



# Investors Capital Trust plc

## 2014 Annual Report and Accounts

For the year to 31 March 2014

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The Association of  
Investment Companies

**This document is important and requires your immediate attention. Shareholders who are in any doubt as to what action to take should consult an appropriate independent financial adviser immediately. If you have sold or otherwise transferred all of your Shares in the Company, you should immediately send this document and the accompanying form of proxy to the purchaser or transferee, or to the stockbroker, bank or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was, or is being, effected, for transmission to the purchaser or transferee.**

# Company Summary

## **The Company**

The Company is an investment trust and its shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange. It is a member of the Association of Investment Companies ('AIC').

Assets attributable to shareholders at 31 March 2014 were £126.6 million.

## **Objective and Policy**

To provide an attractive return to shareholders each year in the form of dividends and/or capital repayments, together with prospects for capital growth.

The Company's portfolio is managed in two parts. The first part comprises investments in UK equities and equity-related securities of large and mid-sized companies (the Equities Portfolio) and the second part comprises investments in fixed interest and other higher yielding stocks and securities (the Higher Yield Portfolio).

The Company's investment policy is set out in the Report of the Directors.

## **Management**

The Board has appointed F&C Investment Business Limited (the 'Manager') as investment manager. The notice period for termination of the contract between the Company and the Manager is 6 months. Further details of the management contract, including fees, are provided in the Notes to the Accounts.

## **Capital Structure**

The Company's capital structure offers shareholders the opportunity to receive quarterly distributions in the form of either dividends, capital repayments, or both, to suit their own particular circumstances. The Company has two classes of shares: A shares and B shares.

The rights of each class are identical, save in respect of the right to participate in distributions of dividends and capital. The net asset value attributable to each class of shares is the same.

Only A shares are entitled to dividends paid by the Company. B shares, instead of receiving dividends, receive a capital repayment at the same time as, and in an amount equal to, each dividend paid on the A shares. For certain shareholders, there may be tax or other advantages in receiving a capital repayment rather than a dividend. Shares may be held and traded within units, each unit comprises three A shares and one B share.

In addition, the Company has a fixed rate bank loan of £18 million for a term to 28 September 2017.

## **How to Invest**

F&C Asset Management plc operates a number of investment plans which facilitate investment in the securities of the Company. Details are contained on page 60.

You may also invest through a stockbroker.

## **ISA Status**

The Company's shares are eligible for ISAs.

## **Website**

The internet address for the Company is [www.investorscapital.co.uk](http://www.investorscapital.co.uk)

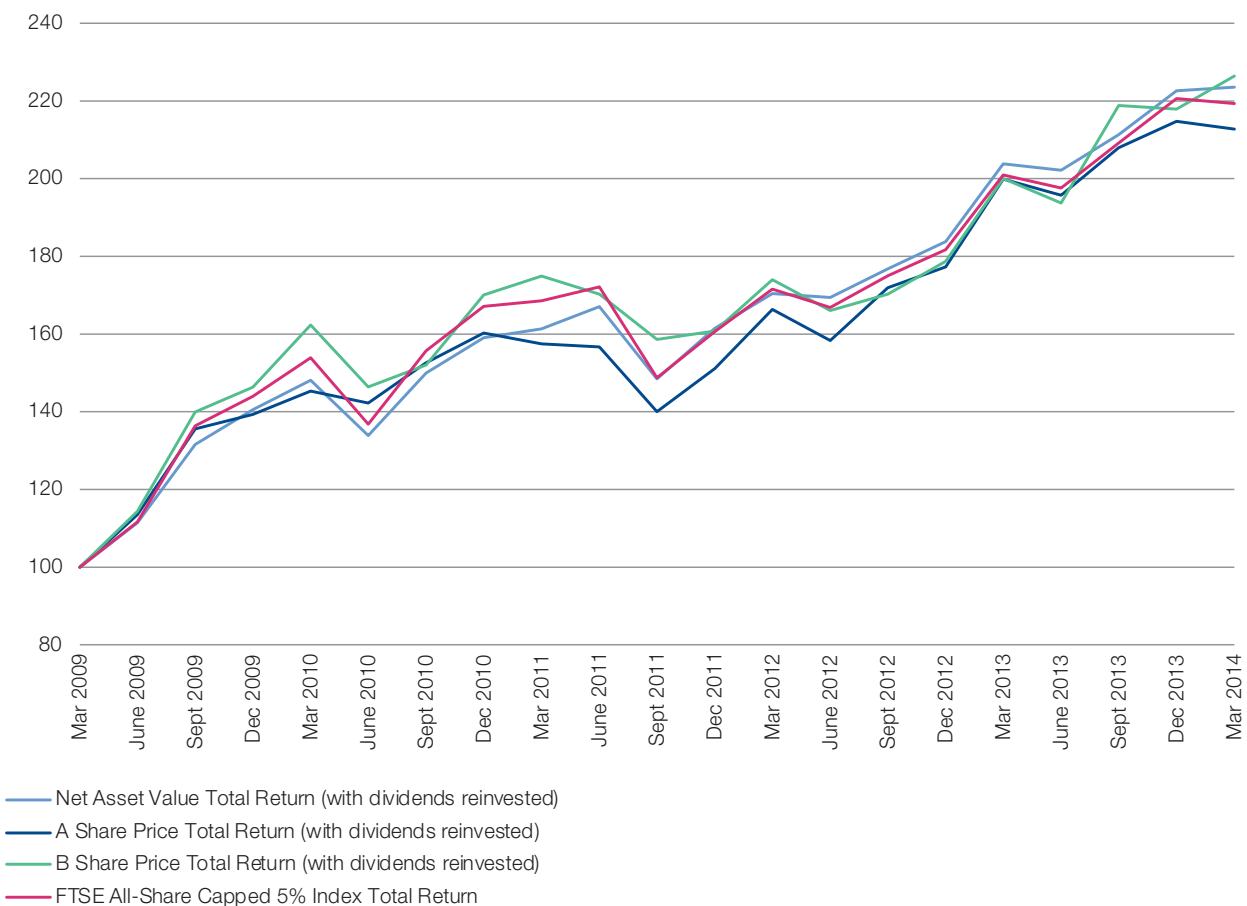
## **Telephone**

F&C Investment Business Limited Investment Services  
0845 600 3030

# Financial Highlights

- Total distributions for the year to 31 March 2014 of 4.37p per share, an increase of 2.1 per cent compared to the prior year
- Distribution yield of 4.6 and 4.3 per cent on A and B shares respectively at 31 March 2014, compared to the yield on the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index of 3.4 per cent
- Net asset value total return per share for the year was 9.7 per cent, compared to the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index total return of 9.1 per cent
- Net asset value total return per share since launch on 1 March 2007 was 56.8 per cent, compared to the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index total return of 47.0 per cent

Investors Capital Trust plc Net Asset Value Total Return and Share Price Total Return over five years



# Performance Summary

	Year to 31 March 2014	Five years to 31 March 2014	Period from launch on 1 March 2007 to 31 March 2014
<b>Total Return</b>			
Net asset value total return per A and B share and per unit (debt at fair value) <sup>†</sup>	<b>9.7%</b>	123.6%	56.8%
FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index	<b>9.1%</b>	119.3%	47.0%

	Year to 31 March 2014	Year to 31 March 2013
<b>Revenue and Distributions</b>		
Distributions per A share and B share	<b>4.37p</b>	4.28p
Distributions per unit*	<b>17.48p</b>	17.12p
Revenue reserves (before fourth quarter's distribution)	<b>£4.1m</b>	£3.5m
Equities Portfolio yield relative to FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index	<b>103%</b>	108%

	31 March 2014	31 March 2013
<b>Capital</b>		
Total assets (less current liabilities)	<b>£144.6m</b>	£139.5m
Net asset value per A share and B share (debt at fair value) <sup>†</sup>	<b>102.84p</b>	97.87p
Net asset value per unit (debt at fair value) <sup>**</sup>	<b>411.36p</b>	391.48p
FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index	<b>3,740.28</b>	3,544.77
A share price	<b>95.0p</b>	93.5p
B share price	<b>102.3p</b>	94.5p
Unit price	<b>375.0p</b>	369.0p
<b>Discount</b> (% difference between net asset value and price)		
A shares	<b>(7.6)%</b>	(4.5)%
B shares	<b>(0.5)%</b>	(3.4)%
Unit	<b>(8.8)%</b>	(5.7)%

<b>Gearing<sup>†</sup></b>		
Net gearing	<b>10.0%</b>	10.1%

<b>Ongoing Charges<sup>§</sup></b>		
as percentage of average shareholders' funds	<b>1.06%</b>	1.15%

	A shares		B shares		Units	
	2013/14 High	2013/14 Low	2013/14 High	2013/14 Low	2013/14 High	2013/14 Low
<b>Highs/Lows for the Year</b>						
Net asset value per share	<b>105.8p</b>	<b>93.0p</b>	<b>105.8p</b>	<b>93.0p</b>	<b>423.2p</b>	<b>372.0p</b>
Share price	<b>97.5p</b>	<b>90.0p</b>	<b>103.5p</b>	<b>90.5p</b>	<b>375.0p</b>	<b>358.0p</b>
(Discount)/premium	<b>(1.9)%</b>	<b>(10.4)%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>(7.8)%</b>	<b>(2.6)%</b>	<b>(11.6)%</b>

\* A unit consists of three A shares and one B share.

† The gearing figure indicates the extra amount by which shareholders' funds would rise or fall if total assets were to rise or fall. A figure of zero per cent means that the Company has a nil geared position. A negative number means the Company holds net cash after offsetting borrowings.

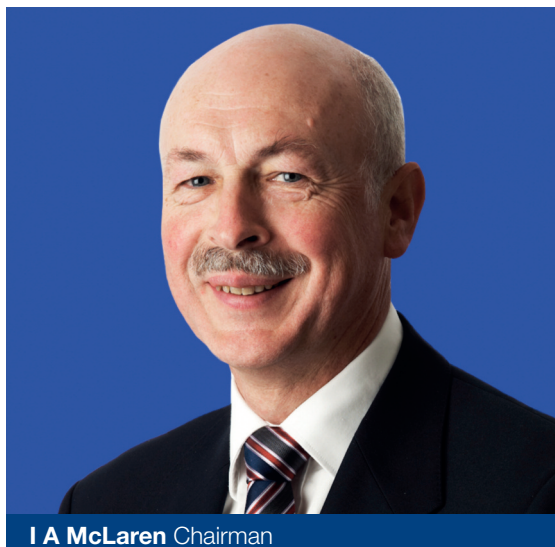
Net gearing = the percentage figure of investments held divided by assets attributable to shareholders.

‡ A reconciliation between the net asset value (debt at fair value) and the net asset value per the Balance Sheet is shown in note 3 to the accounts.

§ Excludes the performance fee and assumes the management fee is payable at the rate of 0.75 per cent, per annum of the net asset value of the Company, being the reduced rate which applies from 1 April 2014. Including the performance fee and the management fee rate which applied during the year to 31 March 2014, the Ongoing Charges were 1.51% (2013: 1.15%).

Sources: F&C Investment Business Limited and Datastream

# Chairman's Statement



**I A McLaren** Chairman

The Company's investment objective is to provide an attractive return to shareholders in the form of dividends and/or capital repayments, together with prospects for capital growth.

The Company's investment portfolio is managed in two parts. The first part comprises investments in UK equities and equity related securities (the Equities Portfolio) and the second part investments in fixed interest and other higher yielding securities (the Higher Yield Portfolio). At 31 March 2014, 83.2 per cent. of total assets was allocated to the Equities Portfolio and 13.4 per cent. to the Higher Yield Portfolio. The remaining 3.4 per cent. was held as cash and cash equivalents.

## **Investment Performance**

In my interim report to shareholders last year I was of the view that while it would take some time for economic conditions to normalise in the wake of the worst financial crisis of the post-war era, the outlook appeared to have brightened. Indeed the combination of improving economic growth prospects and diminishing macro-economic concerns, particularly in relation to the Eurozone, together with ongoing support from Central Banks, provided a generally constructive backdrop for risk assets and, in particular, equities. Throughout the year there were periods of acute investor nervousness, most notably relating to the timing and

extent of the winding down of the US Quantitative Easing programme and concerns over the health of the Chinese economy. The US budget impasse, which resulted in a partial shutdown of the federal government in October last year, also took its toll on sentiment while at the same time doing little for the credibility of US policymakers around the world. More recently, the rise in global geopolitical tensions as a result of Russia's intervention in Ukraine cast a shadow over financial markets.

The Company's Equities Portfolio produced a total return of 10.5 per cent. during the year to 31 March 2014, while the Higher Yield Portfolio returned 6.9 per cent. Returns from the Equities Portfolio and the Higher Yield Portfolio, combined with the effect of gearing, resulted in a net asset value total return for the A and B shares of 9.7 per cent. for the year. This return is ahead of the 9.1 per cent. total return for the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index, the Company's benchmark.

Since the launch of the Company on 1 March 2007 to 31 March 2014, the Company has outperformed its benchmark index. The net asset value per share total return performance of the Company has been 56.8 per cent. which compares favourably with the 47.0 per cent. return from the benchmark FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index.

## **Earnings**

The Company achieved total revenue income of £5.5m for the year. The yield on the Equities Portfolio was 3.5 per cent. as at 31 March 2014, compared to the yield on the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index of 3.4 per cent.

The Company's revenue was broadly unchanged over the previous year. The income from the Equities Portfolio increased over the year with the majority of investee companies continuing to deliver good dividend growth. This was, however, offset by a lower level of income from the Higher Yield Portfolio, partially due to the reduction in the level of the Company's bank borrowings in September 2012 which resulted in a commensurate reduction in the absolute size of this portfolio. The low level of

deposit interest reflects the continued low level of interest rates receivable on cash balances.

Notwithstanding the increase in income from the Equities Portfolio, the pace of dividend growth from the UK market as a whole has continued to slow over the past couple of years reflecting a lacklustre corporate earnings performance from the market as a whole. Much of the earnings disappointment relates to the energy and resource sectors where profits have been under pressure and foreign exchange headwinds have been unhelpful.

The US dollar exchange rate has an important influence on the Company's revenue as over one third of the income from the Equities Portfolio comes from UK-listed companies that declare dividends in US dollars. Over the course of the year the US dollar depreciated relative to sterling by 9.7 per cent. This had the impact of tempering the rate of growth in dividend income from the Equities Portfolio as a whole.

After deducting the fourth quarter dividend, the Company had revenue reserves of £3.1m at 31 March 2014.

### **Management Fee**

I am pleased to report that with effect from the end of the Company's financial year, the Company has agreed terms with the Manager for a reduction in the level of the base management fee combined with the removal of the performance fee.

The base management fee payable during the year to 31 March 2014 was 0.9 per cent. per annum of the net asset value of the Company. Under the new arrangements, with effect from 1 April 2014, the management fee will be reduced to 0.75 per cent. per annum on the net asset value of the Company.

It was also agreed that the current period for the performance fee, previously calculated over a five year period, would terminate on 31 March 2014. On this basis, the Company's performance fee was measured for the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014. Due to the outperformance by the

Company of its benchmark over this two year period, a performance fee of £395,000 was payable at 31 March 2014. The performance fee will cease to apply from 1 April 2014 onwards.

### **Dividends and Capital Repayments**

Dividends to A shareholders and capital repayments to B shareholders are paid quarterly in August, November, February and May each year. In respect of the distributions for the Company's first three quarters, the dividends paid on the A shares and capital repayments on the B shares were 1.0825p per share for each quarter. A fourth quarter dividend of 1.1225p per share was paid to A shareholders, and a capital repayment of the same amount to B shareholders, on 2 May 2014. This results in a dividend/capital repayment of 4.37p per share in respect of the year to 31 March 2014. This represents an increase of 2.1 per cent. compared to the distribution for the previous year and a distribution yield for A shareholders of 4.6 per cent. and for B shareholders of 4.3 per cent., based on the A share price of 95.0 pence and the B share price of 102.3 pence as at 31 March 2014. These yields compare favourably with the yield on the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index of 3.4 per cent. at that date. For shareholders that hold units, the distribution yield was 4.7 per cent. based on a unit price of 375.0 pence as at 31 March 2014.

### **Capital Structure**

The Company has two classes of shares: A shares and B shares. The net asset value attributable to the A shares and to the B shares is the same. The rights of each class are identical, save that only the A shares are entitled to receive dividends, while the B shares instead receive a capital repayment at the same time as, and in an equal amount to, each dividend. The 'Capital Structure' section of the Annual Report provides further information on the A and B shares.

The Company has a £18m loan facility for a term to 28 September 2017 at a fixed rate of interest of 3.15 per cent. per annum.

# Chairman's Statement (continued)

## **Discount and buy backs**

The Company's A share price was at a discount to net asset value of 7.6 per cent. at 31 March 2014. The Company's B shares were at a discount to net asset value of 0.5 per cent. at the same date. Over the year, the price of the Company's A shares traded at an average discount to net asset value per share of 6.6 per cent. and the Company's B shares traded at an average discount of 2.6 per cent. The Company has a stated buy back policy and, in accordance with this policy, the Company bought back 1,250,000 A shares during the year at an average discount of over 5 per cent. to net asset value, thereby adding value for existing shareholders. The Company also resold 655,000 B shares out of treasury at a premium to the prevailing net asset value at the time of resale.

## **Alternative Investment Fund Managers (AIFM) Directive**

As highlighted in the Company's interim report, the AIFM Directive is European legislation which creates a European-wide framework for regulating managers of alternative investment funds. Closed-ended investment companies fall within the remit of these new regulations. The Company has until July 2014, the end of the transitional period, to register and comply with the provisions of the AIFM Directive. The Board is pleased to announce that it expects to enter into arrangements with the Manager, F&C Investment Business Limited, shortly to act as the Company's Alternative Investment Fund Manager, at no additional cost to the Company. As required under the Directive, the Company will also appoint a Depositary, JPMorgan, with such appointment to commence from July

2014. This appointment will result in an additional cost to the Company, although the Board does not expect this cost to be significant.

## **Scottish Independence**

As a Scottish-registered Company, the Board is aware that there is uncertainty arising amongst investors in relation to the referendum on Scottish independence to be held on 18 September 2014. The Board has taken advice and has given consideration to the implications that this might have for the Company. However, it considers that it is too early at this stage to prejudge the outcome of a vote, or of any subsequent negotiations or how they may affect the Company and its shareholders. The Board is committed to acting in the best interests of shareholders going forward.

## **Outlook**

The UK equity market has recovered strongly since the lows of 2009. However, over the past two years, equity market returns have been driven by a re-rating of the market rather than through underlying growth in corporate earnings. While valuation metrics are not unduly stretched, the valuation gap between equities and other asset classes has narrowed. Against this background it is encouraging that the corporate sector remains in good health and the economic outlook continues to improve.

**Iain McLaren**

Chairman

14 May 2014



# Business Model and Strategy

As explained within the Report of the Directors on page 19, the Company carries on business as an investment trust.

## **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall stewardship of the Company, including investment and dividend policies, corporate strategy, gearing, corporate governance procedures and risk management. Biographical details of the Directors, all of whom are non-executive, can be found on page 18. The Board consists of four male Directors and one female Director. The Company has no executive Directors or employees.

The Board has contractually delegated the management of the investment portfolio, and other services, to F&C Investment Business Limited. A summary of the terms of the management agreement is contained in note 4 to the accounts.

## **Investment Strategy**

The Company's investment strategy is set out in its objective and investment policy below.

### **Objective**

The Company's objective is to provide an attractive return to shareholders in the form of dividends and/or capital returns, together with prospects for capital growth.

### **Investment Policy**

In pursuit of its objective, the Company's investment policy is to manage the Company's investment portfolio in two distinct parts. The first part of the Company's portfolio presently comprises investments in UK equities (the Equities Portfolio) and the second part comprises investments in fixed interest and other higher yielding stocks and securities (the Higher Yield Portfolio). The proportion of the Company's portfolio represented by the Equities Portfolio and the Higher Yield Portfolio will vary as a result of market movements and the proportion may also be varied by the Board and Manager over time, depending upon market circumstances, in pursuit of the Company's investment objective.

The Equities Portfolio is invested predominantly in UK equities and equity-related securities of large and mid-sized companies. The Manager's objective for the Equities Portfolio will be to achieve a total return in excess of that of the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index. In managing the Equities Portfolio, the Manager will approach portfolio construction with the aim of selecting stocks which are expected to be core long-term holdings. This entails having relatively low turnover in the Equities Portfolio with approximately 50 holdings at any given time. The Manager expects few individual holdings to exceed five per cent. of the Equities Portfolio, and intends to spread stock weightings across the Equities Portfolio; the effect of this should be to spread investment risk.

The Higher Yield Portfolio is invested predominantly in corporate bonds (both investment grade and non-investment grade) but may also be invested, from time to time, in other higher yielding securities where the Manager believes performance could be enhanced and/or portfolio risk reduced without prejudicing the target yield. The Higher Yield Portfolio is diversified by stock, sector and credit risk and is expected to comprise over 50 holdings. A majority of the fixed interest securities within the Higher Yield Portfolio is expected to be Sterling denominated but securities with denominations other than Sterling will also be held to provide portfolio diversification, with overseas currency exposure being hedged.

Income may be enhanced from the Equities Portfolio by writing call options, but only where the portfolio has an existing holding and the holding is greater than the amount of stock subject to the call option. The Manager will limit the percentage of the Equities Portfolio used to generate call premium to 5 per cent by value at any one time. The Company may use derivatives for efficient portfolio management from time to time.

The Company has the power under its Articles to borrow an amount up to 100 per cent of the Company's Adjusted Capital and Reserves. The

# Business Model and Strategy (continued)

Directors currently intend that the aggregate borrowings of the Company will be limited to approximately 20 per cent of the Company's gross assets immediately following drawdown of any new borrowings. The Directors will, however, retain flexibility to increase or decrease the level of gearing to take account of changing market circumstances and in pursuit of the Company's investment objectives.

Any material change to the investment policy of the Company will only be made with shareholders' approval.

As required by the Listing Rules, the Company has stated that it has a policy to invest no more than 15 per cent of gross assets in other listed investment companies.

## **Investment of Assets**

At each Board meeting, the Board receives a presentation from the fund manager which includes a review of investment performance, recent portfolio activity and a market outlook. It also considers compliance with the investment policy and other investment restrictions.

The Company invests in companies which the Manager believes will generate a combination of long-term growth in capital and income for shareholders. The selection of investments is based on analysis of, amongst other things, market positioning and competitive advantage, financial strength, credit risk and cashflow characteristics.

Investment risks are spread through holding a wide range of securities in different industrial sectors. As at 31 March 2014, the portfolio was made up of 175 investments comprising 60 in the Equities Portfolio and 115 in the Higher Yield Portfolio. The Managers make use of third party risk systems to monitor investment risk. An analysis of the portfolio is contained on the page entitled 'Classification of Investments' and the

largest investments are shown on pages entitled 'Equities Portfolio' and 'Higher Yield Portfolio'.

## **Gearing**

The Company's borrowings consist of a bank loan, on which the interest rate has been fixed of £18 million, which is described in more detail in the notes to the accounts. The Board receives recommendations on gearing levels from the Manager and it is responsible for setting the gearing range within which the Manager may operate.

## **Shareholder Value**

The Board and Manager recognise the importance of both marketing and share buy-backs in enhancing shareholder value. In terms of marketing, the Manager offers a range of private investor savings schemes, details of which can be found in the 'How to Invest' section of this report on page 60. In addition, meetings are held regularly with current and prospective shareholders and stockbroking analysts covering the investment trust sector. Share buy-backs help reduce the volatility of the discount and enhance the net asset value per share for continuing shareholders. Communication of up-to-date portfolio information is made through the Company's website.

While the Directors will at all times retain discretion over whether or not to repurchase Shares, it will be the Company's policy, in the absence of unforeseen or extreme circumstances and subject to its policy of maintaining the A : B share ratio within the Range (72.5 : 27.5 and 77.5 : 22.5), to repurchase Shares of either class when there are willing sellers and the market price stands at a discount to net asset value of 5 per cent or more. Shares will not be bought back at a premium to net asset value. Shares which are bought back by the Company may be cancelled or may be held in treasury. There is no limit on the amount of shares the Company can hold in treasury. Shares held in treasury may be resold, subject to conditions on dilution to net asset value. For further details see the 'Treasury Shares' section on page 23.

## Responsible Ownership

The Manager is a leader in the field of socially responsible investment and, with the support of the Board, actively engages with investee companies and managers of funds in which the Company invests. Environmental policies and social, human rights, community and ethical issues are, therefore, where appropriate, taken into consideration with regard to investment decisions on behalf of the Company. The Company has no employees and the Board is composed entirely of non-executive Directors. As an investment trust, the Company has no significant direct social, human rights, community or environmental responsibilities. The Board notes the Manager's statement of compliance with the UK Stewardship Code issued by the Financial Reporting Council in July 2010, which can be found on its website at [www.fandc.com/ukstewardshipcode](http://www.fandc.com/ukstewardshipcode).

## Review of Performance and Outlook

The Company's performance in meeting its objectives is measured against key performance indicators ('KPIs') as set out below. Reviews of the Company's returns during the financial year, the position of the Company at the year end, and the outlook for the coming year are contained in the Chairman's Statement on pages 4 to 6 and the Manager's Review on pages 11 to 12, both of which form part of this Strategic Report.

## Principal Risks and Uncertainties and Risk Management

As stated within the Report of the Audit Committee on pages 28 to 29, the Board applies the principles detailed in the internal control guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and has established an ongoing process designed to meet the needs of the Company in managing the risks and uncertainties to which it is exposed.

The Company's assets consist mainly of listed equity and fixed interest securities and its principal risks are therefore market-related. More detailed

explanations of these risks and the way in which they are managed are contained in note 21 to the accounts.

Other risks faced by the Company include the following:

- External – events such as terrorism, protectionism, inflation or deflation, economic recessions and movements in interest rates and exchange rates could affect share prices in particular markets.
- Investment and strategic – incorrect strategy, asset allocation, stock selection and the use of gearing could all lead to poor returns for shareholders.
- Regulatory – breach of regulatory rules could lead to suspension of the Company's Stock Exchange listing, financial penalties, or a qualified audit report. Breach of section 1158 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 could lead to the Company being subject to tax on capital gains.
- Operational – failure of the Manager's accounting systems or disruption to the Manager's business, or that of third party service providers, could lead to an inability to provide accurate reporting and monitoring, leading to a loss of shareholders' confidence.
- Financial – inadequate controls by the Manager or third party service providers could lead to misappropriation of assets. Inappropriate accounting policies or failure to comply with accounting standards could lead to misreporting or breaches of regulations. Breaching loan covenants could lead to a loss of shareholders' confidence and financial loss for shareholders.
- Referendum on Scottish Independence – the Company is a Scottish registered company and the Board is mindful that there is uncertainty

# Business Model and Strategy (continued)

arising in relation to the referendum on Scottish Independence which is due to take place on 18 September 2014. Such matters of uncertainty include jurisdiction and taxation of savings and pension plans, financial services regulation, investment trust status, currency and membership of the European Union. The Board considers that, should the vote be in favour of independence, there will be a transitional period during which there will be an opportunity to assess the new situation and take any appropriate action.

The Board seeks to mitigate and manage these risks through continual review, policy setting and reliance upon contractual obligations. It also regularly monitors the investment environment and the management of the Company's investment portfolio.

## **Key Performance Indicators**

The Board uses a number of performance measures to assess the Company's success in meeting its objectives. The key performance indicators are as follows:

- Distribution level of A and B shares.
- Net asset value total returns relative to the total return on the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index.

- Discount of the share price of the A and B shares relative to net asset value.

- Ongoing charges as a percentage of shareholders' funds.

The Company's performance against the key performance indicators for the year under review is reported within the Chairman's Statement on pages 4 to 6, the Manager's Review on pages 11 to 12 and the Performance Summary on page 3. A historic record of these indicators is contained in the Financial Highlights on page 2 and in the Historic Record on page 61.

By order of the Board  
For F&C Investment Business Limited  
Company Secretary  
80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU

14 May 2014

# Manager's Review

## Economic & Market Review

Over the past year global economic and financial conditions have continued to improve. The post-crisis global economic recovery which began five years ago has been lacklustre and uneven, constrained by the burden of fiscal austerity and deleveraging across developed economies. It has also required significant policy support from central banks through both conventional and unconventional means. The recovery has, however, been enduring, particularly in the United States. The US recovery has been supported by a strengthening housing market and improving consumer and business confidence. This has helped offset the effect of government spending cuts. Indeed, as the Company's financial year began, the then US Federal Reserve Chairman, Ben Bernanke, surprised financial markets by suggesting that the Federal Reserve may wind-down its quantitative easing programme citing the improvement in economic conditions. This statement triggered a sharp correction in both equity and bond markets, and emerging market currencies. Speculation over the timing and extent of so called "tapering" was to be a source of considerable market volatility throughout the Company's year. In the absence of any change to the economic outlook it is expected that the Federal Reserve will steadily reduce its asset-purchase programme through 2014. For the year to 31 March 2014 the FTSE All Share Capped 5% Index, the Company's benchmark index, returned 9.1 per cent in total return terms.

The UK economy narrowly avoided re-entering recession at the beginning of 2013, however, it then went on to confound the sceptics by proving to be one of the strongest growing developed economies. UK economic growth during the first quarter of 2014 was the fastest it has been in almost seven years boosted by falling unemployment, a buoyant housing market and improving credit conditions. Although UK base rates have remained at the record low level of 0.5% since early 2009, it appears that it is only within the last year that falling bank funding costs, helped by an easing of tensions in the Eurozone together with other initiatives such as the Bank of England's Funding for Lending scheme, have been passed on to their end customers. Growing confidence in the UK economic recovery has pushed Sterling to a five year high against the US dollar in anticipation that the Bank of England may have to consider raising interest rates sooner than previously expected.

Economic data released in recent weeks has also given cause for optimism that the Eurozone's nascent recovery is broadening from its core to the periphery, boosting hopes of more stable and balanced growth in the year ahead. Recovery in the region has been led by Germany and driven by manufacturing exports and investment, however there is now evidence of a narrowing in performance between the region's strongest and weakest economies. Nevertheless the legacy of the financial crisis is still in evidence; unemployment across the Eurozone remains close to record high levels and inflation is well below the European Central Bank's target level of two per cent, raising concerns of deflation and increasing pressure on the ECB to cut interest rates and consider other stimulus measures in order to protect the Eurozone's fledgling recovery. A clear external risk to the Eurozone recovery is the escalating tension relating to the situation in Ukraine.

Over the past year the structural shift from developed to emerging economies has slowed. Most notably, the pace of economic growth in China fell to the lowest level in over a decade in part due to policies aimed at rebalancing the economy from credit fuelled, investment-led growth to a more sustainable domestic consumer-orientated growth model. This adjustment is likely to take many years, however in the meantime the improvement in the global economy is good news for China as developed economies form its biggest export market.

The UK corporate sector, which is highly diversified internationally, is in good health with profitability robust and balance sheets strong. However, corporate earnings for the UK market as a whole have made little headway over the last couple of years due mainly to the disappointing performance of the resources and energy sectors. Consequently, as the equity market has risen, valuation metrics have become less compelling. Unless we see an acceleration in the pace of global growth it is difficult to see a sustainable improvement in earnings and dividends. In this regard the recent strength of Sterling is also unhelpful. While a strong pound helps curb inflation by reducing the cost of imported goods, it also puts pressure on the profits and dividends of some of the UK's largest listed companies.

# Manager's Review (continued)

## Portfolio Review

Returns from the Company's Equities Portfolio and the Higher Yield Portfolio, combined with the effect of gearing, resulted in a Net Asset Value total return of 9.7 per cent over the year to 31 March 2014. This compares with a total return of 9.1 per cent for the FTSE-All Share Capped 5% Index, the Company's benchmark.

Within the Equities Portfolio we favour companies which have the ability to grow earnings and dividends in real terms over the longer term, have strong balance sheets, generate excess cash flow beyond the reinvestment requirements of the business and have a proven management team with a commitment to dividend growth. This approach has been central to delivering outperformance against the Company's benchmark both during the past year and over the longer term. The Equities Portfolio returned 10.5 per cent in total return terms over the year to 31 March 2014.

The past year proved to be another good year for UK mid-sized companies, many of which benefited from a stronger earnings and dividend growth profile than their larger FTSE 100 counterparts. Mid-cap portfolio holdings that made notable contributions to performance included Booker, the UK's leading food wholesaler, Berendsen, the textile cleaning and supply services business, and Howden Joinery, which designs, manufactures and sells fitted kitchens. All three companies were mentioned in last year's report for the same reason. Several other holdings recorded exceptional share price gains during the year, including telecommunication group BT, aviation services group BBA and the owner and operator of the Premier Inn and Costa Coffee franchises, Whitbread. At a sector level, the strongest relative contribution to performance came from the resources sectors of Oil & Gas and Mining due to a combination of good stock selection together with an underweight exposure to this relatively poor performing area of the market. In contrast the financial sectors recovered strongly during the year and our underweight exposure to this area generally, together with our preference for HSBC over Lloyds within the banking sector, provided the largest negative contribution.

The Company's Higher Yield Portfolio is comprised of a broadly diversified portfolio of predominantly investment grade corporate bonds. The Higher Yield

Portfolio returned 6.9 per cent in total return terms over the year to 31 March 2014. During the past year central banks around the world continued to adopt a highly accommodative monetary policy, however, news that the Federal Reserve was contemplating winding down its asset-purchase programme triggered a sharp sell-off in gilt and treasury markets and, to a lesser extent, European government bond markets. Tapering did not in fact begin until much later in the year which allowed bond markets to regain some of their composure. Meanwhile the steady improvement in the global economic backdrop, combined with subdued inflation and a healthy investor demand, resulted in a narrowing of spreads in both investment grade and high yield credit markets. The Higher Yield Portfolio's bias towards lower rated investment grade and high yield credit, together with its short maturity profile, meant that the spread compression more than compensated for the rise in government bond yields over the year.

## Outlook

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the post crisis global economic recovery. Recent evidence gives cause for cautious optimism that the recovery is becoming more established and that the coming year may mark the transition to a more stable and enduring economic expansion. Global inflation remains subdued, suggesting that central banks will remain accommodative and that any move towards a normalisation of monetary policy will be gradual. Along with the US and Germany, the UK economy is likely to remain one of the stronger growing developed economies in the year ahead. Following the rally and re-rating of equity markets, valuation levels now appear less compelling despite strong corporate sector fundamentals. However, against a background of stronger global growth, increasing business confidence and low borrowing costs, we expect the recent upturn in merger and acquisition activity to gather pace and remain supportive for equity markets.

## Rodger McNair

Investment Manager  
F&C Investment Business Limited  
14 May 2014

# Investment Managers and Investment Process



**Rodger McNair**  
Lead Investment Manager

## **Rodger McNair**

### Lead Investment Manager

He has over 25 years' investment experience and was appointed lead manager of the predecessor Investors Capital Trust in June 1999.

## **Investment Managers**

Investors Capital Trust plc is managed by F&C Investment Business Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of F&C Asset Management plc (F&C). F&C is a leading asset manager in both the UK and Europe with some £82.1 billion (at 31 December 2013) of funds under management.

F&C provides management and other services to a range of investment trust clients.

On 7 May 2014, Bank of Montreal completed the acquisition of F&C through its wholly owned subsidiary, BMO Global Asset Management (Europe) Limited. F&C is now a part of BMO Financial Group.

## **Investment Process**

The investment portfolio of Investors Capital Trust is split into an Equities Portfolio and a Higher Yield Portfolio.

### **Equities Portfolio**

The Equities Portfolio is a portfolio of predominantly large and mid-sized capitalisation UK equities selected from the FTSE All-Share Index.

The investment philosophy is based on the knowledge that equity investment is one of the most

reliable methods of preserving and growing capital over time.

Favoured companies are those which have the ability to sustain above-average growth in earnings and dividends over the longer term, have strong balance sheets and interest cover, are inherently cash-generative and have a stable and proven management team.

The style of management is to make long-term strategic investments; however the basic approach does not preclude the taking of a more pragmatic view of the valuation of companies through the business cycle.

Investors Capital Trust has a relatively concentrated portfolio and typically has modest portfolio turnover.

### **Higher Yield Portfolio**

Day-to-day management of the fixed interest investments in the Higher Yield Portfolio is undertaken by the F&C Investment Business Limited specialist fixed interest team. The Higher Yield Portfolio is invested predominantly in corporate bonds. A disciplined in-house credit analysis process is adopted.

# Classification of Investments

## Total Portfolio Summary (at 31 March 2014)

	2014 Market Value £'000	% of Total Assets	% of Total Portfolio Income	% Yield
Equities Portfolio	120,196	83.2	79.9	3.5
Higher Yield Portfolio	19,370	13.4	19.5	3.4*
Net Current Assets	4,986	3.4	0.6	
Total Assets (less Current Liabilities)	144,552	100.0	100.0	
Bank Term Loan (debt at fair value)	(17,692)	(12.2)		
Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders	126,860	87.8		

## Equities Portfolio

Sector	2014 % Equities Portfolio	2014 FTSE All- Share Capped 5% Index
Oil & Gas	12.2	12.9
Basic Materials	7.6	8.4
Industrials	15.3	10.8
Consumer Goods	14.8	14.3
Healthcare	9.3	8.0
Consumer Services	11.8	11.3
Telecommunications	7.2	4.9
Utilities	6.6	3.9
Financials	14.2	24.0
Technology	1.0	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0

## Higher Yield Portfolio

Security Ratings	2014 Higher Yield Portfolio Weighting %
AAA	7.1
AA	3.6
A	15.6
BBB	36.1
BB	22.6
B	11.6
Not rated	3.4
	100.0

\* The yield quoted on the Higher Yield Portfolio is the average weighted yield of all holdings calculated to their respective call dates. If the holdings in the portfolio are not called on those dates, then the yield will differ from that stated. The average duration until maturity on the Higher Yield Portfolio was 3.5 years at 31 March 2014.



# Equities Portfolio

At 31 March 2014

<b>Company</b>	<b>Market Value 31 March 2014 £'000</b>	<b>% of Equities Portfolio</b>
<b>GlaxoSmithKline</b> GlaxoSmithKline is a global manufacturer and marketer of pharmaceutical products.	<b>6,712</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>HSBC</b> HSBC provides a comprehensive range of banking and related financial services on a global basis.	<b>6,088</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>British American Tobacco</b> British American Tobacco is involved in the manufacture, marketing and selling of cigarettes and other tobacco products.	<b>5,883</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>BP</b> BP is one of the world's largest integrated oil and gas companies.	<b>5,830</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Royal Dutch Shell</b> Royal Dutch Shell is one of the world's largest integrated oil and gas companies.	<b>5,639</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Rio Tinto</b> Rio Tinto is an international mining company.	<b>4,061</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Vodafone</b> Vodafone is the largest global provider of mobile telecommunications services.	<b>3,647</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>BT Group</b> BT Group is a multinational telecommunications services company.	<b>3,630</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>BHP Billiton</b> BHP Billiton is an international resources company whose principal business lines are mineral exploration and production.	<b>3,265</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>AstraZeneca</b> AstraZeneca is involved in the research, manufacture and sale of pharmaceuticals.	<b>3,200</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Ten largest equity investments</b>	<b>47,955</b>	<b>39.9</b>

# Equities Portfolio (continued)

At 31 March 2014

<b>Company</b>	Sector	Market Value 31 March 2014 £'000	% of Equities Portfolio
Booker Group	Food & Drug Retailer	2,610	2.2
Compass Group	Travel & Leisure	2,567	2.1
Reckitt Benckiser Group	Household Goods	2,547	2.1
National Grid	Gas, Water & Multi-Utilities	2,527	2.1
Diageo	Beverages	2,477	2.1
BG Group	Oil & Gas Producers	2,313	1.9
BBA Aviation	Industrial Transport	2,275	1.9
SABMiller	Beverages	2,271	1.9
Lloyds Banking Group	Banks	2,130	1.8
Rexam	General Industrial	2,101	1.7
<b>Twenty largest equity investments</b>		<b>71,773</b>	<b>59.7</b>
Unilever	Food Producers	2,065	1.7
Prudential	Life Insurance	2,023	1.7
Imperial Tobacco Group	Tobacco	1,981	1.7
Whitbread	Travel & Leisure	1,849	1.5
Severn Trent	Gas, Water & Multi-Utilities	1,774	1.5
BAE Systems	Aerospace & Defence	1,735	1.4
Centrica	Gas, Water & Multi-Utilities	1,694	1.4
Berendsen	Support Services	1,690	1.4
Experian	Support Services	1,654	1.4
Land Securities Group	Real Estate	1,566	1.3
<b>Thirty largest equity investments</b>		<b>89,804</b>	<b>74.7</b>
Aviva	Life Insurance	1,535	1.3
Barclays	Banks	1,465	1.2
Bunzl	Support Services	1,369	1.2
Carphone Warehouse	Retailers	1,350	1.1
Standard Chartered	Banks	1,346	1.1
Kingfisher	General Retailers	1,288	1.1
Sage Group	Software & Computer Services	1,232	1.0
British Sky Broadcasting Group	Media	1,218	1.0
Smith & Nephew	Healthcare	1,191	1.0
Smiths Group	General Industrial	1,108	0.9
<b>Forty largest equity investments</b>		<b>102,906</b>	<b>85.6</b>
Pennon Group	Gas, Water & Multi-Utilities	1,106	0.9
Babcock International Group	Support Services	1,078	0.9
IMI	Industrial Engineering	1,067	0.9
Intercontinental Hotels Group	Travel & Leisure	1,065	0.9
Howden Joinery Group	Support Services	1,057	0.9
Anglo American	Mining	1,015	0.8
Marks & Spencer Group	General Retailers	1,011	0.8
Tesco	Food Retailers	955	0.8
Bodycote	Industrial Engineering	947	0.8
Essentra	Support Services	934	0.8
<b>Fifty largest equity investments</b>		<b>113,141</b>	<b>94.1</b>
<b>Other equity investments (10)</b>		<b>7,055</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Total equity investments</b>		<b>120,196</b>	<b>100.0</b>

# Higher Yield Portfolio

At 31 March 2014

		Market Value 31 March 2014 £'000	% of Higher Yield Portfolio
<b>Security</b>	Sector		
Paragon Group 7% 20/04/17	Mortgage Banks & Thrifts	662	3.4
UBS 6.375% 20/07/16	Banking	395	2.0
Permanent Master ABS 15/07/42	Mortgage Backed	392	2.0
British Telecom 2.25% 14/02/19	Telecommunications	388	2.0
Abbey National Treasury Service FRN 16/02/15	Banking	354	1.8
Southern Gas FRN 21/10/15	Gas Distribution	346	1.8
Bupa Finance 7.5% 04/07/16	Life Insurance	346	1.8
Marstons FRN 15/07/20	Restaurants & Bars	339	1.8
Yorkshire Building Society FRN 23/03/16	Banking	322	1.7
Mitchells & Butler 1.05438% 15/12/28	Tobacco	316	1.6
<b>Ten largest higher yield investments</b>		<b>3,860</b>	<b>19.9</b>
AA Bond Co 4.7201% 02/07/43	ABS Automobile	311	1.6
Unitymedia 5.125% 21/01/23	Media - Cable	304	1.6
Petrobas Finance Global Finance 4.875% 17/03/20	Oil & Gas	298	1.5
Clydesdale Bank FRN 08/06/15	Banking	294	1.5
Glencore Funding 4.125% 30/05/23	Metals/Mining Excluding Steel	287	1.5
Kion Finance 6.75% 15/02/20	Machinery	272	1.4
Smurfit Kappa Acquisition 5.125% 15/09/18	Forestry/Paper	271	1.4
Anglian Water Osprey Finance 7% 31/01/18	Non-Electric Utilities	267	1.4
Empark Funding 6.75% 15/12/19	Support Services	265	1.4
Macquarie Bank 3.5% 18/12/20	Banking	264	1.4
<b>Twenty largest higher yield investments</b>		<b>6,693</b>	<b>34.6</b>
Cegedim 6.75% 01/04/20	Health Services	263	1.4
Lloyds 6.9625% 29/05/20	Banking	260	1.3
Skandinaviska Enskilda 6.625% 09/07/14	Banking	254	1.3
Leeds Building Society FRN 20/03/15	Banking	239	1.2
Bharti Airtel International 4% 10/12/18	Telecom - Wireless	229	1.2
Investec Bank 9.625% 17/02/22	Banking	225	1.2
Jarden 7.5% 15/01/20	Consumer - Products	223	1.2
UPCB Finance 7.625% 15/01/20	Media - Cable	222	1.1
Barclays 6.75% 16/01/23	Banking	220	1.1
Wind Acquisition Finance 7.375% 15/02/18	Telecom - Wireless	219	1.1
<b>Thirty largest higher yield investments</b>		<b>9,047</b>	<b>46.7</b>
Kelda Finance 3 5.75% 17/02/20	Non-Electric Utilities	217	1.1
Coventry Building Society FRN 10/02/15	Banking	216	1.1
DFS Furniture Holdings 7.625% 15/08/18	Specialty Retail	214	1.1
Pendragon 6.875% 01/05/20	Specialty Retail	213	1.1
Belden 5.5% 15/04/23	Diversified Capital Goods	212	1.1
Goldman Sachs 6.125% 14/02/17	Banking	211	1.1
Premier Foods Finance 6.5% 15/03/21	Food - Wholesale	206	1.1
Provident Financial 8% 23/10/19	Financial Services	201	1.0
Heathrow Funding 3% 08/06/15	Transportation	198	1.0
Channel Link FRN 20/06/50	Railroads	187	1.0
<b>Forty largest higher yield investments</b>		<b>11,122</b>	<b>57.4</b>
<b>Other higher yield investments (75)</b>		<b>8,248</b>	<b>42.6</b>
<b>Total higher yield investments</b>		<b>19,370</b>	<b>100.0</b>

# Board of Directors



**Iain McLaren**

Chairman

was appointed in 2009. He is currently a director and chairman of the audit committee of Cairn Energy plc and a director of Afren plc, Baillie Gifford Shin Nippon plc, Ecofin Water & Power Opportunities plc and Edinburgh Dragon Trust plc. He was previously senior partner in Scotland of KPMG.



**Julia Le Blan**

Audit Committee Chairman

was appointed in 2011. She has worked in the financial services industry for over 30 years. She retired from Deloitte in 2009, where she had been a tax partner since 1990. She is currently a director of Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc, Impax Environmental Markets plc and JPMorgan US Smaller Companies Investment Trust plc.



**John Evans**

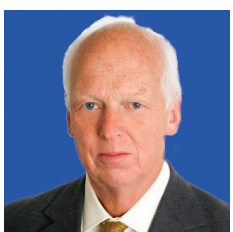
was appointed on 8 May 2013. He has worked in the investment management industry for over 30 years. He retired from Aberforth Partners, a specialist investment management firm, in 2011 having been one of its founding partners in 1990.



**Kenneth Shand**

Senior Independent Director

was appointed in 2007, having been a Director of the predecessor company. He is a partner of Maclay Murray & Spens LLP, Solicitors. His practice focuses on corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions.



**James Williams**

was appointed in 2009. He has worked in the investment management industry for over 35 years. He retired from Baring Asset Management in 2002, where he was chief investment officer and head of global investment strategy. He is a director of Pacific Assets Trust plc and JPMorgan American Investment Trust plc. He is chairman of Falmouth University. He was previously a director of Prosperity Russian Domestic Fund, Royal London Growth and Income Trust plc and of Close Brothers Group plc.

# Report of the Directors

The Directors submit the Annual Report and Accounts of the Company for the year to 31 March 2014.

## Results and Dividends

The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Comprehensive Income of the following accounts.

First, second and third quarter dividends, each of 1.0825p per A share, were paid on 2 August 2013, 1 November 2013 and 7 February 2014 respectively. A fourth quarter dividend of 1.1225p per A share was paid on 2 May 2014 to A shareholders on the register at close of business on 4 April 2014.

## Principal Activity and Status

The Company is registered as a Public Limited Company in terms of the Companies Act 2006 (number: SC314671) and is an investment company under section 833 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Company carries on business as an investment trust and has been approved as such by HM Revenue & Customs ('HMRC'), subject to it continuing to meet the relevant eligibility conditions and ongoing requirements. As a result, it is not liable to corporation tax on capital gains. The Company intends to conduct its affairs so as to enable it to comply with the requirements.

The Company is required to comply with company law, the rules of the UK Listing Authority, International Financial Reporting Standards, and its Articles of Association.

The Company is a member of the Association of Investment Companies (the 'AIC').

## Subsidiary Company

The Company has a 100 per cent interest in Investors Securities Company Limited (number: SC140578), a company which deals in investments. In the year to 31 March 2014, Investors Securities Company Limited made a profit before taxation of £nil (2013: £nil).

Investors Securities Company Limited did not trade during the year to 31 March 2014.

## Directors

Biographical details of the Directors, all of whom are non-executive, can be found on page 18. On 8 May 2013 Mr J M Evans was appointed a Director. Mr H Post retired as a Director at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on 21 June 2013. There were no other changes to the composition of the Board during the year.

During the year, the Company employed the use of an external search consultant, Trust Associates Limited, to assist with the recruitment of a new Director. Trust Associates Limited has no other connection with the Company.

Mr K D Shand has served on the Board and the Board of the predecessor company together for more than nine years and therefore, in line with the recommendations of the UK Corporate Governance Code and the AIC Code of Corporate Governance, will seek re-election annually. The Board believes that longer serving Directors should not be prevented from forming part of an independent majority, which is consistent with the view expressed within the AIC Code. The Board does not consider that a Director's tenure necessarily reduces his or her ability to act independently and, following formal performance evaluations, believes that each Director is independent in character and judgement and that there are no relationships or circumstances which are likely to affect the judgement of any Director. The Board believes that continuity and experience add significantly to the strength of the Board and therefore no limit on the overall length of service of any of the Company's Directors, including the Chairman, has been imposed. The term of any Director beyond six years is subject to review by the Board.

As explained in more detail under Corporate Governance on page 25, the Board has agreed that all Directors will retire annually. Accordingly, Mr I A McLaren, Mrs J Le Blan, Mr J M Evans and Mr J P Williams will also retire at the Annual General Meeting and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The Directors believe that the Board has an appropriate balance of skills, experience,

# Report of the Directors (continued)

independence and knowledge of the Company to enable it to provide effective strategic leadership and proper governance of the Company. The Board confirms that, following formal performance evaluations, the performance of each of the Directors continues to be effective and demonstrates commitment to the role. The Board therefore believes that it is in the interests of shareholders that those Directors seeking re-election are re-elected.

There are no service contracts in existence between the Company and any Directors but each of the Directors has been issued with, and accepted, the terms of a letter of appointment that sets out the main terms of his or her appointment. Amongst other things, the letter includes confirmation that the Directors have a sufficient understanding of the Company and the sector in which it operates, and sufficient time available to discharge their duties effectively taking into account their other commitments. These letters are available for inspection upon request at the Company's registered office during normal business hours.

No Director has any material interest in any contract to which the Company is a party.

## Directors' Deeds of Indemnity

The Company has entered into deeds of indemnity in favour of each of the Directors. The deeds give each Director the benefit of an indemnity to the extent permitted by the Companies Act against liabilities incurred by each of them in the execution of their duties and the exercise of their powers. A copy of each deed of indemnity is available for inspection at the Company's registered office during normal business hours and will be available for inspection at the Annual General Meeting.

## Management and Management Fees

Details of the contract between the Company and F&C Investment Business Limited in respect of management services provided are given in the notes to the accounts.

Since the end of the year, the Remuneration Committee has reviewed the appropriateness of the Manager's appointment. In carrying out its review the Committee considered the past investment performance of the Company and the ability of the

Manager to produce satisfactory investment performance in the future. It also considered the length of the notice period of the investment management contract and fees payable to the Manager, together with the standard of other services provided which include company secretarial, accounting and marketing services. Following this review, it is the Directors' opinion that the continuing appointment of the Manager on the terms agreed is in the interests of shareholders as a whole.

## Substantial Interests in Share Capital

At 31 March 2014 the Company had received notification of the following holdings of voting rights (under the FCA's Disclosure and Transparency Rules):

	A Shares	
	Number held	Percentage held*
Clients of F&C Asset Management plc	14,466,054	15.8
D. C. Thomson & Company Limited	8,824,869	9.7
Jupiter Asset Management Limited	6,470,000	7.1
Henderson Global Investors	4,918,207	5.4
Thomson Leng Provident Fund	3,800,000	4.2

	B Shares	
	Number held	Percentage held*
D. C. Thomson & Company Limited	2,941,623	9.2
Clients of F&C Asset Management plc	2,714,529	8.5

\* Based on 91,278,144 A Shares and 32,076,703 B Shares in issue as at 31 March 2014.

The Company has not received notification of any changes in these voting rights and no new holdings have been notified since 31 March 2014 up to the date of this report.

## Conflicts of Interest

Under the Companies Act a Director must avoid a situation where he or she has, or could have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly

may conflict with the Company's interests. The requirement is very broad and could apply, for example, if a Director becomes a director of another company or a trustee of another organisation. The Companies Act allows directors of public companies to authorise conflicts and potential conflicts, where appropriate, where the Articles of Association contain a provision to this effect. The Company's Articles of Association give the Directors authority to approve such situations.

The Company maintains a register of Directors' conflicts of interest which have been disclosed and approved by the other Directors. This register is kept up-to-date and the Directors are required to disclose to the Company Secretary any changes to conflicts or any potential new conflicts.

#### **Other Companies Act Disclosures**

- The Company's capital structure is explained in the 'Capital Structure' section of this Annual Report and details of the share capital, including voting rights, are set out in note 17 to the accounts. Details of voting rights are also set out in the Notes to the Notice of Annual General Meeting. At 31 March 2014, the total listed share capital of the Company was represented 76.1 per cent by A shares and 23.9 per cent by B shares.
- Details of the substantial shareholders in the Company are listed on page 20.
- The rules for appointment and replacement of Directors are contained in the Articles of Association of the Company. In respect of retirement by rotation, the Articles of Association provide that each Director is required to retire at the third annual general meeting after the annual general meeting at which last elected. As mentioned earlier in this Report, the Board has agreed that all Directors will retire annually.
- Amendment of the Articles of Association and powers to issue and buy back shares require shareholder authority.
- There are no significant restrictions concerning the transfer of securities in the Company (other than certain restrictions imposed by laws and regulations such as insider trading laws); no agreements known to the Company concerning

restrictions on the transfer of securities in the Company or on voting rights; and no special rights with regard to control attached to securities. Pursuant to the Company's bank facility, mandatory prepayment may be required in the event of a change of control of the Company; there are no other significant agreements which the Company is a party to that might be affected by a change of control of the Company following a takeover bid.

- There are no agreements between the Company and the Directors providing for compensation for loss of office that occurs because of a takeover bid.

#### **Going Concern**

In assessing the going concern basis of accounting the Directors have had regard to the guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The Company's objective and policy, which is described on pages 7 and 8 and which is subject to regular Board monitoring processes, is designed to ensure that the Company is invested mainly in liquid, listed securities. The Company retains title to all assets held by its custodian, and has agreements relating to its borrowing facilities with which it has complied during the year. Cash is held only with banks approved and regularly reviewed by the Manager.

As part of the going concern review, the Directors noted that borrowing facilities of £18 million are committed to the Company until 28 September 2017.

Note 21 to the accounts sets out the financial risk profile of the Company and indicates the effect on the assets and liabilities of falls (and rises) in the value of securities and market rates of interest.

The Directors believe, in the light of the controls and review processes noted above and bearing in mind the nature of the Company's business and assets, that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

# Report of the Directors (continued)

The Company does not have a fixed life. However, in the event that the net asset value total return performance of the Company is less than that of the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index over the relevant five year period, shareholders will be given the opportunity to vote on whether the Company should continue, by ordinary resolution at the Company's Annual General Meeting. The present five year period for this purpose will run for the five years from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2017.

## Environment

The Company seeks to conduct its affairs responsibly and environmental factors are, where appropriate, taken into consideration with regard to investment decisions taken on behalf of the Company. The Manager considers socially responsible investment and actively engages with investee companies.

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

All of the Company's activities are outsourced to third parties. As such it does not have any physical assets, property, employees or operations of its own and does not generate any greenhouse gas or other emissions.

## Auditor

Ernst & Young LLP have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditor of the Company and a resolution proposing their re-appointment will be submitted at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

## Financial Instruments

The Company's financial instruments comprise its investment portfolio, cash balances, bank debt, foreign exchange currency contracts, debtors and creditors that arise directly from its operations such as sales and purchases awaiting settlement and accrued income. The financial risk management objectives and policies arising from its financial instruments and the exposure of the Company to risk are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

## Recommendation

The Directors consider that the passing of the resolutions to be proposed at the Annual General

Meeting are in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders as a whole and they unanimously recommend that all shareholders vote in favour of those resolutions. Information on shareholder voting rights is set out in the Notes to the Annual General Meeting.

## Directors' Authority to Allot Shares

The Directors are seeking authority to allot A shares and B shares. Resolution 10 will, if passed, authorise the Directors to allot new A shares up to an aggregate nominal amount of £4,564 consisting of 4,563,907 A shares and new B shares up to an aggregate nominal amount of £1,604 consisting of 1,603,835 B shares, being 5 per cent of the total issued A shares and B shares (excluding treasury shares) as at 14 May 2014. This authority therefore authorises the Directors to allot up to 6,167,742 shares in aggregate representing 5 per cent of the total ordinary share capital in issue (excluding treasury shares). Resolution 11 will, if passed, authorise the Directors to allot new A shares up to an aggregate nominal amount of £4,564 and new B shares up to an aggregate nominal amount of £1,604, being 5 per cent of the total issued A shares and B shares as at 14 May 2014, for cash without first offering such shares to existing shareholders pro rata to their existing holdings. This authority therefore authorises the Directors to allot up to 6,167,742 shares in aggregate for cash on a non pre-emptive basis representing 5 per cent of the total ordinary share capital in issue. These authorities will continue until the earlier of 30 September 2015 and the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in 2015. The Directors have no current intention to exercise this authority and will only allot new shares pursuant to these authorities if they believe it is advantageous to the Company's shareholders to do so and will not result in a dilution of net asset value per share. The Directors consider that the authorisations proposed in Resolutions 10 and 11 are necessary to retain flexibility, although they do not intend to exercise the powers conferred by these authorisations at the present time.

## Directors' Authority to Buy Back Shares

During the year to 31 March 2014 the Company purchased for treasury 1,250,000 A shares of 0.1p each, representing 1.4 per cent of the A shares in



issue at the previous year end, for a total consideration of £1,180,000 in accordance with the Company's discount management policy. The Company did not purchase any B share during the year to 31 March 2014. 655,000 B shares were re-sold during the year from treasury raising net proceeds of £657,000.

The current authority of the Company to make market purchases of up to 14.99 per cent of each of the issued A shares and the B shares (in each case, excluding shares held in treasury) expires at the end of the Annual General Meeting and Resolution 12, as set out in the notice of the Annual General Meeting, seeks renewal of that authority. The renewed authority to make market purchases will be in respect of a maximum of 14.99 per cent of each of the issued A shares and issued B shares of the Company on the date of the passing of the resolution. The price paid for shares will not be less than the nominal value of 0.1p per share nor more than the higher of (a) 5 per cent above the average of the middle market values (as derived from the Daily Official List of the London Stock Exchange) of those shares for the five business days before the shares are purchased and (b) the higher of the last independent trade and the highest current independent bid on the London Stock Exchange. This power will only be exercised if, in the opinion of the Directors, a purchase will result in an increase in net asset value per share and is in the interests of the shareholders. Any shares purchased under this authority will either be held in treasury or cancelled. This authority will expire on the earlier of 30 September 2015 and the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company.

There were 123,354,847 A shares and B shares in issue as at 14 May 2014; of which 74.0 per cent represents A shares and 26.0 per cent represents B shares. At that date, the Company held 10.6 per cent of the total A share capital in treasury and nil per cent of the total B share capital in treasury.

The Company therefore in aggregate holds 10,789,000 shares in treasury representing 8.7 per cent of the total ordinary share capital in issue (excluding treasury shares).

## **Treasury Shares**

The Board continues to believe that the effective use of treasury shares assists the liquidity in the Company's securities and management of the discount by addressing imbalances between demand and supply for the Company's securities. The discount management policy that was adopted at the time of the Company's launch in 2007 included the ability of the Company to resell treasury shares at a discount to net asset value, subject to certain conditions (see Resolution 13 below).

Resolution 13, if passed, will continue to allow the Company to sell shares from treasury at a discount to net asset value. Shares would only be resold from treasury when market demand is identified and, pursuant to the authority conferred by this resolution, at a price representing a discount of not more than 5 per cent to net asset value at the time of resale, subject to the conditions that, first, the discount at which shares are to be resold must be less than the average discount at which shares held in treasury have been repurchased and, second, the net asset value dilution in any one financial year must not exceed 0.5 per cent of net assets. Resolution 13 is conditional on the passing of Resolution 14.

Resolution 14, if passed, will enable the Company to sell shares from treasury without having first to make a pro rata offer to existing shareholders. This authority will be limited to shares representing approximately 10 per cent of the Company's issued A share capital and B share capital as at the date of passing of the resolution. Resolution 14 is not conditional on the passing of Resolution 13.

## **Notice Period for General Meetings**

Resolution 15 is being proposed to reflect the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to meetings and the minimum notice period for listed company general meetings being increased to 21 clear days, but with an ability for companies to reduce this period back to 14 clear days (other than for annual general meetings), provided that the company offers facilities for shareholders to vote by electronic means and that there is an annual resolution of shareholders approving the reduction in the minimum period for notice of general meetings (other than for annual general meetings) from 21 clear days to 14 clear days. The Board is therefore

# Report of the Directors (continued)

proposing Resolution 15 as a special resolution to ensure that the minimum required period for notice of general meetings of the Company (other than for annual general meetings) is 14 clear days. The approval will be effective until the earlier of 30 September 2015 and the Company's next annual general meeting when it is intended that a similar resolution will be proposed. The Board intends that this flexibility of a shorter notice period to be available to the Company will be used only for non routine business and only where needed in the interests of shareholders as a whole.

## **Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditor**

As far as the Directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware, and each Director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a Director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

## **Individual Savings Accounts**

The Company's shares are qualifying investments for Individual Savings Accounts. It is the current intention

of the Directors that the Company will continue to conduct its affairs to satisfy this requirement.

## **Statement Regarding Annual Report and Accounts**

Following a detailed review of the Annual Report and Accounts by the Audit Committee, the Directors consider that taken as a whole it is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's performance, business model and strategy. In reaching this conclusion, the Directors have assumed that the reader of the Annual Report and Accounts would have a reasonable level of knowledge of the investment industry in general and investment trusts in particular.

By order of the Board  
For F&C Investment Business Limited  
Company Secretary  
80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU

14 May 2014

# Statement of Corporate Governance

Arrangements in respect of corporate governance appropriate to an investment trust have been put in place by the Board. Except as disclosed in the following paragraph, the Company complied throughout the year with the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code issued by the Financial Reporting Council in September 2012 ('the Code') which is available at website: [www.frc.org.uk](http://www.frc.org.uk). The Board has also taken into account the recommendations of the AIC Code of Corporate Governance ('the AIC Code') which is available at website [www.theaic.co.uk](http://www.theaic.co.uk). Since all the Directors are non-executive, and in accordance with the AIC Code and the preamble to the UK Corporate Governance Code, the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code on the role of the chief executive and, except in so far as apply to non-executive Directors, on Directors' remuneration are not relevant to the Company and are not reported on further.

In view of its non-executive nature and the requirements of the Articles of Association, that all Directors are subject to retirement by rotation, the Board does not consider it appropriate for the Directors to be appointed for a specified term as recommended by provision B.2.3 of the Code. The Articles of Association require the Directors to retire by rotation at least every three years. However, in accordance with the recommendations of the UK Corporate Governance Code and the AIC Code, the Board has agreed that all Directors will retire annually and, if appropriate, seek re-election.

Full details of the duties of Directors are provided at the time of appointment. Under the requirements of the Articles of Association, Directors are subject to election at the first Annual General Meeting after their appointment.

The Board consists solely of non-executive Directors. Mr I A McLaren is Chairman and Mr K Shand is the Senior Independent Director. All Directors are considered by the Board to be independent of the Company's Manager. New Directors receive an induction from the Manager on joining the Board, and all Directors are made aware of appropriate training courses.

During the year the performance of the Board and Committees, including the performance of each individual Director, was evaluated through a formal assessment process, led by the Chairman. The performance of the Chairman was evaluated by the other Directors under the leadership of the Senior Independent Director. This process involved completing questionnaires designed to suit the nature of the Company, discussions with individual Directors, individual feedback from the Chairman to each of the Directors and discussion of the points arising amongst the Directors.

The table below sets out the number of scheduled Board and Committee meetings held during the year ended 31 March 2014 and the number of meetings attended by each Director.

Individual Directors may, at the expense of the Company, seek independent professional advice on any matter that concerns them in the furtherance of their duties. The Company maintains appropriate Directors' and Officers' liability insurance.

The basis on which the Company aims to generate value over the longer term is set out in its objective and investment policy as contained on pages 7 to 8. The Company has no executive Directors or employees. A management agreement between the Company and its Manager, F&C Investment Business Limited, sets out the matters over which

	Board of Directors		Audit Committee		Remuneration Committee		Nomination Committee	
	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
I A McLaren	5	5	2	2	1	1	n/a	n/a
J Le Blan	5	5	2	2	1	1	n/a	n/a
J M Evans	5	5	2	2	1	1	n/a	n/a
H Post (retired 21 June 2013)	2	2	1	1	1	1	n/a	n/a
K D Shand	5	5	2	2	1	1	n/a	n/a
J P Williams	5	4	2	2	1	1	n/a	n/a

# Statement of Corporate Governance (continued)

the Manager has authority and the limits beyond which Board approval must be sought. All other matters, including strategy, investment and dividend policies, gearing, and corporate governance procedures, are reserved for the approval of the Board of Directors. The Board currently meets at least five times a year and receives full information on the Company's investment performance, assets, liabilities and other relevant information in advance of Board meetings.

The Manager, in the absence of explicit instructions from the Board, is empowered to exercise discretion in the use of the Company's voting rights. All shareholdings are voted where practicable in accordance with the Manager's own corporate governance policy, which is to seek to maximise shareholder value by constructive use of votes at company meetings and by endeavouring to use its influence as an investor with a principled approach to corporate governance. The Company seeks to conduct its affairs responsibly and environmental factors are, where appropriate, taken into consideration with regard to investment decisions taken on behalf of the Company.

The Company's Manager considers socially responsible investment and actively engages with investee companies. The Manager's statement of compliance with The UK Stewardship Code issued by the Financial Reporting Council in July 2010 can be found on its website at [www.fandc.com/ukstewardshipcode](http://www.fandc.com/ukstewardshipcode).

Throughout the year a number of committees has been in operation. The committees are the Audit Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Nomination Committee. The committees operate within clearly defined terms of reference which are available for inspection on request at the Company's registered office. Each of the committees comprises all of the Directors. The Board considers that, given its size, it would be unnecessarily burdensome to establish separate committees which did not include the entire Board and believes that this enables all Directors to be kept fully informed of any issues that arise.

## **Audit Committee**

Details of the Audit Committee are contained in the Report of the Audit Committee on pages 27 to 29.

## **Remuneration Committee**

The Remuneration Committee comprises the full Board. Mr Shand became chairman of the Remuneration Committee, following the retirement of Mr Post as a Director, on 21 June 2013. The Remuneration Committee reviews the remuneration of Directors and the appropriateness of the Manager's continuing appointment together with the terms and conditions thereof on a regular basis.

## **Nomination Committee**

The Nomination Committee comprises the full Board and is chaired by Mr McLaren. The Nomination Committee is convened for the purpose of considering the appointment of additional Directors as and when considered appropriate. In considering appointments to the Board these are based on merit. The Nomination Committee takes into account the ongoing requirements of the Company and the need to have a balance of skills, experience, diversity, including gender, independence and knowledge of the Company within the Board. The Directors have not set any measurable objectives in relation to the diversity of the Board.

## **Relations with Shareholders**

The Company welcomes the views of shareholders and places great importance on communication with its shareholders. The Manager holds meetings with the Company's largest shareholders and reports back to the Board on these meetings. The Chairman and other Directors are available to meet shareholders if required. The Annual General Meeting of the Company provides a forum, both formal and informal, for shareholders to meet and discuss issues with the Directors and Manager of the Company. The Manager will give a short presentation on the Company at the Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board  
For F&C Investment Business Limited  
Company Secretary  
80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU  
14 May 2014

# Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises the full Board and is chaired by Mrs Le Blan.

The Audit Committee operates within clearly defined terms of reference and has recent and relevant financial experience. The duties of the Audit Committee include reviewing the Annual and Interim Accounts, the system of internal controls, and the terms of appointment and remuneration of the Auditor, Ernst & Young LLP ('E&Y'), including its independence and objectivity. It also provides a forum through which the Auditor reports to the Board of Directors and meets twice yearly including at least one meeting with E&Y.

The Audit Committee met on two occasions during the year and the attendance of each of the members is set out on page 25. In the due course of its duties, the committee had direct access to E&Y and senior members of the Managers' fund management and investment trust teams. Amongst other things, the Audit Committee considered and reviewed the following matters and reported thereon to the Board:

- The annual results announcements, and annual and half-yearly reports and accounts;
- The accounting policies of the Group;
- The principal risks faced by the Company and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control environment;
- The effectiveness of the audit process and related non-audit services and the independence and objectivity of E&Y, their re-appointment, remuneration and terms of engagement;
- The policy on the engagement of E&Y to supply non-audit services;
- The implications of proposed new accounting standards and regulatory changes;
- The receipt of an internal controls report from the Managers and other significant third party service providers.

As part of its review of the scope and results of the audit, during the year the Audit Committee considered and approved E&Y's plan for the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014. At the conclusion of the audit E&Y did not report any audit differences in excess of their materiality threshold of £0.06 million, nor any differences below that level which would warrant disclosure on qualitative grounds; in addition E&Y

did not highlight any other issues to the Audit Committee which would cause it to qualify its audit report nor did it highlight any fundamental internal control weaknesses. E&Y issued an unqualified audit report which is included on pages 33 to 35.

In relation to the provision of non-audit services by the Auditor it has been agreed that all non-audit work to be carried out by the Auditor must be approved in advance by the Audit Committee and any special projects must also be approved in advance. In addition to statutory audit fees of £20,000 (2013: £19,500), E&Y received fees, excluding VAT, for non-audit services of £27,000 for the year (2013: £16,000) which related to the provision of tax services. The majority of the tax services provided (£20,000) were in relation to a re-examination of previous tax advice, thought to be required following the issuance of updated HMRC guidance, regarding the treatment of capital repayments paid to B shareholders. Having originally advised on this matter on the launch of the Company in 2007, E&Y were thought best placed to conduct the review in the most efficient manner. The review was conducted by employees of E&Y that were not involved in the provision of audit services. Therefore the Audit Committee considers the services to have been cost effective and does not consider that the provision of such non-audit services is a threat to the objectivity and independence of the conduct of the audit.

As part of the review of auditor independence and effectiveness, E&Y has confirmed that it is independent of the Company and has complied with relevant auditing standards. In evaluating E&Y, the Audit Committee has taken into consideration the standing, skills and experience of the firm and the audit team. E&Y have been auditors to the Company since the Company's launch in 2007. The Audit Committee, from direct observation and enquiry of the Manager, remains satisfied that E&Y continues to provide effective independent challenge in carrying out its responsibilities. Following professional guidelines, the audit partner rotates at least every five years, with the audit partner next due to rotate following the audit of the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017. Although the Company is not a member of the FTSE-350 and therefore the requirement of the UK Corporate Governance Code to conduct an audit tender every ten years does not apply, the Audit Committee is of the opinion that a regular audit tender would constitute good corporate governance. The Audit Committee is therefore minded to recommend that

# Report of the Audit Committee (continued)

a tender should be conducted in 2017, in conjunction with the next expected rotation of the audit partner. On the basis of this assessment, the Audit Committee has recommended the continuing appointment of E&Y to the Board. E&Y's performance will continue to be reviewed annually taking into account all relevant guidance and best practice.

## Internal Controls

The Board is responsible for the Company's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. The Board has therefore established an ongoing process designed to meet the particular needs of the Company in managing the risks to which it is exposed, consistent with the internal control guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

## Significant Matters Considered by the Audit Committee in Relation to the Financial Statements

Matter	Action
<p><b>Valuation of Investment Portfolio</b></p> <p>Possibility of incorrect valuation of the investment portfolio, including incorrect application of exchange rate movements or failure to assess stock liquidity appropriately.</p>	<p>The Group's accounting policy is stated in note 1 to the accounts. The Audit Committee reviewed the valuation prepared by the Manager, satisfying itself as to the basis on which investments were valued. The Audit Committee challenged the Manager on the liquidity of the stocks held, particularly with regard to the Higher Yield Portfolio.</p> <p>The Audit Committee also considered the work carried out by the Auditor in respect of the year end valuation and satisfied itself that the scope of work conducted was appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Misappropriation of Assets</b></p> <p>Misappropriation of the Company's investments or cash balances could have a material impact on its net asset value per share.</p>	<p>The Audit Committee reviewed the Manager's annual internal control report, as referred to on page 29, which is reported on by independent external accountants and which details the controls around the reconciliation of the Manager's records to those of the custodian. The Audit Committee also reviewed the custodian's annual internal control report, which is reported on by independent external accountants, and which provides details regarding its control environment.</p>
<p><b>Going Concern</b></p> <p>The Group's accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. Under guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council, the Directors are required to conduct a rigorous assessment of this basis of preparation.</p>	<p>The Audit Committee reviewed the basis for concluding that the Group remains a going concern, including consideration of the liquidity of investments, the quantum of cash holdings, revenue and expense forecasts, the due date for repayment of the Group's borrowing facilities and continued compliance with applicable banking covenants, and satisfied itself that the going concern basis of preparation remained appropriate.</p>

Matter	Action
<p><b>Income Recognition</b></p> <p>Incomplete or inaccurate income recognition could have an adverse effect on the Group's net asset value and earnings per share and its level of dividend cover.</p>	<p>The Audit Committee reviewed the Manager's annual internal control report, as referred to below, which details the systems, processes and controls around the recording of investment income. It also compared the final level of income received for the year to the budget which was set at the start of the year and discussed the accounting treatment of all special dividends received with the Manager and external auditor.</p>

The process is based principally on the Manager's existing risk-based approach to internal control whereby a matrix is created that identifies the key functions carried out by the Manager and other service providers, the individual activities undertaken within those functions, the risks associated with each activity and the controls employed to minimise those risks. A residual risk rating is then applied. The Board also monitors the investment performance of the Company in comparison to its objective and its peer group at each Board meeting and reviews the Company's activities since the last Board meeting to ensure that the Manager adheres to the agreed investment policy and approved investment guidelines and, if necessary, approves changes to such policy and guidelines.

A formal annual review of these procedures is carried out by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has also reviewed the Manager's "Report on Policies and Procedures in Operation and Tests in accordance with AAF (01/06)" for the year ended 31 December 2013 that has been prepared for their investment company clients. Containing a report from independent external accountants, the report sets out the Manager's control policies and procedures with respect to the management of their clients' investments. The effectiveness of these controls is monitored by the Manager's group audit committee which receives regular reports from the Manager's audit, risk and compliance departments. Procedures are in place to capture and evaluate failings and weaknesses and ensure that action would be taken to remedy any significant issues identified from this monitoring, which would be reported to the Board. No significant failings or weaknesses in respect of the Company were

identified in the year under review nor to the date of this report.

The Audit Committee also reviewed appropriate reports on the internal controls of other significant service providers, such as the Custodian and Registrar.

The review procedures have been in place throughout the full financial year and up to the date of approval of the accounts, and the Board is satisfied with their effectiveness. These procedures are designed to manage, rather than eliminate, risk and, by their nature, can only provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Board has reviewed the need for an internal audit function. The Board has decided that the systems and procedures employed by the Manager, including its internal audit, provide sufficient assurance that a sound system of internal control, which safeguards shareholders' investment and the Company's assets, is maintained. In addition, the Company's financial statements are audited by external auditors. An internal audit function, specific to the Company, is therefore considered unnecessary but this decision will be kept under review.

**Julia Le Blan**  
Chairman of the Audit Committee

14 May 2014

# Remuneration Report

## Directors' Remuneration Policy

Full details of the Company's policy with regards to Directors' fees, and fees paid during the year ended 31 March 2014, are shown below. This shows all major decisions on Directors' remuneration, and any substantial changes made during the year relating to Directors' remuneration, including the context in which any changes occurred.

Under company law, the Auditor is required to audit certain disclosures provided. Where disclosures have been audited they are indicated as such. The Auditor's opinion is included in its report on pages 33 to 35.

The Board consists solely of independent non-executive Directors. The Company has no executive Directors or employees. The Remuneration Committee is responsible for determining the level of Directors' fees.

The Remuneration Committee consists of all five non-executive Directors and it is chaired by Mr Shand. Prior to his retirement from the Board on 21 June 2013, Mr Post chaired the committee. The Remuneration Committee meets at least annually to review the remuneration of Directors and the remuneration and terms of appointment of the Manager. The Board has appointed the Company Secretary, F&C Investment Business Limited, to provide information on comparative levels of Directors' fees in advance of the Remuneration Committee considering the level of Directors' fees.

The Company's policy is that the remuneration of non-executive Directors should reflect the experience of the Board as a whole, and be fair and comparable to that of other investment trusts that are similar in size and have similar investment objectives. There were no changes to the policy during the year and it is intended that this policy will continue for the three year period ending 31 March 2017.

The fees for the non-executive Directors are determined within the limits set out in the Company's Articles of Association. The present limit is £150,000 per annum and may not be changed without seeking shareholder approval at a general meeting. Directors are not eligible for bonuses, pension benefits, share options, long-term incentive schemes or other benefits.

The non-executive Directors are engaged under letters of appointment and do not have service contracts. Each Director has a letter of appointment setting out the terms and conditions of his or her appointment and such letters are available for inspection at the Company's registered office during business hours. The terms of appointment provide that a Director shall retire and be subject to re-election at the first Annual General Meeting after his or her appointment. Directors are thereafter obliged to retire by rotation and, if they wish, to offer themselves for re-election, at least every three years after that. However, in accordance with the recommendations of the UK Corporate Governance Code and the AIC Code the Board has agreed that all Directors will retire annually and, if appropriate, seek re-election. There is no notice period and no provision for compensation upon termination of appointment.

### Future Policy Report

Based on the current levels of fees, Directors' remuneration for the forthcoming financial year would be as follows:

Director	2015* £	2014# £
I A McLaren (Chairman)	<b>30,000</b>	29,250
J Le Blan	<b>22,500</b>	21,500
J M Evans (appointed 8 May 2013)	<b>20,000</b>	17,508
K D Shand	<b>20,000</b>	19,500
J P Williams	<b>20,000</b>	19,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,500</b>	107,258

\* Directors' remuneration for the year ending 31 March 2015 based on current fee levels.

# Actual Directors' remuneration for the year ended 31 March 2014.

The Company has not received any direct communications from its Shareholders in respect of the levels of Directors' remuneration.

### Voting at Annual General Meeting

An ordinary resolution for the approval of this policy report will be put to Shareholders at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.



# Remuneration Report

## Annual Report on Directors' Remuneration

### Directors' Emoluments for the Year (audited)

The Directors who served during the financial year received the following emoluments in the form of fees. No other forms of remuneration were paid during the year.

Director	31 March 2014 £	31 March 2013 £
I A McLaren (Chairman)	<b>29,250</b>	28,500
J Le Blan	<b>21,500</b>	21,000
J M Evans (appointed 8 May 2013)	<b>17,508</b>	–
H Post (retired 21 June 2013)	<b>4,387</b>	19,000
K D Shand	<b>19,500</b>	19,000
J P Williams	<b>19,500</b>	19,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,645</b>	106,500

Following review of the level of Directors' fees for the forthcoming year, the Remuneration Committee concluded that the amount paid to Directors should increase by £750 for the Chairman, £1,000 for the Chairman of the Audit Committee and £500 for other Directors.

### Relative Importance of Spend on Pay

The table below shows the actual expenditure during the year in relation to Directors' remuneration, other expenses and shareholder distributions:

	31 March 2014 £	31 March 2013 £	Change %
Aggregate Directors' Remuneration	<b>111,645</b>	106,500	4.8
Management fee and other expenses*	<b>1,896,000</b>	1,278,000	48.4
Distributions paid to Shareholders	<b>5,368,000</b>	5,345,000	0.4

\* A performance fee of £395,000 was earned for the year ended 31 March 2014 (2013: nil)

### Directors' Shareholdings (audited)

The Directors who held office at the year end and their interests in the shares of the Company at 31 March 2014 (all of which were beneficially held) were as follows:

Director	31 March 2014		1 April 2013*	
	A Shares	B Shares	A Shares	B Shares
I A McLaren (Chairman)	<b>10,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	10,000	30,000
J Le Blan	<b>6,000</b>	–	6,000	–
J M Evans (appointed 8 May 2013)	<b>15,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	–	–
K D Shand	–	–	–	–
J P Williams	–	<b>41,000</b>	–	41,000

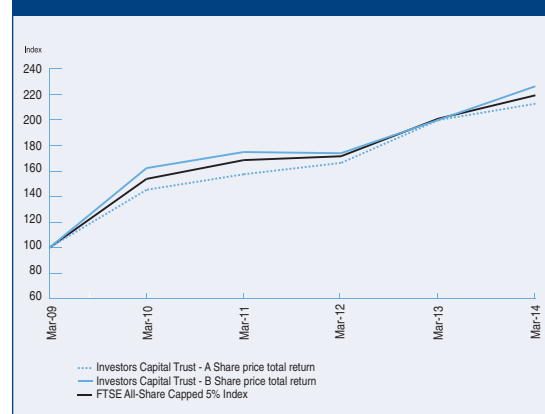
\* or date of appointment if later.

There have been no changes in the Directors' interests in the shares of the Company between 31 March 2014 and 14 May 2014.

### Company Performance

The graph below compares, for the five financial years ended 31 March 2014, the total return (assuming all dividends are reinvested) to A and B shareholders compared to the total return on the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index. This index was chosen for comparison purposes, as it represents a comparable broad equity market index; however it should be noted that between 10 to 25 per cent. of the Company's assets are in higher yielding securities. An explanation of the performance of the Company is given in the Chairman's Statement and Manager's Review.

Share Price Total Return and the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index Performance Graph



### Voting at Annual General Meeting

At the Company's last Annual General Meeting, held on 21 June 2013, shareholders approved the Directors' Remuneration Report in respect of the year ended 31 March 2013. 98.8% of votes were in favour of the resolution and 1.2% were against. An ordinary resolution for the approval of this Annual Report on Directors' Remuneration will be put to shareholders at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the Board

Kenneth Shand  
Director

14 May 2014

# Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

## Statement of Directors' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the Group financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and those International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs") as adopted by the European Union.

Under Company Law the directors must not approve the Group financial statements unless they are satisfied that they present a fair, balanced and understandable report and provide the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's performance, business model and strategy. In preparing the Group financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies in accordance with IAS 8: *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and then apply them consistently;
- present information, including accounting policies, in a manner that provides relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable information;
- provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRSs is insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the Group's financial position and financial performance;
- state that the Group has complied with IFRSs, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and enable them to ensure that the Group financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Article 4 of the IAS Regulation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and hence for

taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Notes:

1. The maintenance and integrity of the website maintained for Investors Capital Trust plc is the responsibility of the Directors; the work carried out by the Auditor does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the Auditor accepts no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site.
2. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

## Responsibility statements under the Disclosure and Transparency Rules

Each of the Directors listed on page 18 confirms that to the best of their knowledge:

- the financial statements, prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the European Union, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of the Company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole; and
- the Strategic Report (comprising the Chairman's Statement, Business Model and Strategy, Manager's Review, Investment Managers and Investment Process, Classification of Investments, Equities Portfolio and Higher Yield Portfolio) and the Report of the Directors include a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the Company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that they face.

On behalf of the Board

Iain McLaren

Chairman

14 May 2014

# Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the financial statements of Investors Capital Trust plc for the year ended 31 March 2014 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, Consolidated and Parent Company Balance Sheets, Consolidated and Parent Company Cash Flow Statement, Consolidated and Parent Company Statement of Changes in Equity and the related notes 1 to 22. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union and, as regards the parent company financial statements, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006.

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## **Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 32, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

## **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material

misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group's and the Parent Company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

## **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the Parent Company's affairs as at 31 March 2014 and of the Group's profit for the year then ended;
- the Group's financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union;
- the Parent Company financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union and as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, as regards the Group financial statements, Article 4 of the IAS Regulation.

## **Our assessment of risks of material misstatement**

We identified the following risks of material misstatement that had the greatest effect on the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in

# Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team:

- Incorrect valuation and ownership of the investment portfolio; and
- Management and performance fees are not calculated correctly in accordance with the investment management agreement.

## **Our application of materiality**

We apply the concept of materiality both in planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effect of misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements and in forming our audit opinion.

We determined materiality for the Group to be £1.2 million, which is 1% of total equity. This provided a basis for determining the nature, timing and extent of risk assessment procedures, identifying and assessing the risk of material misstatement and determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.

On the basis of our risk assessments, together with our assessment of the Group's overall control environment, our judgment was that overall performance materiality (i.e. our tolerance for misstatement in an individual account or balance) for the Group should be 75% of materiality, namely £0.9 million. Our objective in adopting this approach was to ensure that total uncorrected and undetected audit differences in all accounts did not exceed our materiality level.

We have agreed to report to the Audit Committee all audit differences in excess of £0.06 million, as well as differences below that threshold that, in our view warrant reporting on qualitative grounds.

## **An overview of the scope of our audit**

The group audit performed a full scope audit on 100% of the Group equity. Our response to the risks identified above was as follows:

- We agreed the year end prices to an independent source and the investment holdings to the independent custodian report; and
- We independently recalculated management fee and performance fee calculations for the year with reference to contractual arrangements and agreed the calculation inputs to source data.

## **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion:

- the information given in the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following:

Under the ISAs (UK and Ireland), we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, information in the annual report is:

- materially inconsistent with the information in the audited financial statements; or
- apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, our knowledge of the Group acquired in the course of performing our audit; or
- is otherwise misleading.

In particular, we are required to consider whether we have identified any inconsistencies between our knowledge acquired during the audit and the directors' statement that they consider the annual report is fair, balanced and understandable and whether the annual report appropriately discloses those matters that we communicated to the audit committee which we consider should have been disclosed.

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent Company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent Company financial statements and the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Under the Listing Rules we are required to review:

- the directors' statement, set out on pages 21 to 22, in relation to going concern; and
- the part of the Corporate Governance Statement relating to the Group's compliance with the nine provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code specified for our review.

Susan Dawe (Senior statutory auditor)  
for and on behalf of  
Ernst & Young LLP, Statutory Auditor  
Edinburgh

14 May 2014

# Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year to 31 March 2014

		Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total
		Year to	Year to	Year to	Year to	Year to	Year to
		31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March
		2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Capital gains on investments</b>							
Gains on investments held at fair value through profit or loss							
	11	–	7,741	7,741	–	16,309	16,309
Exchange differences							
	21	–	227	227	–	(28)	(28)
<b>Revenue</b>							
Investment income							
	2	5,466	–	5,466	5,478	–	5,478
<b>Total income</b>							
		5,466	7,968	13,434	5,478	16,281	21,759
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Investment management fee							
	4	(278)	(1,232)	(1,510)	(250)	(583)	(833)
Other expenses							
	5	(386)	–	(386)	(445)	–	(445)
<b>Total expenditure</b>							
		(664)	(1,232)	(1,896)	(695)	(583)	(1,278)
<b>Profit before finance costs and tax</b>							
		4,802	6,736	11,538	4,783	15,698	20,481
<b>Finance costs</b>							
Interest on bank loan and interest rate swap							
	7	(178)	(415)	(593)	(384)	(897)	(1,281)
<b>Total finance costs</b>							
		(178)	(415)	(593)	(384)	(897)	(1,281)
<b>Profit before tax</b>							
		4,624	6,321	10,945	4,399	14,801	19,200
Tax							
	8	(26)	26	–	(8)	244	236
<b>Profit for the year</b>							
		4,598	6,347	10,945	4,391	15,045	19,436
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>							
<b>Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b>							
Movement in fair value of interest rate swap							
		–	–	–	–	749	749
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>							
		4,598	6,347	10,945	4,391	15,794	20,185
<b>Earnings per share</b>							
	10	3.73p	5.14p	8.87p	3.52p	12.06p	15.58p

The total column of this statement represents the Group's Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income, prepared in accordance with IFRS. The supplementary revenue return and capital return columns are both prepared under guidance published by the Association of Investment Companies.

All revenue and capital items in the above statement derive from continuing operations.

No operations were acquired or discontinued in the year.

All of the profit and total comprehensive income for the year is attributable to the owners of the Company.

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

# Balance Sheets

as at 31 March 2014

	Notes	2014		2013	
		Company £'000	Group £'000	Company £'000	Group £'000
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Investments held at fair value through profit or loss	11	<b>139,816</b>	<b>139,566</b>	133,861	133,611
<b>Current assets</b>					
Receivables	13	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,280</b>	1,045	1,045
Cash and cash equivalents	14	<b>5,904</b>	<b>5,904</b>	5,146	5,146
		<b>7,184</b>	<b>7,184</b>	6,191	6,191
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>147,000</b>	<b>146,750</b>	140,052	139,802
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Payables	15	<b>(2,448)</b>	<b>(2,198)</b>	(554)	(304)
		<b>(2,448)</b>	<b>(2,198)</b>	(554)	(304)
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Bank loan	16	<b>(18,000)</b>	<b>(18,000)</b>	(18,000)	(18,000)
		<b>(18,000)</b>	<b>(18,000)</b>	(18,000)	(18,000)
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>(20,448)</b>	<b>(20,198)</b>	(18,554)	(18,304)
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>126,552</b>	<b>126,552</b>	121,498	121,498
Share capital	17	<b>134</b>	<b>134</b>	134	134
Share premium	18	<b>153</b>	<b>153</b>	22	22
Capital redemption reserve		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	5	5
Buy back reserve		<b>87,356</b>	<b>87,356</b>	88,010	88,010
Special capital reserve		<b>23,952</b>	<b>23,952</b>	25,328	25,328
Capital reserves		<b>10,836</b>	<b>10,836</b>	4,489	4,489
Revenue reserve		<b>4,116</b>	<b>4,116</b>	3,510	3,510
<b>Equity shareholders' funds</b>		<b>126,552</b>	<b>126,552</b>	121,498	121,498
<b>Net asset value per A share</b>	19	<b>102.59p</b>	<b>102.59p</b>	98.02p	98.02p
<b>Net asset value per B share</b>	19	<b>102.59p</b>	<b>102.59p</b>	98.02p	98.02p

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 14 May 2014 and signed on its behalf by:

**Iain McLaren**, Director

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

# Consolidated and Company Cash Flow Statement

for the year to 31 March 2014

	Year to 31 March 2014 £'000	Year to 31 March 2013 £'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Profit before tax	10,945	19,200
Adjustments for:		
Gains on investments held at fair value through profit or loss	(7,741)	(16,309)
Exchange differences	(227)	28
Decrease in receivables	37	242
Increase in payables	474	100
Purchases of investments	(21,096)	(15,006)
Sales of investments	24,167	28,651
Finance costs	593	1,281
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<b>7,152</b>	<b>18,187</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Bank loan drawn down	–	18,000
Bank loan repaid	–	(33,500)
Dividends paid on A shares	(3,992)	(3,991)
Capital returns paid on B shares	(1,376)	(1,354)
Interest on bank loan and interest rate swap	(598)	(1,272)
Shares purchased for treasury	(1,180)	(2,255)
Shares issued from treasury	524	–
<b>Net cash outflow from financing activities</b>	<b>(6,622)</b>	<b>(24,372)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>(6,185)</b>
Currency gains	228	2
Opening net cash and cash equivalents	5,146	11,329
<b>Closing net cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>5,904</b>	<b>5,146</b>

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



# Consolidated and Company Statement of Changes in Equity

## for the year to 31 March 2014

	Notes	Share	Share	Capital	Buy back	Special	Capital	Capital	Revenue	Total
		Capital	Premium	Redemption	Reserve	Reserve	Reserve	investments	Reserve –	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	investments sold	held	£'000
Balance as at 1 April 2013		134	22	5	88,010	25,328	(17,334)	21,823	3,510	121,498
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>										
Profit for the year		–	–	–	–	–	1,147	5,200	4,598	10,945
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		–	–	–	–	–	1,147	5,200	4,598	10,945
<b>Transactions with owners of the Company recognised directly in equity</b>										
Shares bought back for treasury	17	–	–	–	(1,180)	–	–	–	–	(1,180)
Shares resold from treasury	17	–	131	–	526	–	–	–	–	657
Dividends paid on A shares	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(3,992)	(3,992)
Capital returns paid on B shares	9	–	–	–	–	(1,376)	–	–	–	(1,376)
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2014</b>		<b>134</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>87,356</b>	<b>23,952</b>	<b>(16,187)</b>	<b>27,023</b>	<b>4,116</b>	<b>126,552</b>

## for the year to 31 March 2013

	Notes	Share	Share	Capital	Buy back	Special	Capital	Capital	Revenue	Total
		Capital	Premium	Redemption	Reserve	Reserve	Reserve	investments	Reserve –	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	investments sold	held	£'000
Balance as at 1 April 2012		134	22	5	90,265	26,682	(20,366)	9,061	3,110	108,913
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>										
Profit for the year		–	–	–	–	–	3,032	12,013	4,391	19,436
Movement in fair value of interest rate swap	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	749	–	749
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		–	–	–	–	–	3,032	12,762	4,391	20,185
<b>Transactions with owners of the Company recognised directly in equity</b>										
Shares bought back for treasury	17	–	–	–	(2,255)	–	–	–	–	(2,255)
Dividends paid on A shares	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(3,991)	(3,991)
Capital returns paid on B shares	9	–	–	–	–	(1,354)	–	–	–	(1,354)
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2013</b>		<b>134</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>88,010</b>	<b>25,328</b>	<b>(17,334)</b>	<b>21,823</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>121,498</b>

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

# Notes to the Accounts

## 1. Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies is set out below.

### Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Group have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), which comprise standards and interpretations approved by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB"), and International Accounting Standards and Standing Interpretations Committee interpretations approved by the International Accounting Standards Committee ("IASC") that remain in effect, and to the extent that they have been adopted by the European Union.

Where presentational guidance set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") for investment trusts issued by the Association of Investment Companies ("AIC") in January 2009 is consistent with the requirements of IFRS, the Directors have sought to prepare the financial statements on a basis compliant with the recommendations of the SORP.

The notes and financial statements are presented in pounds sterling (functional and presentational currency) and are rounded to the nearest thousand except where otherwise indicated.

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenue and expenses during the year. The nature of the estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

Significant estimates and assumptions include the fair value of financial instruments. The valuation of financial assets held by the Group at year end have been derived from active, liquid markets. Risks relating to these valuations are disclosed in note 21. The interest rate swap held in the prior year was held at fair value and was assessed as being an effective cash flow hedge for the period held.

In assessing the going concern basis of accounting the Directors have had regard to the guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council in October 2009. After making enquiries, and bearing in mind the nature of the Company's business and assets, the Directors consider that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year, except that the following new standards have been adopted in the current year:

- In June 2011, the International Accounting Standards Board (the 'IASB') issued Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income (Amendments to IAS 1 '*Presentation of Financial Statements*'). The amendments to IAS 1 change the grouping of items presented in Other Comprehensive Income in its Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income. Items that could be reclassified to profit or loss at a future point in time are now required to be presented separately from items that will never be reclassified. The amendment affects presentation only and has no impact on the Group's financial position or performance.
- In May 2011, the IASB issued IFRS 10 '*Consolidated Financial Statements*' (2011). IFRS 10 (2011) introduces a new control model that is applicable to all investees, by focussing on whether the Group has power over an investee, exposure or rights to variable returns from its involvement with the investee and ability to use its power to affect those returns. As a result of IFRS 10 (2011), the Group has changed its accounting policy for determining whether it has control over and consequently whether it consolidates its investees. The Group reassessed the control conclusion for its investees at 1 April 2013 and concluded that it does not change the companies consolidated within the Group and therefore has no impact on the financial statements as presented.
- In May 2011, the IASB issued IFRS 12 '*Disclosure of Involvement with Other Entities*'. IFRS 12 includes all the disclosures which were previously required by IAS 27 related to consolidated financial statements, as well as all of the disclosures that were previously included in IAS 31 and IAS 28. These disclosures relate to an entity's interests in subsidiaries, joint arrangements, associates and structured entities. The adoption of IFRS 10 and 12, from 1 April 2013, has no significant impact on the Group accounts, method of consolidation or disclosures presented.

## 1. Accounting policies (continued)

- In May 2011, the IASB issued IFRS 13 '*Fair Value Measurement*'. IFRS 13 establishes a single source of guidance under IFRS for all fair value measurements. IFRS 13 does not change when an entity is required to use fair value, but rather provides guidance on how to measure fair value under IFRS when fair value is required or permitted. A number of additional disclosures are required.

The following new standards have been issued but are not effective for this accounting period and have not been adopted early:

- In November 2009 and October 2010, the IASB issued IFRS 9 '*Financial Instruments*' which represents part of a project to replace IAS 39 '*Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*'. It replaces the parts of IAS 39 that relate to the classification and measurement of financial instruments. IFRS 9 requires financial assets to be classified into two measurement categories: those measured as at fair value and those measured at amortised cost. The determination is made at initial recognition. The classification depends on the entity's business model for managing its financial instruments and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the instrument. For financial liabilities, the standard retains most of the IAS 39 requirements. The main change is that, in cases where the fair value option is taken for financial liabilities, the part of a fair value change due to an entity's own credit risk is recorded in other comprehensive income rather than the income statement, unless this creates an accounting mismatch. The IASB currently has an active project to make limited amendments to the classification and measurement requirements of IFRS 9 and to add new requirements to address the impairment of financial assets and hedge accounting. A final standard in relation to hedge accounting is now in issue. IFRS 9 will not be effective before 1 January 2017, with the final effective date being determined by the IASB when other parts of IFRS are finalised, but may be applied earlier subject to EU endorsement. The Group is yet to assess IFRS 9's full impact and will also consider the impact of the remaining phases of IFRS 9 when completed by the IASB.
- In October 2012, the IASB issued amendments to IFRS 10 '*Consolidated financial statements*', IFRS 12 '*Disclosure of interests in other entities*' and IAS 27 '*Separate financial statements*' – Investment entities: The amendments define an investment entity and introduce an exception to consolidating particular subsidiaries for investment entities. These amendments require an investment entity to measure those subsidiaries at fair value through profit or loss in accordance with IFRS 9 '*Financial Instruments*' in its consolidated and separate financial statements. The amendments also introduce new disclosure requirements for investment entities in IFRS 12 and IAS 27. These amendments become effective for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2014.

The Group does not consider that the future adoption of any new standards, in the form currently available, will have any material impact on the financial statements as presented.

### Group accounts

The Group Accounts consolidate the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Investors Securities Company Limited. The Company has taken advantage of the exemption permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to present its own Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date of acquisition, being the date from which control is transferred to the Group, and cease to be consolidated from the date on which control is transferred out of the Group.

### Presentation of Statement of Comprehensive Income

In order to reflect better the activities of an investment trust company and in accordance with guidance issued by the AIC, supplementary information which analyses the Statement of Comprehensive Income between items of a revenue and capital nature has been presented alongside the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The net revenue return is the measure the Directors believe appropriate in assessing the Company's compliance with certain requirements set out in section 1158 Corporation Tax Act 2010.

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

## 1. Accounting policies (continued)

### Investments

Investments are recognised and derecognised on the trade date where a purchase or sale is under a contract whose terms require delivery within the timeframe established by the market concerned, and are initially measured at fair value.

Investments are classified as fair value through profit or loss. As the entity's business is investing in financial assets with a view to profiting from their total return in the form of interest, dividends or increases in fair value, listed equities and fixed income securities are designated as fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition.

Financial assets designated as at fair value through profit or loss are measured at subsequent reporting dates at fair value, which is either the bid price or the last traded price, depending on the convention of the exchange on which the investment is quoted. Where lower, the fair value of an investment on which a call option has been written is the exercise price of the option. Unlisted investments, including the subsidiary, are valued at fair value by the Directors on the basis of all information available to them at the time of valuation.

Where securities are designated upon initial recognition as fair value through profit or loss, gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are included in net profit or loss for the period as a capital item. On derecognition any gain or loss arising is transferred from the Capital reserve – Investment Held to Capital reserve – Investment Sold.

Accounting standards recognise a hierarchy of fair value measurements for financial instruments which gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The classification of financial instruments depends on the lowest significant applicable input, as follows:

**Level 1** – quoted (unadjusted) prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

**Level 2** – other techniques for which all inputs that have a significant effect on the recorded fair value are observable, either directly or indirectly. The Company's interest rate swap, which was repaid during the prior year, was included in Level 2.

**Level 3** – techniques that use inputs that have a significant effect on the recorded fair value that are not based on observable market data. The Company's investment in its dealing subsidiary is included in Level 3 and is valued at its equity value.

### Current assets – investments

Listed investments held by Investors Securities Company Limited, the Company's dealing subsidiary, are valued at fair value through profit or loss. Gains and losses on the disposal of investments realised by the dealing subsidiary together with unrealised losses are applied to the revenue column of the Group Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period in which they arise. Investments are recognised and derecognised on the trade date where a purchase or sale is under a contract whose terms require delivery within the timeframe established by the market concerned.

### Receivables

Receivables do not carry any interest and are short term in nature and are accordingly stated at their nominal value as reduced by appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash in banks and short term deposits that are held to maturity are carried at cost. Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand and short term deposits in banks with an original maturity of three months or less.

### Financial liabilities and equity

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Group after deducting all of its liabilities. If the Group has issued compound financial instruments that contain both a liability and equity component, the Group separately recognises these components as a financial liability or equity. Financial liabilities and equity instruments are recorded at the proceeds received, net of issue costs.

## 1. Accounting policies (continued)

### *Bank borrowings*

Interest-bearing bank loans and overdrafts are recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs. Finance charges, including premiums payable on settlement or redemption and direct issue costs, are accounted for on an accruals basis in the Statement of Comprehensive Income using the effective interest method and are added to the carrying amount of the instrument to the extent that they are not settled in the period in which they arise.

### *Derivative financial instruments and hedge accounting*

The Group's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. The Group uses foreign exchange forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts to hedge these exposures. The Group does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Changes in the fair value of derivative financial instruments that are designated and effective as hedges of future cash flows are recognised directly in equity and shown through Other Comprehensive Income and any ineffective portion is recognised immediately in profit or loss. If incurred in connection with the maintenance or enhancement of the value of the Company's investment portfolio, the associated change in fair value is presented as a capital item. The amount in equity is released to income when the forecast transaction impacts profit or loss.

Changes in the fair value of derivative financial instruments that do not qualify for hedge accounting are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as they arise. If incurred in connection with the maintenance or enhancement of the value of the Company's investment portfolio, the associated change in fair value is presented as a capital item in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Hedge accounting is discontinued when the hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated, or exercised, or no longer qualifies for hedge accounting. At that time, any cumulative gain or loss on the hedging instrument recognised in equity for cash flow hedges is retained in equity until the forecast transaction occurs. If a hedged transaction is no longer expected to occur, the net cumulative gain or loss recognised in equity is transferred to net profit or loss.

Derivatives embedded in other financial instruments or non-financial host contracts are treated as separate derivatives when their economic characteristics and risks are not closely related to those of the host contracts and the financial instrument is not classified at fair value through profit or loss.

### **Payables**

Payables are not interest bearing and are stated at their nominal value.

### **Reserves**

- (a) Share premium – the surplus of net proceeds received from the issue of new shares over the par value of such shares is credited to this account. The majority of the balance of this account which arose as a result of the issue of new shares at launch was subsequently cancelled by the Court of Session to create the Buyback reserve and Special capital reserve. These reserves are explained below. To the extent that the consideration received exceeds the value at which the shares were initially bought into treasury, the gain arising on the resale of shares from treasury will be credited to the share premium account. The share premium account is non-distributable.
- (b) Capital redemption reserve – the nominal value of any of the shares bought back for cancellation is added to this reserve. This reserve is non-distributable.
- (c) Buyback reserve – created from the Court cancellation of the share premium account which had arisen from premiums paid on the A Shares. Available as distributable profits to be used for the buy back of Shares. The cost of any shares bought back is deducted from this reserve. The cost of any Shares resold from treasury is added back to this reserve.
- (d) Special capital reserve – created from the Court cancellation of the share premium account which had arisen from premiums paid on the B Shares. Available for paying capital returns on the B Shares.
- (e) Capital reserve – investments sold – gains and losses on realisation of investments, including losses on transactions in own shares, are dealt with in this reserve together with the proportion of management fees, interest and taxation allocated to capital. This reserve also includes dividends of a capital nature.

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

## 1. Accounting policies (continued)

- (f) Capital reserve – investments held – increases and decreases in the valuation of investments and interest rate swaps held are accounted for in this reserve, together with unrealised exchange differences on forward foreign currency contracts.
- (g) Revenue reserve – the net profit/(loss) arising in the revenue column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income is added to or deducted from this reserve. Available for paying dividends on the A shares.

### Income

Dividends are recognised as income on the date that the related investments are marked ex-dividend.

Dividends receivable on equity shares where no ex-dividend date is quoted are brought into account when the Company's right to receive payment is established.

Interest income from fixed interest securities is accrued on a time apportioned basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the effective interest rate applicable, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to that asset's net carrying amount. Other investment income and deposit interest are included on an accruals basis.

Special dividends of a non-capital nature are recognised through the revenue column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Where the Company has elected to receive its dividends in the form of additional shares rather than cash, an amount equal to the cash dividend is recognised as income.

### Call options

The Company may write call options over holdings within the Equities Portfolio, subject to certain constraints. The premium received from writing call options is recognised through revenue, on a time apportionment basis, over the term of the option. Should the call option be exercised the underlying stock is recognised as being sold at the exercise price.

At the period end, any unamortised element of option premium is recognised as deferred income.

### Taxation

The tax expense represents the sum of the tax currently payable and deferred tax.

The tax currently payable is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from profit before tax as reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other periods and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The Group's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

### Deferred taxation

Deferred tax is the tax expected to be payable or recoverable on differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit, and is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method. Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised.

Investment trusts which have approval under section 1158 Corporation Tax Act 2010 are not liable for taxation on capital gains.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each balance sheet date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available to allow all or part of the asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the liability is settled or the asset is realised. Deferred tax is charged or credited in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except when it relates to items charged or credited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is also dealt with in equity.

## 1. Accounting policies (continued)

### Expenses and interest

All expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenses are charged through the revenue column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income except where incurred in connection with the maintenance or enhancement of the value of the Company's investment portfolio taking account of the expected long term split of returns as follows:

- Interest payable on the bank term loan and, in the prior year, cashflows on the swap are recognised on an effective yield basis are allocated 30 per cent to revenue and 70 per cent to capital.
- Management fees have been allocated 30 per cent to revenue and 70 per cent to capital. Performance fees and, where the base management fee is chargeable at a rate higher than 0.75 per cent, that part of the base fee above 0.75 per cent, will be charged wholly to capital.

### Foreign currency

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded in the local currency at actual exchange rates as at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the year end are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at the year end. Any gain or loss arising from a change in exchange rates subsequent to the date of the transaction is included as an exchange gain or loss in either the capital or revenue column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income depending on whether the gain or loss is of a capital or revenue nature respectively.

<b>Rates of exchange at 31 March</b>	<b>2014</b>	2013
Euro	<b>1.2096</b>	1.1825
US Dollar	<b>1.6672</b>	1.5185

<b>2. Income</b>	<b>2014</b>	2013
	<b>£'000</b>	£'000

<b>Income from investments</b>		
UK dividend income	<b>4,511</b>	4,364
UK listed fixed interest	<b>674</b>	781
Overseas listed fixed interest	<b>259</b>	305
	<b>5,444</b>	5,450

<b>Other income</b>		
Deposit interest	<b>17</b>	28
Underwriting commission and other income	<b>5</b>	–
<b>Total income</b>	<b>5,466</b>	5,478

<b>Total income comprises:</b>		
Dividends	<b>4,511</b>	4,364
Interest on fixed interest securities	<b>933</b>	1,086
Deposit interest	<b>17</b>	28
Underwriting commission and other income	<b>5</b>	–
<b>Total income</b>	<b>5,466</b>	5,478

<b>Income from investments:</b>		
Listed	<b>5,444</b>	5,450

No income in the current or prior year arose on securities sold ex-dividend within one month of purchase cum-dividend.

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

## 3. Operating segments

The Board has considered the requirements of IFRS 8 'Operating Segments'. The Board is of the view that the Group is engaged in a single segment of business, of investing in equity and higher yielding securities, and that therefore the Group has only a single operating segment. The Board of Directors, as a whole, has been identified as constituting the chief operating decision maker of the Group. The key measure of performance used by the Board to assess the Group's performance is the total return on the Group's net asset value measuring debt at fair value. The reconciliation between the measure of profit or loss used by the Board and that contained in the financial statements is as follows:

	2014	2014	2013	2013
	£'000	Pence per share	£'000	Pence per share
Shareholders' funds per financial statements	126,552	102.59	121,498	98.02
Closing fair value adjustment on fixed-rate term loan*	308	0.25	(186)	(0.15)
Shareholders' funds with debt at fair value	126,860	102.84	121,312	97.87
Profit for the year per financial statements	10,945	8.87	19,436	15.58
Movement in fair value on fixed-rate term loan*	494	0.40	(186)	(0.15)
Profit for the year with debt at fair value	11,439	9.27	19,250	15.43

\*Refer to note 16 for further details on the fixed-rate term loan.

## 4. Investment management fee

	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investment management fee						
– basic	278	838	1,115	250	583	833
– performance	–	395	395	–	–	–
	278	1,232	1,510	250	583	833

The Company's investment manager is F&C Investment Business Limited. The contract between the Company and F&C Investment Business Limited may be terminated at any date by either party giving six months' notice of termination. In the event of the Company terminating the contract by giving less than six months' notice, F&C Investment Business Limited is entitled to compensation calculated as a proportion of the fees payable by the Company in respect of the previous financial year.

F&C Investment Business Limited receives an investment management fee comprising a base fee and a performance fee.

For the current and prior years the base fee was a management fee at 0.9 per cent per annum of the net asset value of the Company payable quarterly in arrears, subject to being reduced to 0.75 per cent if the net asset value at the end of the financial year is less than £1 per share. At 31 March 2014, the net asset value per share was 102.59p per share (2013: 98.02p) and hence the management fee was payable at a rate of 0.9 per cent for the year to 31 March 2014 (2013: 0.75 per cent).

The performance fee was payable every five years, and was 15 per cent of the amount by which the Company's net assets, adding back the capital returns paid in respect of the B Shares, outperformed its benchmark, the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index. Payment of the performance fee was conditional on both the net assets at the end of the five year period being not less than £1 per share, and on distributions per share having been paid in each year of the five year period that were not less, unless the Board otherwise agreed, than the distributions per share paid in respect of the first year of that period. The performance fee was capped at a sum equal to the aggregate base fees paid over the relevant five year period.

With effect from 1 April 2014, the terms of the investment management fee were amended such that the basic management fee was reduced to 0.75 per cent per annum of the net asset value of the Company payable quarterly in arrears. The performance fee was calculated for the two year period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014 and thereafter ceased to apply.



## 5. Other expenses (including irrecoverable VAT thereon)

	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Directors' fees (Note 6)	112	107
Auditors' remuneration for:		
– statutory audit	23	23
– taxation services (non-audit)	33	18
Other	218	297
	<b>386</b>	445

## 6. Directors' fees

The emoluments of the Chairman, the highest paid Director, were at the rate of £29,250 per annum (2013: £28,500). Other Directors' emoluments amounted to £19,500 (2013: £19,000) each per annum, with the chairman of the Audit Committee receiving an additional £2,000 per annum. Full details are provided in the Directors' Remuneration Report.

## 7. Finance costs

	2014 Revenue £'000	2014 Capital £'000	2014 Total £'000	2013 Revenue £'000	2013 Capital £'000	2013 Total £'000
Finance costs attributable to term loan and interest rate swap	178	415	593	384	897	1,281

An amount of £754,000 paid in relation to the interest rate swap has been included within hedged interest payments made in the year to 31 March 2013. The interest rate swap expired on 28 September 2012.

## 8a. Tax on ordinary activities

	2014 Revenue £'000	2014 Capital £'000	2014 Total £'000	2013 Revenue £'000	2013 Capital £'000	2013 Total £'000
Corporation tax	26	(26)	–	8	(8)	–
Release in provision relating to prior years	–	–	–	–	(236)	(236)
<b>Total tax charge/(credit)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>(26)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>(244)</b>	<b>(236)</b>

## 8b. Factors affecting tax charge for current year

A reconciliation of the current tax charge is set out below:

	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Profit before tax	10,945	19,200
Taxation on ordinary activities at the UK standard rate of corporation tax of 23% (2013: 24%)	2,517	4,608
Effects of:		
– Non taxable dividend income	(1,038)	(1,047)
– Non taxable capital gains	(1,833)	(3,907)
– Non-allowable capital losses	–	89
– Excess management expenses	354	257
– Release in provision relating to prior years	–	(236)
<b>Total tax credit for the year</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(236)</b>

The deferred tax asset of £651,000 (2013: £407,000) in respect of unutilised expenses at 31 March 2014 has not been recognised as it is uncertain that there will be taxable profits from which the future reversal of the deferred tax asset could be deducted.

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

## 9. Dividends and capital repayments

	2014 Revenue £'000	2014 Capital £'000	2014 Total £'000	2013 Revenue £'000	2013 Capital £'000	2013 Total £'000
<b>Amounts recognised as distributions to shareholders in the year:</b>						
Fourth interim dividend for the prior year paid at 1.1p per A share	1,018	–	1,018	1,033	–	1,033
Fourth capital repayment for the prior year paid at 1.1p per B share	–	346	346	–	353	353
First interim dividend paid at 1.0825p (2013: 1.06p) per A share	993	–	993	991	–	991
First capital repayment paid at 1.0825p (2013: 1.06p) per B share	–	342	342	–	335	335
Second interim dividend paid at 1.0825p (2013: 1.06p) per A share	993	–	993	986	–	986
Second capital repayment paid at 1.0825p (2013: 1.06p) per B share	–	344	344	–	333	333
Third interim dividend paid at 1.0825p (2013: 1.06p) per A share	988	–	988	981	–	981
Third capital repayment paid at 1.0825p (2013: 1.06p) per B share	–	344	344	–	333	333
	<b>3,992</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>5,368</b>	3,991	1,354	5,345

### Amounts relating to the year but not paid at the year end:

Fourth interim dividend payable at 1.1225p (2013: 1.1p) per A share	1,025	–	1,025	1,018	–	1,018
Fourth capital repayment payable at 1.1225p (2013: 1.1p) per B share	–	360	360	–	346	346
	<b>1,025</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>1,385</b>	1,018	346	1,364

	2014 £'000
Revenue available for distribution by way of dividends for the year	<b>4,598</b>
First quarterly interim dividend of 1.0825p per A share paid in respect of the year ended 31 March 2014	<b>(993)</b>
Second quarterly interim dividend of 1.0825p per A share paid in respect of the year ended 31 March 2014	<b>(993)</b>
Third quarterly interim dividend of 1.0825p per A share paid in respect of the year ended 31 March 2014	<b>(988)</b>
Fourth quarterly interim dividend of 1.1225p per A share payable in respect of the year ended 31 March 2014*	<b>(1,025)</b>
Undistributed revenue for the purposes of Section 1158 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 (see page 19)	<b>599</b>

\*based on 91,278,144 A shares in issue at 2 April 2014.

## 10. Earnings per share

The Company's earnings per share are based on the profit for the year of £10,945,000 (year to 31 March 2013: £19,436,000) and on 91,679,614 A shares (2013: 93,157,459) and 31,755,730 B shares (2013: 31,610,525), being the weighted average number of shares in issue of each share class during the year.

The Company's revenue earnings per share are based on the revenue profit for the year of £4,598,000 (year to 31 March 2013: £4,391,000) and on the weighted average number of shares in issue as above.

The Company's capital earnings per share are based on the capital profit for the year of £6,347,000 (year to 31 March 2013: £15,045,000) and on the weighted average number of shares in issue as above.

## 11. Investments held at fair value through profit or loss

	<b>Company</b>	<b>Group</b>	Company	Group
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>	2013	2013
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	£'000	£'000
Listed securities	<b>139,566</b>	<b>139,566</b>	133,611	133,611
Subsidiary undertaking	<b>250</b>	<b>–</b>	250	–
	<b>139,816</b>	<b>139,566</b>	133,861	133,611
			Company	Group
	Listed/ Quoted (Level 1)	Subsidiary/ Unlisted (Level 3)	Total	Listed/Quoted (Level 1) Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening book cost	111,809	250	112,059	111,809
Opening fair value adjustment	21,802	–	21,802	21,802
Opening valuation	133,611	250	133,861	133,611
Movements in the year:				
Purchases at cost	22,521	–	22,521	22,521
Sales – proceeds	(24,307)	–	(24,307)	(24,307)
– gains on sales	2,524	–	2,524	2,524
Increase in fair value adjustment	5,217	–	5,217	5,217
Closing valuation at 31 March 2014	139,566	250	139,816	139,566
Closing book cost at 31 March 2014	112,547	250	112,797	112,547
Closing fair value adjustment	27,019	–	27,019	27,019
<b>Closing valuation at 31 March 2014</b>	<b>139,566</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>139,816</b>	<b>139,566</b>
	<b>Company</b>	<b>Group</b>	Company	Group
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>	2013	2013
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	£'000	£'000
Equity investments	<b>120,446</b>	<b>120,196</b>	116,600	116,350
Fixed interest – UK denominated	<b>12,327</b>	<b>12,327</b>	13,252	13,252
– Overseas denominated	<b>7,043</b>	<b>7,043</b>	4,009	4,009
	<b>139,816</b>	<b>139,566</b>	133,861	133,611
Net gains on realisation of investments	<b>2,524</b>	<b>2,524</b>	4,274	4,274
Movement in fair value	<b>5,217</b>	<b>5,217</b>	12,035	12,035
Gains on investments	<b>7,741</b>	<b>7,741</b>	16,309	16,309

The Group incurred transaction costs of £36,000 (2013: £40,000) on the purchase of assets and £15,000 (2013: £15,000) on the sale of assets in the year.

Net gains on realisation of investments during the year represents the difference between the net proceeds of sale and the book cost of the investments sold.

Movement in fair value represents the increase in the difference between the book cost of investments held and their market value at 31 March 2014 compared with the difference between the book cost of investments held and their market value at 31 March 2013.

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

## 12. Significant interests

As at 31 March 2014, the Company's subsidiary undertaking which deals in investments is:

Name	Country of incorporation or Registration	Class of Capital	Share Capital and Reserves £'000	Profit for the year £'000	% of Class held	% of Equity held	Valuation at 31.03.14 £'000
Investors Securities Company Limited	Scotland	Ordinary	250	–	100	100	250

At 31 March 2014, no investments were held by the dealing subsidiary and it did not trade during the year.

## 13. Receivables

	<b>Company</b> <b>2014</b> <b>£'000</b>	<b>Group</b> <b>2014</b> <b>£'000</b>	Company 2013 £'000	Group 2013 £'000
Income receivable from shares and securities	<b>972</b>	<b>972</b>	1,006	1,006
Fair value of foreign exchange currency contracts	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	13	13
Due from brokers	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	–	–
Due from issue of own shares	<b>133</b>	<b>133</b>	–	–
Sundry debtors	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	26	26
	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,280</b>	1,045	1,045

## 14. Cash and cash equivalents

All cash balances in the current and prior year were held in cash, current accounts or in banks on short term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less at the year end.

## 15. Payables

	<b>Company</b> <b>2014</b> <b>£'000</b>	<b>Group</b> <b>2014</b> <b>£'000</b>	Company 2013 £'000	Group 2013 £'000
Loan from subsidiary undertaking	<b>250</b>	–	250	–
Accrued expenses	<b>92</b>	<b>92</b>	194	194
Investment management fee				
– basic	<b>286</b>	<b>286</b>	105	105
– performance	<b>395</b>	<b>395</b>	–	–
Due to brokers	<b>1,425</b>	<b>1,425</b>	–	–
Accrued interest payable	–	–	5	5
	<b>2,448</b>	<b>2,198</b>	554	304

## 16. Bank loan

	<b>Company and Group</b> <b>2014</b> <b>£'000</b>	Company and Group 2013 £'000
£18 million term loan maturing 28 September 2017	<b>18,000</b>	18,000

## 16. Bank loan (continued)

On 28 September 2012 the Company repaid its existing £33.5m term loan and drew down a new facility with a five year term to 28 September 2017. The term loan with JPMorgan Chase Bank is currently secured on investments and cash held by JPMorgan Chase Bank as custodian which constitutes the majority of the assets of the Company. The term loan carries interest at a fixed rate of 3.15 per cent per annum which is payable quarterly in arrears. An administration fee of £18,000 is payable annually in addition.

The term loan contains certain financial covenants with which the Company must comply. These include a financial covenant to the effect that the percentage of the total amounts drawn down under the term loan (together with any other borrowings) should not exceed 45 per cent of the Company's Eligible Total Secured Assets. The Company complied with the required financial covenants throughout the period since drawdown.

The fair value of the fixed rate £18m term loan, on a marked to market basis, was £17,692,000 at 31 March 2014 (2013: £18,186,000).

## 17. Share capital

£'000

### Authorised share capital at 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014

A Shares of 0.1p each	225
B Shares of 0.1p each	75
	300

### Allotted, issued and fully paid

	Listed		Held in Treasury		In Issue	
	Number	£	Number	£	Number	£
<b>A Shares of 0.1p each</b>						
Balance at 1 April 2013	102,067,144	102,067	(9,539,000)	(9,539)	92,528,144	92,528
Repurchased to be held in treasury	–	–	(1,250,000)	(1,250)	(1,250,000)	(1,250)
Balance at 31 March 2014	<b>102,067,144</b>	<b>102,067</b>	<b>(10,789,000)</b>	<b>(10,789)</b>	<b>91,278,144</b>	<b>91,278</b>
<b>B Shares of 0.1p each</b>						
Balance at 1 April 2013	32,076,703	32,077	(655,000)	(655)	31,421,703	31,422
Issued from treasury	–	–	655,000	655	655,000	655
Balance at 31 March 2014	<b>32,076,703</b>	<b>32,077</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>32,076,703</b>	<b>32,077</b>
<b>Total at 31 March 2014</b>	<b>134,143,847</b>	<b>134,144</b>	<b>(10,789,000)</b>	<b>(10,789)</b>	<b>123,354,847</b>	<b>123,355</b>

During the year the Company bought back 1,250,000 (2013: 2,150,000) A Shares to hold in treasury at a cost of £1,180,000 (2013: £1,754,000) and nil (2013: 630,000) B Shares to hold in treasury at a cost of £nil (2013: £501,000). During the year the Company resold 655,000 (2013: nil) B Shares from treasury for proceeds of £657,000 (2013: £nil). The Company did not buy back any shares for cancellation during the year (2013: nil).

At 31 March 2014 the Company held 10,789,000 (2013: 9,539,000) A Shares and nil (2013: 655,000) B Shares in treasury.

### Shareholder entitlements

The Company has two classes of shares: A Shares and B Shares. The rights of each class of shares are identical, save in respect of the right to participate in dividends and capital repayments. A Shares are entitled to all dividends paid by the Company and no dividends may be paid to B Shareholders. B Shareholders are entitled to capital repayments from the Company at an amount per share equal to, but not exceeding, any dividend paid per share to A Shareholders.

The net asset value attributable to each class of share is the same. Apart from voting rights entitlements at separate class meetings, every A Share and every B Share carries equal voting rights. Upon a winding up or reconstruction of the Company, each A Share and each B Share shall have an equal right to share in the residual assets of the Company.

## 18. Share premium account and reserves

In 2007, the Court of Session confirmed the cancellation of the entire amount originally standing to the credit of the share premium account and the creation of two distinct reserves, the first reserve relating to that part of the cancelled share premium account arising from premiums paid on the A Shares (the "buy back reserve") and the second reserve relating to that part of the cancelled share premium account arising from premiums paid on the B Shares (the "special capital reserve").

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

## 18. Share premium account and reserves (continued)

The Company will apply these two reserves as follows:

- the buy back reserve will be available as distributable profits to be used for the buy back of both A shares and B shares; and
- the special capital reserve will be used for the purpose of paying capital repayments on the B Shares.

### Capital management

The Company's capital is represented by the issued share capital, share premium account, capital redemption reserve, buy back reserve, special capital reserve, capital reserve – investments sold, capital reserve – investments held and revenue reserve. Details of the movement through each reserve are shown in the Statement of Changes in Equity. The Company is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

The capital of the Company is managed in accordance with its investment policy, in pursuit of its investment objective, both of which are detailed in the Business Model and Strategy and the Report of the Directors. In order to maintain an optimal capital structure through varying market conditions the Company has the ability to:

- Issue and buyback share capital within limits set by the shareholders in general meeting;
- borrow money in the short and long term;
- pay dividends to A shareholders out of current year revenue earnings as well as out of the brought forward revenue reserve; and
- pay capital repayments to B shareholders out of the special capital reserve.

The Company has the power under its Articles to borrow an amount up to 100 per cent of the Company's Adjusted Capital and Reserves. The Directors currently intend that the aggregate borrowings of the Company will be limited to approximately 20 per cent of the Company's gross assets immediately following drawdown of any new borrowings. The Directors will, however, retain flexibility to increase or decrease the level of gearing to take account of changing market circumstances and in pursuit of the Company's investment objectives.

## 19. Net asset value per share

The Company's basic net asset value per share of 102.59p (2013: 98.02p) is based on the equity shareholders' funds of £126,552,000 (2013: £121,498,000) and on 123,354,847 equity shares, consisting of 91,278,144 A Shares and 32,076,703 B Shares (2013: 123,949,847 equity shares, consisting of 92,528,144 A Shares and 31,421,703 B Shares), being the number of shares in issue at the year end.

The Company's shares may also be traded as units, each unit consisting of three A Shares and one B Share. The basic net asset value per unit as at 31 March 2014 was therefore 410.36p (2013: 392.08p).

The Company's treasury net asset value per share, incorporating the 10,789,000 A shares held in treasury at the year end, was 102.18p (2013: 97.68p). The Company's treasury net asset value per unit at the end of the year was 408.72p (2013: 390.72p). The Company's policy is to only re-sell shares held in treasury at a price representing a discount of not more than 5 per cent to net asset value at the time of sale, together with other conditions. Accordingly, for the purpose of the calculation, such treasury shares are valued at the higher of net asset value less 5 per cent and the mid market share price at each year end.

## 20. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2013 £'000	Cash flow £'000	Currency movements £'000	Non-cash movements £'000	At 31 March 2014 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	5,146	530	228	–	5,904
Bank loan	(18,000)	–	–	–	(18,000)
Net debt	(12,854)	530	228	–	(12,096)

## 21. Financial instruments

The Company's financial instruments comprise equity and fixed interest investments, cash balances, receivables and payables that arise directly from its operations and borrowings. As an investment trust the Company holds a portfolio of financial assets in pursuit of its investment objective. The Company makes use of borrowings to achieve enhanced returns. The downside risk of borrowings can be mitigated by raising the level of cash balances held.

## 21. Financial instruments (continued)

The Company may use derivatives for efficient portfolio management from time to time. The only derivatives used in the year were forward foreign exchange currency contracts to hedge currency movements. These were also used in the prior year and the Company also used the interest rate swap on the bank loan which expired on 28 September 2012. The Company may also write call options over some investments held in the Equities Portfolio.

Apart from the fair value of the fixed-rate term loan as disclosed in note 16, the fair value of the financial assets and liabilities of the Company at 31 March 2014 is not materially different from their carrying value in the financial statements.

The Company is exposed to various types of risk that are associated with financial instruments. The most important types are credit risk, market price risk, liquidity risk, interest rate risk and foreign currency risk.

The Board reviews and agrees policies for managing its risk exposure. These policies are summarised below and have remained unchanged for the year under review.

### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or counterparty will be unable or unwilling to meet a commitment that it has entered into with the Company.

The Company's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, other receivables and fixed interest investments, which represent the Company's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to financial assets. The Company did not have any exposure to any financial assets which were past due or impaired at the current or prior year end.

The Company is exposed to potential failure by counterparties to deliver securities for which the Company has paid, or to pay for securities which the Company has delivered. A list of pre-approved counterparties used in such transactions is maintained and regularly reviewed by the Manager, and transactions must be settled on a basis of delivery against payment. Broker counterparties are selected based on a combination of criteria, including credit rating, balance sheet strength and membership of a relevant regulatory body. Risk relating to unsettled transactions is considered to be small due to the short settlement period involved and the acceptable quality of the brokers used. The rate of default in the past has been insignificant.

All of the assets of the Company, other than the dealing subsidiary, are held by JPMorgan Chase Bank, the Company's custodian. Bankruptcy or insolvency of the custodian may cause the Company's rights with respect to the securities held by the custodian to be delayed or limited. The Board monitors the Company's risk by reviewing the custodian's internal control reports as described in the Report of the Audit Committee.

The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit ratings, normally rated A or higher, assigned by international credit rating agencies. Bankruptcy or insolvency of such financial institutions may cause the Company's ability to access cash placed on deposit to be delayed, limited or lost. The Company has no significant concentration of credit risk with exposure spread over a number of counterparties and financial institutions.

### Market price risk

The fair value of equity and other financial securities held in the Company's portfolio fluctuates with changes in market prices. Prices are themselves affected by movements in currencies and interest rates and by other financial issues, including the market perception of future risks. The Group's strategy for the management of market price risk is driven by the Company's investment policy as outlined within the Business Model and Strategy on pages 7 and 8. The Board sets policies for managing this risk and meets regularly to review full, timely and relevant information on investment performance and financial results. The management of market price risk is part of the fund management process and is typical of equity and fixed interest investment. The portfolio is managed with an awareness of the effects of adverse price movements through detailed and continuing analysis with an objective of maximising overall returns to shareholders. Investment and portfolio performance are discussed in more detail in the Manager's Review and further information on the investment portfolio is set out in the sections of this report entitled 'Classification of Investments', 'Equities Portfolio' and 'Higher Yield Portfolio'.

Any changes in market conditions will directly affect the profit or loss reported through the Statement of Comprehensive Income. A 10 per cent increase in the value of the Equities Portfolio as at 31 March 2014 would have increased net assets and income for the year by £12,020,000 (2013: an increase of 10 per cent would have increased net assets and income by £11,635,000). A decrease of 10 per cent (2013: 10 per cent) would have had an equal but opposite effect.

A 10 per cent increase in the value of the Higher Yield Portfolio as at 31 March 2014 would have increased net assets and income for the year by £1,937,000 (2013: an increase of 10 per cent would have increased net assets and income by £1,726,000). A decrease of 10 per cent (2013: 10 per cent) would have had an equal but opposite effect.

The calculations above are based on investment valuations at the respective balance sheet dates and are not representative of the year as a whole, nor are they reflective of future market conditions.

Disclosure of the hierarchy of fair value measurements for financial instruments, as required by IFRS 7, is provided in note 11 and in the accounting policies.

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

## 21. Financial instruments (continued)

### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will encounter difficulty in realising assets or otherwise raising funds to meet financial commitments. The risk of the Company not having sufficient liquidity at any time is not considered by the Board to be significant, given the liquid nature of the portfolio of investments and the level of cash and cash equivalents ordinarily held. However, where there has been a deterioration in credit quality or an event of default the Company may not be able to liquidate quickly, at fair value, some of its investments in the Higher Yield Portfolio. Cash balances are held with a spread of reputable banks with a credit rating of normally A or higher, usually on overnight deposit. The Manager reviews liquidity at the time of making each investment decision. The Board reviews liquidity exposure at each meeting.

In certain circumstances, the terms of the Company's bank loan entitle the lender to demand early repayment and, in such circumstances, the Company's ability to maintain dividend levels and the net asset value attributable to equity shareholders could be adversely affected. Such early repayment may be required in the event of a change of control of the Company or on the occurrence of certain events of default which are customary for facilities of this type. These include events of non payment, breach of other obligations, misrepresentations, insolvency and insolvency proceedings, illegality and a material adverse change in the financial condition of the Company.

The remaining contractual maturities of the financial liabilities at 31 March 2014, based on the earliest date on which payment can be required, were as follows:

	Three months or less £'000	More than three months but less than one year £'000	More than one year but less than two years £'000	More than two years but less than five years £'000	Total £'000
<b>31 March 2014</b>					
Current liabilities					
Payables	<b>2,198</b>	–	–	–	<b>2,198</b>
Non-current liabilities					
Bank loan	<b>142</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>18,869</b>	<b>20,039</b>
<b>31 March 2013</b>					
Current liabilities					
Payables	304	–	–	–	304
Non-current liabilities					
Bank loan	142	443	585	19,454	20,624

The figures in the above table are on a contractual maturity basis and therefore include interest payments where applicable.

### Interest rate risk

Some of the Company's financial instruments are interest bearing. They are a mix of both fixed and variable rate instruments with differing maturities. As a consequence, the Company is exposed to interest rate risk due to fluctuations in the prevailing market rate. The Company's exposure to floating interest rates gives cashflow interest rate risk and its exposure to fixed interest rates gives fair value interest rate risk.

#### Floating rate

When the Company retains cash balances the majority of the cash is held in deposit accounts. The benchmark rate which determines the interest payments received on cash balances is the bank base rate, which was 0.5 per cent at 31 March 2014 (2013: 0.5 per cent).

#### Fixed rate

The Company holds fixed interest investments and has fixed interest liabilities.

	2014			2013		
	Weighted average interest rate £'000	Average duration until maturity		Weighted average interest rate £'000	Average duration until maturity	
Higher Yield investments:						
Fixed interest investments	<b>16,555</b>	<b>3.7%*</b> <b>3.9 years</b>		13,555	3.9%*	3.3 years
Floating rate notes	<b>2,815</b>	<b>1.7%</b> <b>0.9 years</b>		3,706	1.8%	0.5 years
Fixed interest liabilities:						
Term loan and interest rate swap	<b>18,000</b>	<b>3.2%</b> <b>3.5 years</b>		18,000	3.2%	4.5 years

\*The weighted average interest rate on the Higher Yield Portfolio assumes that all fixed interest investments are held to redemption and that full redemption value is received.



## 21. Financial instruments (continued)

### Interest rate risk (continued)

#### Fixed rate (continued)

Movements in the fair value of investments held in the Higher Yield Portfolio due to a movement in the market interest rate is viewed to form part of the market price risk.

The Company's Equities Portfolio does not contain any fixed interest or floating rate interest assets. Details of the Company's Equities Portfolio are given in Note 11 and in the section of this report entitled 'Equities Portfolio'.

The £18 million term loan carries a fixed interest rate of 3.15 per cent per annum.

Considering the effect on the term loan, it is estimated that an increase of 100 basis points in interest rates as at the balance sheet date would have decreased its fair value liability by approximately £554,000 (2013: £723,000). A decrease of 100 basis points would have increased its fair value liability by approximately £578,000 (2013: £762,000). These calculations are based on the balance of the term loan at the respective balance sheet date and are not representative of the year as a whole, nor reflective of future market conditions.

Considering the effect on cash balances, an increase of 100 basis points in interest rates would have increased net assets and income for the year by £59,000 (year to 31 March 2013: £51,000). A decrease of 100 basis points would have had an equal but opposite effect. The calculations are based on the net cash balances at the respective balance sheet date and are not representative of the year as a whole, nor are they reflective of future market conditions.

### Foreign currency risk

In order to achieve a diversified portfolio of higher yielding securities the Company invests partly in overseas securities which gives rise to currency risks. In the year to 31 March 2014, the Company entered into US Dollar and Euro foreign exchange currency contracts with a view to hedging these currency risks. Foreign currency exposure at 31 March 2014 was as follows:

	2014				2013			
	Investments £'000	Net Current		Total £'000	Investments £'000	Net Current		Total £'000
		Assets £'000	Cash £'000			Assets £'000	Cash £'000	
US Dollar	2,288	191	4	2,483	743	208	4	955
Euro	4,755	80	7	4,842	3,266	77	10	3,353
	<b>7,043</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7,325</b>	4,009	285	14	4,308

As at 31 March 2014 the foreign exchange currency contracts not yet realised were as follows:

	2014 Hedged amount £'000	2014 Unrealised gain £'000	2013 Hedged amount £'000	2013 Unrealised gain £'000
US Dollars for Sterling	2,272	7	742	2
Euro for Sterling	4,739	5	3,289	11
	<b>7,011</b>	<b>12</b>	4,031	13

Total gains in the year from foreign exchange currency contracts and balances held in cash were £227,000 (2013: losses of £28,000). All foreign exchange currency contracts in place at 31 March 2014 and 31 March 2013 were due to expire within 12 months of the respective balance sheet dates.

Given the policy to hedge currency risk on non-sterling denominated assets by entering into forward foreign exchange currency contracts, the weakening or strengthening of Sterling against either the US Dollar or Euro would not have had a significant net impact on the total column of the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for either the year or the prior year nor the net asset value as at 31 March 2014 or 31 March 2013.

## 22. Related party transactions

The Directors of the Company received fees for their services. Further details are provided in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 30 and 31. The Directors' shareholdings are detailed on page 31.

# Capital Structure

At 31 March 2014

**The Company has a capital structure comprising A shares and B shares. In addition, the Company has a bank loan.**

The Company's capital structure offers shareholders the opportunity to receive quarterly returns in the form of either dividends, capital repayments, or both, to suit their own particular circumstances.

The Company has two classes of shares: A shares and B shares. The rights of each class of shares are identical, save in respect of the right to participate in dividends and capital repayments. Irrespective of these rights, the net asset value attributable to each class of shares is the same.

Only A shares carry a right to participate in dividends paid by the Company. B shares are not entitled to dividends but each B share instead carries the right to receive a capital repayment at the same time as, and in an amount equal to, each dividend paid in respect of A shares.

For certain shareholders, there may be tax or other advantages in receiving a capital repayment rather than a dividend. Dividends paid on the A shares will be taxed on receipt in the normal way for dividends. Capital repayments received on B shares will fall to be taxed in accordance with the rules relating to the taxation of chargeable gains (see further information below) for non-corporate holders (including individuals).

It is the Company's policy to maintain the ratio of A shares to B shares (excluding shares held in Treasury) within the range 72.5 : 27.5 and 77.5 : 22.5.

These two securities can be traded together in the form of a unit with each unit consisting of three A shares and one B share.

## **Bank Loan Facility**

The Company has a sterling term bank loan in the amount of £18 million which matures on 28 September 2017. The rate of interest has been fixed at 3.15 per cent per annum. The returns of both the A shares and B shares are geared by this bank loan.

## **Further information on the B Shares**

### **What is different about the B shares?**

The B shares are just like any other ordinary share except that, instead of dividends, B shareholders receive capital repayments, so B shareholders will receive the same amount of cash on a quarterly basis as A shareholders, but when it comes to the tax on these capital repayments there are potential benefits. Effectively, no UK tax is due on receipt of the capital repayments. So a higher rate taxpayer, for example, will not be liable on receipt to the additional income tax that would normally be applicable on receipt of a dividend. This is because the capital repayment is taxed under UK Capital Gains Tax ('CGT') rules rather than Income Tax rules for non-corporate holders (including individuals). It is only when the B shares are disposed of that the capital repayments received need to be taken into account as part of the CGT disposal calculation. From 22 June 2010, a flat rate of Capital Gains Tax has applied of 18 per cent on disposals (28 per cent for higher and additional rate taxpayers). If the shares continue to be held until death, no CGT arises in respect of the capital repayments. The value of the holding will, however, be taken into account for Inheritance Tax purposes, if applicable.

Further details are available on the website: [www.investorscapital.co.uk](http://www.investorscapital.co.uk)

#### **A summary of the tax benefits.**

The capital repayments paid on the B shares will be taxed for individuals under CGT rules rather than Income Tax rules. Holders of B shares therefore have more scope for tax planning (for example, by selling shares within the annual CGT exempt amount, or by offsetting gains against capital losses).

UK tax is not, in normal circumstances, due on receipt of the quarterly capital repayments and you do not need to include them on your tax return. Instead, when you dispose of B shares, an amount equivalent to the capital repayments you have received is deducted from the tax base cost as part of the CGT calculation. This treatment applies because the quarterly sums are treated as 'small capital receipts' under CGT rules; being either less than 5 per cent of the market value of the B shareholding at the date of receipt or less than £3,000.

An individual B shareholder's annual exempt amount for CGT purposes is not reduced or prejudiced by this treatment of capital repayments. Non-UK resident shareholders will not be subject to UK tax on capital repayments, although local tax could arise.

A detailed description of taxation of the B shares was contained in the Company's launch Prospectus, which is available on request.

The above is based on an understanding of legislation and HM Revenue and Customs' practice at the time of publication. Tax rates and reliefs depend on the circumstances of the individual investor, are subject to government legislation and may change in the future. You should consult your tax adviser on your own individual tax circumstances.

# Shareholder Information

## Dividends

Dividends on A shares and capital repayments on B shares are paid quarterly in August, November, February and May each year. Shareholders who wish to have distributions paid directly into a bank account rather than by cheque to their registered address can complete a mandate form for the purpose. Mandates may be obtained from Equiniti Limited (see Corporate Information page for contact details) on request. The Company operates the BACS system for the payment of distributions. Where distributions are paid directly into shareholders' bank accounts, dividend and capital repayment tax vouchers are sent directly to shareholders' registered addresses.

## Reinvestment of Returns

If you hold B shares through one of the F&C savings plans, you can elect to have the quarterly repayments automatically reinvested to buy further shares; contact F&C for further information.

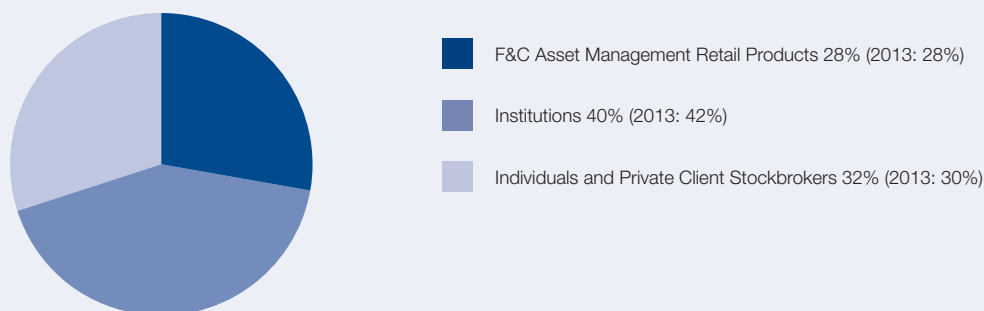
## Share Prices and Daily Net Asset Value

The Company's securities are listed on the London Stock Exchange under 'Investment Trusts'. Prices are given daily in the *Financial Times* and other newspapers. The net asset value of the Company's shares can be obtained by contacting F&C Asset Management Investment Services on 0845 600 3030.

## Change of Address

Communications with shareholders are mailed to the address held on the share register. In the event of a change of address or other amendment this should be notified to Equiniti Limited, under the signature of the registered holder

## Profile of the Company's Ownership % of Shares held at 31 March 2014



## Warning to shareholders – Boiler Room Scams

Fraudsters use persuasive and high-pressure tactics to lure investors into scams. They may offer to sell shares that turn out to be worthless or non-existent, or to buy shares at an inflated price in return for an upfront payment.

If you receive unsolicited investment advice or requests:

- Check the Financial Services Register from [www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk) to see if the person or firm contacting you is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA")
- Call the FCA on **0800 111 6768** if the firm does not have contact details on the Register or you are told they are out of date
- Search the list of unauthorised firms to avoid at [www.fca.org.uk/scams](http://www.fca.org.uk/scams)
- Consider that if you buy or sell shares from an unauthorised firm you will not have access to the Financial Ombudsman Service or Financial Services Compensation Scheme
- Think about getting independent financial and professional advice

If you are approached by fraudsters please tell the FCA by using the share fraud reporting form at [www.fca.org.uk/scams](http://www.fca.org.uk/scams) where you can find out more about investment scams. You can also call the FCA Consumer Helpline on **0800 111 6768**. If you have already paid money to share fraudsters you should contact Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**.

## Financial Calendar 2014/15

27 June 2014	Annual General Meeting
August 2014	Interim Management Statement for quarter to 30 June 2014
8 August 2014	First quarter's distribution paid (XD Date 9 July 2014)
7 November 2014	Second quarter's distribution paid (XD Date 1 October 2014)
November 2014	Announcement of Interim Results
6 February 2015	Third quarter's distribution paid (XD Date 8 January 2015)
February 2015	Interim Management Statement for quarter to 31 December 2014
May 2015	Fourth quarter's distribution paid (XD Date April 2015)
May 2015	Announcement of Annual Results and Posting of Annual Report
June 2015	Annual General Meeting

## Capital Gains Tax

The information below is to assist shareholders of the Company and the predecessor Company with capital gains tax.

The undernoted values as at 31 March 1982 are to assist shareholders and debenture stockholders, with regard to capital gains tax.

Ordinary Shares	25 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> p
4% Debenture Stock	23 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> p
3.675% Preference Stock	34 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> p
7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> % Debenture Stock	55 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> p

The undernoted amounts are to assist shareholders and warrant holders with regard to capital gains tax, following the capital reorganisation in December 1994:

	First day of dealing value	Apportionment factor
Growth Shares	84 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> p	0.6844
Income Annuity Shares	36 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> p	0.2912
Warrants	15p	0.0244

The income annuity shares are not considered to be wasting assets for capital gains tax purposes.

The undernoted amounts are to assist shareholders and warrant holders with regard to capital gains tax, following the capital reorganisation in June 2001:

	First day of dealing value	Apportionment factor
Zero Dividend Preference Shares	35 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> p	0.3488
Income Shares	53 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> p	0.5244
Capital Shares	13p	0.1268

In respect of **reo**® UK Tracker Fund shares received, their base cost will represent the remaining base cost after the apportionment, if any, of the base cost to the other share classes.

The undernoted amounts are to assist shareholders with regard to capital gains tax, following the capital reorganisation in February 2007:

	First day of dealing value
A Shares	95.875p
B Shares	95.875p

A Unit comprises of three A shares and one B share and capital gains tax calculations should be based on the separate A and B shareholdings. For a Unit holding, the base costs should be apportioned between the A shares and the B shares in the factors 0.75 and 0.25 respectively.

# How to Invest

One of the most convenient ways to invest in Investors Capital Trust plc is through one of the savings plans run by F&C Management Limited ('F&C').

## F&C Private Investor Plan (PIP)

A flexible way to invest with a lump sum from £500 or regular savings from £50 a month. You can also make additional lump sum top-ups at any time from £250.

## F&C Investment Trust ISA

Use your ISA allowance to make an annual tax-efficient investment of up to £11,880 for the 2014/15 tax year (due to increase to £15,000 from 1st July 2014) with a lump sum from £500 or regular savings from £50 a month. You can also make additional lump sum top-ups at any time from £250 and transfer any existing ISAs to us whilst maintaining all the tax benefits.

## F&C Child Trust Fund (CTF)

CTFs are closed to new investors; however, if your child has a CTF with another provider, it is easy to transfer it to F&C. Additional contributions can be made from as little as £25 per month or £100 lump sum – up to a maximum of £3,840 for birthdays in the 2014/15 tax year (due to increase to £4,000 from 1st July 2014).

## F&C Children's Investment Plan (CIP)

A flexible way to save for a child. With no maximum contributions, the plan can easily be written under trust to help reduce inheritance tax liability or kept in your name if you may need access to the funds before the child is 18. Investments can be made from a £250 lump sum or £25 a month. You can also make additional lump sum top-ups at any time from £100.

## F&C Junior ISA (JISA)

This is a tax-efficient savings plan for children who did not qualify for a CTF. It allows you to invest up to £3,840 for the 2014/15 tax year (due to increase to £4,000 from 1st July 2014) with all the tax benefits of the CTF. You can invest from £30 a month, or £500 lump sum, or a combination of both.

Potential investors are reminded that the value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not receive back the full amount originally invested. Tax rates and reliefs depend on the circumstances of the individual. The CTF and JISA accounts are opened in the child's name. Money cannot be withdrawn until the child turns 18.

Annual management charges and certain transaction costs apply according to the type of plan.

### Annual account charge

**ISA:** £60+VAT

**PIP:** £40+VAT

**JISA/CIP/CTF:** £25+VAT

You can pay the annual charge from your account, or by direct debit (in addition to any annual subscription limits)

### Dealing charge per holding

**ISA:** 0.2%

**PIP/CIP/JISA:** postal instruction £12, online instruction £8

The dealing charge applies when shares are bought or sold but the fixed rate charge does not apply to the reinvestment of dividends or the investment of regular monthly savings.

There is no dealing charge on a CTF but a switching charge of £25 applies if more than 2 switches are carried out in one year.

Government stamp duty of 0.5% also applies on purchases (where applicable).

There may be additional charges made if you transfer a plan to another provider or transfer the shares from your plan. For full details of charges, please read the Key Features and Terms and Conditions of the plan before investing.

### How to Invest

You can invest in all our savings plans online.

### New Customers

Contact our Investor Services Team

Call: **0800 136 420** (8:30am – 5:30pm, weekdays, calls may be recorded)

Email: **info@fandc.com**

Investing online: **www.fandc.com**

### Existing Plan Holders

Contact our Investor Services Team

Call: **0845 600 3030** (\*9:00am – 5:00pm, weekdays, calls may be recorded)

Email: **investor.enquiries@fandc.com**

By post: F&C Plan Administration Centre

PO Box 11114

Chelmsford

CM99 2DG



# Historic Record

## Assets at 31 March

£'000s	2007 <sup>†</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total assets	167,141	149,468	112,974	142,685	144,369	143,158	139,498	144,552
Bank loan at fair value*	33,500	34,213	36,888	36,642	35,509	34,245	18,186	17,692
Net assets, debt at fair value	133,641	115,255	76,086	106,043	108,860	108,913	121,312	126,860

\* includes interest rate swap, where applicable

## Net Asset Value (NAV)\* at 31 March

	2007 <sup>†</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NAV per A share and per B share	96.3p	89.6p	60.5p	83.1p	85.6p	85.9p	97.9p	102.8p
NAV High	–	103.8p	95.4p	83.4p	87.1p	88.7p	98.5p	105.8p
NAV Low	–	84.7p	58.5p	59.5p	72.3p	74.5p	78.9p	93.0p
NAV total return on 100p - 5 years								223.6p
NAV total return on 100p - since launch								156.8p

\* includes debt at fair value

## Share Price - A Shares at 31 March

	2007 <sup>†</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Middle market price per share	98.4p	83.0p	59.5p	80.0p	82.0p	82.0p	93.5p	95.0p
Premium/(discount) to NAV %	2.2%	(7.4)%	(1.6)%	(3.7)%	(4.2)%	(4.6)%	(4.5)%	(7.6)%
Share price High	–	98.5p	86.7p	82.0p	85.5p	83.5p	93.5p	97.5p
Share price Low	–	82.0p	58.0p	59.0p	74.0p	70.5p	76.5p	90.0p
Share price total return on 100p - 5 years								212.7p
Share price total return on 100p - since launch								143.7p

## Share Price - B Shares at 31 March

	2007 <sup>†</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Middle market price per share	98.4p	83.0p	59.5p	89.5p	91.5p	86.5p	94.5p	102.3p
Premium/(discount) to NAV %	2.2%	(7.4)%	(1.6)%	7.7%	6.9%	0.7%	(3.4)%	(0.5)%
Share price High	–	98.5p	86.5p	89.5p	93.5p	91.5p	94.5p	103.5p
Share price Low	–	82.0p	58.0p	59.0p	77.0p	78.0p	79.0p	90.5p
Share price total return on 100p - 5 years								226.4p
Share price total return on 100p - since launch								152.9p

## Share Price - Units at 31 March

	2007 <sup>†</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Middle market price per share	393.6p	327.0p	237.0p	317.0p	328.0p	322.5p	369.0p	375.0p
Premium/(discount) to NAV %	2.2%	(8.8)%	(2.0)%	(4.6)%	(4.2)%	(6.2)%	(5.7)%	(8.8)%
Share price High	–	393.5p	337.5p	317.0p	337.0p	334.5p	369.0p	375.0p
Share price Low	–	327.0p	233.0p	236.0p	317.0p	300.0p	300.0p	358.0p
Share price total return on 100p - 5 years								211.3p
Share price total return on 100p - since launch								142.5p

## Revenue For the year ended 31 March

	2008 <sup>†</sup>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Available for A shares - £'000s	6,255	5,154	4,811	4,906	4,704	4,391	4,598
Revenue earnings per share	4.68p	4.07p	3.79p	3.85p	3.70p	3.52p	3.73p
Dividends per A share	5.35p	5.35p	5.35p	4.28p	4.28p	4.28p	4.37p
Capital repayments per B share	5.35p	5.35p	5.35p	4.28p	4.28p	4.28p	4.37p

## Performance (rebased at 100 at 1 March 2007)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NAV per A share, B share and Unit	100.0	93.1	62.8	86.3	88.9	89.2	101.7	106.8
Mid Market price per A share	100.0	84.3	60.5	81.3	83.3	83.3	95.0	96.5
Mid Market price per B share	100.0	84.3	60.5	91.0	93.0	87.9	96.0	104.0
Mid Market price per Unit	100.0	83.1	60.2	80.5	83.3	81.9	93.8	95.3
Dividends per A share	100.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	81.7
Capital repayments per B share	100.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	81.7

## Ongoing Charges For the year ended 31 March

	2008 <sup>†</sup>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Expressed as a percentage of average net assets							
- excluding performance fees	1.17%	1.13%	1.25%	1.15%	1.14%	1.15%	1.06%
- including performance fees	1.17%	1.13%	1.25%	1.15%	1.14%	1.15%	1.51%

## Gearing at 31 March

	2007 <sup>†</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Maximum potential ratio	25.1%	29.7%	48.5%	34.6%	32.6%	31.4%	15.0%	13.9%
Investment gearing	(2.8)%	3.6%	15.2%	24.6%	25.4%	20.1%	10.1%	10.0%
Equity gearing	(23.1)%	(24.9)%	(25.5)%	(12.3)%	(3.9)%	(0.3)%	(4.1)%	(5.3)%

<sup>†</sup> Balance sheet figures shown for 2007 are as at the Company's launch on 1 March 2007, performance figures shown for 2008 are for the 13 month period from launch on 1 March 2007 to 31 March 2008.

# Glossary of Terms

**AAF** – Audit and Assurance Faculty guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

**AIC** – Association of Investment Companies, the trade body for Closed-end Investment Companies.

**AIFMD** – Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive. Issued by the European Parliament in 2012 and 2013, the Directive requires that all investment vehicles in the European Union, including Investment Trusts, must appoint a Depositary and an Alternative Investment Fund Manager before 22 July 2014. The Board of Directors of an Investment Trust, nevertheless, will remain fully responsible for all aspects of the company's strategy, operations and compliance with regulations.

**A Shares** – a security issued by the Company. The net asset value attributable to each A share is equal to the Net Asset Value of the Company divided by the total number of A shares and B shares in issue. Therefore the net asset value attributable to each of the A and B shares is the same. The A shares are entitled to dividends paid by the Company.

**Benchmark** – the FTSE All-Share Capped 5% Index is the benchmark against which the increase or decrease in the Company's net asset value is measured. The Index averages the performance of 98% of the market value of all eligible companies listed on London Stock Exchange's main market and gives an indication of how this market has performed in any period. Constituents of the Index are capped at 5% of the total index quarterly to avoid over-concentration in any one stock. As the investments within this Index are not identical to those of the Company, the Index does not take account of operating costs and the Company's strategy does not include replicating (tracking) this Index, there is likely to be some level of divergence between the performance of the Company and the Index.

**B Shares** – a security issued by the Company. The net asset value attributable to each B share is equal to the Net Asset Value of the Company divided by the total number of A shares and B shares in issue. Therefore the net asset value attributable to each of the A and B shares is the same. The B shares are entitled to capital repayments paid by the Company. These capital repayments will be paid at the same time as, and in an amount equal to, each dividend paid on the A shares.

**Closed-end company** – a company, including an Investment Company, with a fixed issued ordinary share capital which is traded on an exchange at a price not necessarily related to the net asset value of the company and in which shares can only be issued or bought back by the company in certain circumstances. This contrasts with an open-ended company or Fund, which has units not traded on an exchange but issued or bought back from investors at a price directly related to net asset value.

**Cum-dividend** – shares are classified as cum-dividend when the buyer of a security is entitled to receive a dividend that has been declared, but not paid. Shares which are not cum-dividend are described as ex-dividend.

**Custodian** – A specialised financial institution responsible for safeguarding, worldwide, the listed securities and certain cash assets of the Company, as well as the income arising therefrom, through provision of custodial, settlement and associated services. The Company's Custodian is JP Morgan Chase Bank.

**Depositary** – under AIFMD rules applying from July 2014, the Company must appoint a Depositary, whose duties in respect of investments, cash and similar assets include: safekeeping; verification of ownership and valuation; and cash monitoring. The Depositary will be strictly liable for loss of any



investments or other assets in its custody and will be obliged to maintain oversight of share buy backs, dividend payments and adherence to investment limits.

**Derivative** – a contract between two or more parties, the value of which fluctuates in accordance with the value of an underlying security. The contract is usually short-term (for less than one year). Examples of derivatives are Put and Call Options, Swap contracts, Futures and Contracts for Difference. A derivative can be an asset or a liability and is a form of gearing because the fluctuations in its value are usually greater than the fluctuations in the underlying security's value.

**Discount/Premium** – the share price of an Investment Trust is derived from buyers and sellers trading their shares on the stock market. This price is not identical to the net asset value (NAV) per share of the underlying assets less liabilities of the Company. If the share price is lower than the NAV per share, the shares are trading at a discount. This usually indicates that there are more sellers of shares than buyers. Shares trading at a price above NAV per share are deemed to be at a premium.

**Dividend Dates** – Reference is made in announcements of dividends to three dates. The “ex-dividend” date is the date up to which the shareholder need to hold the shares in order to be entitled to receive the next dividend. As it takes time for a stock purchase to be recorded on the register, dividends are actually paid to the holders of shares on the share register on the “record” date. If a share transfer prior to the ex-dividend date is not recorded on the register before the record date, the selling party will need to pass on the benefit or dividend to the buying party. The “ex-dividend” date is currently the second business day prior to the record date. The “payment” date is the date that dividends are credited to shareholders' bank accounts. This may be several weeks or even months after the record date.

**GAAP** – Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. This includes UK GAAP and International GAAP (IFRS or International Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the European Union).

**Gearing** – this is the ratio of the borrowings of the Company to its net assets. Borrowings have a “prior charge” over the assets of a company, ranking before shareholders in their entitlement to capital and/or income. They include: overdrafts and short and long-term loans from banks; and derivative contracts. If the Company has cash assets, these may be assumed either to net off against borrowings, giving a “net” or “effective” gearing percentage, or to be used to buy investments, giving a “gross” or “fully invested” gearing figure. Where cash assets exceed borrowings, the Company is described as having “net cash”. The Company's maximum permitted level of gearing is set by the Board and is described within the Strategic Report.

**Investment Company (Section 833)** – UK Company Law allows an Investment Company to make dividend distributions out of realised distributable reserves, even in circumstances where it has made Capital losses in any year provided the Company's assets remaining after payment of the dividend exceed 150% of the liabilities. An Investment Company is defined as investing its funds in shares, land or other assets with the aim of spreading investment risk.

**Investment Trust taxation status (Section 1158)** – UK Corporation Tax law allows an Investment Company (referred to in Tax law as an Investment Trust) to be exempted from tax on its profits realised on investment transactions, provided it complies with certain rules. These are similar to Section 833 Company law rules but further require that the Company must be listed on a regulated stock exchange and that it cannot retain more than 15% of income received (set out in note 9 to the accounts). The Report of the Directors contains

# Glossary of Terms (continued)

confirmation of the Company's compliance with this law and its consequent exemption from taxation on capital gains.

**Manager** – F&C Investment Business Limited (F&C), a part of BMO Financial Group. The responsibilities and remuneration of the Manager are set out in the Business Model and Strategy, Report of the Directors and note 4 to the accounts.

**Market capitalisation** – the stock market quoted price of the Company's shares, multiplied by the number of shares in issue. If the Company's shares trade at a discount to NAV, the market capitalisation will be lower than the Net asset value.

**Net asset value (NAV)** – the assets less the liabilities of the Company, as set out on the Balance Sheet, all valued in accordance with the Company's Accounting Policies (see note 1 to the accounts) and International Financial Reporting Standards. The net assets correspond to Equity Shareholders' Funds, which comprise the share capital account, share premium, capital redemption reserve, buy back reserve, special capital reserve and capital and revenue reserves.

**Net asset value (NAV), Debt at par** - The Company's bank loan is valued in the Accounts at par (the actual amount borrowed) and this NAV including this number is referred to as "NAV, Debt at par".

**Net asset value (NAV), Debt at fair value** – The fair value of the Company's debt is the price that would be paid to transfer the liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the transaction date. As the Company's bank loan carries interest at a fixed rate, the fair value of its loan liability will increase as market interest rates fall or decrease as market rates increase. The NAV restated to include the loan liability at its fair value is referred to as "NAV, Debt at fair value". A reconciliation between the NAV, debt at par and

NAV, debt at fair value is shown in note 3 to the accounts.

**Non-executive Director** – a Director who has a contract for services, rather than a contract of employment, with the Company. The Company does not have any executive directors. Non-executive Directors' remuneration is described in detail in the Remuneration Report. The duties of the Directors, who govern the Company through the auspices of a Board and Committees of the Board, are set out in the Statement of Corporate Governance.

**Ongoing Charges** – all operating costs expected to be incurred in future and that are payable by the Company, expressed as a proportion of the average net assets of the Company over the reporting year (see Historic Record). The costs of buying and selling investments and derivatives are excluded, as are interest costs, taxation, non-recurring costs and the costs of buying back or issuing ordinary shares.

**SORP** – Statement of Recommended Practice. Where consistent with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards, the accounts of the Company are drawn up in accordance with the Investment Trust SORP, issued by the AIC, as described in note 1 to the accounts.

**Total return** – the return to shareholders calculated on a per share basis by adding dividends paid in the period to the increase or decrease in the Share Price or NAV in the period. The dividends are assumed to have been re-invested in the form of shares or net assets, respectively, on the date on which the shares were quoted ex-dividend.

**Units** – a way of holding and trading in the A shares and B shares issued by the Company. Each unit consists of three A shares and one B share.

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the seventh Annual General Meeting of Investors Capital Trust plc will be held at 80 George Street, Edinburgh, on 27 June 2014 at 12.30 pm for the following purposes. To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following Resolutions, of which Resolutions 1 to 10 and 13 will be proposed as Ordinary Resolutions and Resolutions 11, 12, 14 and 15 as Special Resolutions:

## Ordinary Resolutions

1. That the Report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2014 be received.
2. That the Directors' Remuneration Policy be approved.
3. That the Annual Report on Directors' Remuneration for the year ended 31 March 2014 be approved.
4. That Mr I A McLaren, who retires annually, be re-elected as a Director.
5. That Mrs J Le Blan, who retires annually, be re-elected as a Director.
6. That Mr J M Evans, who retires annually, be re-elected as a Director.
7. That Mr K D Shand, who retires annually, be re-elected as a Director.
8. That Mr J P Williams, who retires annually, be re-elected as a Director.
9. That Ernst & Young LLP be re-appointed as Auditors and the Directors be authorised to determine their remuneration.
10. That, in substitution for any existing authority, but without prejudice to the exercise of any such authority prior to the date hereof, the Directors of the Company be and they are hereby generally and unconditionally authorised in accordance with Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot shares in the Company and to grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares in the Company ("Securities") provided that such authority shall be limited to the allotment of shares and the grant of rights in respect of shares with an aggregate nominal value of up to

£4,564 in respect of A shares of 0.1 pence each in the capital of the Company ("A Shares") and £1,604 in respect of B shares of 0.1 pence each in the capital of the Company ("B Shares"), such authority to expire at the conclusion of the Company's next Annual General Meeting or on 30 September 2015, whichever is the earlier, unless previously revoked, varied or extended by the Company in a general meeting, save that the Company may at any time prior to the expiry of this authority make an offer or enter into an agreement which would or might require Securities to be allotted or granted after the expiry of such authority and the Directors shall be entitled to allot or grant Securities in pursuance of such an offer or agreement as if such authority had not expired.

## Special Resolutions

11. That, subject to the passing of Resolution number 10 above, and in substitution for any existing power but without prejudice to the exercise of any such power prior to the date hereof, the Directors of the Company be and they are hereby generally empowered, pursuant to Section 570 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Act"), to allot equity securities (as defined in Section 560 of the Act, provided that for the purposes of this resolution an allotment of equity securities shall be deemed not to include the sale of shares in the Company that immediately before the sale are held by the Company as treasury shares) for cash pursuant to the authority given by Resolution number 10 above as if Section 561(1) of the Act did not apply to any such allotment of equity securities, provided that this power:

- (a) expires at the conclusion of the Company's next Annual General Meeting or on 30 September 2015, whichever is the earlier, save that the Company may, before such expiry, make an offer or agreement which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after such expiry and the Directors may allot equity securities in pursuance of any such offer or agreement as if the power conferred hereby had not expired; and

# Notice of Annual General Meeting (continued)

(b) shall be limited to the allotment of equity securities up to an aggregate nominal value of £4,564 in respect of A Shares and £1,604 in respect of B Shares (being approximately 5 per cent of the total nominal value of the issued share capital of the Company, as at 14 May 2014) at a price of not less than the net asset value per share of the existing A Shares (in the case of an allotment of A Shares) or B Shares (in the case of an allotment of B Shares).

12. That, in substitution for any existing authority but without prejudice to the exercise of any such authority prior to the date hereof, the Company be and is hereby generally and unconditionally authorised, pursuant to and in accordance with Section 701 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to make market purchases (within the meaning of Section 693(4) of the Act) of fully paid A shares of 0.1 pence each in the capital of the Company and fully paid B Shares of 0.1p each in the capital of the Company ("A and/or B Shares") (either for retention as treasury shares for future reissue, resale, transfer or cancellation), provided that:

- (a) the maximum aggregate number of A and B Shares hereby authorised to be purchased is 14.99 per cent of the issued A Shares and 14.99 per cent of the issued B Shares (excluding A and B Shares held in treasury) immediately prior to the passing of this resolution (see note 15);
- (b) the minimum price (excluding expenses) which may be paid for an A or B Share is 0.1 pence;
- (c) the maximum price (excluding expenses) which may be paid for an A or B Share shall not be more than the higher of:
  - i. 5 per cent. above the average of the middle market values (as derived from the Daily Official List of the London Stock Exchange) of an A or B Share over the five business days immediately preceding the date of purchase; and
  - ii. the higher of the last independent trade and the highest current independent bid on the London Stock Exchange; and

(d) unless previously varied, revoked or renewed by the Company in a general meeting, the authority hereby conferred shall expire at the conclusion of the Company's next Annual General Meeting or on 30 September 2015 whichever is the earlier, save that the Company may, prior to such expiry, enter into a contract to purchase A and/or B Shares under such authority which will or might be completed or executed wholly or partly after the expiration of such authority and may make a purchase of A and/or B Shares pursuant to any such contract.

## Ordinary Resolution

13. That, subject to the passing of Resolution 14 to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting of the Company convened for 27 June 2014 ("Resolution 14"), the Directors of the Company be authorised, for the purposes of paragraph 15.4.11 of the Listing Rules of the United Kingdom Listing Authority, to sell A Shares and/or B Shares in the capital of the Company held in treasury for cash at a price below the net asset value per share of the existing A Shares and/or B Shares in issue pursuant to the authority conferred by Resolution 14, provided always that A and/or B Shares will only be resold from treasury at a price representing a discount of not more than 5 per cent to net asset value at the time of resale, subject to the conditions that, first, the discount at which such A and/or B Shares are to be resold must be less than the average discount at which A and/or B Shares held in treasury have been repurchased and, second, the net asset value dilution associated with the sale of treasury shares in any one financial year must not exceed 0.5 per cent of net assets.

## Special Resolutions

14. That, the Directors of the Company be and they are hereby empowered pursuant to section 573 of the Companies Act 2006 (as amended) (the "Act") to sell equity securities (within the meanings of sections 560(1) and 560(2) of the Act) wholly for cash as if section 561 of the Act did not apply to any such sale, provided that this power shall be limited to the sale of equity securities for cash out of treasury up to an aggregate nominal amount of £9,128 in respect of A Shares and £3,208 in respect of B Shares,

representing approximately 10 per cent of the Company's A share capital in issue as at the date of the passing of this resolution and approximately 10 per cent of the Company's B share capital in issue as at the date of the passing of this resolution and shall expire on the earlier of 30 September 2015 or at the conclusion of the Company's next Annual General Meeting, unless renewed at a general meeting prior to such time, save that the Company may before such expiry make offers, agreements or arrangements which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after such expiry and so that the Directors of the Company may allot equity securities in pursuance of such offers, agreements or arrangements as if the power conferred hereby had not expired.

15. That, the Company be and is hereby generally and unconditionally authorised to hold general meetings (other than annual general meetings) on 14 clear days' notice, such authority to expire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company or 30 September 2015, whichever is the earlier (all dates inclusive).

By order of the Board  
For F&C Investment Business Limited  
Company Secretary  
80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU

14 May 2014

#### Notes

1. A member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting may appoint one or more persons as his/her proxy to attend, speak and vote on his/her behalf at the meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. If multiple proxies are appointed they must not be appointed in respect of the same shares. To be effective, the duly executed enclosed form of proxy, together with any power of attorney or other authority under which it is signed or a certified copy thereof, should be lodged at the address shown on the proxy form not later than 48 hours before the time of the meeting or, in the case of an adjourned meeting, no later than 48 hours before the holding of that adjourned meeting (or in the case of a poll taken subsequent to the date of the meeting or adjourned meeting, no later than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll). In the calculation of these time periods, no account is taken of any part of a day that is not a working day. The appointment of a proxy will not prevent a member from attending the meeting and voting in person if he/she so wishes. A member present in person or by proxy shall have one vote on a show of hands and on a poll every member present in person or by proxy shall have one vote for every share of which he/she is the holder. Any power of attorney or any other authority under which this proxy is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power or authority) must be included with the proxy form. On a poll each A shareholder is entitled to one vote per A share held and each B shareholder is entitled to one vote per B share held.
  2. CREST members who wish to appoint a proxy or proxies by utilising the CREST electronic proxy appointment service may do so for this meeting by following the procedures described in the CREST Manual and by logging on to [www.euroclear.com](http://www.euroclear.com). CREST personal members or other CREST sponsored members, and those CREST members who have appointed a voting service provider(s), should refer to their CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s), who will be able to take the appropriate action on their behalf.
  3. In order for a proxy appointment or instruction made by means of CREST to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a "CREST Proxy Instruction") must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited's ("Euroclear") specifications and must contain the information required for such instructions, as described in the CREST Manual. The message, in order to be valid, must be transmitted so as to be received by the Company's agent (ID RA19) by the latest time for receipt of proxy appointments specified in Note 1 above. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be the time (as determined by the timestamp applied to the message by the CREST Applications Host) from which the Company's agent is able to retrieve the message by enquiry to CREST in the manner prescribed by CREST. After this time, any change of instructions to proxies appointed through CREST should be communicated to the appointee through other means.
  4. The Company may treat as invalid a CREST Proxy Instruction in the circumstances set out in Regulation 35(5)(a) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001.
  5. A person to whom this notice is sent who is a person nominated under section 146 of the Companies Act 2006 to enjoy information rights (a "Nominated Person") may, under an agreement between him/her and the shareholder by whom he/she was nominated, have a right to be appointed (or to have someone else appointed) as a proxy for the Annual General Meeting. If a Nominated Person has no such proxy appointment right or does not wish to exercise it, he/she may, under any such agreement, have a right to give instructions to the shareholder as to the exercise of voting rights.
- The statements of the rights of members in relation to the appointment of proxies in Notes 1 and 2 above do not apply to a Nominated Person. The rights described in those Notes can only be exercised by registered members of the Company.

# Notice of Annual General Meeting (continued)

6. Pursuant to Regulation 41 of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001, the Company specifies that only those holders of shares entered on the Register of Members of the Company as at 6.00 p.m. on 25 June 2014 or, in the event that the meeting is adjourned, on the Register of Members as at 6.00 pm on the day two days (excluding non-working days) prior to any adjourned meeting, shall be entitled to attend or vote at the meeting in respect of the number of Shares registered in their names at that time. Changes to the entries on the Register of Members after 6.00 p.m. on 25 June 2014 or, in the event that the meeting is adjourned, in the Register of Members as at 6.00 pm on the day two days prior to any adjourned meeting (excluding non-working days), shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the meeting, notwithstanding any provisions in any enactment, the Articles of Association of the Company or other instrument to the contrary.
7. As at 14 May 2014 (being the last business day prior to the publication of this notice) the Company's issued share capital consists of 91,278,144 A Shares carrying one vote each and 32,076,703 B Shares carrying one vote each. The Company holds 10,789,000 A Shares and nil B shares in treasury which do not carry voting rights. Therefore the total voting rights in the Company as at 14 May 2014 were 123,354,847 votes. Any person holding 3 per cent of the total voting rights in the Company who appoints a person other than the Chairman as his/her proxy will need to ensure that both he/she and such third party complies with their respective disclosure obligations under the Disclosure Rules and Transparency Rules.
8. No Director has a contract of service with the Company. The Directors' letters of appointment will be available for inspection at the Company's registered office during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted) and for 15 minutes prior to, and during, the Annual General Meeting.
9. Information regarding the Annual General Meeting, including information required by section 311A of the Companies Act 2006, is available from [www.investorscapital.co.uk](http://www.investorscapital.co.uk).
10. Under section 319A of the Companies Act 2006, the Company must answer any question relating to the business being dealt with at the meeting put by a member attending the meeting unless:
  - (a) answering the question would interfere unduly with the preparation for the meeting or involve the disclosure of confidential information;
  - (b) the answer has already been given on a website in the form of an answer to a question; or
  - (c) it is undesirable in the interests of the Company or the good order of the meeting that the question be answered.
11. The members of the Company may require the Company to publish, on its website (without payment), a statement (which is also passed to the Company's auditor) setting out any matter relating to the audit of the Company's accounts including the auditor's report and the conduct of the audit. The Company will be required to do so once it has received such requests from either members representing at least 5 per cent of the total voting rights of the Company or at least 100 members who have a relevant right to vote and hold shares in the Company on which there has been paid up an average sum per member of at least £100. Such requests must be made in writing and must state your full name and address and be sent to 80 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 3BU.
12. In accordance with section 338 of the Companies Act 2006, shareholders may require the Company to give members notice of a resolution which may properly be moved and is intended to be moved at the Annual General Meeting. The resolution must have been received by the Company not later than 16 May 2014. The resolution must not, if passed, be ineffective (whether by reason of inconsistency with any enactment or the Company's constitution or otherwise). The resolution must not be defamatory of any person, frivolous or vexatious. The request must identify the resolution of which notice is to be given by either setting out the resolution in full or, if supporting a resolution sent by another member, clearly identifying the resolution which is being supported. The Company becomes required to give members notice of a resolution to be moved at the Annual General Meeting once a) members with at least 5 per cent of the total voting rights of the Company or b) at least 100 members who are entitled to vote and on whose shares an average sum per member of at least £100 has been paid have submitted a request to the Company in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph 12. Members seeking to do this should write to the Company providing their full name and address.
13. In accordance with section 338A of the Companies Act 2006, shareholders may require the Company to include in the business to be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting a matter (other than a proposed resolution) which may properly be included in the business (a matter of business). The request must have been received by the Company not later than 16 May 2014. The matter of business must not be defamatory of any person, frivolous or vexatious. The request must identify the matter of business by either setting it out in full or, if supporting a statement sent by another member, clearly identify the matter of business which is being supported. The request must be accompanied by a statement setting out the grounds for the request. The Company becomes required to give members notice of a resolution to be moved at the Annual General Meeting once a) members with at least 5 per cent of the total voting rights of the Company or b) at least 100 members who are entitled to vote and on whose shares an average sum per member of at least £100 has been paid have submitted such a request to the Company in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph 13. Members seeking to do this should write to the Company providing their full name and address.
14. You may not use any electronic address provided either in this Notice of Annual General Meeting or any related documents (including the Form of Proxy) to communicate with the Company for any purpose other than those expressly stated.
15. Following Resolution 12 becoming effective, the maximum aggregate number of shares hereby authorised to be purchased shall be 13,682,593 A shares and 4,808,297 B shares (or, if less, 14.99 per cent. of the number of A shares and 14.99 per cent. of the number of B shares in issue (excluding treasury shares) immediately prior to the passing of the resolution).

# Corporate Information

## Directors

I A McLaren (Chairman)  
J Le Blan  
J M Evans  
K D Shand  
J P Williams

## Registered Office

80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU  
Tel No. 0207 628 8000  
Fax No. 0131 718 1280

## Investment Managers and Company Secretary

F&C Investment Business Limited  
80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU

## Registrars and Transfer Office

Equiniti  
Aspect House  
Spencer Road  
Lancing  
West Sussex BN99 6DA

Registrars' Shareholder Helpline  
Tel No. 0871 384 2470\*

Registrars' Broker Helpline  
Tel No. 0906 559 6025†

Registrars' Overseas Helpline  
Tel No. +44 121 415 7047\*\*

## Brokers

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6-7-8 Tokenhouse Yard  
London EC2R 7AS

## Auditors

Ernst & Young LLP  
Ten George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 2DZ

## Principal Bankers and Custodian

JPMorgan Chase Bank  
25 Bank Street  
Canary Wharf  
London E14 5JP

## Solicitors

Dickson Minto W.S.  
16 Charlotte Square  
Edinburgh EH2 4DF

## Company Number

SC314671

\* Calls to this number cost 8p per minute plus network extras.

Lines open 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday.

† Calls to this number cost £1 per minute from a BT Landline. Other telephony providers' costs may vary.

Lines open 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday.

\*\* Local overseas call rates will apply.



### **Registered Office**

80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU  
Tel: 0207 628 8000  
Fax: 0131 718 1280

### **Registrars**

Equiniti Limited  
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Spencer Road  
Lancing  
West Sussex BN99 6DA  
Registrars' Shareholder Helpline: 0871 384 2470\*  
Registrars' Broker Helpline: 0906 559 6025†  
Registrars' Overseas Helpline: +44 121 415 7047\*\*

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