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Liontrust signs up to the Workforce Disclosure Initiative (WDI)

Liontrust, the specialist fund management company, has become a signatory to ShareAction's Workforce Disclosure Initiative (WDI), which aims to improve the quality of jobs globally.

The WDI has more than 125 institutional investors as signatories, with combined assets of more than \$14 trillion, and is pressing companies around the world to disclose better data on how they manage their staff and on their supply chain workers. The data cover issues such as health and safety, workers' rights, diversity and wage levels.

Last week, the WDI renewed its demand for companies across the world to come forward with better data, which allow investors to "engage with companies in support of smart management of human capital as well as about their exposure to the risks of poor workforce practices".

Harriet Parker, investment manager in the Liontrust Sustainable Investment team, said: "The WDI is an important initiative, both to raise the quality of working lives for people around the world and to improve the attractiveness of companies to consumers and investors.

"The fact there are too many poor quality and precarious jobs around the world is recognised in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 8, which calls for decent work for all.

"Investors are also becoming increasingly aware that good employment practices contribute meaningfully to financial returns."

Liontrust is committed to many other environmental, social and governance (ESG) initiatives, including UNPRI (UN Principles for Responsible Investment), CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project), TCFD (Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure) and the FRC (Financial Reporting Council) Stewardship Code, and embedding these across the business.

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About Liontrust

Liontrust Asset Management, which was launched in 1995, is a specialist fund management group with shares quoted on the London Stock Exchange. Liontrust manages £14 billion (as at close of 25 June 2019), including £3.7bn within the Sustainable Investment Process. The business won Specialist Group of the Year (over £10bn) at the Investment Week Specialist Investment Awards 2018, and ESG Fund Management Group of the Year at the Portfolio Adviser Fund Awards 2019.

About ShareAction

ShareAction is a charity campaigning for responsible investment. It campaigns to make investment more transparent and accountable, while delivering value for money and sustainable economic and human development.

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The issue of units/shares in Liontrust Funds may be subject to an initial charge, which will have an impact on the realisable value of the investment, particularly in the short term. Investments should always be considered as long term.