

## Information Checklist for Application for Approval of Appointment of Director, Custodian or Investment Manager of a Private Open-ended Fund Company

***This Information Checklist should be used with effect from 29 November 2024 in support of any application (“Application”) for approval of appointment of director, custodian or investment manager of a private OFC as defined in the Code on Open-ended Fund Companies (“OFC Code”).***

### A. Introduction

An applicant seeking approval of appointment of director, custodian or investment manager of a private OFC<sup>1</sup> must complete this Information Checklist and submit it to the Investment Products Division of the Securities and Futures Commission (the “SFC”), together with relevant documents provided hereunder. The SFC reserves the right to request for more information and/or documents in reviewing and considering each application.

**The SFC reserves the right to return forthwith, without processing, an incomplete or non-compliant application to the extent the application form<sup>2</sup>, this Information Checklist and/or the accompanying documents are not properly or fully completed, and/or where negative responses in this Information Checklist are not properly explained, and/or such application is accompanied by documents that do not meet the applicable requirements, not in good order or otherwise not suitable for clearance. The SFC reserves the right to request the applicant to submit updated and duly completed and properly executed checklist(s), confirmation(s) or undertaking(s) before approval of an application.**

This is a standard form document. Unless otherwise specified, when completing this Information Checklist, please do not make any deletion, addition or amendment to the forms or headings. The applicant is reminded to tick ALL boxes that are applicable in this Information Checklist.

### B. Basic information of the private OFC or sub-fund(s)

**Name of private OFC  
 (“Private OFC”) / sub-fund(s)  
 (“Sub-fund(s)”) (*please delete  
 as appropriate*) to which the  
 proposed operator(s) is/ are  
 proposed to be appointed  
 under this application:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*(please use separate sheets if necessary)*

<sup>1</sup> An appointment of a custodian or investment manager of a sub-fund of a private OFC would also be regarded as an appointment of the custodian or investment manager of the private OFC.

<sup>2</sup> Application form refers to the “Application Form for Approval of Appointment of Director, Custodian or Investment Manager of an Open-ended Fund Company”.

1. This Information Checklist is submitted in respect of an application for approval of appointment of:

- director(s) of the Private OFC
- custodian of the Private OFC
- investment manager of the Private OFC

**C. Basic information on the proposed operator(s) from the applicant**

*(For asterisked parts (\*), please delete as appropriate)*

2.  *(Applicable to an application for approval of appointment of director(s))* Is/ are the proposed director(s) currently managing other existing SFC-registered OFC(s)?

- Yes     No

Name of proposed director(s) who is/ are serving as a director of existing SFC-registered OFC(s):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

*(please use separate sheets if necessary)*

3.  *(Applicable to an application for approval of appointment of investment manager)* Is the proposed investment manager currently managing other existing SFC-registered OFC(s) or SFC-authorized fund(s)?

- Yes     No

4.  *(Applicable to an application for approval of appointment of custodian)* Is the proposed custodian currently acting as custodian of other existing SFC-registered OFC(s) or SFC-authorized fund(s)?

- Yes     No

5.  The proposed director(s) / investment manager / custodian\* will be *(Please tick one of the following boxes)*

a replacement to the existing director(s) / investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC, being: \_\_\_\_\_ [state the name of the existing director(s) / investment manager / custodian];

an additional director(s) / investment manager / custodian\* to the Private OFC.

6.  It is intended that the proposed director(s) / investment manager / custodian\* will be appointed *(Please tick one of the following boxes)*

as soon as practicable after approval is obtained from the SFC;

on or around \_\_\_\_\_ [state the tentative effective date].



7. (Applicable to an application for approval of appointment of investment manager or custodian) Does the proposed / existing\* custodian of the Private OFC have the same ultimate holding company as the proposed / existing\* investment manager of the Private OFC?

Yes  No

8. (Applicable to an application for approval of appointment of custodian) Will the existing independent director(s) of the Private OFC continue to be compliant with the requirements applicable to an independent director under the OFC Code (including 5.2 of the OFC Code) upon appointment of the proposed custodian?

Yes  No, details are provided in separate sheet(s)

#### D. Confirmation from the applicant

We confirm that all information contained in this Information Checklist (including all confirmations and undertakings) and the documents submitted relating thereto are true and accurate; and unless otherwise specifically allowed for in this Information Checklist, no deletion, addition or amendment has been made to the standard templates of these current prescribed documents as published on the SFC website.

We further undertake to notify the SFC immediately if there are any changes to the information and/or confirmations provided to the SFC from time to time in connection with the application or where we have become aware of any matters or changes in circumstance that may affect the SFC's assessment of this application.

Name of authorized signatory :  
Signature :  
Title / Position<sup>3</sup> :  
Duly authorized :  
For and on behalf of<sup>4</sup> :  
Date (date / month / year) :

#### E. Basic documents required to be submitted to the SFC

The list below is not exhaustive. The SFC may require additional information.

On application, please submit soft copies of the following documents in text-searchable format.

##### I. Mandatory documents

- 1) Duly completed and properly executed application form ("Application Form for Approval of Appointment of Director, Custodian or Investment Manager of an Open-ended Fund Company")
- 2) Application fee<sup>5</sup> (in the form of cheque payable to the "Securities and Futures Commission", or other means of payment acceptable to the SFC, for the correct amount of total application fee) (Note: The SFC will start processing the applications if they are in good order and the application fee is the only outstanding matter)

<sup>3</sup> The signatory should be a director of the OFC or a senior-ranking executive of the investment manager of the OFC (or an appropriate person designated by the senior-ranking executive of the investment manager of the OFC), who is duly authorized by the board of directors of the OFC.

<sup>4</sup> State the name of the applicant.

<sup>5</sup> As an appointment of a custodian or investment manager of a sub-fund of a private OFC is also regarded as an appointment of the custodian or investment manager of the private OFC, the application fee is also payable in the case of an application for approval of appointment of custodian or investment manager of sub-fund established by a private OFC.



- 3) Duly and properly completed Information Checklist, including the duly completed and properly executed confirmation from the applicant under Section D of this Information Checklist

**II. Additional documents required to be submitted to the SFC**

		Applicable? (please tick)	
		Yes (and submitted)	No
4)	<u>For proposed appointment of director(s)</u>		
	(i) Duly completed and properly executed confirmation from each of the proposed directors (see <u>Annex A1</u> )		
	(ii) <i>(In the case of a proposed director who is not currently a director of other existing SFC-registered OFC(s))</i> Duly completed and properly executed Vetting Authorization Form from each of the proposed directors (see <u>Annex A2</u> ) <sup>6</sup>		
5)	<u>For proposed appointment of custodian</u> Duly completed and properly executed confirmations from the proposed custodian (see <u>Annex B1</u> )		
6)	<u>For proposed appointment of a custodian which is not currently acting as trustee/custodian for SFC-authorized fund(s), other than a custodian that is licensed or registered by the SFC to carry out Type 13 regulated activity</u>		
	(i) Duly completed and properly executed confirmations from the proposed directors regarding the proposed custodian’s internal controls and systems (see <u>Annex B2</u> ) <sup>7</sup>		
7)	<u>For proposed appointment of a custodian which is not currently acting as trustee/custodian for SFC-registered OFC(s) or SFC-authorized fund(s)</u>		
	(i) Certificate of incorporation/registration of the custodian		
	(ii) Evidence to demonstrate compliance with 7.1(b) of the Code on Open-ended Fund Companies (“OFC Code”) <i>(please tick where applicable)</i> e.g.		
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>(for a banking institution incorporated outside Hong Kong subject to prudential regulation and supervision on an ongoing basis or an entity which is authorized to act as trustee/custodian of a scheme and prudentially regulated and supervised by an overseas supervisory authority)</i> licence of such banking institution issued by the relevant authority; or evidence showing such entity being approved/authorized as the trustee/custodian of a scheme by its supervisory authority		
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>(for a depositary licensed or registered to carry on Type 13 regulated activity under Part V of the SFO)</i> a copy of valid certificate(s) showing its licensing/registration status		
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>(for a licensed corporation or registered institution licensed or registered for Type 1 regulated activity)</i> a copy of valid certificate(s) showing its licensing/registration status, the name and CE number of the responsible		

<sup>6</sup> The hard copy of the original Vetting Authorization Form should be submitted to the SFC as soon as practicable following submission of the application.

<sup>7</sup> Annex B2 is not required from directors where the OFC appoints a custodian whose functions are (a) mainly carried out in an acceptable inspection regime (“AIR”) and with the primary supervisory authority being one of those with whom the SFC has co-operation agreements (including Australia, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Taiwan, United Kingdom and United States of America); or (b) carried out by the head/branch office(s) of a banking institution in an AIR whereby a separate arm/office of the banking institution is currently acting as trustee/custodian for SFC-authorized funds.

officer(s) or executive officer(s) responsible for the overall management and supervision of its custodial function, an updated organisational chart<sup>8</sup>, and *(where the existing systems and controls for the safekeeping of client assets of the licensed corporation's or registered institution's Type 1 regulated activity business will not be used for safekeeping of the scheme property of the Private OFC)* a custody operational flowchart together with the reason(s) for not using such existing systems and controls for safekeeping of the scheme property of the OFC

- 8) *For proposed appointment of investment manager*  
Duly completed and properly executed confirmation from the investment manager (see Annex C)
- 9) *For proposed appointment of an investment manager which is not currently managing other SFC-registered OFC(s) or SFC-authorized fund(s)*  
(i) Copy of valid certificate(s) showing its licensing/registration status  
  
(ii) Duly completed and properly executed confirmation from the proposed investment manager (see Annex C)
- 10) *For proposed appointment of investment manager or custodian where the custodian has the same ultimate holding company as the investment manager*  
Duly completed and properly executed confirmation from the investment manager or custodian of the Private OFC where the investment manager/ custodian has the same ultimate holding company as the proposed investment manager/custodian (see Annex D)<sup>9</sup>


<sup>8</sup> Please refer to Question 6A of the Frequently Asked Questions relating to Open-ended Fund Companies which can be downloaded at: <https://www.sfc.hk/en/faqs/Publicly-offered-investment-products/Open-ended-Fund-Companies>

<sup>9</sup> Annex D is (i) to be completed by the custodian if the application is for proposed appointment of investment manager or (ii) to be completed by the investment manager if the application is for proposed appointment of custodian.

## **ANNEX A1: Confirmation from each of the proposed directors**

To: Securities and Futures Commission (the “SFC”)

Name of the private OFC: [*insert name of the private OFC*] (hereinafter the “Private OFC”)

I [*insert name of the proposed director*] confirm for the purposes of sections 112W and 112X of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (“SFO”) and 5.1 of the Code on Open-ended Fund Companies (“OFC Code”) that:

- (a) I have attained the age of 18 years;
- (b) I am not an undischarged bankrupt;
- (c) I am not subject to any disqualification order from acting in the capacity of a director of a corporation pursuant to any applicable laws and regulations of Hong Kong;
- (d) (*please tick one of the following boxes*)

- I have not (nor has any business with which I have been involved) been (i) held by any court or competent authority to have breached any company, securities or financial markets laws and regulations, or held for fraud or other misfeasance; or (ii) disciplined by, or disqualified from, any professional body ((i) and (ii) above are collectively referred to as the “Relevant Breaches”);
- details of the Relevant Breaches are attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s); and none of the Relevant Breaches will materially affect my ability in performing my roles/duties as director of the Private OFC and compliance with the SFO, the Securities and Futures (Open-ended Fund Companies) Rules (“OFC Rules”) and the OFC Code. The justification is also attached;

- (da) (*please tick one of the following boxes*)

- I am not (nor has any business with which I am involved is) involved in any current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) (“Relevant Matters”);
- details of the Relevant Matters are attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s); and none of the Relevant Matters will materially affect my ability in performing my roles/duties as director of the Private OFC and compliance with the SFO, the OFC Rules and the OFC Code. The justification is also attached;

- (e) (*applicable to a proposed director who is not currently licensed or registered with the SFC to carry out regulated activity for a licensed corporation to which s/he is accredited to*) to demonstrate fulfilment of the eligibility criteria in the SFO, OFC Rules and the OFC Code (*please tick one of the following boxes*):

- (*applicable to a proposed director who is not currently a director of other existing SFC-registered OFC(s)*) my profile is attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s); and
- (*applicable to a proposed director who is currently a director of other existing SFC-registered OFC(s) and there has/have been change(s) to his/ her profile last submitted to the SFC which should be drawn to the attention of the SFC*) my updated profile (marked-up against the latest version submitted to the SFC) is attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s); and



(applicable to a proposed director who is currently a director of other existing SFC-registered OFC(s) and there has been no change to his/her profile last submitted to the SFC which should be drawn to the attention of the SFC) there has been no change to my profile last submitted to the SFC which should be drawn to the attention of the SFC; and

(f) I am of good repute, appropriately qualified, experienced and proper for the purpose of carrying out the business of the Private OFC.

(Applicable to a proposed director who will serve as an independent director of the Private OFC) I confirm that I am not a director or employee of the custodian of the Private OFC and therefore an independent director under 5.2 of the OFC Code.

(Applicable to a proposed director who will be a non-resident director as defined in the OFC Rules) I confirm that as a non-resident director of the Private OFC, for the purpose of rule 102 of the OFC Rules, a process agent meeting the requirements in rule 2 of the OFC Rules has been appointed and I undertake that I will give notice to the Private OFC of any matters relating to the process agent that are required for the record kept by the Private OFC in accordance with rule 102(7) of the OFC Rules.

I undertake that I shall, and shall ensure that the Private OFC will, at all times be compliant with the applicable laws and regulations to the Private OFC (including the SFO, the OFC Rules and the OFC Code).

I confirm nothing should be drawn to the attention of the SFC which would affect my ability to act or perform as the director of the Private OFC in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations, and undertake to bring to the SFC's attention as soon as practicable on any matter which may affect my abovementioned status or any of the above confirmations or undertakings.

I also confirm to the SFC that I have read and understood the Personal Information Collection Statement as set out at the Appendix (the "PICs") and consent to the use by the SFC of my Personal Data (as defined in the PICs) I have provided and may provide in the future, for the purposes described in the PICs.

Signed by:

Name of the proposed director:

Signature:

Date (date/ month/ year):



**ANNEX A2: (in the case of a proposed director who is not currently a director of other existing SFC-registered OFC(s)) Vetting Authorization Form from each of the proposed directors**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby authorize the Commissioner of Police/Commissioner of Customs and Excise/any local or overseas criminal investigatory body or regulatory authority, or their representatives, to release full particulars of any pertinent information and materials including all criminal convictions recorded against me to the Securities and Futures Commission. My personal particulars are as follows:

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)** \_\_\_\_\_

**HKID number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chinese Commercial Code** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**PRC ID number (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport number\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country of issue\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of birth** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature of applicant)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Witness by\*\*** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature of witness)*

**Name of witness** \_\_\_\_\_

**Designation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notary Public number (where applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_





**HKID / Passport number\*** .....

**Country of issue\*** .....

\* Only applicable where the person does not possess a Hong Kong Identity Card.

\*\* The witness must be one of the following persons:

- (i) a practicing solicitor, notary public or Justice of the Peace; or
- (ii) a director or responsible officer of the licensed corporation/corporation applying for a licence.

## **ANNEX B1: Confirmation from the proposed custodian**

- For asterisked parts (\*), please delete as appropriate

To: Securities and Futures Commission (the “SFC”)

**Name of private OFC<sup>10</sup>  
 (“Private OFC”) / sub-fund(s)  
 (“Sub-fund(s)”) to which the  
 proposed custodian is  
 proposed to be appointed  
 under this application:**

\_\_\_\_\_ *(please use separate sheets if necessary)*

We, as the proposed custodian of the Private OFC, confirm and undertake that:

- a) we consent to our appointment as custodian of the Private OFC;
- b) *(Applicable to custodian meeting the same eligibility requirements as set out in the Code on Unit Trusts and Mutual Funds (“UT Code”) for SFC-authorized funds)* we shall at all times comply with 7.1(b)(i) of the Code on Open-ended Fund Companies (“OFC Code”), in particular,

- (i) we shall act independently of the investment manager of the Private OFC in our dealings with the Private OFC;

*(please tick one of the following boxes)*

- (ii)  we, based on the latest audited financial report (and if more recent, the latest semi-annual report) (at the entity level) or an audit certificate<sup>11</sup> (at the entity level), comply with the financial resources requirement under 4.3 of the UT Code (applicable to the Private OFC under 7.1(b)(i) of the OFC Code);

- (iii)  *(only for a custodian that is not licensed or registered by the SFC under Part V of the SFO to carry out Type 13 regulated activity)* we have obtained a standing commitment or an undertaking from the holding company (which is attached in separate sheet) in compliance with 4.4 of the UT Code (applicable to the Private OFC under 7.1(b)(i) of the OFC Code);

- c) *(Applicable to custodian which is a licensed corporation or registered institution licensed or registered for Type 1 regulated activity)* we shall at all times comply with 7.1(b)(ii) of the OFC Code;

- (i) the licence/registration status of the RA1 intermediary is as follows:

Licence/ registration status	Date of licence/ registration	Restriction attached to the licence/ registration (if any) or state Nil (if applicable)

<sup>10</sup> This should be the same as that as stated in the “Application Form for Approval of Appointment of Director, Custodian or Investment Manager of an Open-ended Fund Company” duly completed and executed by/for and on behalf of the applicant.

<sup>11</sup> Where the private OFC custodian to be appointed by the private OFC is an existing trustee/ custodian of an SFC-authorized fund, an audit certificate may already have been prepared. Such audit certificate can be used as supporting document for the above purpose.

- (ii) *(Applicable to custodian which is not currently acting as custodian for SFC-registered OFC(s))*  
*(Please tick one of the following boxes)*

- there is no disciplinary history of the intermediary in the past five years or since the date of licence/registration if it has been licensed/ registered for less than five years;
- the details of the disciplinary history of the intermediary in the past five years or since the date of licence/registration if it has been licensed/ registered for less than five years have been submitted under separate sheet(s); and such disciplinary matter(s) does/do not materially affect its financial condition, status as a licensed or regulated entity, or ability to perform its licensed or regulated activity and the justification is also attached;

- (iii) *(Applicable to custodian which is not currently acting as custodian for SFC-registered OFC(s))*  
*(Please tick one of the following boxes)*

- there is no current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) of the intermediary;
- the details of the current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) of the intermediary are attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s); and none of the current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) will materially affect its financial condition, status as a licensed or regulated entity, or ability to perform its licensed or regulated activity and the justification is also attached;

- (iv) *(Applicable to custodian which is not currently acting as custodian for SFC-registered OFC(s))*  
*(Please tick one of the following boxes)*

- there is no current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) of the responsible officer(s) of the intermediary;
- the details of the current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) of the responsible officer(s) of the intermediary are attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s); and none of the current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) will materially affect the responsible officer(s)' ability in performing his/her/their roles/duties as responsible officer(s) of the intermediary and the justification is also attached;

- (v) the Private OFC is, and remains at all times, our client in respect of our business in Type 1 regulated activity;

- (vi) we have at least one responsible officer/ executive officer responsible for the overall management and supervision of our custodial function;

- (vii) we shall act independently of the investment manager of the Private OFC in our dealings with the Private OFC;

- (viii) *(Please tick one of the following boxes)*

- we confirm that our existing systems and controls for the safekeeping of the client assets of our Type 1 regulated activity business ("Existing Systems and Controls") will be used for safekeeping of the scheme property of the Private OFC;
- our Existing Systems and Controls will not be used for safekeeping of the scheme property of the Private OFC; and a custody operational flowchart demonstrating the systems and controls that we will use for safekeeping of the scheme property of the Private OFC, together with the reason(s) for not using such Existing Systems and Controls for safekeeping of the scheme property of the OFC, is attached;



(ix) (Applicable to custodian which is currently acting as custodian for SFC-registered OFC(s)) (Please tick one of the following boxes)

we confirm that there is no change to the organisational chart that we previously submitted to the SFC as part of an application for the registration of a private OFC;

there have been changes to the organisational chart that we previously submitted to the SFC as part of an application for the registration of a private OFC and an updated organisational chart is attached;

d) (Applicable to custodian having the same ultimate holding company as the investment manager of the Private OFC) we are functionally independent of the investment manager of the Private OFC. We confirm that (please tick all applicable boxes):

neither we nor the investment manager of the Private OFC is a subsidiary of the other;

none of our director(s) is a director of the investment manager of the Private OFC;

none of our responsible officer(s) is a responsible officer(s) of the investment manager of the Private OFC;

the investment manager of the Private OFC and we have common director(s):

Name of common director(s)	SFC licence number (if applicable)

the investment manager of the Private OFC and we have common responsible officer(s):

Name of common responsible officer(s)	SFC licence number (if applicable)

in the case that the investment manager of the Private OFC and we have common director(s) and/or common responsible officer(s), justifications to demonstrate our functional independence<sup>12</sup> is attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s);

e) we have sufficient experience, expertise and competence in safekeeping the asset types in which the Private OFC may invest;

f) we are not the subject of any disciplinary proceeding or subject to any action for breach of any applicable rules, which may materially affect our financial condition, status as a custodian, or ability to perform our services;

g) nothing should be drawn to the attention of the SFC which would affect our ability to act or perform as the custodian of SFC-registered OFC in compliance with Chapter 7 of the OFC Code;

h) (please delete as appropriate) (applicable to non-Hong Kong custodian<sup>13</sup> as defined in the Securities and Futures (Open-ended Fund Companies) Rules ("OFC Rules")) for the purpose of rule 115(1) of the

<sup>12</sup> For example, there are systems and controls in place to ensure that persons fulfilling the custodian function / safekeeping of the Private OFC's assets are functionally independent from persons fulfilling the Private OFC's management functions (e.g. with an independent board, separate governance structure / lines of reporting to the management of the custodian and separate operational teams within the same corporate group).



OFC Rules, a process agent meeting the requirements in rule 2 of the OFC Rules has been appointed. We undertake to give notice to the Private OFC of any matters relating to the process agent that are required for the record kept by the Private OFC in accordance with rule 115(6) of the OFC Rules.

i)  (Please tick if applicable) In the case of a custodian which is not currently acting as trustee/ custodian for any SFC-authorized fund(s), other than a custodian that is licensed or registered by the SFC to carry out Type 13 regulated activity, we further confirm that (please tick one of the following):

(a) our functions are (i) mainly carried out in acceptable inspection regimes and with the primary supervisory authority being one of those with whom the SFC has co-operation agreements (including Australia, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Taiwan, United Kingdom and United States of America); or (ii) carried out by the head/branch office(s) of a banking institution in an acceptable inspection regime whereby a separate arm/office of the banking institution is currently acting as trustee/custodian for SFC-authorized funds;

(b) our functions are mainly carried out in Hong Kong and/or in a non-acceptable inspection regime. We have submitted to the OFC a report (“Custodian Report”)<sup>14</sup> with respect to our internal controls and systems, which is in full compliance with Annex B3, which the directors of the OFC have reviewed and considered satisfactory. We will provide any other supporting documents which the SFC may deem necessary.

j) (for a custodian which is not currently acting as trustee/ custodian for any other existing SFC-registered OFC(s) or SFC-authorized fund(s) only) the information relating to the custodian below has been accurately completed:-

Name and title of the contact person	
Address:	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
Email address	
Principal place of operations of the custodian for the Private OFC	
Name of primary supervisory authority	
Financial year-end of the custodian	

(Applicable to a proposed custodian which is currently acting as custodian for SFC-registered private OFC(s)) We have / have not\* previously consented to the disclosure of our name on the SFC’s website as a custodian of a private OFC and confirm that we continue to consent / do not continue to consent / elect to consent from this application onwards\* to such disclosure. We will notify the SFC in writing if we wish to revise our position on such disclosure.

<sup>13</sup> This does not apply to a non-Hong Kong custodian that is a registered non-Hong Kong company (as defined in section 2(1) of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622)).

<sup>14</sup> In the case of a custodian which is currently acting as custodian of any other existing SFC-registered OFC(s), no separate Custodian Report is mandated to be prepared. The board of directors of the private OFC making the appointment should review the adequacy of the existing Custodian Report and decide whether a separate Custodian Report for the OFC is required to ensure that the custodian’s internal controls and systems are commensurate with the nature, scale and complexity of the private OFC concerned.



(Applicable to a proposed custodian which is not currently acting as custodian for SFC-registered private OFC(s)) We consent / do not consent\* to the disclosure of our name on the SFC's website as a custodian of a private OFC. We will notify the SFC in writing if we wish to revise our position on such disclosure.

Signed for and on behalf of:

Name of custodian : \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of authorized signatory : \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature : \_\_\_\_\_  
Title / Position : \_\_\_\_\_  
Date (date / month / year) : \_\_\_\_\_



**ANNEX B2: Confirmation from the directors of the OFC where (i) the custodian is not currently acting as trustee/custodian for any other existing SFC-authorized fund(s), other than a custodian that is licensed/registered by the SFC to carry out Type 13 regulated activity; and (ii) the custodian’s functions are mainly carried out in Hong Kong and/or in a non-acceptable inspection regime**

- For asterisked parts (\*), please delete as appropriate

To: Securities and Futures Commission (the “SFC”)

Name of the private OFC and name (or such other name as may be approved by the SFC) of the relevant sub-fund(s) and custodian of the private OFC under application:

- a) Name of the single/umbrella\* :  
private OFC (“Private OFC”) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Name (or such other name as :  
may be approved by the  
SFC) of the relevant  
sub-fund(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Name of the custodian of the :  
Private OFC \_\_\_\_\_
- (Please use separate sheet(s), if necessary)*

We, as the directors of the Private OFC, confirm that (i) we have assessed the custodian’s experience, expertise and competence in safekeeping the asset types in which the OFC may invest; and (ii) we have reviewed a report (“Custodian Report”) with respect to the custodian’s internal controls and systems. We are satisfied that (i) the custodian has sufficient experience, expertise and competence in safekeeping the asset types in which the OFC may invest; and (ii) the custodian’s internal controls and systems are commensurate with the nature, scale and complexity of the Private OFC and the custodial risks specific to the type and nature of assets in which the Private OFC may invest, and is in compliance with Annex B3.

We will also:

- review the adequacy of the custodian’s internal systems and controls on an ongoing basis having regard to the nature, scale and complexity of the private OFC and the custodial risks specific to the type and nature of assets in which the Private OFC may invest and any relevant changes to the OFC from time to time; and
- provide any other supporting documents which the SFC may deem necessary.

Name of authorized signatory :  
Signature :  
Title / Position<sup>15</sup> :  
Duly authorized :  
For and on behalf of<sup>16</sup> :  
Date (date / month / year) :

<sup>15</sup> The signatory should be a proposed director of the private OFC, who is duly authorized by the respective proposed directors of the OFC, to sign this confirmation and undertaking.

<sup>16</sup> State the name of the applicant.

## **ANNEX B3: Guidance on information to be contained in the Custodian Report**

- *Under the Securities and Futures Ordinance, the OFC custodian must take reasonable care, skill and diligence to ensure the safekeeping of the scheme property of the OFC that is entrusted to it. The Code on Open-ended Fund Companies (“OFC Code”) also sets out the specific duties of OFC custodians. Accordingly, custodians of OFC, including private OFCs, are expected to put in place adequate internal controls and systems to meet its duties under the applicable laws and regulations.*
- *The report on the Custodian’s internal controls and systems (the “Custodian Report” as referred to in Annex B1 and Annex B2) should describe the control environment of the custodian, and the policies and procedures of the custodian’s internal controls and systems that are designed to ensure compliance with the requirements of 7.3 and Appendix A of the OFC Code. The policies and procedures are expected to cover, at a minimum, each of the areas (“Control Attributes”) below.*
- *The following Control Attributes are basic requirements for the Custodian Report. The custodian should ensure, and the OFC should review and ensure it is satisfied that, the custodian’s internal controls and systems are commensurate with the nature, scale and complexity of the private OFC concerned and the custodial risks specific to the type and nature of assets in which the private OFC invests. In this connection, the directors should note their duty under the OFC Code to use reasonable care, skill and diligence to oversee the activities of the custodian as part of their overall duty to oversee the operations of the OFC.*

### **Basic contents of a Control Report**

#### **(I) General**

##### **1. Maintenance of a control environment**

- (a) Resources: possession of relevant knowledge, skills, qualifications, experiences, resources and operational capabilities commensurate with the OFC’s nature, scale, complexity and underlying investments.
- (b) Procedures: appropriate procedures (subject to regular and frequent review and update) for acting as the custodian of the OFC, including ongoing monitoring on third parties.
- (c) Corporate governance: a corporate governance framework for its operation as a custodian, with timely escalation to and involvement of senior management on issues that may lead to breaches.
- (d) Risk management: a risk management framework; identification, monitoring and control of relevant risks for acting as an OFC custodian, with supervision from senior management.
- (e) Business continuity plan (“BCP”): a BCP with regular testing of effectiveness and subject to ongoing review, with timely reporting to senior management on material exceptions.

##### **2. Compliance with legal and regulatory requirements**

- (a) Compliance function and review: establishment of a compliance programme and policies (with periodic review) approved by the management for the obligations under the applicable laws and regulations; and ensuring sufficient and adequate compliance resources.
- (b) Breach reporting: procedures for identifying breaches; formation and monitoring of rectification plans; and reporting to senior management, the OFC and regulatory bodies.



**(II) Appointment and oversight on third parties relevant for the custodian's discharge of obligations**

- (a) Due diligence: selection and due diligence of third parties engaged, including an assessment on their competency, regulatory and financial status, and capabilities in discharging their delegated function(s)/operation(s) and their internal controls and systems, covering the respective matters provided in this Annex with respect to the relevant delegated function(s)/operations(s) by the custodian.
- (b) Ongoing monitoring: ongoing monitoring and review of third parties engaged to ensure the delegated function(s)/operation(s) are performed in compliance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements.
- (c) Oversight: oversight on third parties engaged that all the necessary internal controls and systems are established and maintained effectively in carrying out the delegated function(s)/operation(s).
- (d) Documented procedures: documented procedures in respect of matters in (II)(a) to (c) above.
- (e) Contingency planning: contingency plan on third parties engaged, including actions and measures to be taken on breaches and solvency matters/issues relating to the third parties engaged.
- (f) Conflicts: policies and measures to address conflicts of interests.

**(III) Custody and safeguarding of scheme property**

- (a) Segregation of the scheme property of the OFC from the assets of the custodian and, unless the scheme property of the OFC is held in an omnibus client account with adequate safeguards in line with international standards and best practices to ensure that the scheme property of the OFC is properly recorded with frequent reconciliations, segregation of the scheme property of the OFC from:
  - (i) the assets of the investment manager of the OFC and its affiliates;
  - (ii) the assets of a sub-custodian, if any, throughout the custody chain; and
  - (iii) the assets of other clients of the custodian throughout the custody chain.
- (b) Establishment of proper and appropriate record-keeping requirements
- (c) Segregation of duties in the custodian's operations.
- (d) Safeguard of physical assets of the OFC.
- (e) Payment and asset transfer on behalf of the OFC.
- (f) Reconciliation of scheme property against third party records on a regular basis.
- (g) Obtain sufficient and reliable information to conduct regular verification of ownership (including reconciliation between records of the custodian and the investment manager where necessary) and maintenance of comprehensive, up-to-date and accurate records for scheme property of the OFC that cannot be held in custody.
- (h) Proper registration of the OFC's scheme property.
- (i) Assessment and monitoring of custody risk with adequate organizational arrangement to minimize risk of loss.



- (j) Escalation and rectification procedures on issues and exceptions identified.
- (k) Booking of all cash of the OFC in the cash accounts of the OFC.
- (l) Accuracy of cash record and cash reconciliation against third party, such as reconciliation of its own records with records of the investment manager on a frequent basis.



**ANNEX C: Confirmation from the proposed investment manager**

- For asterisked parts (\*), please delete as appropriate

Name of private OFC<sup>17</sup>  
("Private OFC") / sub-fund(s)  
("Sub-fund(s)") to which the  
proposed investment  
manager is proposed to be  
appointed under this  
application:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please use separate sheets if necessary)

To: Securities and Futures Commission (the "SFC")

We hereby confirm and undertake that, in respect of this application, the investment manager is not the subject of any disciplinary proceeding in respect of its licence or registration to conduct any regulated activity, or subject to any action by an exchange, regulated market or self-regulatory organisation for breach of any applicable rules, which may materially affect its financial condition, status as a licensed or regulated entity, or ability to perform its licensed or regulated activity.

(Please tick if applicable) In the case of a proposed investment manager which is not currently managing other existing SFC-registered OFC(s) or SFC-authorized fund(s), we further confirm and undertake that, in respect of this application:

(a) (Please tick one of the following boxes)

- the investment manager has submitted an application to the SFC in applying for the licensing/registration status to carry out Type 9 regulated activity;
- the investment manager is licensed by or registered with the SFC to carry out Type 9 regulated activity;

(b) the licence/registration status of the investment manager to manage funds is as follows:

Licence/ registration status	Date of licence/ registration	Restriction attached to the licence/ registration (if any) or state Nil (if applicable)

(i)(Please tick one of the following boxes)

- there is no disciplinary history of the investment manager in the past five years or since the date of licence/registration if it has been licensed/ registered for less than five years;
- the details of the disciplinary history of the investment manager in the past five years or since the date of licence/registration if it has been licensed/ registered for less than five years have been submitted under separate sheet(s); and such disciplinary matter(s) does/do not materially affect its financial condition, status as a licensed or regulated entity, or ability to perform its licensed or regulated activity and the justification are also attached;

<sup>17</sup> This should be the same as that as stated in the "Application Form for Approval of Appointment of Director, Custodian or Investment Manager of an Open-ended Fund Company" duly completed and executed by/for and on behalf of the applicant.



(ii) *(Please tick one of the following boxes)*

- there is no current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) of the investment manager;
- the details of the current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) of the investment manager are attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s); and none of the current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) will materially affect its financial condition, status as a licensed or regulated entity, or ability to perform its licensed or regulated activity and the justification is also attached;

(iii) *(Please tick one of the following boxes)*

- there is no current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) of the director(s) of the investment manager;
- the details of the current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) of the director(s) of the investment manager are attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s); and none of the current or pending investigation/disciplinary matter(s) will materially affect the director(s)' ability in performing his/her/their roles/duties as director(s) of the investment manager and the justification is also attached;

(c) the investment manager has adequate internal controls and has put in place relevant written procedures (including, if applicable, procedures for compliance with the Fund Manager Code of Conduct).

(d) the investment manager has sufficient experience, expertise and competence in managing the asset types in which the Private OFC may invest.

*(Applicable to investment manager having the same ultimate holding company as the custodian of the Private OFC)* We confirm and undertake that (i) we are functionally independent of the custodian of the Private OFC and (ii) we shall act independently of the custodian of the Private OFC in our dealings with the Private OFC. We confirm that *(please tick all applicable boxes)*:

- neither we nor the custodian of the Private OFC is a subsidiary of the other;
- none of our director(s) is a director of the custodian of the Private OFC;
- none of our responsible officer(s) is a responsible officer(s) of the custodian of the Private OFC;
- the custodian of the Private OFC and we have common director(s):

Name of common director(s)	SFC licence number (if applicable)

- the custodian of the Private OFC and we have common responsible officer(s):

Name of common responsible officer(s)	SFC licence number (if applicable)



in the case that the custodian of the Private OFC and we have common director(s) and/or common responsible officer(s), justifications to demonstrate our functional independence<sup>18</sup> is attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s).

(*Applicable to a proposed investment manager which is currently acting as an investment manager for SFC-registered private OFC(s)*) We have / have not\* previously consented to the disclosure of our name on the SFC's website as an investment manager of a private OFC and confirm that we continue to consent / do not continue to consent / elect to consent from this application onwards\* to such disclosure. We will notify the SFC in writing if we wish to revise our position on such disclosure.

(*Applicable to a proposed investment manager which is not currently acting as investment manager for SFC-registered private OFC(s)*) We consent / do not consent\* to the disclosure of our name on the SFC's website as an investment manager of a private OFC. We will notify the SFC in writing if we wish to revise our position on such disclosure.

Signed for and on behalf of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the proposed investment manager : \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of authorized signatory : \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Insert name of at least one Responsible Officer (in respect of Type 9 regulated activity) of the investment manager)*  
Signature : \_\_\_\_\_  
Title / Position : \_\_\_\_\_  
Date (date / month / year) : \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>18</sup> For example, there are systems and controls in place to ensure that persons fulfilling the custodian function / safekeeping of the Private OFC's assets are functionally independent from persons fulfilling the Private OFC's management functions (e.g. with an independent board, separate governance structure / lines of reporting to the management of the custodian and separate operational teams within the same corporate group).



**ANNEX D: Confirmation from the investment manager or custodian of the Private OFC where the investment manager/custodian has the same ultimate holding company as the proposed investment manager/custodian**

- For asterisked parts (\*), please delete as appropriate

To: Securities and Futures Commission (the “SFC”)

Name of the private OFC and name (or such other name as may be approved by the SFC) of the relevant sub-fund(s) and proposed investment manager / custodian of the private OFC under application:

- a) Name of the single/umbrella\* :  
private OFC (“Private OFC”) \_\_\_\_\_
  
- b) Name (or such other name as :  
may be approved by the  
SFC) of the relevant  
sub-fund(s) \_\_\_\_\_
  
- c) Name of the investment :  
manager / custodian\* of the  
Private OFC proposed to be  
appointed under the  
application \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please use separate sheet(s), if necessary)*

We<sup>19</sup>, as the investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC, confirm and undertake that (i) we are functionally independent of the investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC and (ii) we shall act independently of the investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC in our dealings with the Private OFC. We confirm that *(please tick all applicable boxes)*:

- neither we nor the investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC is a subsidiary of the other;
- none of our director(s) is a director of the investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC;
- none of our responsible officer(s) is a responsible officer(s) of the investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC;
- the investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC and we have common director(s):

Name of common director(s)	SFC licence number (if applicable)

<sup>19</sup> This confirmation is to be submitted by the existing investment manager of the Private OFC if the application is for the appointment of custodian, or to be submitted by the existing custodian of the Private OFC if the application is for the appointment of investment manager.



the investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC and we have common responsible officer(s):

Name of common responsible officer(s)	SFC licence number (if applicable)

in the case that the investment manager / custodian\* of the Private OFC and we have common director(s) and/or common responsible officer(s), justifications to demonstrate our functional independence<sup>20</sup> is attached to this confirmation in separate sheet(s).

Signed for and on behalf of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the investment manager / custodian\* : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of authorized signatory<sup>21</sup> : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Title / Position : \_\_\_\_\_

Date (date / month / year) : \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>20</sup> For example, there are systems and controls in place to ensure that persons fulfilling the custodian function / safekeeping of the Private OFC's assets are functionally independent from persons fulfilling the Private OFC's management functions (e.g. with an independent board, separate governance structure / lines of reporting to the management of the custodian and separate operational teams within the same corporate group).

<sup>21</sup> If the confirmation is submitted by the existing investment manager of the Private OFC for an application for approval of appointment of custodian, please insert the name of at least one Responsible Officer (in respect of Type 9 regulated activity) of the investment manager.

## APPENDIX

### Personal Information Collection Statement

1. This Personal Information Collection Statement (“**PICS**”) is made in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data. The PICS sets out the policies and practices of the Securities and Futures Commission (“**SFC**”) with regard to your Personal Data<sup>22</sup> and what you are agreeing to with respect to the SFC’s use of your Personal Data for the purposes identified below.

#### Purpose of Collection

2. The Personal Data provided in any application, filing, submission (including any related form, checklist, confirmation, documentation or correspondence), enquiry, survey or any other form of request for information (as the case may be) will be used by the SFC for one or more of the following purposes:
  - to administer the Securities and Futures Ordinance (“**SFO**”) and other relevant Ordinances (including the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, the Companies Ordinance, the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance, Financial Institutions (Resolution) Ordinance), rules, regulations, codes and guidelines made or promulgated pursuant to the powers vested in the SFC as in force at the relevant time, including:
    - *SFC Handbook for Unit Trusts and Mutual Funds, Investment-Linked Assurance Schemes and Unlisted Structured Investment Products and the various Product Codes therein;*
    - *Code on Real Estate Investment Trusts;*
    - *SFC Code on MPF Products;*
    - *Code on Open-ended Fund Companies;*
    - *Code on Pooled Retirement Funds;*
    - *Advertising Guidelines Applicable to Collective Investment Schemes Authorized under the Product Codes;*
    - *Guidance Note for Persons Advertising or Offering Collective Investment Schemes on the Internet;*

(collectively, the “**Relevant Ordinances and Regulatory Requirements**”)

  - to process any application made under the Relevant Ordinances and Regulatory Requirements where you may have a connection;
  - to monitor the ongoing compliance of SFC-authorized investment products, open-ended fund companies and their key operators with the Relevant Ordinances and Regulatory Requirements;
  - for the purposes of inviting attendees to events or industry briefings organised by the SFC;
  - for the purposes of performing the SFC’s statutory functions under the relevant Ordinances, including surveillance, investigation, inspection or enforcement / disciplinary action;
  - for research or statistical purposes;

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<sup>22</sup> Personal Data means personal data as defined in the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, Cap 486 (“**PDPO**”).





- other purposes directly relating to any of the above; and
  - other purposes as permitted by law.
3. Failure to provide the requested Personal Data may result in the SFC being unable to process your application or request, or perform its statutory functions under the relevant Ordinances.

### **Transfer / Matching of Personal Data**

4. Personal Data may be disclosed by the SFC to (i) other financial regulators in Hong Kong (including the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Insurance Authority and the Mandatory Provident Funds Schemes Authority), (ii) government bodies (including the Hong Kong Police Force, the Customs and Excise Department, the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and the Companies Registry), (iii) relevant courts, panels, tribunals and committees, (iv) overseas regulatory / government / judicial bodies as permitted or required under the law, or pursuant to any regulatory / supervisory / investigatory assistance arrangements between the SFC and other regulators (local / overseas), and/or (iv) persons engaged by the SFC to assist the SFC in the performance of its statutory functions.
5. Personal Data may be used by the SFC and/or disclosed by the SFC to the above organizations / bodies / persons in Hong Kong or elsewhere for the purposes of verifying / matching<sup>23</sup> those data. You consent to the use of your Personal Data for carrying out a matching procedure (as defined in the PDPO).
6. Your Personal Data may be transferred to place(s) outside of Hong Kong for the purposes stated herein (such places may or may not offer the same or a similar level of personal data protection as in Hong Kong).

### **Access to Data**

7. You have the right to request access to and correction of your Personal Data held by the SFC about you in accordance with the provisions of the PDPO. Your right of access includes the right to request a copy of your Personal Data held by the SFC. The SFC has the right to charge a fee for processing of any data access request.

### **Enquiries**

8. Any enquiries regarding the Personal Data provided, or requests for access to Personal Data or correction of Personal Data, should be addressed in writing to:

The Data Privacy Officer  
Securities and Futures Commission  
54/F, One Island East  
18 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong

A copy of the Privacy Policy Statement adopted by the SFC is available on the SFC website at [www.sfc.hk](http://www.sfc.hk).

November 2024

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<sup>23</sup> "matching procedure" is defined in section 2 of the PDPO.