

# **Brock Milton Capital AB's Conflicts of Interest and Inducements Policy**

## Introduction

A conflict of interest occurs where competing obligations or motivations result in, or are likely to result in, material risk of damage to the interests of a Client or a group of clients. Brock Milton Capital AB ("BMC" or "the Company") periodically faces actual and potential conflicts of interest. As a regulated investment manager licensed under the Swedish Securities Market Act (2007:528) to provide discretionary portfolio management and investment advice, the Company is obligated to take all reasonable steps to maintain and operate effective arrangements to identify, manage and prevent relevant conflicts that may entail a material risk for damage to the interest of a client, a client account, a fund managed by BMC or a fund's shareholders (hereinafter referred to as "Clients").

BMC has therefore adopted the following policies and procedures ("the Policy") for identifying, reporting, managing and preventing conflicts of interest, including those conflicts that relate to inducements and remunerations. The Policy has been developed bearing in mind in particular the provisions on conflicts of interest management in Articles 33 and 34 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU)/2017/565 and Chapter 9 Article 9 of the Swedish Securities Market Act. The below section on inducements has been developed bearing in mind relevant provisions set out in Chapter 9 Articles 21 and 22 of the Swedish Securities Market Act, and Chapter 7 of the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority's Regulations regarding investment services and activities (FFFS 2018:2).

## **Scope and Application**

For the purposes of this document this Policy applies to those conflicts of interest that may give rise to a material risk of damage to the interests of Clients. Conflicts of interest may arise between:

- BMC and a Client;
- a Relevant person (as defined below) and a Client;
- two or more Clients of BMC in the context of the provision of portfolio management or advisory services by BMC to those Client, and
- Related legal and natural persons (as defined below) and Clients.

The Policy applies globally to all types of business activities that BMC may undertake. It applies to employees, and, to the applicable extent, outsourced staff and board members (all hereinafter "Relevant persons"). For the purpose of this Policy, Related legal person means a legal entity in which a Relevant person has a material interest or exercises control. A Related natural person may be a spouse, a minor child under the care of the Relevant person, or other closely Related persons with whom the Relevant person share mutual interests that may conflict with the interests of Clients.

# Identifying, preventing and managing conflicts

Senior Management, i.e. the CEO and the deputy CEO, are responsible for ensuring that BMC conducts its business fairly and with its Clients' best interest in mind. BMC's CCO is responsible for ensuring that BMC's measures to prevent and manage conflicts are effective. The CCO shall keep the



Board informed on the outcome of compliance checks in relation to conflicts management, as well as on any remedial actions taken. BMC must provide MDO the Conflicts of Interest policy, including any further material changes of the document upon amendment.

BMC must immediately escalate any new conflict of interest it identifies relating to the management of portfolios delegated by MDO to BMC, to the MDO Compliance Officer and to the Conducting Officers of MDO providing all available information on the conflict and a description of the remedial/mitigation plan in place.

BMC's Relevant persons are expected to pay attention to circumstances and situations that may constitute or give rise to conflicts of interest in specific business activities carried out by BMC. Relevant persons shall immediately communicate and report actual and potential conflicts of interest, or changed circumstances regarding actual and potential conflicts of interest to the CCO. BMC acknowledges that conflicts of interest may arise at least when:

- providing discretionary portfolio management services and independently allocating assets to a Client's account.
- providing portfolio management services and placing orders with preferred broker companies.
- providing investment advice.
- trading on a personal account and trading a Client account at the same time and/or trading the same security.
- conducting outside business, and
- accepting, or giving, gifts and benefits, e.g. soft commissions.

Relevant persons shall assess the risk of conflicts of interests in at least the following situations:

- before entering into new portfolio management or advisory agreements or materially amending existing agreements.
- before considering taking up a new outside business activity.
- before making any material changes to the business.
- before deciding to trade on a personal account, and
- before accepting or giving a gift or benefit to a Client.

When seeking to identify conflicts of interest, BMC will consider all of the factual circumstances and BMC will take into account, inter alia, whether BMC, a Relevant person or a Related person

- is likely to make a financial gain, or avoid a financial loss, at the expense of the Client.
- has an interest in the outcome of a service provided to the Client or of a transaction carried out on behalf of the Client, which is distinct from the Client's interest in that outcome.
- has a financial or other incentive to favor the interest of a Client or group of Clients over the interests of another Client.
- carries out the same business as the Client; and/or receives or will receive from a person other than the Client an inducement in relation to a service provided to the Client, in the form of monies, goods or services, other than the standard commission or fee for that service.



A number of ethical principles have been laid down in BMC's Code of Ethics and Regulatory Compliance Manual. These policy documents require BMC to run its business according to high standards of integrity and fair business, to handle its Clients in a proper manner and to ensure that Relevant persons uphold a high standard of ethical behavior when performing their duties. Should a conflict of interest still arise, it must be managed promptly and fairly. As a minimum standard BMC has in place arrangements designed to ensure that:

- Supervisory arrangements provide for separate supervision of staff where necessary for the fair management of conflicts of interest .
- there are appropriate controls in place to identify and manage outside business interests of Relevant persons.
- relevant information is recorded promptly in a secure manner to enable identification
  and management of conflicts of interest.
- appropriate disclosure should be made to Clients in a clear, fair and not misleading manner to enable Clients to make informed decisions.
- adequate records are maintained of the services and activities of BMC where a conflict of interest has been identified (see further below).
- where necessary, Relevant persons may be asked to step aside from working on a specific transaction or participating in the management of a potential conflict of interest.
- Relevant persons are subject to personal transaction rules; and
- there is a periodic review of the adequacy of the BMC's activities and internal controls.

## **Identified Conflicts of Interest**

#### **Performance fees**

In addition to its standard fixed fee arrangement, BMC offers its Clients the possibility to enter into performance fee agreements. Performance fees are usually charged annually if the value of the account outperforms its benchmark index (currently MSCI All Country World Daily Net Total return index). The purpose of a performance fee is to align the interests of BMC's portfolio managers with Clients' interest. Although a performance fee may create incentives to generate positive returns, it can trigger the portfolio managers into excessive risk-taking at the expense of Clients. It can also lead the portfolio managers to favor one account over the other when, for instance, allocating trades to Clients' accounts. BMC has implemented the following procedures to mitigate these conflicts:

- Pre- and post-trade compliance controls ensure that accounts are managed within the limits defined by applicable law, investment management agreements as well as any internal limits defined by BMC. The pre-trade compliance control, performed by the portfolio managers, serves to mitigate the risk that the portfolio managers actively breach investment restrictions in order to generate returns that form basis for variable remuneration. The post-trade compliance reviews ensure that any active or passive breaches are picked up and rectified swiftly.
- Variable remuneration is paid only to the extent warranted by the portfolio managers' fulfillment of non-financial criteria relating to overall contribution to BMC's development and compliance with internal policies, procedures and applicable external regulations.



• BMC's policy is that all Clients should be treated fairly and that, to the extent possible, all Clients should receive equitable treatment over time. No Clients will receive more favorable treatment or be disadvantaged over other Clients due to their fee arrangements with BMC. Please refer to the below section on Aggregation and allocation of trades for further information.

Performance fee is calculated and accrued with a frequency agreed with each Client. The fee is usually paid out at the end of each year. The performance fee is payable only if the account's performance exceeds the benchmark index (the relevant index is defined in the investment management agreement). A performance fee could therefore be paid even if the value of the account has decreased. If during a given period, an account has a performance which is lower than the performance of the benchmark index (i.e. a relative underperformance), such underperformance will be considered in the following periods as long as the performance of the account has not recovered from the underperformance and exceed the relevant benchmark index. Clients are hereby informed that this information does not entail a full disclosure of performance fee conditions. Clients are encouraged to refer to their investment management agreement or Fund prospectuses for details on their actual fee arrangements with BMC.

#### Valuation of assets under management

Valuation of securities could present a potential conflict of interest. BMC may have the incentive and ability to inflate the valuation of financial instrument in clients' accounts in order to generate profits and incorrect performance. BMC will not, however, be involved in the valuation of Client assets. Valuation of assets in accounts under management by BMC will be the responsibility of each Client.

#### Remunerations

Variable remuneration, or the prospects of being granted variable remuneration, may constitute a conflict of interest that can lead to excessive risk-taking by employees at the expense of Clients. High variable remuneration, based on quantitative criteria only, can increase an employee's focus on short term gains rather than the Client's best interest. BMC has therefore adopted and implemented a Remuneration Policy which regulates BMC's remuneration, variable as well as fixed, and ensures that remuneration is not designed to conflict with BMC's obligation to act in the best interest of its clients. The following measures have been implemented to manage conflicts of interest in relation to remuneration:

- All variable remunerations paid to identified staff (as defined in BMC's Remuneration Policy)
  exceeding SEK 100 000 are subject to deferrals over periods that can range from three to five years.
- The variable components must not exceed 100% of the fixed components.
- The variable components may be decreased to 0 should the financial situation of the Company require so, or if risks taken by portfolio managers materialize into harmful consequences for BMC or Clients.
- In addition to performance, variable remuneration is also based on pre-determined, qualitative criteria, and Variable remuneration must not be paid out unless BMC, under the oversight of an internal control function, has performed a risk adjustment of the remuneration in question, in order to detect adverse effects of any excessive or unsound risk-taking by the employee.

#### **Personal Securities Transactions**

A potential conflict of interest could arise when an Employee of BMC trades in the same securities on their personal accounts as those purchased and sold for the accounts of Clients. In order to mitigate



this potential conflict of interest, Employees have to seek pre-approval for every personal transaction in reportable securities (as defined in BMC's Personal Securities Transaction Policy) or their own or, if applicable, a Related person's behalf. The pre-approval procedure serves to ensure that personal trading does not occur in securities in circumstances where such dealings should be restricted, e.g. if there is a potential conflict of interest. Personal trades may under no circumstances be aggregated with Clients' trades.

#### Disqualification of directors and outside business activities

BMC acknowledges that BMC Employees and owners of BMC are entitled to take on other board assignments or have a significant influence in another company, provided they are not competitors of BMC. Such board assignments could nonetheless be conflicting with BMC's interests. The potential conflicts of interest that this situation may give rise to, are managed in either of the following ways:

- Employees and other Relevant persons are prohibited from handling matters on behalf of BMC in which the Employee or a Related person of the employee has a material interest that conflicts with BMC's interests.
- Prior to every board meeting, the CCO scrutinizes the agenda to identify conflicts of interest associated with any decision points. In the event that the CCO identifies a conflict, he/she will issue a recommendation that the director in question disqualify him-/herself. Should the Board then not be in quorum, the matter may be referred to BMC's General Assembly as far as this is permissible with respect to principles of Swedish corporate law.
- Employees are not allowed to take on outside business assignments (voluntary or paid) for his/her own account or on behalf of a third party without pre-approval from BMC's CCO. No outside business activity which potentially conflicts with the employee's duties and loyalty to BMC and its Clients will be approved.

#### **Outsourcing arrangements**

BMC has outsourced all of its support and internal control functions to its sister companies BMC Shared Services AB and BMC Asset Management AB. When outsourcing critical functions internally within the BMC group, potential conflicts of interest may arise in relation to the persons that carry out tasks within BMC's responsibility as a purchaser or evaluator, especially in questions that directly or indirectly concern the outsourcing at hand. This may be the case if a member of BMC's Board of Directors, which is the body responsible for approving outsourcing of critical functions such as internal controls, is also a member of management or the Board of an outsourcing partner, i.e., a vendor, within BMC group. He or she shall therefore not be allowed to participate in any decision-making pertaining to BMC's outsourcing arrangements, if the arrangement in question concerns a vendor the interests of which he or she represents.

#### Aggregation and allocation of trades

A potential conflict of interest could arise when BMC aggregates and allocates trades among Clients, as BMC could have an incentive to favor accounts with more profitable fee structures. In order to mitigate this potential conflict of interest, BMC will aggregate orders for accounts purchasing or selling the same security at the same time. Generally, each eligible client that participates in an aggregated trade will participate at the average price for all BMC client transactions in that security on a given business day and transaction costs will be generally shared pro rata based on each client's participation in the transactions. Aggregation and allocation of trades will only take place if it is



unlikely that the aggregation and allocation will be detrimental to any Client participating in the trade.

#### Cross-trading (trading between accounts managed by BMC)

BMC generally does not engage in cross-trading. In the rare event that BMC makes an exception from this principle, BMC shall first seek written approval from the clients owning the portfolios involved in the planned trade. Further information on the procedures for cross-trading is available in BMC's Best Execution Policy.

## Inducements to and from third parties

#### **Soft commissions**

Soft commissions refer to transaction-based payments made by investment firms to broker-dealers that are not paid in actual money. Soft commissions allow investment firms to cover e.g. research expenses through trading commissions as opposed to direct monetary payments via transaction fees. Conflicts of interest could arise when BMC indirectly uses Client brokerage commissions to obtain benefits it would otherwise produce internally or purchase. BMC has adopted the following mitigation procedures:

- All costs for research are borne by BMC, and
- BMC will only accept other benefits from broker-dealers if the benefits are reasonable and proportionate and if it is beyond doubt that the benefit will not have a negative effect on the quality of BMC's services to its Clients or impair BMC from fulfilling its duty to safeguard Clients' interests. Such benefits include occasional participation in conferences, seminars and other events partly or entirely sponsored by broker-dealers, access to general information material regarding a financial instrument or a financial service provided by broker-dealers, as well as entertainment up to a reasonable value (for more information on BMC's policies on gifts and benefits, see below).
- BMC will always seek best execution of Client trades under the circumstances of the particular transaction. (Best Execution is normally measured in terms of the price a Client pays or receives; please refer to BMC's Best Execution Policy for further details.)

BMC shall not allocate trades to a broker based on the prospects of receiving soft commissions. Furthermore, the selection of brokers is subject to a formal counterparty due diligence procedure managed by Coeli Asset Management AB on behalf of the Company. The due diligence shall always comprise an assessment of potential conflicts of interest in relation to a portfolio manager's choice of broker. Criteria such as execution and settlement capabilities, costs and market/liquidity access and general service quality shall be attributed significant importance when evaluating brokers.

#### Gifts and benefits

BMC or BMC employee may be offered gifts and benefits that can give rise to conflicts of interest, in that the gift or benefit can improperly influence the recipient. Conversely, gifts and benefits offered by BMC, an employee or another Relevant person to individuals outside BMC may serve to exert improper influence on the individual or entity that is being offered the gift or benefit. Employees are prohibited from giving gifts or entertainment that may appear lavish or excessive, and must obtain approval to give gifts or entertainment in excess of SEK 750 to any Client, prospect (individual or entity) that BMC does, or is seeking to do, business with. Employees who wish to give gifts or entertainment exceeding said amount must obtain approval from the CCO by submitting the Gifts and



Entertainment Log and Reporting Sheet, maintained by the CCO. It is absolutely prohibited to offer or accept gifts from state and government officials.

#### Information about inducements

BMC shall ensure that Clients are provided with information on any inducements before BMC starts acting on behalf of a Client. The information shall be presented in a manner that is comprehensive, accurate and understandable.

## Record of potential and actual conflicts of interests

The CEO is responsible for maintaining a record of all identified potential and actual conflicts of interests that may arise or that have arisen in connection with the provision of services to a client (or services provided by a third party on behalf of BMC), and the measures taken to mitigate and/or eliminate them.

## **Training**

Relevant persons shall undergo regular trainings on this Policy and related policies (primarily the Code of Ethics) to the extent deemed necessary.

## **Publication of the Policy**

BMC's clients and counterparties are entitled to obtain a copy of this policy on request. The CEO is responsible for maintaining and distributing the policy to all Relevant persons, as deemed necessary.

#### **Disclosure**

If the organizational and administrative arrangements within BMC are not sufficient to ensure, with reasonable confidence, that a potential conflict of interest will be prevented, the general nature and/or source of the conflict of interest must be clearly disclosed to the Client before the service in question is performed. In case a situation arises where disclosure is required, the employee must immediately report this to his/her manager and seek direction as to the handling of the disclosure.

# Responsibility and administration

The author and contact person regarding this policy is the CEO. The CEO for the implementation of the policy and appropriate procedures. The Compliance Function is responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy.

## **Updates and amendments**

BMC's Board will regularly and at least once a year, evaluate and revise the policy. Amendments will take effect from the date specified above. Any material amendments will be communicated to clients and counterparties.