas period. Please contact us for details. Calls may be recorded.

#### Head office and registered office

Kings Meadow Chester Business Park Chester CH99 9FB Registered in England No. 2253009

#### Correspondence address

M&S Bank PO Box 10581 51 Saffron Road Wigston LE18 4US

#### Directors of the Manager

James Coyle (Chairman and non-Executive Director)

Paul Spencer (Chief Executive Officer and Director)

Phillip Scott (Director)

Peter Dew (Non-Executive Director) (Resigned 6 June 2023)

Jenny Goldie-Scot (appointed 6 June 2023) (non-Executive Director)

#### Investment manager

HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited 8 Canada Square London F14 5HQ

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

#### Trustee

State Street Trustees Limited
Quartermile 3
10 Nightingale Way
Edinburgh EH3 9EG
Authorised and regulated by the Financial
Conduct Authority.

#### Independent auditor

KPMC LLP 15 Canada Square London F14 5GI

## Manager's investment report

This section gives you confirmation of the Marks and Spencer UK Selection Portfolio (the "Fund") objective. It also gives you the investment strategy employed by the investment adviser; and an economic, market and portfolio review for the period of the report.

## Our objectives and methods Objective

The Fund aims to provide capital growth and income in the long term, (five years or more).

#### **Policy**

The Fund will invest a minimum of 80% of its value in the shares (equities) of UK companies, including preference shares.

UK companies are deemed to be those that are domiciled or incorporated in the UK, or earn at least 80% of their revenue from the UK.

The Fund may also invest up to 20% of its value in the shares of companies listed on a UK stock exchange that are not UK companies (as defined above). The Fund may invest no more than 10% of its value in the shares of companies that are neither UK companies nor listed on a UK stock exchange.

The Fund is structured to deliver the Objective through its exposure to both large and smaller companies and will hold approximately 35-45 shares.

The Fund may invest up to 10% of its value in collective investment schemes, which the Fund may use to indirectly invest in the shares of UK and other companies. The Fund may also invest in collective investment schemes, money market instruments, deposits and cash to manage day-to-day cash flow requirements. This may include Funds managed or operated by the Investment Manager.

The Fund may invest in derivatives for efficient portfolio management which means investment techniques that aim to reduce risks, reduce costs, or generate additional capital or income with a level of risk that is consistent with the risk profile of the Fund.

The Manager's investment policy may mean that at times it is appropriate not to fully invest but to also hold cash or near cash. This will only occur when the Manager reasonably regards it as necessary to enable units to be redeemed or for the efficient management of the Fund in accordance with its objective or purpose that may reasonably be regarded as ancillary to the objective of the Fund.

The Manager has determined that the Fund will not invest directly in securities issued by companies that are considered, after reasonable enquiries, to be involved in the use, development, manufacturing, stockpiling, transfer or trade of controversial weapons, including but not limited to cluster munitions and/or anti-personnel mines. Please refer to the investment restrictions section of the Prospectus.

#### Investment strategy

The Manager has appointed HSBC Clobal Asset Management (UK) Limited (the "Investment Manager") to provide investment management services to the Manager in respect of the Fund.

	Percentage growth				
	31.05.18 to 31.05.19	31.05.19 to 31.05.20	31.05.20 to 31.05.21	31.05.21 to 31.05.22	31.05.22 to 31.05.23
Fund	-4.8%	-17.6%	23.6%	7.7%	1.0%
Performance Comparator - FTSE All-Share Index	-3.3%	-10.0%	22.4%	6.5%	1.9%

This information relates to the past, and past performance is no guarantee of future performance. All the above figures are on a bid to bid basis, net income reinvested, prepared on the Accumulation unit class. The performance figures exclude an initial charge if applied by the Fund. Source: Morningstar.

The Investment Manager's investment process, aims to identify companies that can be purchased at an attractive valuation, with improving prospects at an appropriate level of risk. The Fund will typically invest in the shares of 35 to 45 companies but the Investment Manager may vary this depending on market conditions and the investment opportunities that are available. The investment process is longer term in nature and as a result stewardship activity is integrated into investment decisions. Further details of the underlying shares in which the Fund is invested can be obtained from the Manager, and will be disclosed in the annual and half yearly accounts.

#### Use of benchmarks

The Fund is managed with reference to the FTSE All-Share Index. The level of risk the Fund may take is considered relative to the FTSE All-Share Index as part of the portfolio construction process. This means the Fund returns are more likely to be closer to the returns of the FTSE All-Share Index than if there were no limits on the level of risk the Fund may take. Separately, the Index is also considered as part of our investment risk monitoring process, to check that the overall level of risk taken by the Investment Manager is not inconsistent with the UK equities market.

The performance of the Fund is therefore shown against the performance of the FTSE All-Share Index. The performance of the Fund may also be shown against the performance of the Investment Association UK All Companies sector for comparison purposes only.

The FTSE All-Share Index has been selected as a benchmark for performance and risk measurement because it is representative of the companies in which the Fund may invest. The Investment Association UK All Companies sector has been selected as a benchmark for performance comparison because it consists of funds similar to the Fund. Many funds sold in the UK are grouped into sectors by the Investment Association (the trade body that represents UK investment managers), to help investors to compare funds with broadly similar characteristics.

#### Use of derivatives

The Fund may invest in exchange traded and over-the-counter derivatives in accordance with the investment restrictions. The Fund does not currently use currency forward contracts or other derivative instruments to hedge against movements in the rate of exchange between sterling and other currencies in which the Fund's assets may be denominated.

## Manager's Report of the 6 months to 31 May 2023.

The review period started on a positive note despite continued uncertainties on rising interest rates, high inflation, high energy prices, supply-chain disruptions and an expected end to the Covid related lockdowns and travel restrictions in China. Markets started the year with a strong rally for equities, supported by the rebound in the US and European composite purchasing managers' index (PMI) business surveys since the start of the year. Lower energy and oil prices, coupled with China's re-opening after dropping the zero-Covid policy in late December also added to the market performance. Signs that inflation is easing from its autumn highs in several major regions also lifted investor sentiment. Major central banks slowed down their pace of hikes in March, but reiterated their hawkish stance as inflation continued to remain at elevated levels.

UK equities performed well for the first 5 months of the review period. The strong performance stemmed from signs that inflation levels were easing. The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and broader concerns around the financial sector caused volatility in bank shares. UK equities experienced a decline in May, primarily driven by weakness in commodity prices, leading to a significant fall in large UK-quoted diversified energy and basic materials groups. The UK is expected to enter a recession later in 2023, after narrowly avoiding one in Q4 2022, however given a fall in the wholesale price of energy it is expected that the recession will be shallower than previously forecasted.

Turning to the wider picture, European markets were resilient until April despite the fallout from SVB's collapse and UBS's acquisition of Credit Suisse causing volatile markets. The Fed, European Central Bank (ECB) and Bank of England (BoE) all raised rates by 25bps. Eurozone inflation fell to its lowest level in a year at 6.1% in May from 7% in April. France experienced political uncertainty as president Macron faced a vote of no-confidence as a result of plans to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 and subsequent protests.

#### **Fund Overview**

The UK equity markets saw mixed results over the 6 months review periods – driven by inflation evidenced as stronger than expected therefore driving the BoE continuing to hike rates higher. This environment also created opportunities – sectors such as Consumer Discretionary, Industrials and Utilities, strongly outperformed. In contrast, cyclical sectors like Materials and Energy, along with Telecommunications lagged during the period.

Turning to the Fund, at the stock level, the largest positive contributor to performance was Ferguson. The stock outperformed after beating earnings expectations during the period. Imperial Brands was the largest relative detractor - it underperformed as cigarette / combustible volumes declined faster than expected, new products were under competitive pressure, and the wider markets rotated from defensives to higher growth stocks.

During the period, no new positions were initiated. Whilst positions in Microsoft Corp were exited.

#### Outlook

The economic outlook remains uncertain given the headwinds in the global economy, still elevated inflation levels, the continuing geopolitical situation in Ukraine, and the shocks from the higher cost of living on discretionary spending and of course further rising interest rates to come. As a result, we anticipate some form of recession in western economies towards the end of the year, as corporates cut spending more aggressively amid weaker demand and reduced pricing power.

Broadly speaking, headline inflation rates are starting to fall but core inflation continues to remain sticky. While central banks are not yet done with their tightening cycles, they are nearing their peaks in the US and UK. However, the macro picture still remains mixed. The Eurozone is being supported by falling gas prices and mild weather conditions and a recession is likely to be delayed as activity shows signs of improving, despite a hawkish ECB.

## Portfolio statement

This section details all the different companies in which the Fund invests, by sector. It also shows the number of shares held, the percentage each company represents of the Fund as a whole and the value of those shares at the end of the period (shown under bid value).

#### As at 31 May 2023

VALUE	G OR NOMINAL E OF POSITIONS AT 31 MAY 2023	BID VALUE (£)	% OF NET TOTAL ASSETS	VALUE	G OR NOMINAL OF POSITIONS T 31 MAY 2023	BID VALUE (£)	% OF NET TOTAL ASSETS
UK EQUITIES AND CONVERTIBLES			CONSUMER GOODS	;			
(97.13%; 30.11.22 95	5.67%)			(12.26%; 30.11.22 11	.84%)		
				Beverages			3.58
OIL & GAS				Britvic	116,170	1,026,943	1.10
(14.21%; 30.11.22 16	.12%)			Diageo	69,499	2,326,132	2.48
Oil & gas producers	;		14.21	Food producers			2.12
BP	1,255,680	5,691,997	6.08	Tate & Lyle	252,660	1,984,644	2.12
Shell	342,784	7,611,519	8.13	Household goods			1.40
Total Oil & Gas		13,303,516	14.21	Barratt Developments	166,929	772,547	0.82
				Persimmon	45,038	540,906	0.58
BASIC MATERIALS				Personal goods			2.06
(5.87%; 30.11.22 6.64	4%)			Unilever	47,897	1,929,531	2.06
Chemicals			0.89	Tobacco			3.10
Victrex	54,056	836,787	0.89	Imperial Brands	171,313	2,903,755	3.10
Mining			4.98	Total Consumer God	ods	11,484,458	12.26
Antofagasta	149,240	1,996,085	2.13				
Rio Tinto	55,757	2,666,021	2.85	HEALTHCARE			
Total Basic material	.s	5,498,893	5.87	(10.73%; 30.11.22 8.4	19%)		
				Pharmaceuticals & biotechnology			10.73
INDUSTRIALS				AstraZeneca	54,524	6,356,408	6.79
(16.90%; 30.11.22 18	3.41%)			GSK	213,222	2,870,821	3.07
Aerospace & defend	:e		5.02	Hikma Pharmaceuticals	45,551	816,046	0.87
BAE Systems	243,683	2,261,866	2.41	Total Healthcare		10,043,275	10.73
QinetiQ	679,538	2,440,901	2.61				
Construction & mat	erials		1.03	CONSUMER SERVIC	ES		
Ibstock	603,089	964,942	1.03	(11.98%; 30.11.22 7.5	3%)		
General industrials			2.18	General retailers			3.99
Coats Group	1,214,530	842,884	0.90	Ferguson Newco	16,739	1,953,441	2.08
Smurfit Kappa	41,977	1,197,184	1.28	Next	28,237	1,791,920	1.91
Support services			8.67	Food & drug retaile	rs		2.95
Bunzl	40,532	1,273,921	1.36	Tesco	1,058,239	2,759,887	2.95
DCC (London listed)	23,423	1,076,287	1.15	Media			1.14
Hays	707,664	761,446	0.81	Moneysupermarket.con	n 425,985	1,069,222	1.14
Intertek	41,182	1,710,288	1.83	Travel & leisure			3.90
Rentokil Initial	325,059	2,075,827	2.22	Compass Group	165,721	3,649,176	3.90
Volution Group	271,946	1,214,511	1.30	Total Consumer Ser	vices	11,223,646	11.98
Total Industrials		15,820,057	16.90				

### Portfolio statement

This section details all the different companies in which the Fund invests, by sector. It also shows the number of shares held, the percentage each company represents of the Fund as a whole and the value of those shares at the end of the period (shown under bid value).

#### As at 31 May 2023

	HOLDING OR NOMINAL VALUE OF POSITIONS AS AT 31 MAY 2023	BID VALUE (£)	% OF NET TOTAL ASSETS	HOLDING OR NOMINA VALUE OF POSITION AS AT 31 MAY 202	S VALUE	% OF NET TOTAL ASSETS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS			OVERSEAS EQUITIES & CON	IVERTIBLES		
(0.64%; 30.11.2	2 2.34%)			(1.72%; 30.11.22 3.30%)		
Mobile telecon	nmunications		0.64	Australia (1.72%; 30.11.22 2.	51%)	1.72
Vodafone	784,048	598,777	0.64	BHP Group 72,749	1,607,753	1.72
Total Telecom	munications	598,777	0.64			
				United States (0.00%; 30.11.	22 0.79%)	
UTILITIES				Total Overseas		
(4.53%; 30.11.2	2 4.41%)			Equities & Convertibles	1,607,753	1.72
Electricity			4.53			
Drax	266,641	1,475,591	1.58	FUTURES CONTRACTS		
SSE	146,981	2,763,243	2.95	((0.02%); 30.11.22 0.03%)		
Total Utilities		4,238,834	4.53	ICF FTSE 100 Index	(16 560)	(0.00)
				Future June 2023	3 (16,562)	(0.02)
FINANCIALS				ICF FTSE 250 Index Future June 2023	3 (2,866)	_
(17.46%; 30.11.	22 17.36%)			Total Futures Contracts	(19,428)	(0.02)
Banks			10.48	Total Futures Contracts	(13,420)	(0.02)
Barclays	1,918,320	2,903,186	3.10	Portfolio of investments	02 520 024	98.83
HSBC Holdings		4,153,725	4.44		92,538,934	
Natwest Group	1,061,476	2,755,592	2.94	Net other assets	1,100,171	1.17
Life insurance			5.21	Net assets	93,639,105	100.00
Phoenix Group	352,934	1,949,607	2.08			
Prudential	277,987	2,935,543	3.13	* Related party		
Financial servi			1.77	The securities held are approv		
IG Group Holdin	=	1,656,211	1.77	to an official listing unless oth	erwise specifi	eu.
Total Financial	.s	16,353,864	17.46	The counterparty for the futu	res is HSBC.	
TECHNICI COV						
TECHNOLOGY (2.55%; 30.11.2				Total purchases for the perior transaction charges, were £4,		
Software & co	mputer service	S	2.55			
FDM Group	65,984	442,753	0.47	Total sales proceeds, for the		00164
Rightmove	152,834	800,239	0.86	transaction of transaction char	ges were £5,8	90,164.
Sage	131,208	1,142,297	1.22			
Total Technolo	gy	2,385,289	2.55			
Total UK Equit						
& Convertibles		90,950,609	97.13			

## Net asset value per unit and comparative table

This section details in concise figures how the Fund has performed, in terms of the size of the Fund, the price of units and the income distributions made.

#### INCOME

Change in net assets per unit	31.05.23	30.11.22	30.11.21	30.11.20
Opening net asset value per unit	327.78p	314.27p	280.56p	346.67p
Return before operating charges*	5.99p	27.53p	45.11p	(57.71p)
Operating charges**	(1.66p)	(2.97p)	(3.37p)	(3.16p)
Return after operating charges*	4.33p	24.56p	41.74p	(60.87p)
Distributions on income unit	(5.57p)	(11.05p)	(8.03p)	(5.24p)
Closing net asset value per unit	326.54p	327.78p	314.27p	280.56p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.09p	0.24p	0.28p	0.38p
Performance				
Return after charges	1.32%	7.81%	14.88%	(17.56%)
Other information				
Closing net asset value	£1,094,983	£1,129,285	£1,110,666	£1,096,176
Closing number of units	335,327	344,527	353,406	390,706
Operating charges	0.99%	0.99%	1.00%	1.10%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.08%	0.09%	0.13%
Prices				
Highest unit price	354.40p	341.60p	334.80p	361.90p
Lowest unit price	321.20p	298.90p	280.50p	222.40p

<sup>\*\*</sup> The operating charges include all costs borne by the Fund, except for direct transaction costs.

It includes the operating charges of any collective investment schemes in which the Fund invests.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> The direct transaction costs are made up of fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges as well as transfer taxes and duties.

## Net asset value per unit and comparative table

This section details in concise figures how the Fund has performed, in terms of the size of the Fund, the price of units and the accumulation distributions made.

#### **ACCUMULATION**

Change in net assets per unit	31.05.23	30.11.22	30.11.21	30.11.20
Opening net asset value per unit	678.35p	629.32p	547.91p	664.20p
Return before operating charges*	12.34p	55.02p	88.02p	(110.21p)
Operating charges**	(3.44p)	(5.99p)	(6.61p)	(6.08p)
Return after operating charges*	8.90p	49.03p	81.41p	(116.29p)
Distributions on accumulation unit	(11.53p)	(22.32p)	(15.78p)	(10.09p)
Retained distributions on accumulation unit	11.53p	22.32p	15.78p	10.09p
Closing net asset value per unit	687.25p	678.35p	629.32p	547.91p
*after direct transaction costs of:***	0.18p	0.48p	0.54p	0.74p
Performance				
Return after charges	1.31%	7.79%	14.86%	(17.51%)
Other information				
Closing net asset value	£92,544,122	£94,089,057	£93,524,686	£85,700,124
Closing number of units	13,465,856	13,870,356	14,861,210	15,641,360
Operating charges	0.99%	0.99%	1.00%	1.10%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.08%	0.09%	0.13%
Prices				
Highest unit price	733.40p	690.20p	660.70p	693.70p
Lowest unit price	664.60p	608.80p	547.80p	426.10p

<sup>\*\*</sup> The operating charges include all costs borne by the Fund, except for direct transaction costs.

It includes the operating charges of any collective investment schemes in which the Fund invests.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> The direct transaction costs are made up of fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges as well as transfer taxes and duties.

## **Ongoing charges**

For the 12 month period to 31 May 2023:

0.99%

For the 12 month period to 30 November 2022:

0.99%

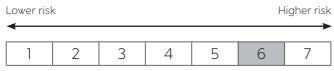
The ongoing charges measure the annual charges and expenses of an investment fund and will include any charges for underlying open-ended investment company funds and applicable closed-ended investment funds. Most European investment funds highlight the ongoing charges to help you compare charges and expenses of different funds.

Ex-distribution (XD) dates:

Income payment dates:

1 December and 1 June31 January and 31 July

### Risk and reward profile



Typically lower rewards

Typically higher rewards

#### More about this rating

The rating is based on price volatility over the last five years. As it is based on historical data, it may not be a reliable indicator of the future risk profile of the Fund. The rating is not guaranteed and may change over time. The lowest rating does not mean a risk-free investment.

#### Why is this Fund in category 6?

This Fund is classified in category 6 because its price or simulated data has shown high fluctuations historically.

### **Authorised status**

The Fund is an authorised unit trust under Section 243 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (authorisation orders) and the Financial Conduct Authority Handbook and is categorised as an Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) scheme.

## Certification of financial statements by Directors of the Manager

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook as issued and amended by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Paul Spencer (Chief Executive)

Phillip Scott (Director)

Phillip Soll

For and on behalf of Marks and Spencer Unit Trust Management Limited.

1 August 2023

### Statement of total return

This section details the income of the Fund over the period of the report and explains how this income is distributed to the investors. It also provides an analysis of increases and decreases in net assets over the accounting period.

#### For the period ended 31 May 2023

Income
Net capital (losses)/gains
Revenue
Expenses
Interest payable and similar charges
Net revenue before taxation
Taxation
Net revenue after taxation
Total return before distributions
Distributions/Accumulations

Change in net assets attributable to Unitholders

31.0	5.23
£	£
	(256,989)
2,070,058	
(475,798)	
(14)	
1,594,246	
9	
	1,594,255
	1,337,266
	(1,590,226)
,	(252,960)

31.05.22				
£	£			
	_			
	5,872,538			
2,175,966				
(478,369)				
(307)				
1,697,290				
(891)				
	1,696,399			
	7,568,937			
	(1,696,401)			
	5,872,536			

## Statement of change in net assets attributable to Unitholders

For the period ended 31 May 2023

### Opening net assets attributable to Unitholders

Amounts receivable on issue of units Amounts payable on cancellation of units

Change in net assets attributable to Unitholders from investment activities (see above)

Retained distribution on accumulation units

Closing net assets attributable to Unitholders

31.05.23				
£	£			
-	95,218,342			
277,798				
(3,156,149)				
	(2,878,351)			
	(252,960)			
_	1,552,074			
=	93,639,105			

31.05.22			
£	£		
	94,635,352		
445,279			
(3,393,586)			
	(2,948,307)		
	5,872,536		
_	1,664,429		
=	99,224,010		

## **Balance sheet**

#### As at 31 May 2023

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** 

to Unitholders

Net assets attributable

	31.0	31.05.23 30.11		1.22	
	£	£	£	£	
ASSETS					
Fixed assets:					
Investments		92,558,362		94,270,049	
Current assets:					
Debtors	577,227		538,051		
Cash and bank balances	867,407		714,923		
Total current assets		1,444,634	_	1,252,974	
TOTAL ASSETS		94,002,996		95,523,023	
LIABILITIES					
Investment liabilities		(19,428)		-	
Creditors:					
Distribution payable	(18,676)		(18,223)		
Other creditors	(325,787)		(286,458)		

(363,891)

93,639,105

(304,681)

95,218,342

## Distribution table

#### For the period ended 31 May 2023

#### Interim

Group 1: Units purchased prior to 1 December 2022 Group 2: Units purchased between 1 December 2022 to 31 May 2023				
	Net income 2023 pence per unit	Equalisation 2023 pence per unit	Distribution payable 2023 pence per unit	Distribution paid 2022 pence per unit
Income units				
Group 1	5.5694	-	5.5694	5.7650
Group 2	3.3656	2.2038	5.5694	5.7650
Accumulation units				
Group 1	11.5260	-	11.5260	11.5441
Group 2	6.9651	4.5609	11.5260	11.5441

### Other information

The interim financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments, in compliance with FRS 102 and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds (SORP) issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 (and amended in June 2017).

## Important changes

There were no changes made to the Fund's Prospectus during the interim reporting period ending 31 May 2023.

The following changes were made to the Fund's Key Investor Information Document during the reporting period ending 31 May 2023:

#### KIID update 10 February 2023

 Update to "Past Performance" to remove performance figures for the Fund and Benchmark for 2012 and to include performance figures for 2022.

