

## INVESTMENT ADVISER NOTIFICATION

**THIS IS A NOTIFICATION THAT AFFECTS UNIT LINKED PLANS FOR WHICH YOUR COMPANY IS APPOINTED IN THE CAPACITY OF INVESTMENT ADVISER. PLEASE PASS THIS NOTIFICATION TO THE SPECIFIC INVESTMENT ADVISER IN YOUR COMPANY WHO MANAGES THE INVESTMENT CHOICES ON RL360 PLANS, AS THEY MAY WISH TO TAKE SOME ACTION.**

**PRODUCTS AFFECTED - REGULAR SAVINGS PLAN, ORACLE, PARAGON AND QUANTUM.**

3 November 2023

Dear Investment adviser

### **CLOSURE OF THE JPMORGAN FUNDS - EMERGING MIDDLE EAST EQUITY FUND AND IMPACT ON RL360 PLANS**

We have been informed by JPMorgan Funds ("JPMorgan") that it will be closing its **JPMorgan Funds - Emerging Middle East Equity Fund** (the "Merging Fund") and merging the value into its **JPMorgan Funds - Middle East, Africa and Emerging Europe Opportunities Fund** (the "Proposed Receiving Fund") on 14 December 2023 (the "Merger Date").

You have clients who invest in the Merging Fund through a RL360 plan, so we wanted to make you aware of the alternative action we will be taking following JPMorgan's notification and explain your options for switching to a different fund if you prefer.

The plans advised by you and impacted by this notification are available on request. We have not written directly to the owners of the affected plans. As each plan owner has appointed your company in the capacity of investment adviser to manage the investment choices on their behalf, you should contact them as necessary to discuss the details of this notification and any recommended course of action.

#### **Background to the merger**

JPMorgan believes it would be in shareholders' interests to merge the Merging Fund into the Proposed Receiving Fund as it has stronger growth potential. The Proposed Receiving Fund invests primarily in companies of the Middle East, Africa and emerging markets of Europe, but the Merging Fund invests primarily in companies of the emerging markets of the Middle East only. The Proposed Receiving Fund was launched in January 2023 and is currently around USD 5million in size.

#### **JPMorgan action happening ahead of the Merger Date**

JPMorgan has advised that while there is some overlap between the Merging Fund and Proposed Receiving Fund, there is a portion of the Merging Fund's portfolio which does not resemble that of the Proposed Receiving Fund. Therefore rebalancing of the assets in the Merging Fund will be required in preparation of the merger. All or part of the Merging Fund's assets may be held in cash for a short period in preparation for the merger, resulting in the Merging Fund having less market exposure which may have a positive or negative impact on performance. It is expected that such portfolio rebalancing will commence no earlier than 15 business days prior to the Merger Date.

With effect from 1.30pm (UK time) on 11 December 2023, JPMorgan will stop accepting subscriptions and redemptions for the Merging Fund.

### Action RL360 will be taking in regard to the merger

The Proposed Receiving Fund is not available in our Savings and Investments fund range for your clients' plan(s). Therefore, just ahead of the Merger Date we will instead switch your clients' holdings into the **Franklin Templeton - Franklin MENA Fund** (the "Alternative Receiving Fund"), the share class of which will be in the same currency as your clients' current Merging Fund holdings. The Alternative Receiving Fund has been selected as it is similar to the Merging Fund and will continue to provide your clients with access to a fund that invests primarily in Middle Eastern companies.

Details of the Merging Fund and the Alternative Receiving Fund are set out in the Appendix at the end of this letter. Please refer to the Appendix for further information.

We have now closed the Merging Fund to new business and switches in with immediate effect. However, existing investors can continue to invest in the Merging Fund until 7 December 2023. On 8 December 2023 (the "Switch Date"), any holdings in the Merging Fund will be automatically switched, and any regular premium allocation redirected (if applicable), into the Alternative Receiving Fund.

Please note that although the switch value from the Merging Fund to the Alternative Receiving Fund will be the same, your clients will receive a different number of units in the Alternative Receiving Fund, as the unit price is different to the Merging Fund. Details of the switch will be available to view via the transaction screen for your clients' plans on our Online Service Centre. If you are not already registered to manage your client's plans online, you can sign-up at [www.rl360.com](http://www.rl360.com).

### Your options

If you are happy for your clients to invest in the **Franklin Templeton - Franklin MENA Fund** you don't need to do anything. However, if you would prefer to switch and/or redirect any regular payment allocation (if applicable) to a different fund available to your clients' plans, it's free of charge and very easy to do. If you would like this to happen before the Switch Date, we must receive your instructions by 5.00pm UK time on 6 December 2023.

### Switching funds is easy

Visit the fund centre for your client's product at [www.rl360adviser.com/fundcentres](http://www.rl360adviser.com/fundcentres) to help you decide on a new fund, or funds. After that choose one of the following options:

Switch online	Send us your changes
If you are a registered user of our Online Service Centre and have signed up for online switching, log into your account at <a href="http://www.rl360.com">www.rl360.com</a> and submit your switch online fast and efficiently.	Download a copy of our <b>Fund Switch Instruction Form</b> , which you will find on the product fund centre page, complete it and email, fax or post it back to us using the details on the form.

### Getting in touch

If you have any questions regarding this letter or any general queries, please get in touch.

Call our Customer Service Team on +44 (0)1624 681682 or send an email to [csc@rl360.com](mailto:csc@rl360.com) and one of our team will be happy to help.

Kind regards



Chris Corkish  
Investment Marketing Manager

## APPENDIX - Comparison of the Merging Fund and the Alternative Receiving Fund – USD and EUR currency options

Where a data point or value only relates to the EUR or USD currency option, this will be indicated in brackets after the data point or value.

	Merging Fund details	Alternative Receiving Fund details
<b>Fund Name</b>	JPMorgan Funds – Emerging Middle East Equity Fund	Franklin Templeton – Franklin MENA Fund
<b>Share Class Name</b>	JPM Emerging Middle East Equity A Acc EUR JPM Emerging Middle East Equity A Acc USD	Franklin MENA A Acc EUR Franklin MENA A Acc USD
<b>ISIN</b>	LU0401356422 (EUR) LU0210535208 (USD)	LU0352132285 (EUR) LU0352132103 (USD)
<b>Domicile</b>	Luxembourg	Luxembourg
<b>Launch Date</b>	10/12/2008 (EUR) 31/03/2005 (USD)	16/06/2008 (EUR) 16/06/2008 (USD)
<b>Investment Objective and Policy</b>	The Fund invests primarily in companies of the emerging markets of the Middle East region.  The Fund is therefore exposed to risks related to equity, emerging markets, concentration, participation notes, smaller companies, currency, liquidity, high volatility and regulatory policies of certain equity markets in the Middle East region, derivative, hedging.	The Fund aims to increase the value of its investments over the medium to long term. The Fund pursues an actively managed investment strategy and invests mainly in equity securities issued by companies of any size located in, or doing significant business in, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including the region's emerging and frontier markets, and equity-related securities such as participatory notes to gain access to countries within the MENA region.
<b>Morningstar Sector</b>	Africa & Middle East Equity	Africa & Middle East Equity
<b>Risk and Reward Rating (1 being low, 7 being high)</b>	6	6
<b>Annual Management Charge</b>	1.50%	2.00%
<b>Ongoing Charge *</b>	1.80%	2.61%
<b>5 Year Annualised Performance</b>	12.26% (EUR) 9.08% (USD)	9.04% (EUR) 7.53% (USD)
<b>5 Year Standard Deviation **</b>	16.38% (EUR) 14.05% (USD)	13.43% (EUR) 12.06% (USD)

Notes: Information within this table is sourced from Morningstar® and is correct as at 31 October 2023 .

\* Ongoing Charge includes the Annual Management Charge plus other operational expenses, so better reflects the total costs applied to the fund.

\*\* 5 Year Standard Deviation – Standard deviation is a statistical measurement which, when applied to a fund, expresses its volatility, or risk. It shows how widely a range of returns varied from the fund's average return over a particular selected period; in this case a 5 year period has been selected. If a fund had an average return of 5%, and its volatility was 15%, this would mean that the range of its returns over the period had swung between +20% and -10%.