

18th October 2021

Dr Nigel Wilson
Chief Executive
Legal and General
1 Coleman St,
London
EC2R 5AA

Legal and General's investments in Chinese companies accused of complicity in gross human rights violations

Dear Dr Wilson,

We are writing to raise our concern as staff of Members of Parliament who have our pensions managed by you regarding recent reports that Legal and General has exposure to emerging market equities, including possible investment in Chinese companies who have been accused of being complicit in human rights violations and Chinese state-run banks.

Hong Kong Watch recently reported that until the Spring of this year Legal and General was invested in eight companies on the US sanctions list for complicity in gross human rights violations. We understand that, when approached about these findings, it was stated that Legal and General had divested from these stocks as a result of the new sanctions regime.

It is therefore concerning to find that as of October 2021, Legal and General remains invested in China's four largest state-run banks: Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Agricultural Bank of China, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and the company iFlytek.¹

Aside from being one of the largest technology companies in China, iFlytek has been blacklisted by the United States for its involvement in the construction of the camps in Xinjiang. In 2017, Human Rights Watch reported that iFlytek signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the agency that operates the camps in Xinjiang where over a million Uyghurs are currently incarcerated. It has been reported that Uyghurs in Xinjiang are required to regularly provide voice recordings alongside with DNA, biometrics, and fingerprints at police check-points, where they use iFlytek's software.

Like other pension providers, Legal and General on its website claims that it supports ethical investing through adherence to the 'Environmental, Social and Governance' (ESG) criteria. On your website you write that 'we will not tolerate, or condone, abuse of human rights within any part of our business or value chains and we will take seriously any allegations of human rights abuses.'

Given previous statements you have made about supporting human rights and investing pensions ethically and the recent motion passed by the House of Commons labelling the treatment of the Uyghurs as "genocide", we urge Legal and General to review our pension investments in China and ensure that as staff of Members of Parliament we are not invested in companies or institutions complicit in gross human rights violations or institutions linked to the Chinese-state.

Yours sincerely,

¹ <https://fundcentres.lgim.com/uk/en/fund-centre/ETF/E-Fund-MSCI-China-A/#Index>

Jamie Ali	Anna Heuschkel	Sarah Mulgrew
Dan Ashcroft	Tomas Higginson	Cate Murphy
Steven Atkins	Tom Hinchcliffe	James Neal
Sarah Banwell	Dena Holland	Amy Nicholls
Nick Beall	Lee Holland	Catherine O'Hara
James Bower	Katherine Hopkins	Natasa Pantelic
Amanda Boyes	Carolyn Hughes	Dan Parker
Dave Bradley	Ceyda Izmen	Dan Peacock
Cameron Brady-Turner	Ellie James	Caitlin Prowle
Holly Brazier Tope	Joe Jervis	Edward Randall
Suzanne Brookfield	Morgan Jones	Carlotta Rauch
Milton Brown	Luke Joseph	Stephen Reed
Daniel Burden	Sabah Kanwal	Charlie Roberts
Dean Cawsey	Ciaran Kearney	Maria Saleh
Sean Clough	Libby Kearns	Fran Sellors
Dee Colgan	Elliot Keck	Reshima Sharma
Art Conaghan	Lindsey Kell	Scott Sherlock
Alex Conneely Hughes	Nina Killen	Hannah Short
William Cooper	Abby King	Terence Smith
Tom Critchley	Eric Kostadinov	Stephen Smith
Mel Crosby	Steven Laing	Graeme Smith
Joleen Cunningham	Anthony Lavelle	Linda Spence
Ingrid Davidson	George Leach-Hutchings	Amy Stokes
Owen Davies	Carys Lloyd	Emma Stowell-Corten
John Dawson	Jack Lovie	Elliot Stratton
Megan Dearing	Helen Mackie	Jamie Sweeney
James Devo	Anisa Mahmood	Jenny Symmons
Lizzy Diggins	Andy Marshall	Louise Szpera
Simon Dixon	Darren Mason	Emily Tierney-Lever
Amy Dolley	Kari Mawhood	Callum Tipple
Tom Donnelly	Kieran Maxwell	Lizzie Turner-Morris
Alice Edwins	Siobhán McAlister	Harpreet Uppal
Nasra Elliott	Emily McAuley	Neha Vaidya
Will Elliott	Niamh McCourt	Anne-Marie Wadsworth
Ergin Erbil	Ross McLaren	George Walker
Emma Evans	Ruairi McMenamin	Daniel Walsh
Andrew Fellows	Justin Meadows	Natalie Wells-Russell
Jacqueline Fletcher	Andrew Melling	Matthew Whitty
Vicki Flippance	James Metcalfe	Hollie Wickens
Douglas Gerrard	Honor Miller	Jack Wilfan
Anna Gettings	Cath Miller	Lisa Wilkinson
Hinna Ghafoor	Andrew Mitchell	Tom Williams
Kimberley Glendenning	Richard Mitchell	Edward Wilson
Tim Hammersley	Dominic Moffitt	Michael Yates
Ashley Harmon	Abdi Mohamed	
Maria Herron	Hayley Morgan	

