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**PRESS RELEASE**

**23 MARCH 2015**

## **TOWERS WATSON APPOINTS HERMES EOS FOR STEWARDSHIP EXPERTISE**

Global investment business Towers Watson has appointed Hermes EOS, one of the world's leading engagement services, to advance its stewardship activities.

**Colin Melvin, CEO, Hermes EOS, said:** "We are proud to have been chosen by Towers Watson to engage on its behalf at a market level on environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters. Towers Watson has been at the forefront of advising its own clients on responsible investing and we are pleased to be able to provide the firm with our insight and expertise."

Towers Watson is Hermes EOS' first consulting and fiduciary management client.

**Emma Hunt, Senior Investment Consultant, Towers Watson, said:** "We have long taken the view that we are not passive participants in the investment world. With over \$2 trillion of assets under advice, we believe it is important that we use our influence to change investment for the better. Collaborating with other investors is a powerful way to enhance the leverage that we can have, and that is why we have appointed Hermes EOS to undertake market level engagement."

Hermes EOS engages on ESG issues in public policy in addition to its corporate engagements. It is supporting various collective investor policy groups – including the Principles for Responsible Investment, the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change, CERES, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and UNEP FI – to encourage regulators to set ambitious targets and push for appropriately calibrated local and regional regulation on environmental issues.

On social matters, Hermes EOS presses regulators for better standards on wages, health and safety, bribery and corruption and human rights. Corporate governance actions in the public policy sphere include the promotion of equal shareholder rights, better proxy access, enhanced disclosures on board structures and individuals and longer-term remuneration structures that align the interests of executives with those of long-term investors.

In 2014, Hermes EOS and its parent – Hermes Investment Management – became one of the first signatories to the respective Stewardship Codes in Japan and Malaysia after significantly contributing to their drafts. Hermes EOS also co-signed a letter backing the UK government's commitment to include proportionate supply chain requirements in the Modern Slavery Bill.

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**ENDS-**

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### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **Hermes EOS**

Hermes EOS, which is owned by Hermes Investment Management, has one of the largest stewardship resources of any fund manager in the world. Our 26-person team comprises industry executives, senior strategists, corporate governance and climate change experts, fund managers and lawyers. As at 31 December 2014, we act

on behalf of 41 clients and advise on £134billion of assets on behalf of some of the world's leading pension funds.

We help long-term institutional investors around the world to meet their fiduciary responsibilities and become active owners of public and private companies. Our team of engagement and voting specialists monitors clients' investments in companies and intervenes where necessary with the aim of improving their performance. Our activities are based on the premise that companies with informed and involved shareholders are more likely to achieve superior long-term performance than those without.

### **Hermes Investment Management**

Hermes is focused on delivering superior, sustainable, risk adjusted returns for our clients – responsibly.

Hermes manages assets on behalf of more than 200 clients\* across equities, fixed income, alternatives and real estate, with £28.6 billion\* assets under management. In Hermes EOS, we have the industry's leading engagement resource, advising on more than £134.0 billion\* of assets.

We believe in **Excellence, Responsibility** and **Innovation**

- **Excellence:** We aspire to excellence in everything we do. This manifests itself most visibly in our investment performance. We will only offer products to our clients where we believe there is a strong investment thesis and where we can deliver sustainable alpha.
- **Responsibility:** We believe it is our responsibility to lead discussion and debate about the fiduciary responsibilities of fund managers to our clients, their stakeholders and, ultimately, society at large. We have always sought positive engagement with the firms in which we invest.
- **Innovation:** We have the entrepreneurial culture to identify forward-looking products that meet those needs, along with the resources and speed-to-market mentality to develop them rapidly.

Our structure gives clients globally the benefit of access to a broad range of specialist, high conviction investment teams operating within an established and robust operating platform.

Hermes' investment solutions include:

- **Equities:** Global, Emerging Markets, Small & Mid Cap, Europe, Asia Ex Japan, Greater China
- **Fixed Income:** Inflation-Linked, Government Bonds, Investment Grade, High Yield
- **Real Estate:** Segregated, Unitised, Debt, UK, US Residential, European, UK PRS
- **Alternatives:** Multi Asset, Infrastructure, Private Equity

\*Please note the total AuM figure includes £3.7bn of assets managed or under an advisory agreement by Hermes GPE LLP ("HGPE"), a joint venture between Hermes Fund Managers ("HFM") and GPE Partner Limited. HGPE is an independent entity and not part of the Hermes group. £0.4bn of total group AuM figure represents HFM mandates under advice. Source: Hermes as at 31 December 2014.