



Toni Meadows
Chief Investment Officer

Who is this investment for?

The Service is designed for a cautious investor, who should have:

- Limited experience of investment products, and is probably more familiar with bank and building society accounts.
- An understanding that in general terms investment products should be held for a minimum period of five years.
- A preference for outcomes that have a degree of certainty, although they will understand that their investments could rise or fall.

The Service aims to improve total returns and actively manage short-term risks through increasing or decreasing holdings in asset classes and individual funds. These allocations are determined by the Openwork Wealth Services Limited investment team, which benefits from full transparency of the funds' underlying investments, and is controlled through a strict governance framework.

How we are managing your money

The first three months of the year proved to be very volatile for global equities. In the US, tech stocks took unpredictable turns with president Trump attacking Amazon over what he sees as its misuse of the US Postal Service. Investors also remained hyper-sensitive to signs of inflationary pressure, changes to monetary policy through interest rate rises and, latterly, a potential trade war between the US and China. The inherent flexibility of the Omnis Managed Portfolio Service means we have been able to act quickly during times of market stress.

In early February, we sold down our overweight position in equities, in part through reducing our position in Omnis US Equity Fund, prior to the worst of the market sell-off.

Following our asset allocation meeting at the end of March, we solidified our positioning by further reducing our holdings in Omnis Income & Growth Fund based on our belief that some UK-listed companies may struggle relative to other asset classes as we move closer to Brexit.

During the period, sterling was strong against a weak dollar. However, we expect this strength to abate and so find more promising opportunities in international assets. Emerging markets in particular remain a relatively attractive asset class in terms of both valuation – at a cheaper price versus other sectors – and the outlook for growth, and so we increased our holding in Omnis Emerging Markets Equity Fund from 1% to 2%.

In March, we also reduced our allocation to the Omnis Strategic Bond Fund from 18% to 15%, while upping our exposure to Omnis Alternative Strategies Fund from 5% to 7.5%. The latter fund can be regarded as a low volatility replacement for cash, which will be used as a source of funds when we want to put more money back to work in equities.

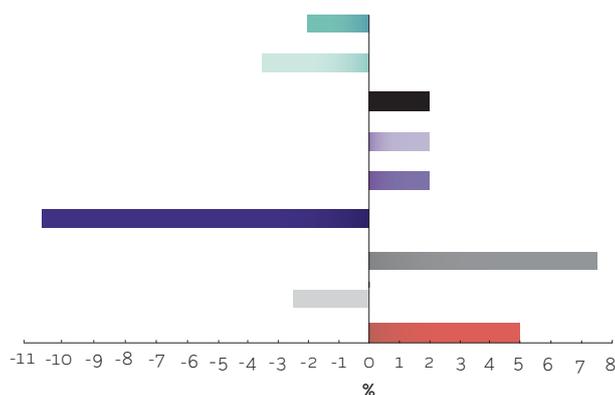
While we have conviction in the long-term prospects for equities, our relatively high allocation to cash at 5% means we are ready to reinvest quickly should further volatility create opportunities to invest when markets hit lower levels.

Strategic Asset Allocation



20% UK Equity	-2%
10% US Equity	-3.5%
7% Asia Pacific Equity	+2%
3% European Equity	+2%
0% Emerging Markets Equity	+2%
35% UK Bonds*	-10.5%
15% Global Bonds*	+7.5%
10% Alternative Strategies	-2.5%
0% Cash	+5%

Overweight/underweight position relative to Strategic Asset Allocation



*Overweight/underweight positions reflect underlying holdings of funds.

Who is managing your money?

	Omnis Income and Growth Fund managed by Woodford Investment Management	7%
Schroders	Omnis UK Equity Fund managed by Schroder Investment Management	5%
	Omnis UK Equity Income Fund managed by Royal London Asset Management	6%
	Omnis US Equity Fund managed by T. Rowe Price	6.5%
	Omnis Asia Pacific Equity Fund managed by Baillie Gifford & Co	9%
	Omnis European Equity Fund managed by Jupiter Asset Management	5%
	Omnis Emerging Markets Equity Fund managed by Jupiter Asset Management	2%
	Omnis UK Bond Fund managed by Columbia Threadneedle Asset Management	18%
Schroders	Omnis Global Bond Fund managed by Schroder Investment Management	14%
	Omnis Strategic Bond Fund managed by Fidelity International	15%
	Omnis Alternative Strategies Fund managed by Octopus Investments	7.5%
	Cash	5%

The quarter in review

On a macro level, the first three months of 2018 were dominated by developments in the US, in particular its diplomatic relations with Asian economies. While tensions with North Korea remain heightened, the shock announcement that president Donald Trump is to meet with Kim Jong Un later this year has commentators hoping for more open and peaceful dialogue going forward.

It is Trump's relations with Beijing that unsettled markets, following on from his government's decision initial in March to introduce tariffs of 25% on steel imports and 10% on imported aluminium. This was the trigger for what some are calling a trade war as China's retaliation with levies on US products setting off further tit-for-tat measures of protectionism. The US said it was acting against unfair Chinese trade practices, while Beijing accused Washington of violating World Trade Organization rules.

Also in March, the new chair of the US Federal Reserve, Jay Powell, announced a US interest rate rise of 0.25% to a range of 1.50% to 1.75%, and signalled that a further two rises would take place before the end of 2018. As an indication of the health of the world's largest economy, what happens in the US is a big determinant of the mood of global investors, and so any unexpected interest rate moves could have a significant impact on markets. In the UK, interest rates have been held at 0.5%, though many expect the Bank of England to make a move in May, if the economy continues to show underlying good health.

Ongoing Charges Figure

The OCF provides a measure of the combined cost of investing in each of the individual Omnis funds that make up the portfolio but excludes any portfolio service charges. The combined OCF is subject to change in line with the underlying composition of the portfolio.

0.69%

The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the original amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance and should not be relied upon. Always seek professional advice before acting.

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