## THE SCOTTISH Investment Trust

## THE SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST PLC INTERIM REPORT & ACCOUNTS

30 APRIL 2017

## **Objective of The Scottish Investment Trust PLC**

To provide investors, over the longer term, with above-average returns through a diversified portfolio of international equities and to achieve dividend growth ahead of UK inflation.

*Cover painting: High Sierra* by Madeleine Gardiner

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## Chairman's Statement

### Performance

I am pleased to report another period of positive total returns over the six months to 30 April 2017.

The share price total return was 5.0% and the net asset value per share (NAV) total return was 3.0% (with borrowings at market value).

The Company does not have a formal benchmark but, by way of comparison, the sterling total return of the international MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) was 5.5% while the UK-based MSCI UK All Cap Index total return was 7.0%.

#### Investment approach

The high conviction, global contrarian investment approach adopted by Alasdair McKinnon and his team differentiates the Company from our global growth investment trust peers and from the plethora of passive investment products that now exist.

The approach reflects the investment team's natural style as independent thinkers and active, long-term investors. The main premise of the investment approach is a belief that the inherent human desire to be part of the crowd creates an opportunity for profit as unfashionable companies eventually become undervalued.

The portfolio is constructed to reflect this contrarian philosophy and the number of holdings has been progressively reduced to the current 54 listed equity holdings, which compares with 68 at the year-end and 96 two years ago. The Manager believes that the best longterm returns will be generated by having the conviction to back the best investment ideas but the number of portfolio holdings will vary as the team unearths new opportunities.

The portfolio is not constructed with reference to any index or benchmark and, as such, we expect that returns will deviate from broad equity indices but deliver aboveaverage returns over the longer-term.

## **Process of change**

In previous statements, I have discussed the changes which have been made to position the Company for future success. A key element was the introduction of the above-mentioned high conviction, global contrarian investment approach.

The reorganisation of the investment team and the outsourcing of the majority of our company secretarial and back office operations have reduced our costs on an ongoing basis and enhanced our decision-making ability. We have continued to develop our approach to marketing and communications during the period and shareholders may have observed some of our efforts to lift our profile as we have featured in a number of prominent publications. A selection of these articles, as well as our new newsletter, 'The Contrarian', are available to view at our website, **www.thescottish.co.uk** 

We think it is important to seek to raise the Company's profile, as we believe that it is an attractive investment vehicle which should appeal to a broad range of potential investors. I would reiterate that we have adopted this new approach at a very reasonable cost and within our longstanding marketing budget.

#### Aviva share repurchase

In March, the Company completed the repurchase and cancellation of the shareholding of Aviva, representing 11.9% of the Company's issued share capital at that time. Aviva had gained control of this substantial shareholding in November 2015 through its purchase of Friends Life. Aviva had not previously been a long-term investor in the Company, did not have a history of holding investment trusts and had indicated that it did not plan to retain this shareholding.

At a specially convened General Meeting, shareholders approved the repurchase for cancellation of 11.4m shares from Aviva at a 10.75% discount to the cum-income NAV (with borrowings at market value). The Board considered this transaction to be in the best interests of the Company and shareholders as it removed a known seller of a large block of shares and enhanced this NAV for the ongoing shareholders by 1.4%.

#### **Income and dividends**

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 5.50p per share (2016: 5.25p), an increase of 4.8%.

As I noted in my last statement, the Board wishes to maintain both the long track record of dividend increases and the aim of the Company to provide dividend growth ahead of UK inflation over the longer-term. The Board does not wish the composition of the portfolio to be dictated by income requirements and therefore considers that our healthy revenue reserve, which covers in excess of four years of the last annual regular dividend, should be utilised, if required, in the future.

The Board also considers that income generated in excess of the requirement of the regular dividend should be distributed as a special dividend.

## Chairman's Statement (continued)

The Board believes that distributing income on a more regular basis is desirable for the majority of shareholders, who are retail investors. The current schedule of dividend payments will continue for the current fiscal year but, thereafter, dividends will be paid on a quarterly basis. Further details will be provided in the Annual Report.

#### **Discount and share buybacks**

The Company currently follows a policy that aims, in normal market conditions, to maintain the discount to the ex-income NAV (with borrowings at market value) at or below 9%.

During the period, 12.8m shares were purchased for cancellation (2016: 4.1m) at an average discount of 10.0% and a cost of £101m. Excluding the repurchase of the Aviva shares, 1.4m shares were repurchased at an average discount of 9.5% and a cost of £10.7m.

The Company was an early adopter of a buyback policy in 2006 and, since then, it has become more normal industry practice to calculate the discount with reference to the cum-income NAV rather than the ex-income NAV. The Board considers this is now a more appropriate basis and, henceforth, the buyback policy will aim, in normal market conditions, to maintain the discount to the cumincome NAV (with borrowings at market value) at or below 9%.

#### Gearing

Gearing ended the period largely unchanged at 5%. The Company briefly moved to a net cash position to facilitate the transaction with Aviva.

### Outlook

Markets were electrified by the election of the new US President, Donald Trump, as investors reasoned that his campaign pledges would translate into investorfriendly policies. However, more recently, a concern has developed that President Trump's unorthodox style, which was crucial to his victory, may prove a barrier to garnering the necessary political support to enact change.

The recent UK election result, the election of President Trump and the earlier Brexit vote all embody a growing mood to reject the political status quo driven by a perceived decline in living standards. That said, the rejection of anti-EU candidates in elections in the Netherlands and France reassured markets about the political stability of the Eurozone. Mainstream politicians have reacted to this change in mood and have shown a tendency to adopt some of the popular policies of their more maverick opponents, which is a trend that is likely to continue. Much has been written elsewhere about the Brexit negotiations and, by way of further observation, I only add that the process is likely to drag on for longer than expected as neither side seems to have a clear vision of what they want from the process.

The US Federal Reserve, which unofficially sets the cost of money for much of the world, took advantage of the improved mood engendered by rising markets and increased interest rates. Interest rates remain very low, but breaking an addiction to cheap money may prove traumatic. An important component in the outlook for markets is the perceived timetable and extent to which the Federal Reserve will tighten monetary policy. However, markets have taken some comfort from a view that politicians and officials remain keen to preserve investor confidence.

Politics and investment markets will doubtless continue to deliver surprises in the forthcoming period. The Board believes that the Company remains well-placed as a differentiated, low-cost investment vehicle focused on delivering above-average returns and dividend growth over the longer-term.

Jae Will

**James Will** Chairman 16 June 2017

## **Board of Directors**



#### James Will

Appointed to the Board in May 2013 and became Chairman in January 2016.

He is a former Chairman of law firm Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP where he was a senior corporate partner, heading its financial sector practice. He has experience of working with companies in a wide range of industry sectors including financial services, technology, energy and life sciences.

Other investment company directorship: Herald Investment Trust.

#### Shares held: 8,000\* Fees: £50,000

\* In addition to the 8,000 shares held, Mr Will is a trustee of a trust which holds 22,000 shares in the Company. Mr Will is beneficially or potentially beneficially interested in this holding.



#### Hamish Buchan

Appointed to the Board in November 2003 and will retire at the AGM to be held in 2018.

He is a former Chairman of the Association of Investment Companies and was formerly Chairman of NatWest Securities in Scotland. He has been involved in the investment company sector for over 40 years.

Other investment company directorships: Personal Assets Trust (Chairman) and Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust.

Shares held: 22,325 Fees: £30,000



**Russell Napier** Appointed to the Board in July 2009.

He runs a course in financial history at the University of Edinburgh Business School and is the author of the book "Anatomy of the Bear: Lessons from Wall Street's Four Great Bottoms". He has been providing investment advice to financial institutions for more than 20 years both as a stockbroker and latterly as an independent analyst.

Other investment company directorship: Mid Wynd International Investment Trust.

Shares held: 14,000 Fees: £30,000



#### lan Hunter

Appointed to the Board in December 2014. He is Chairman of the Audit Committee.

He is a chartered accountant and a member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation. In June 2011, he retired from EY, having spent over 35 years in the firm's Edinburgh office and having been a partner for 25 years. Throughout his career, he was heavily involved in advising closed-ended funds (particularly investment trusts), and their managers, on taxation and on corporate transactions. He served as a member of the AIC's taxation committee.

Other investment company directorships: None.

## Shares held: 22,608 Fees: £30,000



Jane Lewis Appointed to the Board in December 2015. She is Chairman of the Remuneration Committee.

She is an investment trust specialist who, until August 2013, was a director of corporate finance and broking at Winterflood Investment Trusts. Prior to this, she worked at Henderson Global Investors and Gartmore Investment Management Limited in investment trust business development and at WestLB Panmure as an investment trust broker.

Other investment company directorships: BlackRock World Mining Trust, F&C Capital and Income Investment Trust, Invesco Perpetual UK Smaller Companies Investment Trust and Phaunos Timber Fund Limited.

### Shares held: 1,000 Fees: £30,000



#### Mick Brewis

Appointed to the Board in December 2015.

He was an investment manager at Baillie Gifford, retiring in April 2014 after 29 years at the firm, 21 of them as a partner. He was a stockpicker throughout his time there, responsible for managing UK equity portfolios before heading the North American equities team from 1995 onwards. His broad investment experience includes managing investment teams and research groups, global asset allocation, working with clients (including investment trusts), marketing, graduate recruitment and investor development.

Other investment company directorships: None.

Shares held: 10,000 Fees: £30,000

## Manager's Review

#### **Our contrarian approach**

Before reviewing the interim period, I thought it would be useful to summarise our contrarian investment philosophy and the way in which we apply it to our investments. This will mainly serve as a reminder to most shareholders but I wished to ensure that new investors were informed about the way in which we invest.

At the heart of our philosophy is a belief that humans inherently prefer to be part of a crowd or a cohesive group. Humans have evolved to abide instinctively by the rules and norms of a group as, in a harsh physical environment, this state of affairs offers greater security and a higher standard of living.

However, when applied to financial markets, we believe that this crowding instinct works against the best interests of an investor and that a willingness to take a different stance is required to profit. This instinct can become particularly disadvantageous when investors, in their zeal to become part of the crowd, conduct their analysis to justify a pre-determined conclusion. The actions of company management teams serve to reinforce this crowding instinct as they are equally prone to excessive optimism and unjustified pessimism.

We believe the biggest challenge for an investor is to recognise when the beguiling views of the crowd no longer offer an acceptable balance between risk and reward. We do not attempt to follow investment fashions and instead seek investments in which we can foresee long-term upside. This requires lateral thinking, a willingness to question widely-held views and the confidence to adopt a contrarian point of view if we think an investment is mispriced.

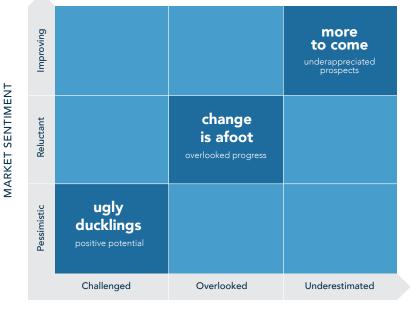
Our style is distinct and, depending on market conditions, we would expect other investors to ebb and flow in their support for our way of thinking. We aim to achieve above-average long-term performance, although we do not expect this to be achieved in a linear manner.

To apply our approach, we divide the stocks in which we invest into three categories.

First, we have those that we describe as **ugly ducklings** - unloved shares that most investors shun. These companies have endured an extended period of poor operating performance and, for the majority, the near-term outlook continues to appear uninspiring. However, we see their out-of-favour status as an opportunity and can foresee the circumstances in which these investments will surprise on the upside.

The second category consists of companies where **change is afoot**. These companies have also endured a long period of poor operating performance but have recently demonstrated that their prospects have significantly improved. However, other investors continue to overlook this change for historical reasons.

In our third category, **more to come**, we have investments that are more generally recognised as good businesses with decent prospects. However, we see an opportunity as we believe there is scope for further improvement that is not yet fully recognised.



#### **Categorisation of Investments**

## Manager's Review (continued)

### The interim period

During the period, markets demonstrated less concern about unexpected political events and embraced the election of the new US president, Donald Trump, and shrugged off other potentially destabilising events such as the resignation of the Italian prime minister, Matteo Renzi.

Markets were not necessarily enamoured by Donald Trump himself but more by the global shift that he represented - a challenge to the status quo and an opportunity to inject stimulus into economies perceived by many as moribund. Banks performed particularly strongly as they had previously been inexpensively valued and because they stood to benefit from the prospect of 'Trumpflation'. Towards the end of the period, doubts began to creep in about the ability of President Trump, or any other politician, to force through change without the support of the establishment. Investors sought the perceived safety of stocks with 'cycle-proof' growth prospects, although we intentionally limited our exposure to these stocks.

Turnover in the portfolio was elevated by the need to raise funds for the buyback transaction with Aviva and, rather than apply a blanket sale across the portfolio, we used this opportunity to reduce selectively the number of holdings in the portfolio.

Given our focus on individual stock ideas, I thought it would be more meaningful to discuss some of our notable gains and losses, in total return terms, within the context of our investment categories.

Within our **ugly ducklings**, our banks were notably good performers aided by the helpful backdrop outlined above. Two of the larger gains came from our holdings in ING (+£3.9m) and BNP Paribas (+£2.3m) with more modest gains from Intesa Sanpaolo (+£1.2m), Citigroup (+f1.1m) and Bank of Ireland (+f0.7m). Marks & **Spencer** (+£2.0m) has delivered the first tentative signs of operating improvement but remains an unloved stock and we continue to see upside from the changes that will be implemented by the new leadership. In contrast, our holding in **Tesco** (-£3.6m) produced a loss over the period as the turnaround strategy was obscured by a proposed acquisition. However, we still believe the company remains on a recovery track. We sold our entire holding in Kingfisher (-£2.0m), prompted by a need to raise funds for the Aviva transaction but also because we preferred the outlook for Marks & Spencer. BT (-£1.9m) also generated a loss as, despite having passed the nadir of concern about regulatory issues, investors were further depressed by a disappointing trading update in January.

Within our investments where we see **change is afoot**, our holding in **Rentokil Initial** (+ $\pm$ 3.1m) appreciated as the company continued to demonstrate the merits of a refocused strategy. Likewise, **Treasury Wine Estates** (+ $\pm$ 2.6m) continued to perform well as it maintained focus on a brand-led strategy. **Citizens Financial** (+ $\pm$ 1.9m), which was until recently an underappreciated subsidiary of RBS, performed well in common with banks, but with the additional benefit of a management team able to focus on improving the business. **Roche** (+ $\pm$ 1.7m) reported a successful outcome from an important clinical trial which gave credence to the corporate plan to sustain the core oncology franchise.

In our investments where we see **more to come**, our holding in **KDDI** (-£2.7m) declined in value, as investors sold more defensive investments in the aftermath of the US presidential election. Our investment in **Microsoft** (+£2.8m), continued to gain credit from a shift to a subscription model. However, we took some profits to help finance the Aviva transaction and have subsequently further reduced our holding as we believe that these prospects are now more widely appreciated. We sold our holding in **Comcast** (+£3.6m), which benefited from greater demand for high-speed broadband services, as we judged that the valuation adequately reflected these prospects.

Arguably, the political events of the past year represent the beginning of the end, or at least the end of the beginning, for a long period of economic policy that has favoured asset values over the general standard of living. Populations have become disgruntled while the compelling need to repair the financial system has, apparently, diminished.

A change in the policy backdrop, assuming it actually occurs, will undoubtedly change the investment environment and favour some companies and areas of the economy more than others. However, as I noted in my last review, our contrarian investment approach is designed to anticipate and benefit from change and we will continue to seek opportunities which we believe will profit a long-term investor.

#### Alasdair McKinnon

Manager

16 June 2017

# The Investment Team



#### Alasdair McKinnon Manager

Alasdair joined the Company in 2003 and became Manager in 2015. He has 17 years of investment experience. He graduated MA with honours in Economic and Social History from the University of Edinburgh and MSc in Investment Analysis (with distinction) from the University of Stirling. Alasdair is a CFA® charterholder and an Associate of the UK Society of Investment Professionals.



#### Sarah Monaco Investment Manager

Sarah joined the Company in 2000 and became an Investment Manager in 2002. She has 14 years of investment experience. She graduated with a Master of Business Administration from the University of Edinburgh. Sarah also has broader investor relations experience and has previously gained a BA in Commerce and Post Graduate CIM Diploma in Marketing.



Martin Robertson Deputy Manager

Martin joined the Company in 2004 and became Deputy Manager in 2015. He has 29 years of investment experience. He is a graduate of both Dundee and Edinburgh universities gaining a BSc with honours in Civil Engineering and a Master of Business Administration, respectively. Martin is a member of the CFA Institute and the UK Society of Investment Professionals.



Mark Dobbie Investment Manager

Mark joined the Company in 2000 and became an Investment Manager in 2011. He has 6 years of investment experience. He also has extensive knowledge of the operation of investment trusts, including valuation and performance analytics, from previous roles with the Company. Mark is a CFA® charterholder.

# **Financial Summary**

	30 April 2017	31 October 2016	Change %	Total return %
NAV with borrowings at market value	863.4p	854.9p	+1.0	+3.0
NAV with borrowings at par	896.4p	881.2p	+1.7	+3.7
Ex-income NAV with borrowings at market value	853.1p	837.5p	+1.9	
Ex-income NAV with borrowings at par	886.2p	863.9p	+2.6	
Share price	790.0p	769.5p	+2.7	+5.0
Discount to ex-income NAV with borrowings at market value	7.4%	8.1%		
MSCI ACWI			+4.5	+5.5
MSCI UK All Cap Index			+5.0	+7.0
	£'000	£'000		
Equity investments	793,139	893,432		
Net current assets	42,988	42,502		
Total assets	836,127	935,934		
Long-term borrowings at par	(83,690)	(83,645)		
Pension liability	(3,272)	(3,272)		
Shareholders' funds	749,165	849,017		
	Six months to 30 April 2017	Six months to 30 April 2016	Change %	
Earnings per share	9.28p	10.12p	-8.3	
Interim dividend per share	5.50p	5.25p	+4.8	
UK Consumer Prices Index - annual inflation			+2.6	
UK Retail Prices Index - annual inflation			+3.5	



**NAV\* and Share Price against Comparator Indices** 

\*with borrowings at market value

# List of Investments

## As at 30 April 2017

### **Listed Equities**

HoldingCountryvalue f'000weight %Treasury Wine EstatesAustralia42,537Rentokil InitialUK32,915Sands ChinaHong Kong32,559Marks & SpencerUK27,169INGNetherlands26,786Standard CharteredUK26,521TescoUK24,189Severn TrentUK22,287Suncor EnergyCanada22,252Sumitomo Mitsui FinancialJapan20,858Royal Dutch ShellUK18,536DNP ParibasFrance17,514MicrosoftUS17,514PepsicoUS17,230RocheSwitzerland17,099Johnson & JohnsonUS16,963CemexMexico16,69658.8
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Cemex Mexico 16,696 58.8
BHP Billiton UK 15,979
Sony Japan 15,928
Pfizer US 15,340
RSA Insurance UK 14,435
Nintendo Japan 14,171
British Land UK 13,848
Citigroup US 13,671
Total France 13,416
KDDI Japan 13,108
General Electric US 12,823 76.7
National Oilwell Varco US 12,176
Baker Hughes US 11,645
BASF Germany 11,210
Vinci France 10,967
Verizon Communications US 10,119
Ambev Brazil 9,845
Chevron US 9,432
Adecco Switzerland 9,025
East Japan Railway Japan 8,962
BT UK 8,781 89.6

Holding	Country	Market value £'000	Cumulative weight %
IBM	US	8,168	
Newcrest Mining	Australia	8,150	
Gap	US	7,965	
Citizens Financial	US	7,909	
Hess	US	7,541	
Intesa Sanpaolo	Italy	7,515	
Bank of Kyoto	Japan	6,681	
Bank of Ireland	Ireland	6,065	
Exxon Mobil	US	5,294	
TGS NOPEC Geophysical	Norway	4,807	98.5
BorgWarner	US	3,819	
Tourmaline Oil	Canada	3,392	
Freehold Royalties	Canada	2,493	
Greggs	UK	1,030	
Total listed equities		791,706	99.8

Unlisted			
			Cumulative
Holding	Country	value £'000	weight %
Heritable property and subsidiary	UK	1,400	
Apax Europe V-B	UK	33	
Total unlisted		1,433	0.2
Total equities		793,139	100.0

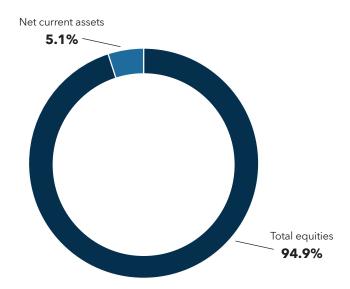
# Distribution of Assets

## Distribution of Total Assets

	30 April 2017	31 October 2016
by Sector	%	%
Energy	13.6	12.4
Materials	6.2	7.1
Industrials	8.9	10.5
Consumer Discretionary	10.6	12.4
Consumer Staples	11.2	10.4
Health Care	9.1	8.3
Financials	17.9	15.1
Information Technology	7.0	8.0
Telecommunication Services	3.8	5.1
Utilities	4.9	5.1
Real Estate	1.7	1.1
Net current assets	5.1	4.5
Total assets	100.0	100.0

by Region	30 April 2017 %	31 October 2016 %
UK	30.5	32.2
Europe (ex UK)	17.1	14.9
North America	24.6	24.9
Latin America	3.2	3.0
Japan	9.5	10.0
Asia Pacific (ex Japan)	10.0	10.5
Net current assets	5.1	4.5
Total assets	100.0	100.0

## Allocation of Total Assets



## Allocation of Shareholders' Funds

	%
Total equities	105
Net cash and equivalents	6
Borrowings at par	(11)
Shareholders' funds	100
Gearing	105



## Income Statement

	Six months to 30 April 2017 (unaudited)		Six mo	Six months to 30 April 2016 (unaudited)		Year to 31 October 2016 (audited)			
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Net gains on investments held at fair value		11 500	44 500		00.004	00.004		477.00/	
through profit and loss Net (losses)/gains on	-	11,592	11,592	-	22,081	22,081	-	177,326	177,326
currencies	-	(531)	(531)	-	1,653	1,653	-	6,024	6,024
Income	11,474	_	11,474	13,719	_	13,719	28,440	-	28,440
Expenses	(959)	(666)	(1,625)	(1,129)	(784)	(1,913)	(2,407)	(1,673)	(4,080)
Net Return before Finance Costs and Taxation	10,515	10,395	20,910	12,590	22,950	35,540	26,033	181,677	207,710
Premium on repayment of secured bonds	-	_	_	_	(7,393)	(7,393)	_	(7,393)	(7,393)
Interest payable	(1,237)	(1,237)	(2,474)	(1,303)	(1,302)	(2,605)	(2,529)	(2,529)	(5,058)
Return on Ordinary Activities before Tax	9,278	9,158	18,436	11,287	14,255	25,542	23,504	171,755	195,259
Tax on ordinary activities	(704)	-	(704)	(750)	-	(750)	(1,534)	-	(1,534)
Return attributable to Shareholders	8,574	9,158	17,732	10,537	14,255	24,792	21,970	171,755	193,725
Return per share	9.28p	9.92p	19.20p	10.12p	13.70p	23.82p	21.62p	169.04p	190.66p
Weighted average number of shares in issues		92,338,34	.9		104,096,8:	27		101,606,3	78
		, _,			10 1/0 / 0/01			101/000/0	
	£'000			£'000			£'000		
Dividends payable	4,596			5,276			21,828		
Income comprises:									
Dividends	11,418			13,666			28,347		
Interest	56			53			93		
	11,474			13,719			28,440		

# **Balance Sheet**

	As at 30 April 2017 (unaudited) £'000	As at 31 October 2016 (audited) £′000	As at 30 April 2016 (unaudited) £′000
Fixed Assets			
Equity investments	793,139	893,432	761,147
Current Assets			
Debtors	2,788	2,260	3,974
Cash	20,118	11,694	21,585
Cash equivalents	20,425	29,210	30,479
	43,331	43,164	56,038
Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year	(343)	(662)	(9,375)
Net Current Assets	42,988	42,502	46,663
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	836,127	935,934	807,810
Creditors: liabilities falling due after more than one year			
Long-term borrowings at par	(83,690)	(83,645)	(83,598)
Pension liability	(3,272)	(3,272)	(2,550)
Net Assets	749,165	849,017	721,662
Capital and Reserves			
Called-up share capital	20,893	24,086	25,375
Share premium account	39,922	39,922	39,922
Other reserves			
Capital redemption reserve	49,968	46,775	45,486
Capital reserve	590,335	682,209	560,415
Revenue reserve	48,047	56,025	50,464
Shareholders' Funds	749,165	849,017	721,662
Net Asset Value per share with borrowings at par	896.4p	881.2p	711.0p
Number of shares in issue at period end	83,571,793	96,342,683	101,501,426

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Six months to 30 April 2017 (unaudited) £′000	Six months to 30 April 2016 (unaudited) £′000	Year to 31 October 2016 (audited) £′000
Total comprehensive income for the period	17,732	24,792	192,715
Total comprehensive income per share	19.20p	23.82p	189.67p

# Statement of Changes in Equity

	Six months to 30 April 2017 (unaudited) £′000	Six months to 30 April 2016 (unaudited) £′000	Year to 31 October 2016 (audited) £′000
Opening shareholders' funds	849,017	733,056	733,056
Total comprehensive income	17,732	24,792	192,715
Dividend payments	(16,552)	(11,534)	(16,810)
Aviva share buyback	(90,246)	-	-
Regular share buybacks	(10,786)	(24,652)	(59,944)
Closing shareholders' funds	749,165	721,662	849,017

# **Cash Flow Statement**

	Six months to 30 April 2017 (unaudited) £'000	Six months to 30 April 2016 (unaudited) £'000	Year to 31 October 2016 (audited) £'000
Operating activities			
Net revenue before finance costs and taxation	10,515	12,590	26,033
Expenses charged to capital	(666)	(784)	(1,673)
Increase in accrued income	(399)	(2,232)	(287)
Decrease in other payables	(186)	(3,875)	(403)
(Increase)/decrease in other receivables	(20)	3,424	81
Adjustment for pension funding	-	-	(288)
Tax on investment income	(813)	(939)	(1,919)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	8,431	8,184	21,544
Investing activites			
Purchases of investments	(53,911)	(69,258)	(162,884)
Disposals of investments	165,302	104,566	218,530
Cash flows from investing activities	111,391	35,308	55,646
Cash flows before financing activities	119,822	43,492	77,190
Financing activities			
Dividends paid	(16,552)	(11,534)	(16,810)
Repayment of secured bonds	-	(28,241)	(28,241)
Share buybacks	(101,203)	(23,005)	(60,158)
Interest paid	(2,428)	(2,601)	(5,030)
Cash flows from financing activities	(120,183)	(65,381)	(110,239)
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	(361)	(21,889)	(33,049)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period	40,904	73,953	73,953
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period	40,543	52,064	40,904

## Notes

The condensed set of Financial Statements for the six months to 30 April 2017 comprises the statements set out on pages 12 to 15 together with the related notes on this page. It has been prepared in accordance with FRS 104 'Interim Financial Reporting' and the AIC's Statement of Recommended Practice issued in November 2014 and has not been audited or reviewed by the Auditor pursuant to the Auditing Practices Board Guidance on 'Review of Interim Financial Information'. The condensed set of Financial Statements for the six months to 30 April 2017 has been prepared on the basis of the same accounting policies as set out in the Company's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2016.

It is the opinion of the Directors that, as most of the Company's assets are readily realisable and exceed its liabilities, it is expected that the Company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The information contained in this Interim Report does not constitute statutory accounts as defined in sections 434-436 of the Companies Act 2006. Where applicable, the figures have been extracted from the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2016 which has been filed with the Registrar of Companies and which contains an unqualified report from the Auditor. The financial information for the six months ended 30 April 2017 and 30 April 2016 has not been audited.

Based on the number of shares in issue at 30 April 2017, the interim dividend will cost £4,596,000 (2016: £5,329,000) and is payable on 28 July 2017 to shareholders registered at 30 June 2017. The shares will be traded 'ex' the interim dividend from 29 June 2017 and investors purchasing on or after that date will not be entitled to the interim dividend for 2016/17.

Equity investments include the unlisted portfolio of £1.4m (31 October 2016: £1.9m).

The weighted average number of shares in issue during the half-year was 92,338,349 (2016: 104,096,827) and this figure has been used in calculating the return per share shown in the income statement. The net asset value per share at 30 April 2017 has been calculated using the number of shares in issue on that date which was 83,571,793 (31 October 2016: 96,342,683).

## Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	31 October 2016 £′000	Cash flows £'000	Non-cash movements £'000	30 April 2017 £'000
Cash	11,694	8,424	-	20,118
Short-term deposits	29,210	(8,785)	-	20,425
Long-term borrowings at par	(83,645)	-	(45)	(83,690)
	(42,741)	(361)	(45)	(43,147)

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the business are investment and market price risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk, foreign currency risk, credit risk, discount volatility, custody and depositary risk and operational risk. These are listed on page 13 of the 2016 Annual Report and Accounts and they are unchanged from that year. An explanation of these risks and how they are managed is set out in Note 17 on pages 53 to 58 of the Annual Report and Accounts.

## **Responsibility statement**

The Board of Directors confirms that to the best of its knowledge:

- a) the condensed set of Financial Statements has been prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with the Interim Financial Reporting Standard 104 applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 104") and the AIC's Statement of Recommended Practice "Financial Statements of Investment Trust Companies and Venture Capital Trusts" issued in 2014 and gives a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and return of the Company;
- b) the Interim Report includes a fair review of the information required by Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rule 4.2.7R (indication of important events during the first six months, their impact on the condensed set of Financial Statements and a description of the principal risks and uncertainties for the remaining six months of the year);
- c) the Interim Report includes a fair review of the information required by Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rule 4.2.8R (disclosure of related party transactions and changes therein); and
- d) the Interim Report, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's performance, business model and strategy.

For and on behalf of the board

1 Jan With .

James Will Chairman 16 June 2017

## Investor Information

## How to invest

You can buy the Company's shares directly on the stockmarket through a stockbroker or a share dealing platform. Your bank, lawyer, accountant or other professional adviser may also be able to help with this. The Company's registrar, Computershare Investor Services PLC, provides a share dealing service which can be accessed on its website, www.investorcentre.co.uk or by telephoning 0370 703 0195.

## **Monitoring your investment**

The Company's share price, together with performance information and product details, can be found on the Company's website, **www.thescottish.co.uk** 

A number of financial websites, such as the Financial Times, www.ft.com and the London Stock Exchange, www.londonstockexchange.com carry share price information. In addition, the share price is published daily in most quality newspapers.

The Company publishes a daily NAV and a monthly factsheet on its website. An Interim Report is issued in June of each year and the Annual Report is distributed to all investors in January. STOCKPLAN, STOCKPLAN: A Flying Start and ISA investors receive twice-yearly statements of their holdings.

### Dividend

An interim dividend of 5.50p (2016: 5.25p) has been declared and is payable on 28 July 2017 to shareholders registered at close of business on 30 June 2017. The exdividend date is 29 June 2017.

## **Electronic communications**

Investors who hold share certificates (i.e. who are not in the STOCKPLAN, ISA or SIPP schemes, nor in a broker's nominee), may choose to receive the Company's Interim and Annual Reports and other shareholder communications electronically instead of in paper form.

To register, simply visit the link in the shareholder information section on the Company's website, www.thescottish.co.uk and follow the instructions provided. Investors will then be advised by email when an electronic communication is available to be accessed.

### **Investor Disclosure Document**

In accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority rules implementing the EU Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD), certain information must be made available to investors before they invest. The Company's Investor Disclosure Document can be found on the Company's website www.thescottish.co.uk

#### Management

The Board has appointed the Company's whollyowned subsidiary, SIT Savings Limited, as its Alternative Investment Fund Manager (AIFM). Day-to-day management of the Company is delegated to the Company's executive management which reports directly to the Board.

#### Performance comparators

The Company does not have a formal benchmark. Performance is reviewed in the context of returns achieved by a broad basket of UK equities through the MSCI UK All Cap Index and of international equities through the MSCI ACWI. The portfolio is not modelled on any index.

### **Risk warning**

Past performance may not be repeated and is not a guide to future performance. The value of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up as a result of market and currency fluctuations. You may not get back the amount you invest. The Company has a long-term policy of borrowing money to invest in equities in the expectation that this will improve returns but, should stockmarkets fall, such borrowings would magnify losses on these investments. The Company can buy back and cancel its own shares. All other things being equal, this would have the effect of increasing gearing.

Investment in the Company is intended as a long-term investment. Tax rates and reliefs can change in the future and the value of any tax advantages will depend on personal circumstances.

The Company's investment portfolio is diversified over a range of industries and regions in order to spread risk.

Please remember that we are unable to offer individual investment or taxation advice. If you require such advice, you should consult your professional advisers.

SIT Savings Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

# Financial Calendar 2017

## **Dividend and interest payments**

Interim dividend Secured bonds Perpetual debenture stock July 17 April, 17 October 30 April, 31 October

## **Announcement of results**

NAV Interim figures Final figures Annual Report & Accounts Daily June December December

# Useful Addresses

## **Registered office**

6 Albyn Place Edinburgh EH2 4NL Registered no. SC001651 Telephone: **0131 225 7781** Website: www.thescottish.co.uk Email: info@thescottish.co.uk

## **Company Secretary**

Maitland Administration Services (Scotland) Limited 20 Forth Street Edinburgh EH1 3LH

## Depositary

Northern Trust Global Services Limited 50 Bank Street Canary Wharf London E14 5NT

### Custodian

The Northern Trust Company 50 Bank Street Canary Wharf London E14 5NT

### Auditor

Deloitte LLP Saltire Court 20 Castle Terrace Edinburgh EH1 2DB

## Actuaries

Punter Southall & Co 7 Castle Street Edinburgh EH2 3AH

## **The Association of Investment Companies**

The Company is a member of The Association of Investment Companies (AIC) which publishes a number of useful fact sheets and email updates for investors interested in investment trust companies.

The AIC 9th Floor 24 Chiswell Street London EC1Y 4YY Telephone: **0207 282 5555** Website: www.theaic.co.uk

For valuations of existing investments and other details of your investment or to notify a change of address please contact the following:

## Shareholders who hold share certificates:

Computershare Investor Services PLC The Pavilions Bridgwater Road Bristol BS99 6ZZ Helpline: 0370 703 0195 Website: www.investorcentre.co.uk

### STOCKPLAN, STOCKPLAN: A Flying Start and ISA investors:

SIT Schemes Halifax Share Dealing Limited Lovell Park Road Leeds LS1 1NS Helpline: 0345 850 0181 or 0113 267 1063 Website: www.halifaxsharedealing-online.co.uk

# Glossary

**Borrowings at par** is the nominal value of the Company's borrowings less any unamortised issue expenses.

**Borrowings at market value** is the Company's estimate of the 'fair value' of its borrowings. The current estimated fair value of the Company's borrowings is based on the redemption yield of the relevant existing reference gilt plus a margin derived from the spread of BBB UK corporate bond yields (15 years+) over UK gilt yields (15 years+). The reference gilt for the secured bonds is the 6% UK Treasury Stock 2028 and the reference gilt for the perpetual debenture stocks is the longest-dated UK Treasury stock listed in the Financial Times.

**NAV** is net asset value per share after deducting borrowings at par or market value, as stated.

**Ex-income NAV** is the NAV excluding current year revenue.

**Discount** is the difference between the market price of a share and the NAV, expressed as a percentage of the NAV.

**Gross gearing** is the geared position if all the borrowings were invested in equities: borrowings expressed as a percentage of shareholders' funds.

**Gearing** is the true geared position of the Company: borrowings less cash and equivalents expressed as a percentage of shareholders' funds.

Total assets means total assets less current liabilities.





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