

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in  
Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6,  
first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: BlackRock ICS Sterling Ultra Short Bond Fund  
Legal entity identifier: 5493003GYZKMWFM4I31**

**Environmental and/or social characteristics**

*Sustainable investment means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The EU Taxonomy is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities. That Regulation does not lay down a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?	
<p><b>●●□ Yes</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ___%</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective: ___%</b></p>	<p><b>●○✓ No</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b></p>



**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

In addition, the Investment Manager will exclude any issuers who:

- i. derive 5% or more of their revenues from fossil fuel mining, exploration and/or refinement;
- ii. have a MSCI ESG rating of CCC;
- iii. have a MSCI Controversy Score of '0'; and
- iv. any Supranational and Agency Entities that have an MSCI ESG rating of B or below.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

Sustainability indicators measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● **What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?**

The sustainability Indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

● **What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.



● **How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?**

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*



**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and other exclusionary screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas
- Emissions to water
- Hazardous waste ratio

## APPENDIX X

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

The investment strategy guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

### What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The Fund's investment objective is to generate current income and a reasonable degree of liquidity consistent with the low volatility of principal, through the maintenance of a portfolio of High Quality money market and fixed income instruments including floating rate securities. In pursuit of its investment objective, the Fund may invest in a broad range of High Quality transferable securities such as securities, instruments and obligations that may be available on the relevant markets (both within and outside the UK). Instruments denominated in Sterling may include securities, instruments and obligations issued or guaranteed by the UK Government or other sovereign governments or their agencies and securities, instruments and obligations issued or guaranteed by supranational or public international bodies, banks, corporate or other commercial issuers.

The Investment Manager will, subject always to investing in such assets as required for the Fund to meet its investment objective, exclude any issuers that:

- derive 5% or more of their revenues from fossil fuel mining, exploration and/or refinement and apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens (as described in Appendix IX);
- have a MSCI ESG rating of CCC;
- have a MSCI Controversy Score of '0'; and
- any Supranational and Agency Entities that have an MSCI ESG rating of B or below.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens as referred to above, subject always to investing in such assets as required for the Fund to meet its investment objective.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Manager, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

Good governance practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.





### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

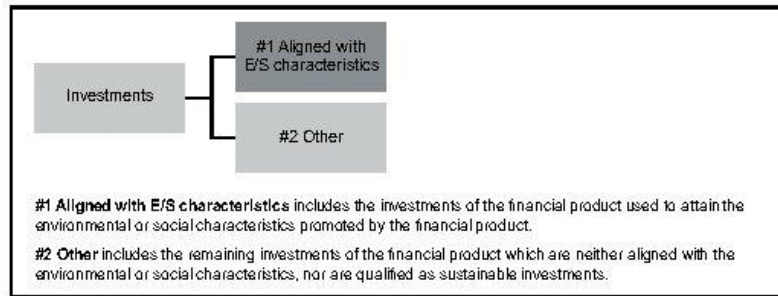
A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).

Asset allocation describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- turnover reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies



### ● How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?

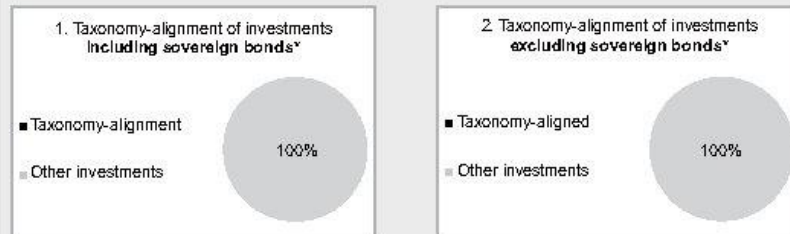
The Fund may use derivatives for hedging purposes only, not to attain environmental or social characteristics.



### To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The Fund does not currently commit to invest more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

*The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds\*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.*



*\*For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*

Enabling activities directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

Transitional activities are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that do not take into account the criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

● **What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?**

The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.



● **What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.



● **What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.



● **What investments are included under “#2 Other”, what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash held with the custodian and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.



Reference benchmarks are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

● **How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?**

Not applicable.

● **How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?**

Not applicable.

● **How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?**

Not applicable.

● **Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?**

Not applicable.



**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

More product-specific information can be found on the website:

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: [www.blackrock.com/cash](http://www.blackrock.com/cash).