

June 30, 2023

# Semiannual Report

Deutsche DWS Variable Series II

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**DWS Government Money Market VIP**



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**This report must be preceded or accompanied by a prospectus. To obtain an additional prospectus or summary prospectus, if available, call (800) 728-3337 or your financial representative. We advise you to consider the Fund's objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. The summary prospectus and prospectus contain this and other important information about the Fund. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest.**

**You could lose money by investing in the Fund. Although the Fund seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it cannot guarantee it will do so. An investment in the Fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. The Fund's sponsor has no legal obligation to provide financial support to the Fund, and you should not expect that the sponsor will provide financial support to the Fund at any time.** The credit quality of the Fund's holdings can change rapidly in certain markets, and the default of a single holding could have an adverse impact on the Fund's share price. The Fund's share price can also be negatively affected during periods of high redemption pressures and/or illiquid markets. The actions of a few large investors in the Fund may have a significant adverse effect on the share price of the Fund. Please read the prospectus for specific details regarding the Fund's risk profile.

War, terrorism, sanctions, economic uncertainty, trade disputes, public health crises, natural disasters, climate change and related geopolitical events have led and, in the future, may lead to significant disruptions in U.S. and world economies and markets, which may lead to increased market volatility and may have significant adverse effects on the Fund and its investments.

The brand DWS represents DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA and any of its subsidiaries such as DWS Distributors, Inc. which offers investment products or DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc. and RREEF America L.L.C. which offer advisory services.

DWS Distributors, Inc., 222 South Riverside Plaza, Chicago, IL 60606, (800) 621-1148

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NOT A DEPOSIT NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY

# Portfolio Summary

(Unaudited)

## Asset Allocation (As a % of Investment Portfolio)

	6/30/23	12/31/22
Repurchase Agreements	63%	68%
Government & Agency Obligations	37%	32%
	100%	100%

## Weighted Average Maturity

	6/30/23	12/31/22
Deutsche DWS Variable Series II —DWS Government Money Market VIP	21 days	8 days
iMoneyNet Money Fund Average™— Gov't & Agency Retail*	22 days	15 days

\* The Fund is compared to its respective iMoneyNet Money Fund Average category: Gov't & Agency Retail — Category includes the most broadly based of the government retail funds. These funds may invest in U.S. Treasury securities, securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities.

Weighted average maturity, also known as effective maturity, is the weighted average of the maturity date of bonds held by the Fund taking into consideration any available maturity shortening features.

Portfolio holdings and characteristics are subject to change.

For more complete details about the Fund's investment portfolio, see page 4.

Each month, information about the Fund and its portfolio holdings is filed with the SEC on Form N-MFP. The SEC delays the public availability of the information filed on Form N-MFP for 60 days after the end of the reporting period included in the filing. These forms will be available on the SEC's Web site at sec.gov. The Fund's portfolio holdings are also posted on dws.com as of each month-end. Please see the Fund's current prospectus for more information.

## Portfolio Management Team

A group of investment professionals is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. These investment professionals have a broad range of experience managing money market funds.

# Investment Portfolio

as of June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

	Principal Amount (\$)	Value (\$)
<b>Government &amp; Agency Obligations 37.4%</b>		
<b>U.S. Government Sponsored Agencies 16.9%</b>		
Federal Home Loan Banks:		
4.779% (a), 8/4/2023	1,000,000	995,548
5.009% (a), 7/25/2023	1,700,000	1,694,401
5.039% (a), 11/17/2023	6,000,000	5,884,862
SOFR + 0.02%, 5.08% (b), 9/18/2023	7,500,000	7,500,000
SOFR + 0.03%, 5.09% (b), 11/10/2023	7,000,000	7,000,000
SOFR + 0.07%, 5.13% (b), 11/27/2023	2,500,000	2,500,000
SOFR + 0.09%, 5.15% (b), 12/1/2023	6,000,000	6,000,000
		<b>31,574,811</b>
<b>U.S. Treasury Obligations 20.5%</b>		
U.S. Treasury Bills:		
4.684% (a), 9/21/2023	6,000,000	5,936,860
4.721% (a), 7/20/2023	1,000,000	997,543
5.258% (a), 11/24/2023	3,000,000	2,936,904
5.272% (a), 10/26/2023	9,000,000	8,847,841
5.305% (a), 8/24/2023	3,000,000	2,976,454
5.323% (a), 12/7/2023	220,000	214,899
5.384% (a), 11/9/2023	3,000,000	2,942,032
U.S. Treasury Floating Rate Notes:		
3-month U.S. Treasury Bill Money Market Yield minus 0.015%, 5.234% (b), 1/31/2024	3,000,000	3,001,189
3-month U.S. Treasury Bill Money Market Yield + 0.029%, 5.278% (b), 7/31/2023	7,500,000	7,500,717
3-month U.S. Treasury Bill Money Market Yield + 0.035%, 5.284% (b), 10/31/2023	3,000,000	3,001,342
		<b>38,355,781</b>
<b>Total Government &amp; Agency Obligations</b> (Cost \$69,930,592)		<b>69,930,592</b>

## Repurchase Agreements 62.6%

BNP Paribas, 5.05%, dated 6/30/2023, to be repurchased at \$22,909,637 on 7/3/2023 (c)	22,900,000	22,900,000
Citigroup Global Markets, Inc., 5.05%, dated 6/30/2023, to be repurchased at \$21,409,006 on 7/3/2023 (d)	21,400,000	21,400,000
JPMorgan Securities, Inc., 5.05%, dated 6/30/2023, to be repurchased at \$27,291,480 on 7/3/2023 (e)	27,280,000	27,280,000
Royal Bank of Canada, 5.05%, dated 6/30/2023, to be repurchased at \$22,209,343 on 7/3/2023 (f)	22,200,000	22,200,000
Wells Fargo Bank, 5.06%, dated 6/30/2023, to be repurchased at \$23,399,863 on 7/3/2023 (g)	23,390,000	23,390,000
<b>Total Repurchase Agreements</b> (Cost \$117,170,000)		<b>117,170,000</b>

	% of Net Assets	Value (\$)
<b>Total Investment Portfolio</b> (Cost \$187,100,592)	100.0	<b>187,100,592</b>
<b>Other Assets and Liabilities, Net</b>	(0.0)	<b>(22,425)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	100.0	<b>187,078,167</b>

- (a) Annualized yield at time of purchase; not a coupon rate.  
(b) Floating rate security. These securities are shown at their current rate as of June 30, 2023.  
(c) Collateralized by:

Principal Amount (\$)	Security	Rate (%)	Maturity Date	Collateral Value (\$)
23,849,300	U.S. Treasury Bills	Zero Coupon	7/5/2023–12/21/2023	23,358,030

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

(d) Collateralized by:

Principal Amount (\$)	Security	Rate (%)	Maturity Date	Collateral Value (\$)
22,796,000	U.S. Treasury Notes	2.5–3.125	2/28/2026–8/31/2029	21,828,067

(e) Collateralized by:

Principal Amount (\$)	Security	Rate (%)	Maturity Date	Collateral Value (\$)
27,892,000	U.S. Treasury Bills	Zero Coupon	7/20/2023	27,825,617

(f) Collateralized by:

Principal Amount (\$)	Security	Rate (%)	Maturity Date	Collateral Value (\$)
24,042,500	U.S. Treasury Notes	2.625	5/31/2027	22,644,083

(g) Collateralized by:

Principal Amount (\$)	Security	Rate (%)	Maturity Date	Collateral Value (\$)
24,168,192	Federal National Mortgage Association	1.5–7.0	9/1/2025–5/1/2058	23,857,800

SOFR: Secured Overnight Financing Rate

## Fair Value Measurements

Various inputs are used in determining the value of the Fund's investments. These inputs are summarized in three broad levels. Level 1 includes quoted prices in active markets for identical securities. Level 2 includes other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds and credit risk). Level 3 includes significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments). The level assigned to the securities valuations may not be an indication of the risk or liquidity associated with investing in those securities. Securities held by the Fund are reflected as Level 2 because the securities are valued at amortized cost (which approximates fair value) and, accordingly, the inputs used to determine value are not quoted prices in an active market.

The following is a summary of the inputs used as of June 30, 2023 in valuing the Fund's investments. For information on the Fund's policy regarding the valuation of investments, please refer to the Security Valuation section of Note A in the accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

Assets	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments in Securities (a)	\$ —	\$ 69,930,592	\$ —	\$ 69,930,592
Repurchase Agreements	—	117,170,000	—	117,170,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$187,100,592</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$187,100,592</b>

(a) See Investment Portfolio for additional detailed categorizations.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

# Statement of Assets and Liabilities

as of June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

<b>Assets</b>	
Investments in securities, valued at amortized cost	\$ 69,930,592
Repurchase agreements, valued at amortized cost	117,170,000
Cash	43,449
Receivable for Fund shares sold	225,674
Interest receivable	242,025
Other assets	1,952
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>187,613,692</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Payable for Fund shares redeemed	33,164
Distributions payable	361,600
Accrued management fee	36,098
Accrued Trustees' fees	1,980
Other accrued expenses and payables	102,683
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>535,525</b>
<b>Net assets, at value</b>	<b>\$187,078,167</b>
<b>Net Assets Consist of</b>	
Distributable earnings (loss)	7,353
Paid-in capital	187,070,814
<b>Net assets, at value</b>	<b>\$187,078,167</b>
<b>Net Asset Value</b>	
<b>Class A</b>	
<b>Net Asset Value</b> , offering and redemption price per share (\$187,078,167 ÷ 187,136,424 outstanding shares of beneficial interest, no par value, unlimited number of shares authorized)	
	<b>\$ 1.00</b>

# Statement of Operations

for the six months ended June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

<b>Investment Income</b>	
Income:	
Interest	\$ 4,414,962
Expenses:	
Management fee	218,583
Administration fee	90,224
Services to shareholders	1,467
Custodian fee	3,136
Professional fees	27,908
Reports to shareholders	33,697
Trustees' fees and expenses	4,647
Other	5,445
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>385,107</b>
<b>Net investment income</b>	<b>4,029,855</b>
<b>Net realized gain (loss) from investments</b>	<b>989</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>\$ 4,030,844</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

# Statements of Changes in Net Assets

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)	Year Ended December 31, 2022
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>		
Operations:		
Net investment income	\$ 4,029,855	\$ 2,385,589
Net realized gain (loss)	989	(119)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	4,030,844	2,385,470
Distributions to shareholders:		
Class A	(4,029,855)	(2,385,590)
Fund share transactions:		
<b>Class A</b>		
Proceeds from shares sold	55,534,285	174,719,180
Reinvestment of distributions	3,982,397	2,068,026
Payments for shares redeemed	(58,986,274)	(186,972,657)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets from Class A share transactions	530,408	(10,185,451)
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>	531,397	(10,185,571)
Net assets at beginning of period	186,546,770	196,732,341
<b>Net assets at end of period</b>	<b>\$187,078,167</b>	<b>\$ 186,546,770</b>
<b>Other Information</b>		
<b>Class A</b>		
Shares outstanding at beginning of period	186,606,016	196,801,073
Shares sold	55,534,285	174,709,574
Shares issued to shareholders in reinvestment of distributions	3,982,397	2,068,026
Shares redeemed	(58,986,274)	(186,972,657)
Net increase (decrease) in Class A shares	530,408	(10,195,057)
Shares outstanding at end of period	<b>187,136,424</b>	<b>186,606,016</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

# Financial Highlights

## DWS Government Money Market VIP — Class A

	Six Months Ended 6/30/23 (Unaudited)	2022	Years Ended December 31,			
			2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Selected Per Share Data</b>						
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<i>Income (loss) from investment operations:</i>						
Net investment income	.021	.013	.000*	.002	.018	.014
Net realized gain (loss)	.000*	(.000)*	(.000)*	.000*	.000*	(.000)*
<b>Total from investment operations</b>	<b>.021</b>	<b>.013</b>	<b>.000*</b>	<b>.002</b>	<b>.018</b>	<b>.014</b>
<i>Less distributions from:</i>						
Net investment income	(.021)	(.013)	(.000)*	(.002)	(.018)	(.014)
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
Total Return (%)	2.17**	1.29 <sup>a</sup>	.01 <sup>a</sup>	.24 <sup>a</sup>	1.77 <sup>a</sup>	1.39 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets and Supplemental Data</b>						
Net assets, end of period (\$ millions)	187	187	197	153	122	107
Ratio of expenses before expense reductions (%) <sup>b</sup>	.41***	.40	.42	.42	.47	.50
Ratio of expenses after expense reductions (%) <sup>b</sup>	.41***	.32	.06	.23	.47	.50
Ratio of net investment income (%)	4.33***	1.25	.01	.20	1.74	1.37

<sup>a</sup> Total return would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced.

<sup>b</sup> Expense ratio does not reflect charges and fees associated with the separate account that invests in the Fund or any variable life insurance policy or variable annuity contract for which the Fund is an investment option.

\* Amount is less than \$.0005.

\*\* Not annualized

\*\*\* Annualized

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.



# Notes to Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

## A. Organization and Significant Accounting Policies

DWS Government Money Market VIP (the “Fund”) is a diversified series of Deutsche DWS Variable Series II (the “Trust”), which is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), as an open-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust.

The Fund’s financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”) which require the use of management estimates. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The Fund qualifies as an investment company under Topic 946 of Accounting Standards Codification of U.S. GAAP. The policies described below are followed consistently by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements.

**Security Valuation.** Various inputs are used in determining the value of the Fund’s investments. These inputs are summarized in three broad levels. Level 1 includes quoted prices in active markets for identical securities. Level 2 includes other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds and credit risk). Level 3 includes significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund’s own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments). The level assigned to the securities valuations may not be an indication of the risk or liquidity associated with investing in those securities.

The Fund values all securities utilizing the amortized cost method permitted in accordance with Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act and certain conditions therein. Under this method, which does not take into account unrealized capital gains or losses on securities, an instrument is initially valued at its cost and thereafter assumes a constant accretion/ amortization rate to maturity of any discount or premium. Securities held by the Fund are reflected as Level 2 because the securities are valued at amortized cost (which approximates fair value) and, accordingly, the inputs used to determine value are not quoted prices in an active market.

Disclosure about the classification of fair value measurements is included in a table following the Fund’s Investment Portfolio.

**Repurchase Agreements.** The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements, under the terms of a Master Repurchase Agreement, with certain banks and broker/dealers whereby the Fund, through its custodian or a sub-custodian bank, receives delivery of the underlying securities, the amount of which at the time of purchase and each subsequent business day is required to be maintained at such a level that the market value is equal to at least the principal amount of the repurchase price plus accrued interest. The custodian bank or another designated sub-custodian bank holds the collateral in a separate account until the agreement matures. If the value of the securities falls below the principal amount of the repurchase agreement plus accrued interest, the financial institution deposits additional collateral by the following business day. If the financial institution either fails to deposit the required additional collateral or fails to repurchase the securities as agreed, the Fund has the right to sell the securities and recover any resulting loss from the financial institution. If the financial institution enters into bankruptcy, the Fund’s claim on the collateral may be subject to legal proceedings.

As of June 30, 2023, the Fund held repurchase agreements with a gross value of \$117,170,000. The value of the related collateral exceeded the value of the repurchase agreements at period end. The detail of the related collateral is included in the footnotes following the Fund’s Investment Portfolio.

**Federal Income Taxes.** The Fund is treated as a separate taxpayer as provided for in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). It is the Fund’s policy to comply with the requirements of the Code, which are applicable to regulated investment companies, and to distribute all of its taxable income to the separate accounts of the Participating Insurance Companies which hold its shares.

At December 31, 2022, the Fund had net tax basis capital loss carryforwards of approximately \$148 of short-term losses, which may be applied against realized net taxable capital gains indefinitely.

At June 30, 2023, the Fund had an aggregate cost of investments for federal income tax purposes of \$187,100,592.

The Fund has reviewed the tax positions for the open tax years as of December 31, 2022 and has determined that no provision for income tax and/or uncertain tax positions is required in the Fund’s financial statements. The Fund’s federal tax returns for the prior three fiscal years remain open subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

**Distribution of Income and Gains.** Net investment income of the Fund is declared as a daily dividend and is distributed to shareholders monthly. The Fund may take into account capital gains and losses in its daily dividend declarations. The Fund may also make additional distributions for tax purposes if necessary.

Permanent book and tax basis differences relating to shareholder distributions will result in reclassifications to paid-in capital. Temporary book and tax basis differences will reverse in a subsequent period. There were no significant book-to-tax differences for the Fund.

The tax character of current year distributions will be determined at the end of the current fiscal year.

**Expenses.** Expenses of the Trust arising in connection with a specific fund are allocated to that fund. Other Trust expenses which cannot be directly attributed to a fund are apportioned among the funds in the Trust based upon the relative net assets or other appropriate measures.

**Contingencies.** In the normal course of business, the Fund may enter into contracts with service providers that contain general indemnification clauses. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet been made. However, based on experience, the Fund expects the risk of loss to be remote.

**Other.** Investment transactions are accounted for on trade date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Realized gains and losses from investment transactions are recorded on an identified cost basis. All premiums and discounts are amortized/accreted for both tax and financial reporting purposes.

## B. Related Parties

**Management Agreement.** Under the Investment Management Agreement with DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc. ("DIMA" or the "Advisor"), an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA ("DWS Group"), the Advisor directs the investments of the Fund in accordance with its investment objectives, policies and restrictions. The Advisor determines the securities, instruments and other contracts relating to investments to be purchased, sold or entered into by the Fund.

Under the Investment Management Agreement with the Advisor, the Fund pays a monthly management fee based on the average daily net assets of the Fund, computed and accrued daily and payable monthly, at the following annual rates:

First \$500 million of the Fund's average daily net assets	.235%
Next \$500 million of such net assets	.220%
Next \$1.0 billion of such net assets	.205%
Over \$2.0 billion of such net assets	.190%

Accordingly, for the six months ended June 30, 2023, the fee pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement was equivalent to an annualized rate (exclusive of any applicable waivers/reimbursements) of 0.235% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

For the period from January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023, the Advisor has contractually agreed to waive its fees and/or reimburse certain operating expenses to the extent necessary to maintain the total annual operating expenses (excluding certain expenses such as extraordinary expenses, taxes, brokerage and interest expense) of Class A at 0.51%.

**Administration Fee.** Pursuant to an Administrative Services Agreement, DIMA provides most administrative services to the Fund. For all services provided under the Administrative Services Agreement, the Fund pays the Advisor an annual fee ("Administration Fee") of 0.097% of the Fund's average daily net assets, computed and accrued daily and payable monthly. For the six months ended June 30, 2023, the Administration Fee was \$90,224, of which \$14,900 is unpaid.

**Service Provider Fees.** DWS Service Company ("DSC"), an affiliate of the Advisor, is the transfer agent, dividend-paying agent and shareholder service agent for the Fund. Pursuant to a sub-transfer agency agreement between DSC and SS&C GIDS, Inc. ("SS&C") (name changed from DST Systems, Inc. effective January 1, 2023), DSC has delegated certain transfer agent, dividend-paying agent and shareholder service agent functions to SS&C. DSC compensates SS&C out of the shareholder servicing fee it receives from the Fund. For the six months ended June 30, 2023, the amounts charged to the Fund by DSC aggregated \$1,286, of which \$453 is unpaid.

**Other Service Fees.** Under an agreement with the Fund, DIMA is compensated for providing regulatory filing services to the Fund. For the six months ended June 30, 2023, the amount charged to the Fund by DIMA included in the Statement of Operations under “Reports to shareholders” aggregated \$503, of which \$15 is unpaid.

**Trustees’ Fees and Expenses.** The Fund paid retainer fees to each Trustee not affiliated with the Advisor, plus specified amounts to the Board Chairperson and to each committee Chairperson.

### **C. Ownership of the Fund**

At June 30, 2023, one participating insurance company was owner of record of 10% or more of the total outstanding Class A shares of the Fund, owning 72%.

### **D. Line of Credit**

The Fund and other affiliated funds (the “Participants”) share in a \$375 million revolving credit facility provided by a syndication of banks. The Fund may borrow for temporary or emergency purposes, including the meeting of redemption requests that otherwise might require the untimely disposition of securities. The Participants are charged an annual commitment fee, which is allocated based on net assets, among each of the Participants. Interest is calculated at a daily fluctuating rate per annum equal to the sum of 0.10% plus the higher of the Federal Funds Effective Rate and the Overnight Bank Funding Rate, plus 1.25%. The Fund may borrow up to a maximum of 33 percent of its net assets under the agreement. The Fund had no outstanding loans at June 30, 2023.

### **E. Money Market Fund Investments and Yield**

Rising interest rates could cause the value of the Fund’s investments — and therefore its share price as well — to decline. A rising interest rate environment may cause investors to move out of fixed-income securities and related markets on a large scale, which could adversely affect the price and liquidity of such securities and could also result in increased redemptions from the Fund. Increased redemptions from the Fund may force the Fund to sell investments at a time when it is not advantageous to do so, which could result in losses. Recently, there have been signs of inflationary price movements. As such, fixed-income and related markets may experience heightened levels of interest rate volatility and liquidity risk. A sharp rise in interest rates could cause the value of the Fund’s investments to decline and impair the Fund’s ability to maintain a stable \$1.00 share price. Conversely, any decline in interest rates is likely to cause the Fund’s yield to decline, and during periods of unusually low or negative interest rates, the Fund’s yield may approach or fall below zero. A low or negative interest rate environment may prevent the Fund from providing a positive yield or paying fund expenses out of current income and, at times, could impair the Fund’s ability to maintain a stable \$1.00 share price. Over time, the total return of a money market fund may not keep pace with inflation, which could result in a net loss of purchasing power for long-term investors. Interest rates can change in response to the supply and demand for credit, government and/or central bank monetary policy and action, inflation rates, and other factors. Recent and potential future changes in monetary policy made by central banks or governments are likely to affect the level of interest rates. Changing interest rates may have unpredictable effects on markets, may result in heightened market volatility and potential illiquidity and may detract from Fund performance to the extent the Fund is exposed to such interest rates and/or volatility. Money market funds try to minimize interest rate risk by purchasing short-term securities. If there is an insufficient supply of U.S. government securities to meet investor demand, it could result in lower yields on such securities and increase interest rate risk for the Fund.

## Other Information

(Unaudited)

### Regulatory Update — Tailored Shareholder Report

Effective January 24, 2023, the SEC amended the rules for mutual fund and exchange-traded fund (“ETF”) annual and semi-annual shareholder reports. The amended rules apply to mutual funds and ETFs that are registered on Form N-1A (i.e., open-end funds) and implement a new streamlined disclosure framework requiring “concise and visually engaging” shareholder reports highlighting key information, including a simplified expense presentation, performance information, portfolio holdings and certain fund statistics. The amended rules seek to simplify shareholder reporting by consolidating investor friendly data in one report and moving other data to Form N-CSR, creating a layered disclosure framework. Certain information from the Fund’s current shareholder reports, including the Fund’s investment portfolio, financial statements and financial highlights, will move to Form N-CSR. This information must be available online, delivered free of charge upon request and filed on a semiannual basis on Form N-CSR. Notably, the amended rules will require mutual funds and ETFs to prepare separate individual shareholder reports for each fund share class. The amendments also include a revised definition of “appropriate broad-based securities market index” that will affect performance presentations in the new streamlined reports and mutual fund and ETF prospectuses. The amended rules and related form amendments have a compliance date of July 24, 2024. At this time, management is evaluating the impact of the amended rules and form amendments on the content of the Fund’s current shareholder reports.

# Information About Your Fund's Expenses

(Unaudited)

As an investor of the Fund, you incur two types of costs: ongoing expenses and transaction costs. Ongoing expenses include management fees and other Fund expenses. Examples of transaction costs include contract charges, which are not shown in this section. The following tables are intended to help you understand your ongoing expenses (in dollars) of investing in the Fund and to help you compare these expenses with the ongoing expenses of investing in other mutual funds. The example in the table is based on an investment of \$1,000 invested at the beginning of the six-month period and held for the entire period (January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023).

The tables illustrate your Fund's expenses in two ways:

- **Actual Fund Return.** This helps you estimate the actual dollar amount of ongoing expenses (but not transaction costs) paid on a \$1,000 investment in the Fund using the Fund's actual return during the period. To estimate the expenses you paid over the period, simply divide your account value by \$1,000 (for example, an \$8,600 account value divided by \$1,000 = 8.6), then multiply the result by the number in the "Expenses Paid per \$1,000" line under the share class you hold.
- **Hypothetical 5% Fund Return.** This helps you to compare your Fund's ongoing expenses (but not transaction costs) with those of other mutual funds using the Fund's actual expense ratio and a hypothetical rate of return of 5% per year before expenses. Examples using a 5% hypothetical fund return may be found in the shareholder reports of other mutual funds. The hypothetical account values and expenses may not be used to estimate the actual ending account balance or expenses you paid for the period.

Please note that the expenses shown in these tables are meant to highlight your ongoing expenses only and do not reflect any transaction costs. The "Expenses Paid per \$1,000" line of the tables is useful in comparing ongoing expenses only and will not help you determine the relative total expense of owning different funds. If these transaction costs had been included, your costs would have been higher.

## Expenses and Value of a \$1,000 Investment for the six months ended June 30, 2023

<b>Actual Fund Return</b>	<b>Class A</b>
Beginning Account Value 1/1/23	\$1,000.00
Ending Account Value 6/30/23	\$1,021.70
Expenses Paid per \$1,000*	\$ 2.06
<b>Hypothetical 5% Fund Return</b>	<b>Class A</b>
Beginning Account Value 1/1/23	\$1,000.00
Ending Account Value 6/30/23	\$1,022.76
Expenses Paid per \$1,000*	\$ 2.06

\* Expenses are equal to the Fund's annualized expense ratio, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by 181 (the number of days in the most recent six-month period), then divided by 365.

<b>Annualized Expense Ratio</b>	<b>Class A</b>
Deutsche DWS Variable Series II — DWS Government Money Market VIP	.41%

For more information, please refer to the Fund's prospectus.

These tables do not reflect charges and fees ("contract charges") associated with the separate account that invests in the Fund or any variable life insurance policy or variable annuity contract for which the Fund is an investment option.

For an analysis of the fees associated with an investment in the Fund or similar funds, please refer to the current and hypothetical expense calculators for Variable Insurance Products which can be found at [dws.com/calculators](https://dws.com/calculators).

## Proxy Voting

The Trust's policies and procedures for voting proxies for portfolio securities and information about how the Trust voted proxies related to its portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 are available on our Web site — [dws.com/en-us/resources/proxy-voting](https://dws.com/en-us/resources/proxy-voting) — or on the SEC's Web site — [sec.gov](https://sec.gov). To obtain a written copy of the Trust's policies and procedures without charge, upon request, call us toll free at (800) 728-3337.

## Advisory Agreement Board Considerations and Fee Evaluation

The Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as the “Board” or “Trustees”) approved the renewal of DWS Government Money Market VIP’s (the “Fund”) investment management agreement (the “Agreement”) with DWS Investment Management Americas, Inc. (“DIMA”) in September 2022.

In terms of the process that the Board followed prior to approving the Agreement, shareholders should know that:

- During the entire process, all of the Fund’s Trustees were independent of DIMA and its affiliates (the “Independent Trustees”).
- The Board met frequently during the past year to discuss fund matters and dedicated a substantial amount of time to contract review matters. Over the course of several months, the Board reviewed extensive materials received from DIMA, independent third parties and independent counsel. These materials included an analysis of the Fund’s performance, fees and expenses, and profitability from a fee consultant retained by the Fund’s Independent Trustees (the “Fee Consultant”).
- The Board also received extensive information throughout the year regarding performance of the Fund.
- The Independent Trustees regularly met privately with counsel to discuss contract review and other matters. In addition, the Independent Trustees were advised by the Fee Consultant in the course of their review of the Fund’s contractual arrangements and considered a comprehensive report prepared by the Fee Consultant in connection with their deliberations.
- In connection with reviewing the Agreement, the Board also reviewed the terms of the Fund’s distribution agreement, administrative services agreement, transfer agency agreement and other material service agreements.

In connection with the contract review process, the Board considered the factors discussed below, among others. The Board also considered that DIMA and its predecessors have managed the Fund since its inception, and the Board believes that a long-term relationship with a capable, conscientious advisor is in the best interests of the Fund. The Board considered, generally, that shareholders chose to invest or remain invested in the Fund knowing that DIMA managed the Fund. DIMA is part of DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA (“DWS Group”). DWS Group is a global asset management business that offers a wide range of investing expertise and resources, including research capabilities in many countries throughout the world. In 2018, approximately 20% of DWS Group’s shares were sold in an initial public offering, with Deutsche Bank AG owning the remaining shares.

As part of the contract review process, the Board carefully considered the fees and expenses of each DWS fund overseen by the Board in light of the fund’s performance. In many cases, this led to the negotiation and implementation of expense caps.

While shareholders may focus primarily on fund performance and fees, the Fund’s Board considers these and many other factors, including the quality and integrity of DIMA’s personnel and administrative support services provided by DIMA, such as back-office operations, fund valuations, and compliance policies and procedures.

**Nature, Quality and Extent of Services.** The Board considered the terms of the Agreement, including the scope of advisory services provided under the Agreement. The Board noted that, under the Agreement, DIMA provides portfolio management services to the Fund and that, pursuant to a separate administrative services agreement, DIMA provides administrative services to the Fund. The Board considered the experience and skills of senior management and investment personnel and the resources made available to such personnel. The Board also considered the risks to DIMA in sponsoring or managing the Fund, including financial, operational and reputational risks, the potential economic impact to DIMA from such risks and DIMA’s approach to addressing such risks. The Board reviewed the Fund’s performance over short-term and long-term periods and compared those returns to various agreed-upon performance measures, including a peer universe compiled using information supplied by iMoneyNet, an independent fund data service. The Board also noted that it has put into place a process of identifying “Funds in Review” (e.g., funds performing poorly relative to a peer universe), and receives additional reporting from DIMA regarding such funds and, where appropriate, DIMA’s plans to address underperformance. The Board believes this process is an effective manner of identifying and addressing underperforming funds. Based on the information provided, the Board noted that, for the one- and three-year periods ended December 31, 2021, the Fund’s gross performance (Class A shares) was in the 3rd quartile and 4th quartile, respectively, of the applicable iMoneyNet universe (the 1st quartile being the best performers and the 4th quartile being the worst performers).



**Fees and Expenses.** The Board considered the Fund's investment management fee schedule, operating expenses and total expense ratios, and comparative information provided by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge") and the Fee Consultant regarding investment management fee rates paid to other investment advisors by similar funds (1st quartile being the most favorable and 4th quartile being the least favorable). With respect to management fees paid to other investment advisors by similar funds, the Board noted that the contractual fee rates paid by the Fund, which include a 0.097% fee paid to DIMA under the Fund's administrative services agreement, were lower than the median (2nd quartile) of the applicable Broadridge peer group (based on Broadridge data provided as of December 31, 2021). Based on Broadridge data provided as of December 31, 2021, the Board noted that the Fund's Class A shares total (net) operating expenses were lower than the median (2nd quartile) of the applicable Broadridge expense universe (less any applicable 12b-1 fees). The Board noted the expense limitation agreed to by DIMA. The Board also noted the voluntary fee waivers implemented by DIMA from time to time in recent years to ensure the Fund maintained a positive yield. The Board considered the Fund's management fee rate as compared to fees charged by DIMA to comparable DWS U.S. registered funds ("DWS Funds") and considered differences between the Fund and the comparable DWS Funds. The information requested by the Board as part of its review of fees and expenses also included information about institutional accounts (including any sub-advised funds and accounts) and funds offered primarily to European investors ("DWS Europe Funds") managed by DWS Group. The Board noted that DIMA indicated that DWS Group does not manage any institutional accounts or DWS Europe Funds comparable to the Fund.

On the basis of the information provided, the Board concluded that management fees were reasonable and appropriate in light of the nature, quality and extent of services provided by DIMA.

**Profitability.** The Board reviewed detailed information regarding revenues received by DIMA under the Agreement. The Board considered the estimated costs to DIMA, and pre-tax profits realized by DIMA, from advising the DWS Funds, as well as estimates of the pre-tax profits attributable to managing the Fund in particular. The Board also received information regarding the estimated enterprise-wide profitability of DIMA and its affiliates with respect to all fund services in totality and by fund. The Board and the Fee Consultant reviewed DIMA's methodology in allocating its costs to the management of the Fund. Based on the information provided, the Board concluded that the pre-tax profits realized by DIMA in connection with the management of the Fund were not unreasonable. The Board also reviewed certain publicly available information regarding the profitability of certain similar investment management firms. The Board noted that, while information regarding the profitability of such firms is limited (and in some cases is not necessarily prepared on a comparable basis), DIMA and its affiliates' overall profitability with respect to the DWS Funds (after taking into account distribution and other services provided to the funds by DIMA and its affiliates) was lower than the overall profitability levels of most comparable firms for which such data was available.

**Economies of Scale.** The Board considered whether there are economies of scale with respect to the management of the Fund and whether the Fund benefits from any economies of scale. The Board noted that the Fund's investment management fee schedule includes fee breakpoints. The Board concluded that the Fund's fee schedule represents an appropriate sharing between the Fund and DIMA of such economies of scale as may exist in the management of the Fund at current asset levels.

**Other Benefits to DIMA and Its Affiliates.** The Board also considered the character and amount of other incidental or "fall-out" benefits received by DIMA and its affiliates, including any fees received by DIMA for administrative services provided to the Fund and any fees received by an affiliate of DIMA for transfer agency services provided to the Fund. The Board also considered benefits to DIMA related to brokerage and soft-dollar allocations, including allocating brokerage to pay for research generated by parties other than the executing broker dealers, which pertain primarily to funds investing in equity securities. In addition, the Board considered the incidental public relations benefits to DIMA related to DWS Funds advertising and cross-selling opportunities among DIMA products and services. The Board considered these benefits in reaching its conclusion that the Fund's management fees were reasonable.

**Compliance.** The Board considered the significant attention and resources dedicated by DIMA to its compliance processes in recent years. The Board noted in particular (i) the experience, seniority and time commitment of the individuals serving as DIMA's and the Fund's chief compliance officers and (ii) the substantial commitment of resources by DIMA and its affiliates to compliance matters, including the retention of compliance personnel.

Based on all of the information considered and the conclusions reached, the Board determined that the continuation of the Agreement is in the best interests of the Fund. In making this determination, the Board did not give particular weight to any single factor identified above. The Board considered these factors over the course of numerous meetings, certain of which were in executive session with only the Independent



Trustees and counsel present. It is possible that individual Independent Trustees may have weighed these factors differently in reaching their individual decisions to approve the continuation of the Agreement.

## Notes

## Notes



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