

# WISE INVESTMENT LIMITED - DEFENSIVE

## Pershing



### MONTHLY FACTSHEET

all data as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

## PORTFOLIO OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

The Wise Defensive Model Portfolio is designed for clients who are looking for a total return in line with Bank of England Base rate + 1% over a period of 6 months to 2 years with lower volatility than could be expected from full exposure to the stock market. We aim to achieve this by investing in a select and focussed list of funds (unit trusts, investment trusts and OEICs), with diversification across geography, asset class and investment style. These funds invest in real assets, such as company shares (listed both in the UK and overseas), property, fixed interest and cash. The Portfolio is selected with no more than 40% invested in 'medium' risk assets, such as shares and property. The balance of at least 60% is held in assets defined as 'moderate', 'low' or 'minimal' risk, which are mainly comprised of fixed interest (UK government and higher quality company debt) and cash. No exposure will be allocated to higher risk assets. We therefore consider the portfolio to be suitable for those willing to adopt a defensive risk profile.

## PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH (using month-end data)



## CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

	1m	3m	6m	1yr	3yr	5yr	Launch
Wise Defensive Portfolio (P)	0.6%	1.2%	3.0%	6.3%	19.2%	15.3%	17.3%
Bank Of England Base Rate + 1%	0.4%	1.2%	2.5%	5.2%	18.2%	22.8%	23.1%

## DISCRETE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

	31/01/2025	31/01/2024	31/01/2023	31/01/2022	31/01/2021
	31/01/2026	31/01/2025	31/01/2024	31/01/2023	31/01/2022
Wise Defensive Portfolio (P)	6.3%	7.0%	4.8%	-3.1%	-0.2%
Bank Of England Base Rate + 1%	5.2%	6.1%	5.9%	2.7%	1.1%

## PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT



**WILLIAM GEFFEN**

Head of Investment Management

William joined Wise Investment in November 2023 and has 4 years' experience in managing equity funds. His main responsibility is the selection of suitable investments for portfolios and ensuring our investment service meets your requirements.

William successfully passed all three level of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exams gaining the qualification in 2021.

## Key Portfolio Details

Launch Date	29th October 2020
Holdings	9
Historic Yield <sup>1</sup>	4.4%
Volatility <sup>2</sup>	2.4%
Benchmark	BoE Base Rate + 1.0%
Model OCF <sup>3</sup>	0.4%
Service Charge <sup>4</sup>	1.7%

## Contact Details

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All data used on this factsheet is supplied by Financial Express. Rounding may result in charts and tables not adding up to 100% in displayed data. Performance is based on total returns on a bid-to-bid basis, net of UK dividend tax credits and is calculated referencing a model portfolio. Actual portfolio statistics may differ because of investment performance, cash movements, transaction costs and the timing of sales and purchases within the portfolio. Quoted performance does not include fees levied by Wise Investments Ltd or any fees from custodial services. Service fees will apply. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. This document should not be construed as an investment recommendation.

1 The Historic Yield is the weighted average yield of the model based on the model's current constituents

2 Volatility is the annualised monthly volatility of the model portfolio to the most recent month end over a 3 year period or since launch if this period is less than 3 years

3 The Model OCF calculates the annual charges levied by the underlying fund holdings according to the model portfolio weights

4 The Service Fee incorporates the model OCF, the standard non-tiered annual fees levied by Wise Investments Limited and custodian fees, of which this is the highest possible fee. Further details of these charges are disclosed to clients investing in the model portfolios.



## MONTHLY COMMENTARY

January was a fairly good month for investors. US equities returned -0.7% in sterling terms despite rising in dollar terms as the dollar depreciated 2% vs the pound. Other regions did much better, European equities returned 2.2%, UK equities returned 3.2%, Japanese equities returned 4.5% and Emerging Markets led the pack, returning 6.7%. As a result, overall global equities, being around 70% US listed, only returned 0.2%.

In fixed income, yields rose slightly, depressing GILTs -0.2% while spreads remained tight allowing corporate bonds and high yield bonds to return 0.3% and 0.4% respectively.

Finally, in real estate, directly held property rose a modest 0.3% while the listed liquid real estate rose much faster, at 3.6% as NAV gaps (the stated per share value of the real estate on the balance sheet vs the market price per share) in real estate vehicles closed strongly.

The main market story of the month was the fallout from the US foreign policy pressure on the Greenland issue - particularly the uncertainty it has now created over NATO and the established structure of the Western alliance. While out and out conflict was always unlikely, the threat of tariffs loomed large, although like many tariff threats, it eventually was shelved, triggering a relief rally in markets. Similar to 2025 however, the longer term casualty seems to be the dollar which has continued to depreciate, setting up a more benign environment for businesses outside the US, hence strong returns from other equity markets, particularly those who have a larger proportion of US exporters.

Looking forward, the set-up remains a tricky one for investors. The US market is still richly valued, largely bolstered by strong enthusiasm for AI investment and the dominance of a handful of very successful megacap tech stocks. While many of these are incredibly impressive, cash generative companies and some enthusiasm for this technology and the productivity gains it should produce, is justified, the market does seem vulnerable to runaway expectations of AI growth and profitability leaving it fragile to a potential demand shock in the near term.

There are also ongoing expectations for further interest rate cuts from the Federal Reserve, but while inflation does look to have subsided, we do not expect many further cuts, especially given the new Fed Chair appointment combined with, high government deficit spending, tariff uncertainty and generally hot economic conditions in the US. Indeed, the narrative coming from the Fed has continued to be cautious, with aggressive cuts only likely in a recessionary scenario.

Closer to home, the UK Government debt is looking a little healthier than a year ago and inflation has eased, however, the economic outlook continues to sour, and the Gilt market itself still relies on foreign investors who have persistently priced UK yields at a sustained premium to other developed nations since the disastrous Truss/Kwarteng mini-budget in 2022. This added scrutiny is a potential issue when the current government seem unable to prompt much needed economic growth, nor rein in its sizeable welfare bill, while the electorate increasingly seem to favour more extreme parties both on the left and right.

This all leads us to maintain a more defensive footing, with moderated exposure to US equities and a preference for lower duration and higher quality bonds which still offer a fairly attractive yield, especially compared to the yields on offer between 2009-2022. While this overall outlook may continue to seem downbeat, it is always worth remembering that given enough time markets will soldier on through short term turbulence propelled by the tailwind of steady global economic growth - and so as ever we remain optimistic for the returns of long-term patient investors.

The defensive model returned 0.6%, ahead of the 0.4% return for the benchmark (BoE Base rate +1%).

The slight outperformance was largely driven by the small position in Property - CT Property growth (returning +2.0%). Our Fixed Income positions in the TwentyFour-Vontobel ARC and TwentyFour Monument funds were also solid, returning 0.5% and 0.6% respectively.

We made no changes to the portfolio in January, and we maintain a strategy of sticking to shorter-dated bonds and securities, preferring to take on modest credit risk where prudent to boost returns while looking to avoid the volatility that comes from holding longer-dated bonds due to their relatively poor yield.

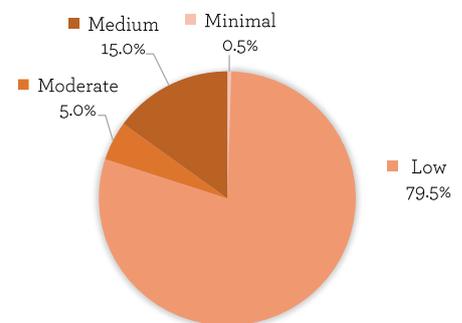
The model remains ahead of the benchmark on a 1yr and 3yr rolling basis, with the model returning 6.79% and 21.07% respectively vs the 5.30% and 18.19% return for the "BoE base rate +1%" and maintains a far superior return than cash.

## HOLDINGS

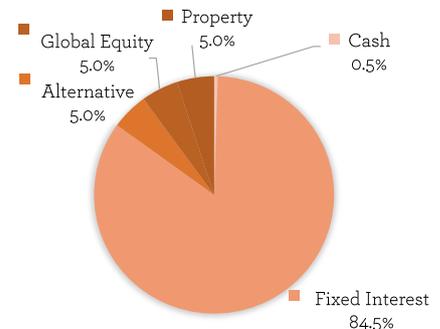
Name	Weight	OCF
TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit	40.0%	0.36%
L&G Short Dated Sterling Corporate Bond	15.0%	0.14%
TwentyFour Monument Bond	15.0%	0.38%
Royal London Abs Return Gov Bond	9.5%	0.30%
Man Dynamic Income	5.0%	0.81%
CT Property Growth & Income	5.0%	1.11%
Fidelity Index World	5.0%	0.12%
Downing Active Defined Return	5.0%	0.35%
Cash	0.5%	0.00%

## RISK ALLOCATION

For Asset Risk Category definitions see the Wise Investment Risk Appendix, supplied to investors in the model portfolios.



## ASSET ALLOCATION



### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Portfolio returns from the Wise Investment Model Portfolio Service will be subject to investment market fluctuations and there is no guarantee that the portfolio objectives, including any income targets, will be achieved. Where income is received as dividends, these will be automatically reinvested in the Model Portfolio, which may result in the Model Portfolio returns being higher than what a client portfolio can actually achieve. The performance will be reduced by the withdrawal of income and the impact of the ongoing charges and portfolio transaction costs. The charges can vary. Prices of funds and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Consequently, an investment into this portfolio should be considered for a period of 6 months to 2 years. The funds may invest in higher-yielding or non-investment grade bonds. The funds may hold investments denominated in currencies other than sterling. Changes in exchange rates will cause the value of these investments and the income from them to rise or fall. The funds can use derivatives for investment purposes. These instruments can be more volatile than investment in equities or bonds. Every effort is taken to ensure the accuracy of the data used in this document, but no warranties are given. Wise Investment has expressed its own views and these may change. The data contained in this document has been sourced by Wise Investment and should be independently verified before further publication or use. Wise Investment is a trading brand of Wise Investments Ltd. Wise Investments Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Ref no. 230553.

