

WALKERS GUIDE | GUERNSEY

# A Comparison of Guernsey Funds Regimes



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Guernsey has a number of fund regulatory regimes in place, setting out the requirements to obtain the necessary permissions from the Guernsey Financial Services Commission.
- The best regulatory regime for a particular fund depends on a number of differing factors.
- This guide sets out (in table form) a summary comparison of the key features of the different fund regulatory regimes available in Guernsey.

## Introduction

This memorandum describes certain features of Guernsey fund regimes. It is intended to be a summary only, and is not exhaustive. It is not a substitute for detailed legal advice, which can be obtained from your usual Walkers contact or any of the Walkers partners listed at the end of this memorandum.

	Private Investment Fund	Registered Fund	Authorised Closed-Ended Fund	Authorised Open-Ended Fund
<b>Category of fund</b>	Open or closed	Open or closed	Closed	Open – Class A, Class B and Class Q
<b>Type of fund vehicle</b>	Company (including PCC, ICC), limited partnership or unit trust			
<b>Is fund vehicle regulated?</b>	Yes – very light touch	Yes – light touch	Yes	Yes – level varies between the classes



	Private Investment Fund	Registered Fund	Authorised Closed-Ended Fund	Authorised Open-Ended Fund
<b>Guernsey regulated manager required?</b>	Not mandatory, except for "Manager PIF"	Not mandatory	Not mandatory	Not mandatory
<b>Regulatory application timeframe</b>	One business day (any manager licence done at same time)	Three business days (plus 10 business days for any manager licence)	Six to eight weeks (plus four weeks for any manager licence), except that Qualifying Investor Fund is three business days (plus 10 business days for any manager licence)	Six to eight weeks (plus four weeks for any manager licence)
<b>Investor restrictions</b>	<p>Manager PIF – max 50 investors (max 30 new investors over 12 months); only investors able to sustain loss; no limits on marketing</p> <p>QPI PIF – max 50 investors; only "qualifying private investors"; offers limited to 200 investors</p> <p>Family PIF – investors must be part of same "family group"</p>	None	None, except that only "qualified investors" can invest in "Qualifying Investor Funds"	None, except that only "qualifying professional investors" can invest in a Class Q Fund
<b>Guernsey tax treatment of fund vehicle</b>	Company and unit trust – 0% or exempt Limited partnership – not taxable			



	Private Investment Fund	Registered Fund	Authorised Closed-Ended Fund	Authorised Open-Ended Fund
<b>Economic substance rules</b>	Fund vehicle is exempt from economic substance requirements, unless it is a "self-managed fund" Licensed manager is subject to economic substance requirements			
<b>Local directors of corporate fund required?</b>	No – but economic substance requirements apply if "self-managed fund"			
<b>Other local service providers</b>	Administrator and custodian (if open-ended)	Administrator and custodian (if open-ended)	Administrator	Administrator and custodian
<b>Information memorandum content requirements</b>	None, except that QPI PIF investors must be provided with and acknowledge a disclosure statement covering risk disclosures, the regulatory status of the PIF and investor suitability	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>AIFMD – eligible for marketing in UK or EU?</b>	Yes			
<b>Audit requirement</b>	Yes			
<b>Reporting to investors</b>	Accounts required Other reports allowed	Accounts required Other reports allowed	Accounts required Other reports allowed	Accounts and annual reports required Half-yearly reports for Class A Fund



	Private Investment Fund	Registered Fund	Authorised Closed-Ended Fund	Authorised Open-Ended Fund
<b>Reporting to Guernsey regulator</b>	Very limited	Limited	Limited	More detailed
<b>Regulatory requirements applicable to Guernsey manager</b>	None	Audit, capital adequacy and conduct of business requirements	Audit, capital adequacy and conduct of business requirements	Audit, capital adequacy and conduct of business requirements
<b>Vehicle available for Guernsey Green Fund and Natural Capital Fund regimes?</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Regulatory fee - application</b>	£4,795 – fund £3,080 – manager	£4,790 – fund £3,080 – manager	£4,235 – fund (£4,795 for Qualifying Investor Fund) £3,080 – manager	£4,795 – fund £3,080 – manager
<b>Regulatory fee - annual</b>	£4,235 – fund £2,205 – manager	£4,235 – fund £2,205 – manager	£4,235 – fund £2,205 – manager	£4,235 – fund £2,205 – manager

Updated: January 2025



---

## Further information

For more information, please get in touch with your usual contact at Walkers or any of the individuals in your region listed below.

### **Charlotte Goncalves**

Senior Counsel

Guernsey

+44 (0) 1481 748 921

[charlotte.goncalves@walkersglobal.com](mailto:charlotte.goncalves@walkersglobal.com)

### **Chris Hutley-Hurst**

Group Partner

Guernsey

+44 (0) 1481 758 950

[chris.hutley-hurst@walkersglobal.com](mailto:chris.hutley-hurst@walkersglobal.com)

### **Jessica Robinson**

Senior Counsel

Guernsey

+44 (0) 1481 748 932

[jessica.robinson@walkersglobal.com](mailto:jessica.robinson@walkersglobal.com)

### **Matt Sanders**

Group Partner

Guernsey

+44 (0) 1481 748 914

[matt.sanders@walkersglobal.com](mailto:matt.sanders@walkersglobal.com)

*Appropriate legal or other professional advice should be sought for any specific matter.*

*The information contained in this memorandum is necessarily brief and general in nature and does not constitute legal or taxation advice.*