THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Work Plan 2025-2027

Context

The discussions since May 2024 have generated a series of actions, requests and needs that the RIAG group has been asked to take forward.

These flow from Court discussions and commitments generated by approval of the new Responsible Investment policy approved in April 2025[1].

As the RIAG develops its ways of working, and receives representations, it will identify new tasks, topics and requirements. At its first meeting RIAG agreed a series of tasks for the period 2025-27. The current priority tasks are:

Task 1 – Publish a summary of the principles that will guide RIAG's work.

Task 2 –Development of a representations process for staff and students.

Task 3 – Publish a statement on RIAG's ways of working.

Task 4 – Consider the Court request to consider whether the University should depart from its currently adopted definition of controversial armaments (the Sustainalytics definition) and move towards a bespoke extended definition to include Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) and AI-directed lethal targeting.

Task 5 – Provide advice on the Court request on updating the Responsible Investment Policy to include a clearer, actionable commitment to respecting human rights, in alignment with the focus on human rights within the University's Social and Civic Responsibility Delivery Plan.

Task 6 – Provide advice on the current pause on new investments in 2 companies.

[1] Available at https://sustainability.ed.ac.uk/sustainability-in-operations-and-estates/responsible-investment