

RLP FIDELITY EMERGING EUROPE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

As a result of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, we've taken the difficult decision to prevent some transactions into this fund with effect from 22 March 2022. This only involves switches into the fund, regular premiums and rebalancing.

This has been put in place due to the underlying fund manager (Fidelity) suspending their fund to new money because of the ongoing uncertainty caused by the conflict.

This fund may have been accessed by either selecting the funds via the fund range, or through the equity overcoding in the Governed Range portfolios.

At the moment, there is no concern about other funds or the governed range portfolios as no other investment options have significant Russian / Ukraine Exposure. Within the Governed Range the exposure we do have to direct Russian holdings is via the emerging markets exposure within RLP Global Managed. This exposure amounts to approximately 3% of the RLP Emerging Market Leaders fund. As a result, the average Governed Range customer has only c0.15% exposure to direct Russian Equities. (Approximately 50% average RLP Global Managed exposure *10% EM benchmark weight *3% Russia weight).

Please find below a list of questions and answers on the restrictions. If you have further questions, then please contact your financial adviser in the first instance. Or visit our [Contact us](#) page.

What's happening?

On 22 March 2022, we were notified by Fidelity that they were suspending new money into their Emerging Europe Middle East and Africa fund which the RLP fund invests in. This is due to the fund having a large investment in Russian stocks and shares and the country recently closing their stock market due to the current conflict with Ukraine and to protect existing investors in the fund.

How long will the change last?

We do not know when the fund will re-open at this time, but we will provide updates online.

Which transactions will be affected?

- New money into the fund including switches and regular premiums.
- Rebalancing where the fund is held with other investments.

Which transactions are not affected?

- Exits for a policy with an investment in the fund.
- Transactions for policies which do not include a fund in deferral.
- Transactions for Income Release which involve taking income.
- Switches out of the fund.
- Reduction in Selected Retirement Age for a policy with an investment in the fund.

What are my options?

You will need to choose an alternative fund if you wish to invest more monies into your plan or switch monies.

How will my fund value be affected?

The value of the Russian holdings in this fund have already been marked down significantly, so the main negative impact of this has already been realised. The rest of the investments will continue to be traded as normal meaning the fund is subject to normal market moves.

What happens to Regular Premiums which would normally be allocated to this fund?

While the restrictions remain on the fund we will divert regular premiums which would normally go into the fund into a cash fund (RLP Deferral Alternate). This money will then be redirected to the fund the next time the policy rebalances when after it reopens. If rebalancing does not apply to the policy we will need further instructions for the money.

What about rebalancing?

Rebalancing will continue but will not involve transacting on this fund. Our system will automatically rebalance customers while keeping a customer's unit holding in the deferred fund the same.

Are any other funds likely to be in this position?

We are monitoring other funds with Russian investments closely. No other funds available on our range have as significant a concentration in Russian equities.

When will this end?

Royal London will remove restrictions when restrictions have been removed from the underlying fund.

How are we communicating this to you?

We are writing to all customers and employers that have exposure to the fund. These letters are being sent on 25 March 2022. We have also written to your financial adviser.

How are we pricing the fund?

We will continue to receive a daily price from Fidelity and the fund will continue to be priced as normal.

Russian stockmarkets have now re-opened, does this mean the fund will re-open soon?

Unfortunately, not. Although Russian markets have re-opened, the UK Government still has sanctions on the businesses operating there meaning no UK investor is able to buy or sell the companies listed on the Russian stock exchange.

When will I find out an update on the position?

Updates will be posted to the website.

Can I make a complaint?

Complaints can be made to Royal London following our [complaint process](#). To help us deal with your concerns please mark your complaint 'Fund Deferral'.

Will I be due any compensation following this restriction?

No. This action is allowed for in our terms and conditions.

Further information?

If after reading the FAQs you still have unanswered queries then please contact your financial adviser in the first instance. Or visit our [Contact us](#) page.