



## Simon Fraser Stewardship Award – winner

(London, 26 January 2022)

The Investor Forum is pleased to announce that **Miranda Beacham**, Head of ESG at Aegon Asset Management, was presented with the inaugural Simon Fraser Stewardship Award at the Investor Forum's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Review event on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

The Award is named in honour of the founding Chair of the Investor Forum in recognition of his commitment to stewardship, his generosity of spirit and his ability to both recognise and bring out the best in the people around him.

### Andy Griffiths, Executive Director of the Investor Forum, said:

"We would like to congratulate Miranda for winning the Award which recognises her very significant contribution to stewardship.

The Investor Forum was delighted to receive so many nominations for this Award, showcasing a wide range of stewardship activity and the many forms that it can take.

The investment industry needs the internal champions who investigate issues, collaborate, increase transparency, refine processes, and drive change - and we are pleased to have a chance to celebrate them in Simon's name."

### The winner

**Miranda Beacham** will be known to many in the industry for her work. In the course of her career, she has built strong relationships with her investment team and is widely respected by the boards of many UK companies for her forthright opinions. Miranda's commitment to her clients is also well known and she authored her organisation's FRC Stewardship Code report in 2021. Working with the Investor Forum, she has initiated engagements, joined working groups, actively participated in many events, and challenged her peers to take on challenging situations. In 2021, Miranda made significant commitments to industry initiatives, chairing the Investment Association's Remuneration Committee and becoming co-chair of the Corporate Governance Forum.

### The short list

The judging panel also 'highly commended' **Joanna Sulc**, a Stewardship Manager at abrdn. Joanna demonstrated the importance of tenacity, and of doing the right thing to make sure votes count. She was instrumental in driving an Investor Forum Working Group to address issues with voting at Irish listed companies. The impact of the project is still unfolding but has put all the agents in the voting chain on watch ahead of the 2022 voting season in Ireland. The panel recognised Joanna's contribution in raising awareness of the issues amongst her peers, and sharing her insights and connections to bring about change.

The nominations panel were also impressed with the contributions the following people:

1. **Abigail Herron** from Aviva Investors for her work on the role investors can play in tackling antibiotic resistance;
2. **Ashish Ray** from Jupiter Asset Management, for his Stewardship Code report and his contribution at Jupiter to embed stewardship in the investment process; and
3. **Sabahat Salahuddin** from BlackRock for her work within the financial sector and input into collective engagements with banks.



## The Award

The Award recognises excellence in the field of investment stewardship and nominations were judged against the following criteria:

- Putting stewardship at the heart of investment decision making.
- Demonstrating sound judgement and the ability to deal with challenging situations effectively and with integrity.
- Taking an initiative, individually or collectively, which demonstrates either personal development or helps others to develop stewardship skills.
- Focusing on practical outcomes which have had an observable impact.

The Judging Panel was formed of the Chair, Executive Director and one Non-Executive Director of the Investor Forum.

## Contacts:

- **Investor Forum**

Andy Griffiths

andy.griffiths@investorforum.org.uk

Tel: 020 7611 2223

- **Lansons**

Tom Baldock

tombaldock@lansons.com

Tel: 07860 101715

Tom Straker

toms@lansons.com

Tel: 07505 425961

## Notes to editors:

- Simon Fraser, 1959 – 2021, was instrumental in the establishment of the Investor Forum, taking on the role of founding Chair on a pro bono basis in 2014. See more [here](#).
- The Investor Forum is an independent, not for profit organisation founded in October 2014. At the end of 2021, 56 organisations are Members, including asset managers, insurance companies, pension funds, and endowments.
- Members have ~£24trn in Global assets under management, and £805bn invested in UK equities, which represents ~33% of the FTSE All-Share market cap.
- The purpose of the Investor Forum is to position stewardship at the heart of investment decision making by facilitating dialogue, creating long-term solutions and enhancing value.
- The Investor Forum has built a unique public record of 43 comprehensive collective engagements with the Boards of UK-listed companies since its inception, covering issues from succession and governance to the direction and execution of strategy.
- The executive team comprises senior investment professionals with international experience in portfolio manager, asset owner, governance, board positions and investment banking sales and research roles.