

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

PUTNAM WORLD TRUST (THE "TRUST")

This Country Supplement dated 12 April 2018 forms part of, and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus for the Trust dated 18 February 2014 (and any Addenda or Supplements thereto) (together the "Prospectus").

This Country Supplement amends the Table of Contents in the Prospectus for the Trust such that reference is specifically made to this updated Country Supplement.

All capitalised terms contained herein shall have the same meaning in this Country Supplement as in the Prospectus unless otherwise indicated.

The Directors of Putnam Investments (Ireland) Limited, the Manager of the Trust, whose names appear under the heading "Management of the Trust" in the Prospectus, are the persons responsible for the information contained in the Prospectus and accept responsibility accordingly. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this document is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of the information.

1. This Prospectus is issued with respect to the offering of the Units within the United Kingdom by Putnam Investments Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The Trust is categorised as a recognised scheme for the purposes of section 264 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the "Act"). Accordingly, Units may be marketed to the general public in the United Kingdom. Putnam Investments Limited whose principal office is at 16 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1ER has assumed the position of Facilities Agent in the United Kingdom.
2. Putnam Investments Limited acts as distributor for the Trust. It is not acting for, or advising, or treating as its customer, any other person (unless other arrangements apply between Putnam Investments Limited and such person) in relation to any investment in the Trust.
3. The Consolidated Prospectus, the most recent Key Investor Information Documents, the Trust Deed, the Semi-Annual and Annual Reports and this Country Supplement can be obtained free of charge from Putnam Investments Limited at its principal office.
4. Information can be obtained orally and in writing about the most recently published sale and purchase price of Units from Putnam Investments Limited at its principal office.
5. A Unitholder may contact Putnam Investments Limited at its principal office to arrange for redemption of Units and to arrange for payment of the amount on redemption.
6. The holder of a certificate may obtain free of charge payment of dividends due to him, the most recent Semi-Annual and Annual Reports and details or copies of any notices that have been given or sent to the Unitholders from Putnam Investments Limited.
7. Any Unitholder who has a complaint to make about the operation of the Trust can submit his complaint in writing, for transmission to the Manager, to Putnam Investments Limited at its principal office.
8. Investors in the United Kingdom should note that the Trust and the Manager are overseas entities and the investment business activities of Putnam Investments Limited are not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Accordingly, as against Putnam Investments Limited, the Manager and the Trust, they will not benefit from the rules and regulations made under the Act or the United Kingdom regulatory system for the protection of private investors, including the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

U.K. FACILITIES AGREEMENT

- (a) By an agreement (the “U.K. Facilities Agreement”) dated on or about 28 April, 2000 between Putnam Investments Limited and the Manager, Putnam Investments Limited has agreed to provide information and paying agency facilities to the Trust in the United Kingdom as set out above.
- (b) The U.K. Facilities Agreement may be terminated by the Manager upon one month’s notice.
- (c) The U.K. Facilities Agreement contains indemnities in favour of Putnam Investments Limited for any claims made by third parties due to shortcomings, inaccuracies and/or incomplete information in the Trust’s documentation.
- (d) Putnam Investments Limited will not receive a fee from the Manager. Its reasonable out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed out of the assets of the Trust.

TAXATION

The taxation of income and capital gains of both the Trust and Unitholders is subject to the fiscal law and practice of Ireland and of the jurisdictions in which the Trust invests or in which Unitholders are resident or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary (which is not exhaustive) of the anticipated tax treatment in the United Kingdom does not constitute legal or tax advice and applies only to persons who hold Units as an investment and (save where expressly referred to) who are resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom for tax purposes.

Unitholders and potential investors should consult their own professional advisers on the tax implications of making an investment in, holding, exchanging or disposing of Units and receipt of distributions (whether or not on redemption) with respect to such Units under the laws of the jurisdictions in which they are liable to taxation.

This summary is based on the taxation law and practice in force in the United Kingdom at the date of this document, but Unitholders and potential investors should be aware that the relevant fiscal rules and practice or their interpretation may change, possibly with retrospective effects. The following tax summary is not a guarantee to any investor of the tax results of investing in the Trust.

Taxation of the Trust

The Trustee and the Manager are not resident for tax purposes in the United Kingdom and neither the central management and control nor the general administration of the Trust is undertaken in the United Kingdom. The Trust should not, therefore, be resident in the United Kingdom or (provided that it does not carry on a trade in the United Kingdom, whether or not through a permanent establishment situated therein) be liable to United Kingdom taxation on its income (other than on United Kingdom source income) or capital gains.

Certain interest and other amounts received by the Trust that have a United Kingdom source income and gains received by a Fund, which has a United Kingdom source, may be subject to withholding or similar taxes in the United Kingdom.

Since the Trust is not incorporated in the U.K. and the register of Unitholders will be kept outside the U.K., no liability to U.K. stamp duty reserve tax should arise by reason of the transfer, subscription for, or redemption of Units. Liability to U.K. stamp duty will not arise provided that any instrument in writing, transferring Units in the Trust, or Units acquired by the Trust, is executed and retained at all times outside the U.K. However, the Fund may be liable to transfer taxes in the U.K. on acquisitions and disposals of investments. In the U.K., stamp duty or Stamp Duty Reserve Tax at a rate of 0.5% will be payable by the Fund on the acquisition of shares in companies that are either incorporated in the U.K. or that maintain a share register there. This liability will arise in the course of the Trust’s normal investment activity and on the acquisition of investments from subscribers on subscription for units.

In the absence of an exemption applicable to a prospective Unitholder (such as that available to intermediaries under section 88A of the Finance Act 1986) stamp duty reserve tax (or stamp duty) at the same rate as above will also be payable by prospective Unitholders on the acquisition of shares in companies incorporated in the United Kingdom or which maintain a share register in the United Kingdom for the purpose of subsequent subscription for shares, and may arise on the transfer of investments to Unitholders on redemption.

Subject to their personal tax position, Unitholders resident in the United Kingdom for taxation purposes may be liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax in respect of any dividends or other income distributions of the Trust and any dividends funded out of realised capital profits of the Trust. For those Unit Classes of the Trust operating income equalisation arrangements, in the case of the first distribution made in respect of a Unit, the amount representing income equalisation is a return of capital and not taxable in the hands of the Unitholder. This amount should generally be deducted from the base cost of Units in computing the capital gain realised upon their disposal (see below). In addition, U.K. Unitholders holding Units at the end of each 'reporting period' (as defined for U.K. tax purposes) will potentially be subject to U.K. income tax or corporation tax on their share of a class's 'reported income', to the extent that this amount exceeds dividends received. The terms 'reported income', 'reporting period' and their implications are discussed in more detail below.

Per Part 9A of the Corporation Tax Act 2009 distributions made by an offshore fund structured as a company and received by a U.K. corporate investor can be exempt from corporation tax, provided that it falls within a specified exempt class. For example, if the U.K. corporate investor holds less than a 10% shareholding in the company making the distribution then the dividends received by the U.K. corporate investor will fall within the exempt class for portfolio holdings. This exemption does not apply to distributions from the Trust as it is structured as a Unit Trust rather than a company.

Holdings in the Trust will constitute interests in "offshore funds", as defined for the purposes TIOPA 2010, with each Class treated as a separate 'offshore fund' for these purposes, consistent with the previous rules.

U.K. Reporting Fund Regime

The Offshore Funds (Tax) Regulations 2009 (the "Tax Regulations") introduced a regime for the taxation of investments in "offshore funds" that operates by reference to whether a fund opts into a reporting regime ("reporting funds") or not ("non-reporting funds"). The Tax Regulations provide that if an investor resident or ordinarily resident in the U.K. for taxation purposes holds an interest in an offshore fund and that offshore fund is a 'non-reporting' fund, any gain accruing to that investor upon the sale or other disposal of that interest will be charged to U.K. tax as income and not as a capital gain. Alternatively, where an investor resident or ordinarily resident in the U.K. holds an interest in an offshore fund that has been a 'reporting fund' (and a "distributing fund" prior to 1 July 2011 if an existing fund) for all periods of account for which they hold their interest, any gain accruing upon the sale or other disposal of the interest will be subject to tax as a capital gain rather than income, with relief for any accumulated or reinvested profits that have already been subject to U.K. income tax or corporation tax on income (even where such profits are exempt from U.K. corporation tax). Investors in non-reporting funds would not be subject to income tax on income retained by the non-reporting fund.

Where an offshore fund has been a non-reporting fund for part of the time during which the U.K. Unitholder held their interest in a reporting fund for the remainder of that time, there are elections that can potentially be made by the Unitholder in order to prorate any gain upon disposal; the impact being that the portion of the gain made during the time when the offshore fund was a reporting fund would be taxed as a capital gain. Such elections have specified time limits in which they can be made. Investors should refer to their tax advisors for further information.

In broad terms, a 'reporting fund' is an offshore fund that meets certain upfront and annual reporting requirements to HM Revenue & Customs and its Unitholders. The Directors intend to manage the affairs of the Trust so that these upfront and annual duties are met and continue to be met on an ongoing basis for certain of the classes of units within the Trust as specified below. Such annual duties will include calculating and reporting the income returns of the offshore fund for each reporting period (as defined for U.K. tax purposes) on a per-Unit basis to all relevant Unitholders (as defined for these purposes). U.K. Unitholders that hold their interests at the end of the reporting period to which the reported income relates will be subject to income tax or corporation tax on the higher of any cash distribution paid and the full reported amount. The reported income will be deemed to arise to U.K. Unitholders six months following the end of the reporting period.

The Manager intends to issue the annual investor report via post, electronic communication, website, or a nationally-available U.K. newspaper.

Once reporting fund status is obtained from HM Revenue & Customs for the relevant classes, it will remain in place permanently so long as the annual requirements are undertaken. Unitholders and potential investors should refer to their tax advisors in relation to the implications of the Trust obtaining such status. The Manager intends that, for so long as the new reporting regime remains in place, these annual duties will be met on an ongoing basis for the following Classes of Units of the noted Funds, along with any other as may be specified in any Supplement hereto (the "Reporting Classes"):

- All Class Units of Putnam Global High Yield Bond Fund;

- Class T Units of each of Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund and Putnam Global Core Equity Fund; and
- Class S Units of each of Putnam Fixed Income Global Alpha Fund, Putnam Multi-Asset Absolute Return Fund, Putnam Multi-Asset Absolute Return Fund II and Putnam Total Return Fund.

An individual Unitholder domiciled or deemed for United Kingdom tax purposes domiciled in the United Kingdom may be liable to United Kingdom Inheritance Tax on their Units in the event of death or on making certain categories of lifetime transfer.

The attention of individuals ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom is drawn to the provisions of Chapter 2 of Part 13 of the Income Tax Act 2007. These provisions are aimed at preventing the avoidance of income tax by individuals through transactions resulting in the transfer of assets or income to persons (including companies) resident or domiciled outside the United Kingdom and may render them liable to income tax in respect of undistributed income of the Fund on an annual basis. The legislation is not directed towards the taxation of capital gains.

The attention of persons resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom for taxation purposes is drawn to the provisions of section 13 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992. These provisions can apply to any such person whose proportionate interest in a Fund (whether as a Unitholder or otherwise as a “participator” for United Kingdom taxation purposes) when aggregated with that of persons connected with that person is 10%, or greater, and if, at the same time, the Trust is itself controlled in such manner that it would, were it to be resident in the United Kingdom for taxation purposes, be a “close” company for those purposes. Section 13 could, if applied, result in a person with such an interest in the Trust being treated for the purposes of United Kingdom taxation of chargeable gains as if a part of any capital gain accruing to the Trust (such as on a disposal of any of its investments) had accrued to that person directly, that part being equal to the proportion of the gain that corresponds to that person’s proportionate interest in the Fund (determined as mentioned above). No liability under section 13 could be incurred by such a person, however, in respect of a chargeable gain or on offshore income gain accruing to the Trust if the aggregate proportion of that gain that could be attributed under section 13 both to that person and to any persons connected with him for United Kingdom taxation purposes does not exceed one-tenth of the gain.

The attention of U.K. resident corporate Unitholders is drawn to Chapter 3 of Part 6 of the Corporation Tax Act 2009, whereby interests of U.K. companies in offshore funds may be deemed to constitute a loan relationship. These provisions apply to offshore funds that are more than 60% invested in “qualifying investments” (generally investments which yield a return in the form of interest) at any point in the relevant reporting period. On the basis of the investment policies of the Trust, each of the Funds could invest more than 60% of its assets in qualifying investments during a reporting period. In that eventuality, the Units in such Fund(s) will be taxed as loan relationships with any distributions taxed as interest and in most cases any increases/decreases in the value of the holding taxed/relieved annually on a mark to market basis. Please note that special rules apply to insurance companies, investment trust, authorised unit trust and open ended investment companies.

General

Unitholders who are life insurance companies within the charge to United Kingdom taxation holding their Units in the Trust for the purposes of their long term business (other than pension business) will be deemed to dispose of and immediately re-acquire those Units at the end of each accounting period. Such Unitholders should seek their own professional advice as to the tax consequences of the deemed disposal.

Equalisation

An equalisation account may be operated for certain Funds and therefore if Units in such a Fund are acquired otherwise than at the beginning of an account period over which distributions are calculated, the first distribution after acquisition will include a refund of capital, referred to as an equalisation payment, which is not subject to tax. The amount of the equalisation payment must be deducted from the original purchase cost of the Units in computing the allowable cost of the Units for capital gains purposes.