

Short-Life Working Group on Definition of Armaments for Investments (SLWGDAI)

Remit

To undertake a rapid review of the definition of armaments and controversial weapons (the latter in the 2016 Responsible Investment Policy), in the context of the University's investments

To provide recommendations to the Senior Leadership Team / Principal, thence to Policy and Resources Committee and Court as required

To ensure the recommendations from this rapid review also inform the broader University consultation on the Responsible Investment Policy

Proposed Activities

1. Provide an overview of how investment works across different asset classes
2. Review current definition of controversial weapons within the 2016 Responsible Investment policy
3. Gather information (where possible) on how armaments are defined by investors and explore whether these definitions are based on activity, manufacturing sector, percentage of turnover and / or some other basis
4. Consider the request from EUSA for approach to consider use of AI in targeting, and use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)
5. Gather information on the extent of weapons investments in the University's portfolio based on the working group's assessment of the boundaries of the definition of armaments and controversial weapons
6. Make recommendations to the Senior Leadership Team / Principal, and thence to Policy and Resources Committee and Court as required, on any proposed changes to the Responsible Investment Policy definitions for armaments / controversial weapons including, where possible, information about potential implications of such a change (via a short report, which may include further next steps or investigative requirements)

Ways of working

It is proposed that the group meets 3 times, starting in the week of the 20th May, and aiming to provide recommendations in the week of the 10th June:

- *Meeting 1*- Discuss remit and familiarise group members with current Investment policies; how investment works at Edinburgh; identify information gathering needs to inform discussions; agree format for recommendations and short report (activities 1, 2, 3, 4)
- *Meeting 2*- Discuss results of information gathering; consider EUSA request on LAWS; discuss implications of information gathering for current definitions,

and any potential changes to boundaries of those definitions; agree potential changes (activities 3, 4, 5, 6)

- *Meeting 3*- Confirm proposed changes and where possible, implications of changes; agree short report back to the Senior Leadership Team / Principal (activity 6)

Membership

Provost, Convenor

Social Responsibility and Sustainability representative

Finance Representative

Head of School

Head of School

Student representative

Staff representative

Secretary to the Working Group