

Capital and income growth from active global equity investment

Annual Report 2015



Witan's objective

Long term growth in income and capital through active multi-manager investment in global equities

Witan is an investment trust which is listed on the London Stock Exchange and was founded in 1909.

Witan offers diversified exposure to global markets (principally equities) using a multi-manager approach. The portfolio is diversified by geographical region, industrial sector and at the individual stock level.

Witan typically uses between 10 and 15 investment managers. The blend of different active approaches and styles aims to deliver added value for shareholders while smoothing out the volatility normally associated with a single manager.

To view the report online

If you would like to view video updates about the Company, please visit:

www.witan.com



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Shareholder Total Return

+5.7%

NAV Total Return

+6.4%

Dividends per Share

+10.4%

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Corporate key performance indicators

Share price and net asset value (NAV)	2015	2014	% change
Share price	780.0p	753.5p	↑ 3.5
NAV per ordinary share (debt at par value)	788.4p	760.3p	↑ 3.7
NAV per ordinary share (debt at fair value)	781.2p	749.2p	↑ 4.3
(Discount)/premium (NAV including income, debt at fair value) ^(A)	(0.2)%	0.6%	

(A) The average premium on this basis in 2015 was 0.1% (2014: average discount 2.8%), (Source: Morningstar).

Total return performance

	1yr % Return	3yrs % Return	5yrs % Return
Total shareholder return ^(B)	5.7	66.3	70.4
Net asset value total return ^(C)	6.4	47.0	51.2
Benchmark ^(D)	3.5	31.9	38.7
FTSE All-Share Index ^(E)	1.0	23.4	33.8
FTSE All-World Index ^(E)	4.3	42.1	49.7
UK CPI Returns	0.2	2.8	10.0

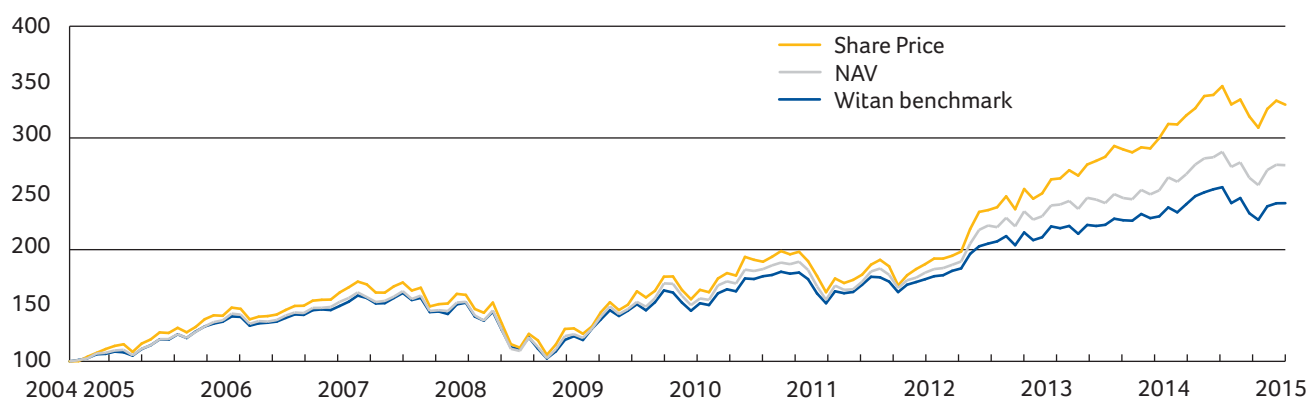
(B) Source: Morningstar. The movement in ordinary share price adjusted to include the reinvestment of dividends.

(C) Source: Morningstar/Witan. The movement in the net asset value per share adjusted to include the reinvestment of dividends.

(D) Source: Morningstar/Witan. The benchmark is a composite of four indices: the FTSE All-Share Index 40%, the FTSE All-World North America Index 20%, the FTSE All-World Europe (ex UK) Index 20% and the FTSE All-World Asia Pacific Index 20%.

(E) Source: Morningstar. See also FTSE International for conditions of use (www.ftse.com).

Total returns since the introduction of the multi-manager structure (30.09.04) ^(F)



(F) Source: Morningstar.

Dividend information

	2015	2014	% change
Revenue per share	18.5p	15.9p	↑ 16.4
Dividend per share	17.0p	15.4p	↑ 10.4

2016 dividend schedule*

Ex-Dividend Date	Pay date	Dividend type	Dividend payable per share
3 March 2016	1 April 2016	Fourth Interim (2015)	5.45p
19 May 2016	17 June 2016	First Interim	4.25p
25 August 2016	16 September 2016	Second Interim	4.25p
17 November 2016	16 December 2016	Third Interim	4.25p

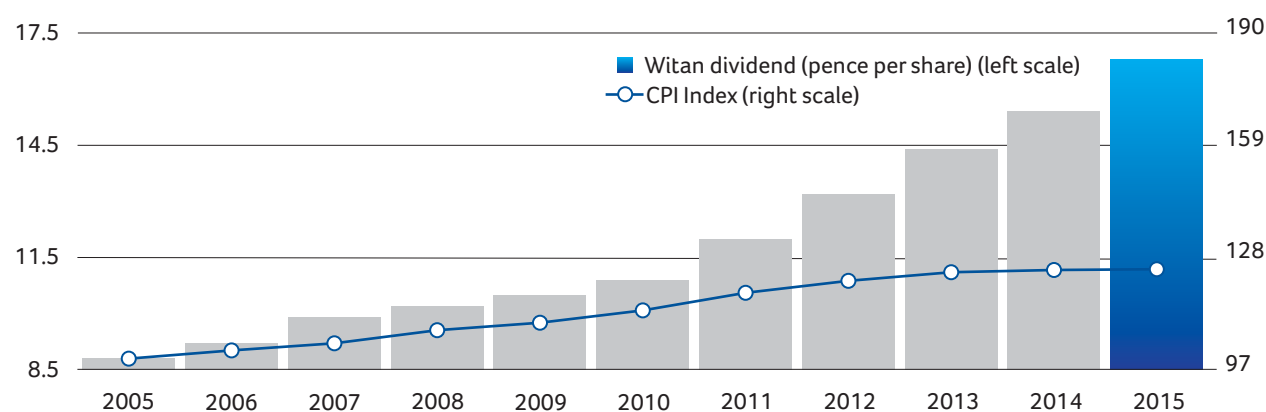
*Please note that the dates and amounts for the first, second and third interim dividends could be subject to change.

Other financial information

	2015	2014	% change
Net assets	£1,577,330,000	£1,441,247,000	↑ 9.4
Number of ordinary shares in issue	200,071,000	189,561,000	↑ 5.5
Gearing ^(A)	10.7%	10.1%	
Ongoing charge excluding performance fee	0.72%	0.74%	
Ongoing charge including performance fee	0.99%	0.96%	

(A) The difference between shareholders' funds and the total market value of the investments (including the face value of futures positions) expressed as a percentage of shareholders' funds (see note 14, page 85).

Since 2005, Witan's dividend per share has risen 93%, compared with 27% for the UK consumer price index



Source: Datastream.

Chairman's Report



Harry Henderson | Chairman

Summary

2015 was another year when market sentiment was changeable, with no consistent market direction as discussed in the Chief Executive's Report on page 6. Active investment selection was particularly important. During the year our managers outperformed their benchmarks significantly overall, with a modest additional contribution from the Company's use of gearing. Eight of our external managers outperformed their benchmarks during the year, four of them by margins of over 5%.

As a result, Witan shareholders enjoyed a successful year, with a net asset value ('NAV') total return of 6.4%, 2.9% more than our benchmark's total return of 3.5%. The share price total return was 5.7%, as the shares moved from a small premium at the end of 2014 to a 0.2% discount at the end of 2015. The dividend for the year has been increased by 10.4% to 17.0 pence per share (2014: 15.4 pence), while adding £2.4m to our revenue reserves. A fourth interim dividend of 5.45 pence was declared in February 2016, payable on 1 April 2016. This marks the 41st consecutive year of rising dividends at Witan.

Taking a longer perspective, over the past 5 years Witan has achieved a NAV total return of +51%, compared with the +39% return from our benchmark over this period. Over the 10 years to the end of 2015, shareholders have enjoyed a NAV total return of 110%, compared with the benchmark's return of 82%.

Witan's shares in the market

The Company's shares enjoyed a further rerating during 2015, trading at a premium for much of the period. In order to meet demand from the market, the Company issued 10.5m shares at a premium to NAV, adding over £83m to our net assets. This is beneficial to shareholders in several ways. The issuance itself is modestly accretive to NAV (+ £0.4m in 2015), being made at a premium. The increased

Highlights

- NAV total return of 6.4% outperformed the benchmark's return of 3.5%
- NAV total return over the last five years of 51%, 12% ahead of the benchmark
- Share price average premium to NAV of 0.1%
- 10.5m shares issued at a premium to NAV, raising over £83m
- £75m long-term debt issued at under 3.5% p.a.
- Dividend increased by 10.4% to 17.0p, more than 10% ahead of the rate of inflation

market liquidity is helpful to existing and prospective investors, particularly those dealing in size on a single day and the increased assets of the Company enable its fixed costs to be spread over a wider base.

Whilst delivery of sound investment performance remains the principal focus of the Board, it has also always paid attention to discount-related issues. At the time of our change to a multi-manager approach in 2004, our Annual report said that “one of the more important long-term objectives is to create sustainable liquidity in Witan’s shares at or near to asset value”. We are pleased to have achieved this in 2015. Now the challenge is to achieve this objective through the full range of investment conditions. These issues are discussed in more detail in the Strategic Report on page 9.

Borrowings

During the year, the Company issued £75m of 20 and 30 year debt, at borrowing yields below 3.5%. The interest rates Witan secured are the lowest achieved in the sector for such long maturities for many decades. The Board believes that fixing borrowing costs at such low rates will benefit future shareholder returns and the timing fits neatly with the scheduled repayment of our 8.5% Debenture in 2016. Further details of the Company’s policy on gearing and actions taken during 2015 may be found in the Strategic Report on page 9.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at Merchant Taylors’ Hall on Thursday 28 April 2016 at 2.30 pm. Formal notice of the meeting will be sent to shareholders when the Annual Report is published. We look forward to the opportunity to meet you then for the Company’s 108th AGM.

James Bevan, who has been on the Board since 2007, will retire at the AGM. I should like to thank him on behalf of the Board for his wise counsel and advice.

I should like to thank the Chief Executive and the rest of our team for their hard work and excellent results this year.

Harry Henderson

Chairman

8 March 2016

Chief Executive's Report



Andrew Bell | Chief Executive

The investment markets in 2015

As the Chairman has alluded to, equity markets delivered positive returns in 2015 in sterling terms but there were episodes of notable volatility. A strong rally in the first quarter (helped by falling oil prices and lower bond yields) faded then reversed during the summer, as concerns about global growth and financial stress in emerging economies took hold. Following a strong rally in the final quarter, returns turned positive for developed markets but remained negative for emerging markets. Japan was the standout performer, with a 16% total return in sterling terms, while the UK was a relative laggard, only returning 1.0%. Asian and other emerging economies fell, weighed down by concerns about weaker growth in China and exposure to falling commodity prices.

Economic growth fell short of hopes but, in developed economies, 2015 was generally stronger than 2014, while expectations for 2016 are for similar or higher growth than in 2015. It is difficult to see in this an explanation for the volatility experienced in August and September (as well as early in 2016), when investor concerns became focused on the negative repercussions of the falls in oil and other commodity prices, with additional concerns about strains in the Chinese economy.

The fall in oil prices, from a consumer's point of view, represents a boost in spending power and had been predicted to boost growth in 2015. Consumers were expected to spend the windfall, whereas much of the revenue from high oil prices had piled up in the sovereign wealth funds of producing nations, which were simply expected to have smaller surpluses to save, resulting in a net overall boost to activity. This appears not to have happened, owing to the speed and extent of the fall in oil prices – they halved in a few months in late 2014 and fell further during 2015.

As a result, countries and companies dependent on oil aggressively cut their spending, resulting in a sharp setback for industrial sectors that had benefited from the oil exploration and production

boom. Consumers saved much of the benefit, being unsure whether it would persist. Consequently, the negative impacts on growth were more apparent than the benefits, which were more thinly spread.

During the summer, in addition to predictable earnings disappointments from the oil sector, many other US companies reported shortfalls, owing to their indirect dependence on the previous oil boom or to the impact of the strong dollar on their overseas earnings. This weighed heavily on a market that was already highly rated, especially given the prospect of the US Federal Reserve starting to raise interest rates. On top of this, concerns grew that the Chinese economy was slowing down, reducing its demand for commodities and potentially exacerbating the pressures on emerging economies dependent upon commodity revenues. Nerves were further rattled by a meteoric rise and collapse in the Chinese equity market and a poorly-handled (albeit small) devaluation of the Chinese Renminbi relative to the dollar, both of which fed fears that the Chinese authorities were losing control of economic policy.

These factors resulted in a widespread equity market correction in August, accompanied by high volatility. This continued through September, before a recovery started in October, as it became clear that global growth, though disappointing, was relatively resilient and the US Federal Reserve stated that its approach to raising interest rates would be cautious.

Witan's strategy was to remain fully invested, as the world economy appeared to be improving, though watchful, increasing investment during periods when markets overreacted to events. Our gearing peaked at 13% during September before being reduced, as markets recovered, to 10.7% at the year-end. The Strategic Report on pages 9 to 22 sets out details of our external managers' performance during the year as well as decisions made in the areas of gearing, the use of index futures and changes in the direct fund investments.

Outlook

2015 was a "glass half-empty" year in market sentiment terms, with a propensity to magnify disappointments and to dismiss positive news as already priced in, or about to turn bad.

On the positive side, economies in the US and the UK enjoyed a further year of 2-3% growth, with similar rates expected in 2016. Japan and Europe have seen improved (though low) growth, with higher growth rates forecast for the coming year. The oil price has remained near to 10 year lows, sustaining the boost to consumers (and companies outside oil-related sectors), while the rate of cut-backs in oil and mining sector investment may be abating, or more fully discounted. Corporate earnings forecasts for the year ahead are stronger than the weakness visible in the rear-view mirror. Monetary policy remains stimulative worldwide, with near-record low government bond yields.

The worries are familiar and have come into sharper focus in early 2016. Will China be able to manage its transition from an economy driven by over-investment in infrastructure and heavy industry to one dependent upon consumption and services, without an intervening recession? The stresses from low oil and commodity prices may generate political instability in (mainly emerging) economies dependent on raw material production or cause distress to the banks which have financed projects based on higher price assumptions. Both might have significant consequences that could make relatively localised problems more globally significant. In the UK, uncertainty over the EU membership referendum is a further unpredictable factor for investors.

The world cannot decide whether it should be worried about inflation (due to years of loose monetary policy) or deflation (due to surplus capacity and excessive debt accumulation). In 2015, with falling oil prices, deflation fears were in the ascendant, with the new phenomenon of negative interest rates, initially in Europe and more recently in Japan. Paying to have money on deposit or to lend

Chief Executive's Report continued

to governments is a novel concept. In 2016, this inflation-denial will be tested, as headline inflation rates are set to rise later in the year due to the falls in oil prices dropping out of the annual comparison. With bond yields so low, investors may be more sensitive than expected to signs that the direction of inflation rates is turning upwards.

Concerns continue to be expressed about the slow pace of recovery from the 2008-9 financial crisis. Much looser monetary policy than normal has been required, which has generated relatively pallid rates of economic growth. However, anaemia is not the same as rigor mortis. There are now more examples of economies where recovery is well-established, with the US and UK relatively robust but even previous problem areas such as Japan and Europe are seeing more encouraging growth. The Achilles' heel now is seen as emerging economies but, after 5 years of emerging market underperformance, this may already be significantly discounted.

It seems unlikely that the world will see rapid rates of economic growth in 2016 but nor does it appear probable that there will be renewed slippage into recession. Interest rates seem likely to remain exceptionally low for an extended period (even if they have begun to rise in the US). Finding companies which can grow their earnings in a world of moderate growth will continue to be the focus of our managers. On the macro-economic level, whilst there is an ever-present potential for policy mistakes, policy makers appear aware of the risks of weak growth and price deflation and the resulting pro-growth emphasis should prove supportive for equity markets. However, as recent months have demonstrated, there will be inevitable periods of volatility when investor confidence is tested by shorter term market and economic events.

Andrew Bell

Chief Executive

8 March 2016

Strategic Report

Strategy and business model

Companies are required to publish a Strategic Report, which should provide a description of the objectives which its strategy is designed to deliver for shareholders, the business model and the outlook for the year ahead. It should also include analysis of the Company's performance during the year, relative to the key elements of its business strategy. This Strategic Report has been prepared solely to provide additional information to shareholders to assess the Company's strategies and the potential for those strategies to succeed. The Strategic Report contains certain forward looking statements. These statements are made by the directors in good faith based on the information available to them up to the time of their approval of this report and such statements should be treated with caution due to the inherent uncertainties, including both economic and business risk factors, underlying any such forward-looking information. This report falls into four main sections:

1. Strategy
2. Business model
3. Performance and principal developments in 2015
4. Corporate and operational structure

Witan is an Investment Trust, which was founded in 1909 and has been listed on the London Stock Exchange since 1924. It is managed by the Executive team of its Alternative Investment Fund Manager (AIFM), Witan Investment Services Limited (WIS), under the control and supervision of the Company's Board of Directors.

1. Strategy

The Company's strategy is to create value for shareholders, by addressing its investment objective, by adding value in pursuing that objective and by communicating effectively with existing and potential shareholders.

The Company invests its shareholders' funds primarily in a broad spread of global equity markets. The objective is to profit from opportunities created by global economic growth and to outperform a representative equity benchmark, thereby generating long-term capital growth for

shareholders, together with an income that rises faster than the rate of inflation.

The Company employs an active multi-manager approach, allocating funds for investment by selected managers with differing styles and specialisations. The aim is to access the best available managers, including those not accessible on the same terms (or at all) to UK investors.

Witan's multi-manager approach was adopted in 2004, in the belief that no single manager was likely to excel in all markets and at all points in the economic cycle. Employing managers to invest in their areas of greatest competence has the potential to improve returns and to reduce risk relative to using a single manager across the investment waterfront.

Our approach is to balance different factors (such as quality, value or growth approaches and geographical exposure), aiming to profit from asset allocation and from managers' combined ability to outperform over time. We seek managers who can capture the longer term growth rewards from equity investment by focusing on fundamental share values rather than chasing short-term momentum.

2. Business model

The Company has appointed Witan Investment Services Limited as its Alternative Investment Fund Manager under the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive ('AIFMD'). As AIFM, WIS has responsibility for operating the Company's portfolio and risk management processes. WIS delegates certain portfolio management responsibilities to external portfolio managers. In addition, the Company uses an outsourced model for other corporate functions, such as fund accounting, custody and specialist professional services. These activities are overseen by the WIS and Witan Executive team, covering Investment, Operations and Marketing, headed by the Chief Executive Officer, who is a Director of the Company.

Whilst the external managers appointed are responsible for stock selection in their individual portfolios, WIS and the Company's Board are responsible for the overall delivery of performance to shareholders, through the following means:

- Setting the overall investment objective;
- Selecting competent managers, who are expected to outperform a suitable benchmark relating to the investment remit set by the Company;
- Operating appropriate portfolio, corporate governance and risk management arrangements for effective corporate management and to meet the requirements of the AIFMD;

Strategic Report

Strategy and business model continued

- Adjusting asset allocation according to opportunities that arise;
- The judicious use of borrowings with the aim of adding to performance;
- Direct investment in funds exposed to specialist asset categories;
- Controlled and selective use of exchange-traded derivatives to adjust asset allocation; and
- Clear communication of Witan's objective and its results to shareholders and potential investors.

The Board's and the Executive's role in investment management

As noted above, the Company has appointed its wholly-owned subsidiary WIS as its AIFM. As such, WIS has responsibility for ensuring that portfolio and risk management of the Company are properly carried out, with appropriate safeguards to ensure the functional and hierarchical independence of those with portfolio and risk management responsibilities. The Board remains responsible for setting the investment strategy, policy and guidelines of the Company and the AIFM operates within these.

The selection of individual investments is largely delegated to external managers, subject to investment limits and guidelines which reflect the particular mandate (e.g. UK or global equities) and the specific investment approach which the Company and its AIFM have selected (e.g. value, higher dividend yield, special situations). The managers are chosen by the Witan and WIS Boards after a disciplined selection process focused on the managers' scope to add value and their fit with the overall balance of the portfolio.

The overwhelming majority of the portfolio is managed in segregated accounts, held by the Company's depositary (via the custodian to whom it delegates safekeeping responsibilities). This enables the Company to analyse the risks and opportunities of the portfolio as a whole as well as of each manager's portfolio. The operations of the custodian and the safeguarding of the Company's assets are further supervised by the depositary, appointed by Witan and its AIFM, in accordance with the requirements set out in the AIFMD.

At the end of 2015, the Company and its AIFM had 11 external investment managers, covering a range of investment remits. Information regarding the proportion of Witan's assets managed by each and of their performance during the year is set out on page 13.

A proportion, up to 10%, of the portfolio (at the time of investment) may be invested in collective funds selected by WIS, with the objective of outperforming Witan's equity benchmark. This portfolio is managed subject to limits set by the Board, and in accordance with portfolio and risk management processes established by Witan and the Company's AIFM. These investments may represent asset categories that are temporarily undervalued or funds which are viewed as attractive longer-term generators of superior returns.

The WIS Executive, overseen by and working within clear parameters set by the Board, seeks to add to performance by adjusting the level of gearing employed, by the selective use of exchange-traded derivatives to alter the asset allocation and by the use of specialist funds to gain exposure to areas under-represented in the rest of the portfolio. In essence, the Company seeks to have sufficient levers to pull to take advantage of investment opportunities that may arise, in addition to the total returns arising from the investment managers' portfolios, which are expected to be the most significant driver of the Company's performance.

Our selected benchmark

The Company's benchmark, used as a reference point for comparing performance, is a combination of global equity markets, which reflect the investment universe from which most of the portfolio holdings are chosen. Since October 2007 the benchmark (based on the FTSE All-World indices) has been:

40% UK
20% North America
20% Europe ex-UK
20% Asia Pacific.

This reflects an investment policy that is designed to access a comprehensive range of investment opportunities in the global economy. The component weightings reflect the Board's belief that the opportunities are related to the importance of economic regions more than the market capitalisation of regional equity markets. The high weighting in the UK (which declined from 60% to 50% in 2004 and to 40% in 2007) reflects the global exposure of the UK market, which derives a significant majority of its earnings from overseas.

It should be emphasised that the portfolio is actively managed and not designed to track any index or combination of market indices. Performance can be expected to vary, sometimes considerably, from that of the benchmark, while aiming for outperformance in the longer term.

Performance information for other commonly used indices is also given in the key performance indicators summary section on page 11.

Strategic Report

Performance and principal developments in 2015

3. Performance and principal developments in 2015

Success in implementing the Company's strategy is monitored against a range of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which are viewed as significant measures of success over the longer term. Although performance relative to the KPIs is also monitored over shorter periods, success over the long-term is viewed as more important, given the inherent volatility of short-term investment returns. The principal financial KPIs are set out below, with a report (*in italics*) of Witan's performance against them during 2015. With respect to non-financial measures, details of the Company's policies and performance in relation to its obligations under the UK Corporate Governance Code are set out in the Corporate Governance Statement on pages 34 to 43.

Key performance indicators

A. Investment performance

Outperformance compared with Witan's equity benchmark.

The Company seeks to achieve at least 2% p.a. outperformance in NAV total return and shareholder total return terms over the long-term. *In 2015, Witan achieved 2.9% NAV total return outperformance relative to its combined global equity benchmark (see page 10) and a shareholder total return 2.2% above that of the benchmark.*

A positive long-term total return, after inflation, for shareholders.

In 2015, Witan shareholders enjoyed a NAV total return of 6.4% and, as the shares moved from a small premium to a small discount to NAV, a shareholder total return of 5.7%. This was well ahead of inflation of 0.2% for the year to December 2015. Returns over the longer term are set out on page 2 and indicate that this objective has also been met over the past 3 and 5 year periods.

Long-term investment outperformance by the individual managers relative to the relevant benchmark.

In 2015, eight of the eleven third party delegated managers outperformed their benchmarks. The managers' returns since appointment are set out in the table on page 13. Further details are set out on pages 12 and 13.

B. Annual growth in the dividend per share ahead of the rate of inflation

In 2015, the dividend increased by 10.4%, compared with an inflation rate of 0.2% in the year to December 2015. Further details are set out on page 14.

C. A positive contribution to investment returns from the use of borrowings

The Company employed average gearing of 9.7% during the year, which directly contributed 0.7% to returns. This covered the (mostly fixed) costs of borrowing, for a small contribution, after interest, of 0.05%. Further details are set out on page 14 and 15.

D. A share price trading at a sustainable low discount (or a premium) to NAV (including income, with debt at fair value), taking account of prevailing investment conditions

This amends the previous KPI, which was "A discount to NAV of 10% or less (compared with the NAV excluding income, with debt at market value)". *The shares traded at an average premium of +0.1% in 2015, compared with an average 2.8% discount in 2014. The discount at the year-end was 0.2% (2014: premium of +0.6%).*

E. A competitive level of ongoing charges, below the costs of other multi-manager funds, balancing the need to pay for high quality investment management with the aim of keeping the costs of managing the business as low as possible

In 2015, the ongoing charges figure ('OCF') was 0.72% excluding performance fees (2014: 0.74%) and 0.99% including performance fees (2014: 0.96%). This compares with the average OCF of 1.56% in the Investment Association Global equity funds sector and 0.73% (0.80% including performance fees) for the AIC Global sector. Further details are set out on page 17.

Strategic Report

Performance and principal developments in 2015 continued

Performance summary and attribution

2015 was in some respects similar to 2014, in that equity investment returns oscillated around the unchanged mark for much of the year. Japan was the strongest of the main equity markets (with a total return in sterling of 16%), while sterling total returns in developed markets ranged from just 1.0% for the UK (weighed down by high oil and mining sector weightings) to 7% for the US and 5% for Europe. Emerging markets and Asia fell by 9% and 4% respectively, affected by concerns including weak commodity prices, lower growth in China and the prospect of rising US interest rates.

Witan's NAV total return (after all costs) was 6.4%, 2.9% ahead of the 3.5% return from the composite equity benchmark. Excluding the effect of the fall in the fair value of Witan's debt securities, the NAV total return was 5.8%, 2.3% ahead of the benchmark. The shareholder total return was 5.7%, as the shares closed the year on a 0.2% discount (2014: +0.6% premium).

In a year when market returns were modest and variable, active investment selection was needed to achieve more tangible returns and respond to the opportunities created by market volatility. Witan's gross portfolio return (before costs) was 6.7%. This performance was boosted by outperformance by the managers' portfolios (with 8 out of our 11 third party delegated managers ahead of their benchmarks). In the underperforming UK market, the three UK managers' targeted stock selection enabled them to outperform their UK benchmark by a significant margin, with returns between 4.7% and 7.7%, compared with the UK market's total return of just 1.0%. The contribution from gearing (0.7%) was slightly greater than the drag from the Company's mostly fixed borrowing costs.

Combined portfolio composition

During the year the Company invested its assets with a view to spreading investment risk and in accordance with the investment policy. It has maintained a diversified portfolio in terms of stocks, sectors and geography. The portfolio has been actively managed by the investment managers, in accordance with their individual mandates, with overall asset allocation and risk being managed by the Executive team, within delegated limits from the Board and the Company's AIFM.

The sector breakdown and regional exposure for the aggregated portfolio is shown on page 27. The top 50 holdings across the combined Witan portfolio are set out on page 26. They represented 42% of Witan's portfolio at 31 December 2015 (2014: 41%). These analyses highlight the substantial diversification provided by our range of managers and the portfolio's broad geographical exposure.

It is important that diversification does not unduly dilute returns, since the purpose of using active managers is to outperform, which requires the portfolio to differ from the benchmark. One measure of active management in a portfolio is known as "active share". This indicates the degree to which a portfolio differs from its benchmark, with a portfolio identical to the benchmark having an active share of 0% while one with no holdings in common with its benchmark would have an active share of 100%. Although looking at active share at a particular point is an incomplete measure of the degree to which a portfolio is managed actively (let alone successfully), the active share of our combined portfolio was circa 66% at the end of 2015 (2014: 65%). This level of active share indicates that even with the diversifying effects of the multi-manager structure Witan's portfolio retains an active approach, while relative performance in recent years also

Equity mandate	Investment manager	Benchmark	Investment style
UK	Artemis Investment Management LLP	FTSE All-Share	Recovery/special situations
UK	Heronbridge Investment Management LLP	FTSE All-Share	Intrinsic value growth
UK	Lindsell Train Limited	FTSE All-Share	Long-term growth from undervalued brands
Global	Lansdowne Partners (UK) LLP	DJ Global Titans	Concentrated, benchmark-independent investment in developed markets
Global	MFS International (UK) Limited	FTSE All-World	Growth at an attractive price
Global	Pzena Investment Management LLC	FTSE All-World	Systematic value
Global	Tweedy, Browne Company LLC	FTSE All-World	Fundamental value
Global	Veritas Asset Management LLP	FTSE All-World	Fundamental value, real return objective
Pan-European	Marathon Asset Management LLP	FTSE All-World Developed Europe	Capital cycles
Asia Pacific (including Japan)	Matthews International Capital Management LLC	MSCI Asia Pacific Free	Quality companies with dividend growth
Emerging Markets	Trilogy Global Advisers, LP	MSCI Emerging Markets	Fundamental, growth orientated
Directly-held investments	Witan's AIFM and Executive team	Witan's combined equity benchmark	Collective funds invested in mispriced or specialist assets, recovery situations

A breakdown of the performance attribution in 2015 (based on the Company's financial statements) is shown in the table below.

Net asset value total return	+6.4%	Portfolio total return (gross)	+6.7%
Benchmark total return	+3.5%	Benchmark total return	+3.5%
		Relative investment performance	+3.2%
		Gearing impact	+0.7%
		Effect of changed fair value of debt	+0.6%
		Share buybacks/issuance	+0.0%
			+1.3%
			+4.5%
		Borrowing costs	-0.6%
		Operating costs and tax	-1.0%
			-1.6%
Relative performance	+2.9%		+2.9%

Investment manager performance

Details of the manager structure in place at the end of 2015, showing the proportion of Witan's assets that each managed and the performance they achieved, are set out in the table below:

Investment manager	Value of Witan assets managed at 31.12.15 £m	% of Witan's assets under management at 31.12.15 (Note 1)	Performance in 2015 (%)	Benchmark performance in 2015 (%)	Performance since appointment (%) (Note 2)	Benchmark performance since appointment (%)
Artemis	173.4	9.9	5.4	1.0	10.5	4.8
Heronbridge	109.8	6.3	4.7	1.0	8.5	4.5
Lindsell Train	179.2	10.2	7.7	1.0	17.1	8.3
Lansdowne Partners	196.5	11.2	17.5	6.0	26.8	11.8
MFS	142.0	8.1	5.3	4.0	11.8	9.0
Pzena	162.2	9.3	2.3	4.0	5.6	7.8
Tweedy, Browne	51.1	2.9	0.5	4.0	4.5	7.8
Veritas	202.8	11.6	8.5	3.8	12.1	8.9
Marathon	138.5	7.9	10.7	3.4	10.5	7.3
Matthews	194.5	11.1	10.1	4.0	6.3	3.3
Trilogy	47.2	2.7	(10.7)	(9.7)	(4.8)	(2.6)
Witan Direct Holdings	152.4	8.7	0.3	3.5	7.3	7.0

Notes:

1. Percentage of Witan's investments managed and cash balances held centrally by Witan.
2. The percentages are annualised where the date of appointment was more than one year ago.

demonstrates that Witan's aggregated portfolio retains an individual character distinct from the relevant indices.

Manager structure and performance

The Company's delegated managers have a range of investment approaches and follow differing mandates set by the Company. Details of each manager's mandate, benchmark and investment style are shown on page 12. Further details, including the date of appointment are shown in the manager summaries on pages 23 to 25.

All of the delegated managers were in place throughout the year. During the year, eight of the third party delegated managers outperformed their benchmarks, while three underperformed, along with the Direct Holdings. Lansdowne delivered a particularly strong performance, with a total return of 17.5%. Marathon, Matthews, Lindsell Train and Veritas also delivered above average returns, in Matthews' case overcoming the headwind from low returns from the Pacific regional markets (Japan excepted). Value as a style had a hard time in 2015, so Pzena and Tweedy, Browne's returns were below benchmark. Our emerging market manager, Trilogy, also slightly underperformed its asset class, which was notably weaker than developed markets.

Directly held investments

This portfolio, which held 6.7% of assets at the end of 2014, underperformed Witan's benchmark by 3.2% during 2015, with a flat return from the portfolio of +0.3%. Its proportion of the investment portfolio at the year-end was 8.7%, owing to net investments made during the year. The investment in Electra Private Equity convertible shares was sold. An investment was made in Apax Global Alpha, a newly listed private equity fund. The holding in SVG Capital (where despite good NAV progress and reduced portfolio concentration the discount widened) was significantly increased at low prices and we also added to Princess Private Equity. Less favourably, we continued to add, gradually (though not gradually enough), to our holding in BlackRock World Mining Trust, at prices significantly lower than in 2014 but the shares (and the sector) have yet to stabilise, with sentiment currently almost universally negative. Despite the near-term risks to capital and dividends in the sector, it has increased potential as a medium-term recovery story. We also added to the Edinburgh Dragon convertible holding, which offers potential equity participation if the Asian markets recover and downside protection (through redemption at par in 2018) if they do not. We trimmed our

Strategic Report

Performance and principal developments in 2015 continued

holding in Aberforth Geared Income Trust, owing to its excellent NAV progress, as it outperformed the smaller companies index, which itself outperformed the wider market in 2015. The main investments are in listed private equity and related funds (Apax Global Alpha, Princess Private Equity, SVG Capital and NB Distressed Debt Investment Fund), UK domestic recovery (Aberforth Geared Income Trust), specialist sector funds (principally Blackrock World Mining Trust) and the convertible bonds of Edinburgh Dragon Investment Trust and JZ Capital Partners.

Dividend policy and performance in 2015

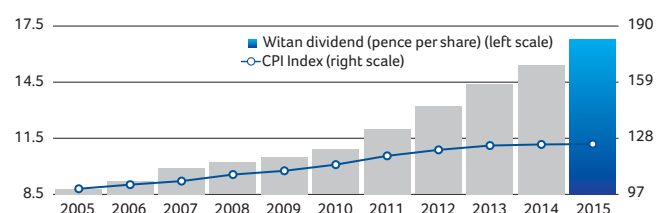
The Company's policy (subject to circumstances) is to increase its dividend per share in real terms, ahead of the increase in UK Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The Company's revenue earnings increased by 16% to 18.49 pence per share in 2015. This was driven by an increase in portfolio dividends and by strength in the US dollar (in which US and a number of UK company dividends are denominated) relative to sterling.

For 2015, the Board has declared a fourth interim dividend of 5.45 pence per share, to be paid to shareholders on 1 April 2016, making a total distribution for the year of 17.0 pence (2014: 15.4 pence). This represents an increase of 10.4%, more than 10% ahead of the 0.2% rate of CPI inflation in the year to December 2015. This is the 41st consecutive year that Witan has increased its dividend.

The chart below shows the growth in dividends over the past 10 years, which has been ahead of the rise in the UK CPI in each year.

Since 2005, Witan's dividend per share has risen 93% compared with 27% for the UK consumer price index.



Source: Datastream.

The Company pays dividends quarterly. The first three payments for 2016 (in June, September and December) will, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, be paid at a rate of 4.25 pence per share (2015: 3.85 pence), being one quarter of

the full year payment for 2015. The fourth payment (in March 2017) will be a balancing amount, reflecting the difference between the three quarterly dividends already paid and the payment decided for the full year.

Policy on gearing and the use of derivatives

Employment of gearing

Purpose

The purpose of using borrowings is to improve (or "gear/leverage") returns for shareholders, by achieving investment returns higher than the interest cost of the borrowings. Accordingly, attention is paid to using a level of gearing appropriate for market conditions (put simply, having more borrowings when markets are attractively valued and borrowing less at times when returns are expected to be poorer). In addition, a blend of long-term and short-term borrowings is used, to balance the certainty of cost associated with locking in fixed rates for longer periods with the flexibility of using short-term facilities which can be readily repaid when they are not required.

Limits

Although the Company has the legal power under its Articles of Association to borrow up to 100% of the adjusted total of shareholders' funds (which is also the maximum level of leverage set by its AIFM), this is subject to practical constraints including a test of prudence. The Board's longstanding policy is not to allow gearing (as defined on page 3) to rise to more than 20%, other than temporarily in exceptional circumstances. Over the past five years it has generally varied between 5% and 15% and where appropriate the Company may hold a small net cash position.

Structure

Following the issuance of new long-term debt in 2015 (detailed in the following section), the Company's fixed-rate borrowings rose from £110m to £185m but will reduce to £140m when the Debenture is repaid in October 2016. The average interest rate paid on the Company's fixed-rate borrowings has declined from 7% (prior to the issue) to 5.6% and will fall further to 4.6% following repayment of the Debenture, while the average borrowing term has doubled from 7 to 14 years. The Company also has a £50m one-year facility, providing additional flexibility over the level of gearing, as well as enabling the Company to borrow in currencies other than sterling, if deemed appropriate. Witan may either invest its borrowings fully, or neutralise their effect with cash balances (or the sale of equity index futures) according to its assessment of the markets. The Company's delegated managers are not permitted to borrow within their portfolios but may hold cash if deemed appropriate.

Action taken in 2015

In mid-2015, the Company issued £21m of 20 year and £54m of 30 year fixed-interest debt at yields of 3.29% and 3.47% respectively. These borrowing yields are the lowest rates achieved in the sector for borrowing at such long maturities for many decades. The Board believes that fixing borrowing costs at such low rates will benefit future shareholder returns. In 2015, the funds raised were predominantly used to repay short-term borrowings but the issues also took account of the October 2016 repayment date of the Company's 8.5% Debenture stock.

The size of the Company's short-term facility was reduced from £70m to £25m for the second half of 2015, to limit commitment costs. The current facility is £50m, which will rise to £75m in October 2016. At the end of December, the drawn balance on this facility was £3m (2014: £45m).

Gearing was managed actively during the year. It was reduced in early 2015 as the markets rose, and increased in the summer and autumn, as market setbacks created opportunities. Gearing was 10.1% at the end of 2014, 9.6% mid-year and 10.7% at the year-end. The calculation of gearing takes account of cash balances and the full nominal value of any derivatives held, since this represents the size of the asset or liability to which the derivative provides exposure.

Gearing benefited performance during the year. Although the estimated contribution of 0.7% of shareholders' funds was similar to the interest costs borne (0.6%), the majority of the finance cost is fixed and would have been incurred irrespective of whether the funds were invested, so the benefit (similar to 2014) was noticeable, in a year of moderate absolute returns.

At the end of 2014, gross gearing (adding together the value of all positions (less cash), irrespective of whether they were an asset or a liability) was 10.1%. This included a £34.7 million long position in Nikkei Index futures, equivalent to 2.4% of net assets.

At the end of 2015, gross gearing (on the same basis) was 10.7%. This included £37m in index futures (FTSE 100 (£24m) and MSCI Emerging Markets (£13m)) equivalent to 2.4% of net assets. Gearing excluding this was 8.3%. Further details of the accounting treatment for these positions are given in note 1 on page 71.

Use of derivatives

Policy

Witan's policy on the use of derivatives emphasises simplicity, transparency, cost effectiveness and the minimisation of

counterparty risk. Where financial instruments are available that help the Company to implement its investment policy (whether for the purpose of increasing exposure to a particular asset or for portfolio hedging) their use will be considered. In recent years, exchange-traded index futures have been the only instruments used. These give exposure to a particular market index, are relatively liquid to trade and depend upon the creditworthiness of the particular exchange, not an individual firm. The Company takes full account of the effect of the nominal value of the futures contracts when calculating its gearing. The value of the investments (which are traded on official exchanges) is fully marked to market every day.

The use of index futures enables Witan to adjust its gearing rapidly, helping investment flexibility. It also provides a means of adjusting asset allocation (by directing investment to particular markets). In both cases index futures enable the adjustments to be made without interfering with the assigned objectives for our investment managers, which are to pick stocks that will grow in value over the medium to long term and outperform their respective benchmarks. The operation of this investment area is the responsibility of the AIFM, acting under guidelines set by the Board. Transactions are reported to the Board as they occur, with the CEO and AIFM being accountable for the financial results. The Company's delegated managers are not permitted to use derivatives or to gear their portfolios.

Activity during 2015

In early March, we sold our position in Nikkei 225 Index futures contracts, after a strong run in the Japanese market. The position was equivalent to approximately 2.4% of net assets at the end of 2014, having been in place since purchase in early 2013, to increase our portfolio exposure to a market which we believed to be attractive and where our managers had relatively little stock exposure.

The Company had a short position in Gilt futures during March and early April. This was established to protect against the risk of a rise in yields during the period when the Company was seeking to lock in low rates on long-term borrowings. Given volatility in government bond markets, together with uncertainty ahead of the UK General Election, negating part (around one third) of the interest rate risk was viewed as prudent. In the event, gilt yields fell in March which meant that the protection proved unnecessary and this position made a loss. However, the benefit of that fall in yields on our new long-term debt costs was significantly greater.

Strategic Report

Performance and principal developments in 2015 continued

In the aftermath of the decisive UK General Election result, we increased our exposure to UK equities by 1.5% using FTSE 100 index futures. The timing of this was inopportune, given the later summer volatility in markets. Our timing was better in August and September, when we invested 2% of net assets in FTSE 100 and MSCI Emerging Markets index futures on two of the most volatile days. When the markets rebounded, these positions were reduced.

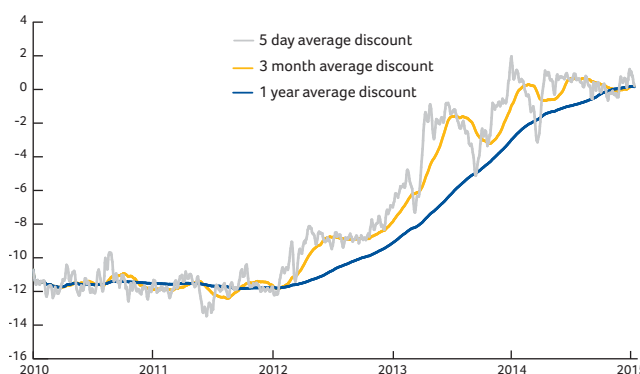
At the end of 2015, our derivatives exposure was £37m, £24m in UK FTSE 100 index futures and £13m in MSCI Emerging Markets index futures. The realised gain on index futures during the year is shown in the cash flow statement on page 67.

Witan's shares in the market – liquidity and discounts

Witan is a member of the FTSE 250 index, with a market capitalisation of over £1.5 billion at 31 December 2015. The Board places great importance on the encouragement of a liquid market in Witan's shares on the London Stock Exchange. Considerable effort is devoted to communicating Witan's objective and performance clearly to shareholders and potential investors. There is a wide range of firms and online investment platforms through which the Company's shares may be held and the Company's subsidiary Witan Investment Services Limited also operates a savings plan for investing in Witan shares, details of which are described on page 91.

Whilst delivery of sound investment performance remains the principal focus of the Board, it has also always paid attention to discount-related issues. The Company has, over many years, made significant use of share buybacks, purchasing shares for cancellation when they have stood at an unduly wide discount (to the NAV taking debt at fair value). In addition to being accretive to NAV, this had the objective of reducing the discount. A total of over 49% of our shares were repurchased and cancelled between 1998 and 2013. In recent years, partly as a result of this persistence, Witan's shares have traded closer to NAV than historically and, for much of 2015, at a premium.

Witan Investment Trust discount trend



Source: Morningstar.

The discount trend since 2011 is illustrated in the chart above. The Company's shares continued to trade at a premium for much of 2015, as a result of demand in the market, which the Company met by issuing a total of 10.5m new shares at a premium to NAV. This increased our net assets by over £83m. This process has three principal benefits for shareholders. Share buybacks and issuance are accretive to NAV per share and help contribute to liquidity in the trading of the Company's shares, while (in the case of new issuance) benefiting the ongoing charges figure by spreading the Company's fixed costs over a wider base.

The long-term objective remains (while taking account of wider market conditions) to create sustainable liquidity in Witan's shares at or near to asset value, building on the progress achieved. Discounts are affected by many factors not under the Company's control, hence the need to pay respect to prevailing investment conditions. With this in mind, as stated in the interim report, although no new discount target is set, the Company remains prepared to buy back shares taking account of prevailing market conditions, the level of the discount and the impact on the NAV per share. In accordance with this policy, subsequent to the year end, the Company bought back shares on a number of occasions following a widening in the discount during February. Similarly, where it is in shareholders' interests, the Company may issue shares at a premium to NAV. The criterion for the Company's transactions in its own shares will always be that it should be in shareholders' interests.

Marketing

The purpose of marketing for an investment trust is to communicate the Company's strategy and new developments effectively to existing and potential shareholders, to ensure they are properly informed of our performance as stewards of their savings and to help sustain a liquid market in our shares. Clear communication of the Company's investment objective and its success in executing its strategy makes it easier for investors to decide how Witan fits in with their own investment objectives. Other things being equal, this should help the shares to trade closer to NAV, from which all shareholders benefit. If the shares trade on a premium, as in 2015, this creates the possibility of increasing the size of the Company to meet market demand by issuing new shares, with benefits in terms of greater liquidity as well as spreading costs.

In view of these potential benefits, the Company has for many years operated a marketing programme in order to disseminate information about our investment strategy and performance more widely. This programme communicates with private and professional investors, financial advisers and intermediaries using a range of media (including direct meetings, press interviews and advertising through traditional media and the internet). The Company also provides an informative and easy to use website (www.witan.com) to enable investors to make informed decisions about including Witan shares in their investment portfolios. The website, which is regularly refreshed with new information, includes a section focused on the requirements of financial advisers as well as information about the Witan Wisdom and Jump savings schemes operated by the Company's subsidiary, Witan Investment Services Limited.

Costs

Investment management fees

Each of the delegated external managers is entitled to a base management fee rate, levied on the assets under management, and in some cases a performance fee, calculated according to investment performance relative to an appropriate benchmark. The agreements can be terminated on one month's notice (except one, for which three months' notice applies). One of the investment mandates is operated via a fund vehicle, to simplify custody arrangements in emerging economies.

The base management fee rates for managers in place at the end of 2015 ranged from 0.2% to 0.8% per annum and the performance fees ranged from nil (the majority) to 20% of the relevant outperformance. The average base management fee, weighted according to the value of the funds under management, was 0.49% as at 31 December 2015 (2014: 0.48%). On a similar basis, the average performance fee is 6% of the outperformance of the relevant benchmark (2014: 6%), subject to capping of payments for any particular year.

As an illustration, if our managers uniformly outperformed their benchmarks by 3% after base management fees, this would generate a performance fee of 0.17% of net assets, giving total investment management fees of 0.66% (including a 0.49% base fee). The comparable estimate in 2014 was 0.65% (including a 0.48% base fee). The actual fees payable will of course vary according to the level of performance and the variation in performance between managers with higher or lower fees.

Witan takes care to ensure the competitiveness of the fee rates it pays and that where higher fees are incurred they are linked to good performance, from which shareholders benefit. A majority of the managers have base fees alone (without performance fees) and a majority of the fee structures incorporate a "taper" whereby the average fee rate reduces as the portfolio grows.

The Company's external investment managers may use certain services which are paid for, or provided by, various brokers. In return, they may place business, including transactions relating to the Company, with those brokers.

Ongoing charges and costs

The ongoing charges figure ('OCF') (which is the recurring operating and investment management costs of the Company, expressed as a percentage of average net assets) was 0.72% in 2015 (2014: 0.74%). Increased investment management and regulatory costs were offset by a rise in the average level of net assets. When performance fees due to the relevant external managers are included, the OCF was 0.99% in 2015 (2014: 0.96%). Relative performance was better than in 2014 but there was a greater contribution to this from managers without performance fees.

This compares with the average OCF for 2015 of 1.56% in the Investment Association Global equity funds sector (source: IA, Morningstar) and 0.73% (0.80% including performance fees) for the AIC Global sector (source: AIC).

Strategic Report

Performance and principal developments in 2015 continued

Category of cost

	2015 £m	2015 % of average net assets	2014 £m	2014 % of average net assets
Other expenses (excluding investment management expenses)	5.41	0.34	4.90	0.36
Less expenses relating to the subsidiary (whose expenses do not relate to the operation of the investment company)	(0.93)	(0.06)	(1.01)	(0.07)
Investment management base fees (see note 4)	6.99	0.44	6.17	0.45
Ongoing Charges Figure (including investment management base fees)	11.47	0.72	10.06	0.74
Investment management performance fees (see note 4)	4.30	0.27	3.00	0.22
Ongoing charges (including performance fees)	15.77	0.99	13.06	0.96
Portfolio transaction costs	1.75	0.11	0.91	0.07
Relative outperformance during the year (with debt at fair value)		+2.9%		+1.1%

The Company exercises strict scrutiny and control over costs, since any negotiated savings in investment management or other fees directly reduce the costs for shareholders. This will not always result in the lowest absolute costs, since the Board believes that it is in shareholders' interests to pay for managers who add value. The Board believes that the OCF during the year represented good value for money for shareholders, taking account of recent and longer-term outperformance.

There is continuing debate over the most appropriate measure of investment company costs, to enable investors to assess value for money and to make comparisons between funds. Consensus on how best to present a single figure for costs remains elusive, partly because of concerns that oversimplification might distort comparisons rather than facilitating them.

In the meantime, the Company will continue to focus on the OCF (which is prepared in accordance with the AIC's recommended methodology) as a readily-understood measure of the underlying expenses of running the business. As last year, we are presenting the information on costs in a single table above. This indicates the main cost headings in money terms and as a percentage of net assets. The figures for relative NAV total return performance are also included, for comparison purposes.

Priorities for the year ahead

In 2016, the key priorities for Witan include:

- **Investment.** Seek to build on the good returns achieved for shareholders in recent years, setting an appropriate strategic asset allocation to reflect changing opportunities in the world economy. Make use of a range of active managers to deliver our strategic objectives through a multi-manager structure. Continue to deliver dividend growth ahead of inflation;
- **Communication.** Communicate Witan's distinct and active investment approach and achievements effectively to existing and potential shareholders. Continue to increase the focus on improving information for personal investors and financial advisers, where direct meetings are less practicable;
- **Regulatory change.** Continue to operate risk and investment management processes in compliance with the AIFMD, liaising closely with the Company's AIFM, Witan Investment Services Limited; and
- **Client service.** Provide good service to the corporate and individual clients of Witan Investment Services Limited.

Strategic Report

Corporate and operational structure

4. Corporate and operational structure

As described earlier (page 9) Witan is an Investment Trust with a Premium Listing on the London Stock Exchange. It has a single, wholly-owned subsidiary, Witan Investment Services Limited ('WIS') which acts as the Company's AIFM.

Operational management arrangements

In addition to the appointment of delegated investment managers, Witan and WIS contract with third parties for the supporting services required, including:

- BNP Paribas Securities Services London Branch ('BNPSS') for global depositary services, custody, investment accounting and administration;
- Frostrow Capital LLP for company secretarial services;
- International Financial Data Services ('IFDS') Ltd. as the savings plan administrators of Witan Wisdom and Jump Savings;
- Specialist advisers used for investment manager research and investor communications;
- The Company also takes specialist advice on regulatory compliance issues and, as required, procures legal, investment consulting, financial and tax advice.

As with investment management, the contracts governing the provision of these services are formulated with legal advice and stipulate clear objectives and guidelines for the level of service required.

Premises and staffing

Since November 2005 the Company has had a lease on office premises at 14 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA, which is also the Company's registered office. The current lease has a 5 year term, commencing October 2015.

The Company's policy towards its employees is to attract and retain staff with the particular skills and expertise required to manage the affairs of an investment trust company. Details of the Company's remuneration policies and required disclosures are set out in the Directors' Remuneration Report on page 46. Employees and those who seek to work within the Group are treated equally regardless of sex, marital status, creed, colour, race or ethnic origin. The Company has seven direct employees, four men and three women. The Board currently consists of seven non-executive directors (five men and two women) and the Chief Executive Officer,

Andrew Bell, who is an employee. Given its outsourced model and small number of direct employees, the Group has no specific policies in respect of environmental or social and community affairs.

Witan Investment Services ('WIS')

Witan Investment Services Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Witan Investment Trust plc ('Witan'). It is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA').

It was established in March 2005 to provide investment savings accounts and marketing services and to give investment advice to professional investors. Since July 2014 WIS has acted as the Company's AIFM to fulfil the requirements of the AIFMD.

In addition to its responsibilities as Witan's AIFM, WIS's principal activities are to provide executive management services to the Boards of Witan and Witan Pacific Investment Trust plc ('Witan Pacific'), to communicate information about the companies to the market, to increase investor interest in their shares and to operate cost-effective savings plans for investors to hold the shares.

WIS's operational objectives for 2016 are:

- to fulfil its investment and risk management responsibilities as Witan's AIFM;
- to provide a reliable and efficient investment savings platform for Witan and Witan Pacific investors;
- to provide suitable advice to the Boards of its corporate clients;
- to reduce the net operating costs for Witan; and
- to seek appropriate business opportunities that can add value for shareholders.

WIS has two principal sources of income. These are savings plan revenues and the fees (as AIFM or Executive Manager and for marketing services) paid by its corporate clients, Witan and Witan Pacific. The main costs incurred by WIS are fees to the savings schemes administrator (IFDS), staff costs to provide the services described above and professional advice to ensure that its regulatory and accounting obligations are properly satisfied.

Strategic Report

Corporate and operational structure continued

The savings plans provided for WIS clients are marketed under the Witan Wisdom and Jump Savings brands. They currently have over 23,000 accounts with assets of some £345 million invested.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Risks are inherent in investment and corporate management but it is important that their nature and magnitude are understood, in order that risks, particularly those which the Company does not wish to take, can be identified and either avoided or controlled. In accordance with the provisions of the AIFMD, WIS has established a Risk Committee in order to comply with its risk management and reporting obligations as Witan's AIFM. The Company has established a detailed framework of the key risks impinging on the business as set out below, with associated policies and processes devised to mitigate or manage those risks. This risk map is reviewed regularly by the Audit Committee along with the WIS Risk Committee, which report on issues arising to their respective boards, for action as necessary. The guiding principles remain watchfulness, proper analysis, prudence and a clear system of risk management.

Where appropriate, the Witan and WIS boards meet jointly to cover matters of common interest. The WIS board consists of five non-executives and one executive director who are also directors of Witan, and one executive director who is a Company employee.

The Group's key risks fall broadly under the following categories:

Market and investment portfolio risks

Witan is set up to invest in UK and overseas equity markets on behalf of its shareholders. Equity exposure is unlikely to drop below 80%, in normal conditions. Therefore a key risk of investing in Witan is a general fall in equity prices, which could be exacerbated by gearing. Other risks, as with any international equity portfolio, are the investment portfolio's exposure to country, currency, industrial sector and stock specific factors. There are also risks associated with changes in Witan's share price discount or premium to NAV and the performance of its investment managers.

The Board seeks to manage these risks through:

- appropriate asset allocation decisions, with a broadly diversified equity benchmark;

- manager diversification and regular reviews of the managers' competence;
- monitoring the global economic, geo-political and stock market outlook;
- active management of risk, whether to preserve capital or capitalise on opportunities;
- the application of relevant policies on gearing and liquidity; and
- the use of share buybacks and issuance to respond to market supply and demand.

During the year Andrew Bell (the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)) managed the overall business and the investment portfolio in accordance with limits and restrictions determined by the Board and its AIFM. The Board regularly reviews the matters delegated to Executive management, on which the CEO reports at each Board meeting. The Board also regularly reviews investment strategy and performance, supported by comprehensive management information including investment performance data and financial reports.

Operational

Many of the Group's financial systems are outsourced to third parties, principally BNP Paribas Securities Services ('BNPSS'). Disruption to the accounting, payment systems or custody records operated by BNPSS could prevent the accurate reporting and monitoring of the Company's financial position. BNPSS as the Company's depositary has a key responsibility for monitoring such issues on behalf of the Company and its AIFM, WIS. Details of how the Board monitors the services provided by its suppliers, and the key elements designed to provide effective internal control, are explained further in the Corporate Governance Statement.

Corporate governance

The Board takes its own regulatory responsibilities very seriously and regularly reviews the main points of compliance against requirements.

Details of the Company's compliance with corporate governance best practice are set out in the Corporate Governance Statement on pages 34 to 43. The Board conducts an annual internal assessment of the effectiveness of its governance processes in managing the Company and enabling it to evolve in response to future challenges. There is also a 3-yearly independent external review, the most recent of which was conducted in late 2013. See page 38 for further details.

Operational and regulatory risks are regularly and extensively reviewed by Witan's Audit Committee. WIS is subject to its own operating rules and regulations and is regulated by the FCA. Since becoming the AIFM for Witan, WIS has become more closely involved in a wide range of Witan's operations. The Company has established a *modus operandi* for the effective coordination of these responsibilities, which has been adapted to ensure full compliance with the AIFMD's requirements without duplication of effort and will continue to be adapted in the light of experience.

Operationally the multi-manager structure is robust, as the investment managers, the custodian and the fund accountants keep their own records which are regularly reconciled. The depositary, AIFM and the Board provide additional checks and risk management safeguards. Management monitors the activities of all third parties and reports any significant issues to the Board.

Accounting, legal and regulatory

In order to qualify as an investment trust the Company must comply with sections 1158-59 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 ('CTA'). A breach of these sections could result in the Company losing investment trust status and, as a consequence, capital gains realised within the Company's portfolio would be subject to Corporation Tax. The criteria are monitored by the CEO and AIFM and reviewed at each Board meeting. The Company also carefully and regularly monitors compliance with the accounting rules affecting investment trusts.

The Company is required to comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 ('Companies Act'), and the Company must also comply with the UK Listing Authority's Listing Rules and Disclosure Rules ('UKLA Rules'). A breach of the Companies Act could result in the Company and/or the directors being fined or becoming the subject of criminal proceedings. Breach of the UKLA Rules could result in the suspension of the Company's shares which would in turn lead to a breach of the provisions of the CTA.

These legal and regulatory requirements offer significant protection for shareholders. The Board relies on the CEO, the AIFM, the Company Secretary and the Group's professional advisers to ensure compliance with all applicable rules. WIS is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority to act as the AIFM for Witan, for the marketing and administration of savings plans and the provision of investment advice to professional clients.

Liquidity and going concern

The Company's portfolio consists mainly of securities that are readily realisable. The Company and its AIFM regularly review possible liquidity needs (for example to cover operational costs, loan servicing and repayment, shareholder dividends and share buybacks) relative to the Company's portfolio income and the significance of possible liquidity calls relative to the value and tradability of the Company's assets. Given that most of the likely liquidity requirements are readily foreseeable (for example, loan payments and dividends are timetabled), while others (such as share buybacks) are subject to the Company's discretion, the Board is satisfied that unexpected liquidity needs are not significant relative to the size of the Company's portfolio and that they could be readily met without compromising normal portfolio management practice.

Accordingly, the Company has adequate financial resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the directors believe that it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. In reviewing the position as at the date of this report, the Board has considered the guidance on this matter issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Viability Statement

In accordance with the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code, the Board has assessed the prospects of the Company over a longer period than the 12 months required by the 'Going Concern' provision. The new provisions require the Board to explain, taking account of the Company's current position and principal risks, how they have assessed its prospects and over what period and why they consider that period to be appropriate. The directors must state whether they have a reasonable expectation that the Company will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due over the period of their assessment.

The Company's current position and prospects are set out in the Chairman's and Chief Executive's Reports and the Strategic Report. The principal risks are set out on pages 20 and 21. The Board has considered the Company's financial position and its ability to liquidate its portfolio and meet its expenses as they fall due and notes the following:

Strategic Report

Corporate and operational structure continued

-
- The portfolio consists of investments traded on major international stock exchanges and there is a spread of investments by size of company. In normal conditions, the current portfolio could be liquidated to the extent of more than 85% within 5 trading days and there is no expectation that the nature of the investments held within the portfolio will be materially different in future;
 - The closed-ended nature of the Company means that, unlike an open-ended fund, it does not need to realise investments when shareholders wish to sell their shares;
 - The Board has considered the viability of the Company under various scenarios and concluded that it would usually be able to take appropriate action to protect the value of the Company's assets. As set out in note 14 to the accounts, the Board has considered price risk sensitivity (the sensitivity of the profit after taxation for the year and the value of the shareholders' funds to changes in the fair value of the Group's investments) and foreign currency sensitivity (the sensitivity to changes in the exchange rates for the £/US dollar, £/Euro and £/Japanese yen).
 - In addition to its cash balances, which were £57.6 million at 31 December 2015 (2014: £46.6 million), the Company has a short-term bank facility which can be used to meet its liabilities and fixed-rate financing in the form of Debenture Stock, Secured Bonds, Secured Notes and cumulative preference shares. With the exception of the short-term facility and the Debenture Stock, which is repayable in 2016, this financing will remain in place until at least 2025. Details of the Company's non current liabilities are set out in note 13 to the accounts.
 - The expenses of the Company are predictable and modest in comparison with the assets and there are no capital commitments currently foreseen which would alter that position.
 - Investors will continue to want to invest in closed-ended investment trusts;
 - The performance of the Company will continue to be satisfactory. The Board is able to replace any of the current investment managers when it considers it appropriate to do so.
 - The Company will continue to have access to adequate capital when required. The Company issued 10.5m ordinary shares in 2015 and had shareholders' funds in excess of £1.5bn at the end of 2015. It also issued £75m of fixed interest debt in June 2015. This was done in anticipation of the repayment of the 8.5% Debenture Stock in 2016.

Based on the results of its review, and taking into account the long-term nature of the Company and its financing, the Board has a reasonable expectation that the Company will be able to continue its operations and meet its expenses and liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future, taken to mean at least the next five years.

Approval

This report was approved by the Board of directors on 8 March 2016 and is signed on its behalf by:

H M Henderson
Chairman
8 March 2016

A L C Bell
Chief Executive

As well as considering the principal risks on pages 20 to 21 and the financial position of the Company, the Board has taken account of the following assumptions in considering the Company's longer-term viability:

- The Company's remit of investing in the securities of global listed companies will continue to be an activity to which investors will wish to have exposure;

Strategic Report

Investment Managers



Artemis Investment Management – UK

Established in 1997, Artemis Investment Management Limited manages over £22.9bn (as at 31.12.15) on behalf of a range of retail and institutional clients. Witan's portfolio is a segregated mirror of Derek Stuart's £1.9bn UK Special Situations Strategy launched in 2001 – a contrarian strategy that aims to outperform the FTSE All-Share Index by 3% per annum. This approach seeks to exploit market inefficiencies, with an absolute return mindset, in order to generate maximum returns. It is a stock picking strategy that aims to achieve long term capital growth by focusing on stocks that are out of favour and have turnaround potential.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
UK	FTSE All-Share	Recovery/special situations	06.05.08



Heronbridge Investment Management LLP

Heronbridge is a long-only, value-biased equity investment management boutique. Founded in November 2005, it is a small, focused, independent firm, controlled by its working partners who were previously with Merrill Lynch Investment Managers and Silchester International Investors. Heronbridge currently manages £1.5bn (as at 31.12.15) for institutional and charity clients in the UK, the US and elsewhere. In order to maximise the alignment of interests, the firm's partners have capped the size of the investment programme and have a considerable proportion of their own assets co-invested alongside those of clients.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
UK	FTSE All-Share	Intrinsic value growth	17.06.13

LINDSELL TRAIN

Lindsell Train – UK

Lindsell Train was established in 2000 by Michael Lindsell and Nick Train and focuses on the management of UK, Global and Japanese equity mandates for institutional clients. The business was founded on the shared investment philosophy that developed while Michael and Nick worked together during the early 1990s and which underlies the business today. The "purpose" of Lindsell Train is to provide a professional working environment that enables the firm to achieve strong investment results for their clients. Lindsell Train thinks it important to maintain a small and simple organisational structure that avoids the bureaucracy and distractions experienced within some larger, more complex investment management businesses. The structure is designed to allow the investment professionals to concentrate on investment issues and to give them the freedom to invest in line with their investment principles, which they believe will maximise returns to their investors over the longer term. The business has grown steadily and assets under management total £6.25bn (as at 31.12.15). Lindsell Train continues to be majority owned by the two founders. This is important because it ensures they maintain the integrity of the business principles on which the firm was founded.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
UK	FTSE All-Share	Long-term growth from undervalued brands	01.09.10

LANDSOWNE PARTNERS LIMITED

Lansdowne Partners (UK) LLP

Lansdowne Partners (founded in 1998) manages assets for a diversified client base that includes some of the world's largest and most sophisticated investors. Assets under management are £14.5bn (as at 31.12.15) across multiple equity investment strategies; European, Developed Markets, Global Financials and Global Energy, each with its own dedicated team of portfolio managers and analysts. Lansdowne Partners employs 102 people in its London office. The investment philosophy is predicated on generating consistent, absolute risk-adjusted returns, through the use of exceptional investment talent within a leading-edge operational infrastructure. Central to Lansdowne Partners' investment philosophy is a rigorous process of fundamental research. The Developed Markets Strategy is run by Peter Davies, Jonathan Regis and Stuart Roden, who have been with Lansdowne Partners since 2001. The Developed Markets Long-Only Strategy leverages the fundamental stock analysis of the team, investing predominantly in mega-cap companies (+\$10bn market cap) in developed markets.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
Global	DJ Global Titans	Concentrated, benchmark-independent investment in developed markets	14.12.12

Strategic Report

Investment Managers continued



MFS Investment Management

MFS is a global investment firm managing £280.3bn (as at 31.12.15) of equity and fixed income assets for investors worldwide. Founded in 1924, MFS established one of the industry's first in-house fundamental research departments in 1932. Today, MFS offers a broad range of investment styles that combine both fundamental and quantitative research and portfolio management. Their investment philosophy has remained consistent: to identify opportunities on behalf of clients through the application of global research and bottom-up security selection. MFS' culture is investment-driven, client centered, and collaborative. To underscore their values of collaboration and accountability, they structure ownership and compensation to reward long-term investment performance and teamwork. Up to 22% ownership of MFS is available to key MFS contributors. Their majority shareholder since 1982 has been Sun Life of Canada (U.S.) Financial Services Holdings, Inc.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
Global	FTSE All-World	Growth at an attractive price	30.09.04



Tweedy, Browne Company LLC

Tweedy, Browne Company LLC is principally engaged in the management of international, global and global, high-dividend equity portfolios for institutional and individual clients. Since the firm was founded in 1920 as Tweedy & Co., a dealer in closely held and inactively traded securities, they have pursued a value-oriented approach to securities, first as a market maker, and later, as an investor and manager. Their investment principles are based upon the broad concepts of "intrinsic value" and "margin of safety" as conceived and practiced by the late Benjamin Graham. For more than ninety years, through depressions, recessions, and stock market cycles, through a quadrupling of interest rates and the advent of double digit inflation, and through the emergence and disappearance of numerous investment fads, they have adhered to the same value-oriented principles of analysis and investment. The consistency of their results over many decades has confirmed their confidence in this approach. Tweedy Browne has £12.4bn (as at 31.12.15) of assets under management.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
Global	FTSE All-World	Fundamental value	02.12.13

PZENIA INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Pzena Investment Management

Pzena Investment Management is a global, institutional investment manager with a strict focus on long-term classic value investing. The firm was founded in late 1995 and began managing assets on 1 January 1996. Pzena manages \$26bn (as at 31.12.15) in assets for leading endowments/foundations and pension plans and for individual investors from around the world. Pzena's team has grown to approximately 89 employees. The firm is based at its headquarters in New York City and has offices in Melbourne, Australia and in London, United Kingdom for business development and client service.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
Global	FTSE All-World	Systematic value	02.12.13

VERITAS ASSET MANAGEMENT

REAL RETURN INVESTING

Veritas Asset Management

Veritas is an affiliate of AMG Group, managing £11.2bn (as at 31.12.15) of assets, with the key objective of delivering long-term real returns to its clients. Veritas aligns its interest with clients' objectives and is committed to partnership. Veritas manages both segregated portfolios and funds, with either long-only or long-short real return mandates. Their clients include institutions, charities, trusts and private clients. The Real Return Group Limited was set up in 2003 as a boutique focused on real return investing. The Real Return Group Limited and Veritas Asset Management (UK) Limited merged in 2004. In 2013 Veritas Asset Management (UK) Limited completed a corporate reorganisation and Veritas Asset Management LLP was formed as a regulated fund management boutique running Global and Asian Equity mandates. Veritas Asset Management LLP is the UK operating company of the Veritas Asset Partners Limited group, of which Veritas Asset Management (Asia) Limited in Hong Kong is also a subsidiary. In 2014 Veritas Asset Management LLP partnered with AMG Group. AMG has a stake in a number of investment boutiques and is quoted on the NYSE.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
Global	FTSE All-World	Fundamental value, real return objective	11.11.10



Marathon Asset Management

Marathon Asset Management was founded in 1986 and is totally independent, managing some £35.9bn (as at 31.12.15) of institutional client assets. At the heart of Marathon's investment philosophy is the 'capital cycle' approach to investment. This is based on the idea that the prospect of high returns will attract excessive capital (and hence competition), and vice versa. In addition, the assessment of management and how they respond to incentives and the forces of the capital cycle is critical to the investment outcome. The investment philosophy is intrinsically contrarian. Given the long-term nature of the capital cycle, Marathon's investment ideas generally require patience and, by industry standards, long stock holding periods.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
Pan- European	FTSE All-World Developed Europe	Capital cycles	23.07.10



Matthews Asia[®]

Matthews International Capital Management (Matthews Asia)

Matthews Asia, an independent, privately owned firm based in San Francisco, is the largest dedicated Asia-only investment specialist in the U.S. Matthews has £17.3bn (as at 31.12.15) in assets under management. Matthews Asia employs a fundamental, bottom-up investment process that seeks to identify companies with sustainable long-term growth prospects, strong business models, quality management teams and reasonable valuations. Matthews Asia will seek to invest its portion of the Trust in companies that are paying high dividends relative to their current share price, or are well-positioned to do so in the future.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
Asia Pacific (including Japan)	MSCI Asia Pacific Free	Quality companies with dividend growth	20.02.13



TRILOGY GLOBAL ADVISORS

Trilogy Global Advisors

Trilogy Global Advisors is a long-only, specialist equity investment boutique managing global developed and global emerging market portfolios for institutional pension schemes. Founded in 1999, it is an affiliate of Affiliated Managers Group (AMG), a listed US company. The principal partners and other key staff hold a substantial share of the equity and have their personal wealth co-invested in the firm's strategies. It has two investment offices in New York and Orlando, Florida, and a marketing and client service office in London. Total assets under management comprise £6.3bn (as at 31.12.15) with approximately a third represented by UK pension fund clients and around a third of total assets managed in dedicated global emerging market equity portfolios.

Equity Mandate	Benchmark	Investment style	Inception date
Emerging Markets	MSCI Emerging Markets	Fundamental, growth orientated	09.12.10

Fifty Largest Equity Investments

at 31 December 2015 (unaudited)

	Company	Market value of holding £ million	% of portfolio	Country	Sector
1	SVG Capital	27.6	1.61	UK	Financial Services
2	Comcast	27.4	1.61	USA	Media
3	London Stock Exchange	25.3	1.48	UK	Financial Services
4	Diageo	24.7	1.45	UK	Beverages
5	Princess Private Equity	24.0	1.40	UK	Equity Investment Instruments
6	Unilever	23.0	1.35	UK	Personal Goods
7	Apax Global Alpha	22.0	1.29	UK	Equity Investment Instruments
8	Relx	21.2	1.24	UK	Media
9	Sage	20.5	1.20	UK	Software & Computer Services
10	Schroders	20.0	1.17	UK	Financial Services
11	BT	19.5	1.14	UK	Fixed Line Telecommunications
12	BlackRock World Mining	17.9	1.05	UK	Equity Investment Instruments
13	Alphabet	17.7	1.03	USA	Software & Computer Services
14	Vonovia	15.7	0.92	Germany	Real Estate Investment Services
15	Daily Mail & General	15.6	0.91	UK	Media
16	Visa	15.5	0.91	USA	Financial Services
17	NB Distressed Debt Inv. Fund	15.4	0.90	USA	Equity Investment Instruments
18	Time Warner	14.7	0.86	USA	Media
19	Roche Holdings	14.4	0.84	Switzerland	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology
20	JP Morgan Chase	13.7	0.80	USA	Banks
21	Lloyds Banking	13.5	0.79	UK	Banks
22	Edinburgh Dragon 3.5% Conv. Bond	13.3	0.78	UK	Equity Investment Instruments
23	Pearson	13.2	0.77	UK	Media
24	Hargreaves Lansdown	13.2	0.77	UK	Financial Services
25	Delta Air Lines	13.0	0.76	USA	Travel & Leisure
Top 25		462.0	27.03		
26	Capita	12.9	0.75	UK	Support Services
27	Oracle	12.6	0.74	USA	Software & Computer Services
28	Amazon	12.5	0.73	USA	General Retailers
29	Rathbone Brothers	12.3	0.72	UK	Financial Services
30	Glaxosmithkline	11.9	0.70	UK	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology
31	Aberforth Geared Income	11.3	0.66	UK	Equity Investment Instruments
32	Walt Disney	10.9	0.64	USA	Media
33	Microsoft	10.8	0.63	USA	Software & Computer Services
34	Nike	10.6	0.62	USA	Personal Goods
35	Accenture	10.2	0.60	USA	Support Services
36	BP	10.0	0.59	UK	Oil & Gas Producers
37	L Brands	10.0	0.59	USA	General Retailers
38	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	9.8	0.58	Taiwan	Technology Hardware & Equipment
39	Imperial Tobacco	9.8	0.57	UK	Tobacco
40	Barclays Bank	9.8	0.57	UK	Banks
41	Burberry	9.7	0.57	UK	Personal Goods
42	Apple	9.7	0.57	USA	Technology Hardware & Equipment
43	Astrazeneca	9.3	0.54	UK	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology
44	Royal Dutch Shell	9.2	0.54	UK	Oil & Gas Producers
45	American Express	9.2	0.54	USA	Financial Services
46	Reckitt Benckiser	9.1	0.53	UK	Household Goods & Home Construction
47	Unitedhealth	9.0	0.53	USA	Health Care Equipment & Services
48	Qualcomm	8.9	0.52	USA	Technology Hardware & Equipment
49	Goldman Sachs	8.7	0.51	USA	Financial Services
50	Waters	8.1	0.47	USA	Health Care Equipment & Services
Top 50		718.3	42.04		

The top ten holdings represent 13.8% of the total portfolio (2014: 14.2%).

The full portfolio is not listed because it contains over 400 companies. The above listing is of the largest individual equity investments and as such excludes a collective investment used to invest in Emerging Markets (which is valued at £47.2 million), a specialist insurance fund (valued at £3.6 million) and an exchange-traded FTSE-All World fund (which is valued at £17.4 million).

Classification of Investments

at 31 December 2015 (unaudited)

	Notes	United Kingdom %	Continental Europe %	North America %	Asia Pacific (ex Japan) %	Japan %	Latin America %	Other %	Total 2015 %
Basic Materials	Chemicals	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.4	–	–	–	1.3
	Industrial Metals & Mining	–	–	–	0.1	–	–	–	0.1
	Mining	0.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.4
		0.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	–	–	–	1.8
Consumer Goods	Automobiles & Parts	0.1	0.4	–	0.4	0.7	–	–	1.6
	Beverages	1.5	0.6	–	0.2	0.4	–	–	2.7
	Food Producers	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	–	–	1.3
	Household Goods & Home Construction	0.7	–	0.1	0.1	–	–	–	0.9
	Leisure Goods	–	–	–	0.2	–	–	–	0.2
	Personal Goods	1.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.5	–	–	4.1
	Tobacco	0.9	–	0.2	0.3	0.4	–	–	1.8
		5.4	2.0	1.3	1.7	2.2	–	–	12.6
Consumer Services	Food & Drug Retailers	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	–	–	1.3
	General Retailers	0.4	0.2	1.9	–	–	–	–	2.5
	Media	4.7	0.5	3.7	0.1	–	–	–	9.0
	Travel & Leisure	2.5	0.4	1.0	0.1	–	–	–	4.0
		8.0	1.2	7.0	0.4	0.2	–	–	16.8
Financials	Banks	1.9	1.4	1.7	0.4	0.4	0.1	–	5.9
	Equity Investment Instruments	4.3	1.3	0.9	–	–	–	–	6.5
	Financial Services	6.9	0.2	2.6	0.3	–	–	–	10.0
	Life Insurance	0.2	–	0.1	0.3	–	–	–	0.6
	Non-life Insurance	0.3	0.6	0.3	–	–	–	–	1.2
	Real Estate Investment Services	–	0.9	–	0.4	–	–	–	1.3
	Real Estate Investment Trusts	0.1	–	–	0.3	–	–	–	0.4
		13.7	4.4	5.6	1.7	0.4	0.1	–	25.9
Health Care	Health Care Equipment & Services	0.3	0.6	3.8	0.7	–	–	–	5.4
	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	1.2	1.3	0.4	–	–	–	–	2.9
		1.5	1.9	4.2	0.7	–	–	–	8.3
Industrials	Aerospace & Defence	1.3	1.0	0.1	0.1	–	–	–	2.5
	Construction & Materials	0.2	0.3	–	0.1	–	–	–	0.6
	Electronic & Electrical Equipment	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.5	–	–	1.9
	General Industrials	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	–	–	–	1.2
	Industrial Engineering	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	–	–	–	1.3
	Industrial Transportation	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	–	–	–	1.1
	Support Services	3.4	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.3	–	–	5.2
		6.9	3.0	2.1	1.0	0.8	–	–	13.8
Oil & Gas	Alternative Energy	–	0.2	–	–	–	–	–	0.2
	Oil & Gas Producers	1.3	0.6	0.2	–	–	–	–	2.1
	Oil Equipment Services & Distribution	0.1	–	0.4	–	–	–	–	0.5
		1.4	0.8	0.6	–	–	–	–	2.8
Technology	Software & Computer Services	3.0	–	2.6	0.2	–	–	0.1	5.9
	Technology Hardware & Equipment	0.4	0.2	1.6	0.7	0.3	–	–	3.2
		3.4	0.2	4.2	0.9	0.3	–	0.1	9.1
Telecommunications	Fixed Line Telecommunications	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.5	–	–	–	2.1
	Mobile Telecommunications	0.6	0.3	–	0.6	0.4	–	0.1	2.0
		1.8	0.6	0.1	1.1	0.4	–	0.1	4.1
Utilities	Electricity	–	0.2	–	0.2	–	–	–	0.4
	Gas, Water & Multi-utilities	0.2	–	–	0.2	–	0.1	–	0.5
		0.2	0.2	–	0.4	–	0.1	–	0.9
Open-ended Funds (see note 3)		0.1	0.3	0.7	1.8	0.1	0.3	0.6	3.9
Totals 2015		42.9	15.3	25.9	10.2	4.4	0.5	0.8	100.0
Totals 2014		42.9	14.7	25.4	10.5	4.7	0.9	0.9	100.0

1. The holding of £37 million equity futures (2.4% of net assets) is not included in this classification (see page 15).

2. Included in the above are fixed interest holdings (including convertibles) of £25,312,000 (2014: £34,137,000).

3. Open-ended Funds are the collective investment fund used to invest in Emerging Markets, a specialist insurance fund and an exchange traded FTSE-All World fund.

Board of Directors



H M Henderson

Chairman ^{(A), (C), (D)}

Appointed a director in 1988, Harry Henderson became Chairman in March 2003. He was formerly a partner of Cazenove & Co. and subsequently a senior executive at Cazenove Group plc, retiring in 2002. Mr Henderson is Chairman of Witan Investment Services Limited. He is also a director of Cadogan Settled Estates Limited.

A L C Bell MA

Chief Executive Officer ^(D)

Andrew Bell was appointed a director and Chief Executive Officer from February 2010. He is responsible for the overall management of Witan. Previously he worked at Rensburg Sheppards Investment Management Limited as Head of Research and as an equity strategist and Co-Head of the Investment Trusts team at BZW and Credit Suisse First Boston. Prior to the City, he worked for Shell in Oman, leaving to take a Sloan Fellowship at the London Business School. He is a non-executive director of Henderson High Income Trust plc, Chairman of Gabelli Value Plus+ Trust plc and was Chairman of the Association of Investment Companies until January 2015.

J E B Bevan MA

Director ^(A)

James Bevan was appointed a director in 2007. He is CIO, CCLA Investment Management. Before joining CCLA in November 2006, he was the Chief Investment Officer at Abbey. Prior to Abbey, he was Chief Investment Officer for Barclays Stockbrokers and Barclays Personal Investment Management, having joined BZW in 1988, following postgraduate research in applied economics and asset allocation at Cambridge University.

R W Boyle MA, FCA

Chairman of the Audit Committee ^{(A), (B), (D)}

Robert Boyle was appointed a director in 2007. He is a Chartered Accountant and was a partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, where he was responsible for multi-national client accounts, specialising in the telecoms and media sectors: he was chairman of the PWC European Entertainment and Media Practice for twelve years, retiring in 2006. He is a non-executive director, and chairman of the audit committee, of Maxis Berhad (in Malaysia) and Centaur Media plc.



M C Claydon BA, MBA

Chairman of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee ^{(A), (B), (C), (D)}

Catherine Claydon joined the Board in 2009. Previously she was a Managing Director in the Pension Advisory Group at Goldman Sachs (1992–2007) and Lehman Brothers (2007–2008). She is a non-executive director of the Dunedin Income Growth Investment Trust. She is Deputy Chairman of the BT Pension Scheme, a director of the Barclays UK Pension Fund and an independent member of Unilever UK Pension Fund's Investment Committee.

S E G A Neubert LLM

Director ^{(A), (D)}

Suzy Neubert joined the Board in 2012. She is Sales & Marketing Director at J O Hambro Capital Management, which she joined in March 2006. She was previously Managing Director of Equity Markets within the Global Markets and Investment Banking Group at Merrill Lynch Securities in London. From 1993, she worked at Smith New Court Europe (later taken over by Merrill Lynch) as a European equity analyst and later as Director of European Equity Sales. Prior to Smith New Court, she worked at Hambros Bank as an Executive in the Corporate Finance division. She is a qualified barrister.

R J Oldfield BA

Director ^{(A), (C)}

Richard Oldfield joined the Board in 2011. He is chairman of Oldfield Partners, an investment management firm. He was chairman of the Oxford University investment committee from 2007 to 2014 and of Keystone Investment Trust plc from 2001 to 2010. He is a trustee of Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, Canterbury Cathedral Trust and Clore Duffield Foundation, and, with effect from June 2016, a director of Shepherd Neame Limited.

A Watson CBE, BSc (Econ), ASIP, Barrister-at-Law, FCISI (Hons), D.Sc. (Hons) **Senior Independent Director** ^{(A), (B), (D)}

Tony Watson was appointed a director in 2006. He was appointed Senior Independent Director in February 2008. He is the Senior Independent Director of Lloyds Banking Group plc. He was formerly chairman of the Trustees of the Marks & Spencer Pension Scheme, chairman of the Strategic Investment Board Limited (Northern Ireland), a member of the Financial Reporting Council, a non-executive director of Hammerson plc, Vodafone Group Plc and the Shareholder Executive. Mr Watson retired in 2006 from an executive career in the investment management industry, most recently as Chief Executive of Hermes Fund Managers Limited.

^(A) Independent non-executive directors.

^(B) Members of the Audit Committee which is chaired by Mr Boyle.

^(C) Members of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee which is chaired by Mrs Claydon.

^(D) Director of Witan Investment Services Limited.

Directors' Report

Statutory Information

The directors present the Annual Report of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Activities and business review

A review of the business is given in the Chairman's and Chief Executive's reports on pages 4 to 8 and in the Strategic Report on pages 9 to 25. The directors are required by the Companies Act to prepare a Strategic Report for each financial year, which contains a fair review of the business of the Group during the financial year ended 31 December 2015 and of the position of the Group at the end of the year and a description of the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Group. This information can be found within the Strategic Report on pages 20 to 21.

Investment policy

The Company's investment policy is set out on the inside front cover.

Status

Witan Investment Trust plc ('the Company') is incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales and domiciled in the United Kingdom. It is an investment company as defined in section 833 of the Companies Act 2006 and operates as an investment trust in accordance with section 1158 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010. The Company has received confirmation from HM Revenue and Customs that it has been accepted as an approved investment trust with effect from 1 January 2012, provided it continues to meet the eligibility conditions of section 1158 and of the ongoing requirements for approved companies in the Investment Trust (Approved Company) (Tax) Regulations 2011.

Subsidiary company

The Company has one subsidiary company, Witan Investment Services Limited, which provides marketing services and investment products to the Company and executive management and marketing services to third party investment trust clients. Witan Investment Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority to manage savings schemes for investors and provide investment advice to professional investors and also acts as the Company's AIFM.

ISAs

The Company intends to continue to manage its affairs so that its investments fully qualify for the stocks and shares component of an ISA and Junior ISA.

Substantial share interests

As at 31 December 2015, the following had notified the Company of interests in the Company's voting rights:

	%
Aviva plc and its subsidiaries	16.24

The above percentage is calculated by applying the shareholding as notified to the Company to the issued ordinary share capital as at 31 December 2015 (the shareholdings representing the voting rights).

There has not been any change in this holding or new holdings notified between the year end and the date of this Report.

Assets

At 31 December 2015 the total net assets of the Group were £1,577.3 million (2014: £1,441.2 million). At this date the net asset value per ordinary share was 788.4p (2014: 760.3p).

Revenue and dividend

The total profit for the year was £83.7 million (2014: £95.3 million). A profit of £36.0 million is attributable to revenue (2014: £30.1 million). The profit for the year attributable to revenue has been applied as follows:

	£'000
Distributed as dividends:	
First interim of 3.85p per ordinary share (paid on 18 June 2015)	7,450
Second interim of 3.85p per ordinary share (paid on 18 September 2015)	7,550
Third interim of 3.85p per ordinary share (paid on 18 December 2015)	7,670
Fourth interim of 5.45p per ordinary share (payable on 1 April 2016)	10,895
Added to the revenue reserve	2,394
	35,959

The directors have declared a fourth interim dividend instead of a final dividend in order to ensure that, as in previous years, the distribution is made to shareholders before 5 April 2016. The Company intends to grow the dividend in real terms, ahead of inflation.

Company revenue account

As permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the Company has not presented its own income statement. The profit on the revenue return of the Company dealt with in the accounts of the Group amounted to £35,645,000 (2014: £29,910,000).

Directors

The current directors of the Company are shown on pages 28 and 29.

All the directors held office throughout the year under review. At the Annual General Meeting on 28 April 2016, Mr Bell will retire in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association and, being eligible, will seek re-election by shareholders. Mr Boyle, Mr Henderson and Mr Watson will also retire and stand for re-election, as they have served as a director for more than nine years and are eligible to stand for re-election. The Board considers them to be independent despite their length of service. This is explained in more detail in sections 1 and 2 of the Corporate Governance Statement on page 35. The Board has reviewed the performance and commitment of the directors standing for re-election and considers that each of them should continue to serve on the Board as they bring wide, current and relevant experience that allows them to contribute effectively to the leadership of the Company.

Mr Bevan will also retire at the Annual General Meeting but will not seek re-election. The Board would like to thank him for his significant contribution to the Company since his appointment in 2007. The Board intends to appoint a director to replace Mr Bevan during the course of the year.

The Board's policy on the frequency of the re-election of directors is set out on page 36 in the Corporate Governance Statement.

During the year the membership of the Audit Committee comprised Mr Boyle (Chairman), Mr Watson and Mrs Claydon. During the year the membership of the Remuneration Committee comprised Mrs Claydon (Chairman), Mr Henderson and Mr Oldfield.

No director was a party to, or had an interest in, any contract or arrangement with the Company at any time during the year or to the date of this report. With the exception of Mr Bell, no director has or had a service contract with the Company.

Directors' interests

The interests of the directors in the share capital of the Company are set out in the Directors' Remuneration Report on page 48.

Directors' conflicts of interest

Directors have a duty to avoid situations where they have, or could have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly could conflict, with the Company's interests. With effect from 1 October 2008, the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act') has allowed directors of public companies to authorise such conflicts and potential conflicts, where appropriate, but only if the Articles of Association contain a provision to this effect. The Act also allows the Articles of Association to contain other provisions for dealing with directors' conflicts of interest to avoid a breach of duty. There are two circumstances in which a potential conflict of interest can be permitted: either the situation cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest or the matter has been authorised in advance by the directors. The Company's Articles of Association, which were adopted by shareholders on 27 April 2010, give the directors the relevant authority required to deal with conflicts of interest.

Each of the directors has provided a statement of all conflicts of interest and potential conflicts of interest, if any, applicable to the Company. A register of conflicts of interest has been compiled and approved by the Board. The directors have also undertaken to notify the Chairman as soon as they become aware of any new potential conflicts of interest that need to be approved by the Board and added to the register, which is reviewed annually by the Board. It has also been agreed that directors will advise the Chairman and the Company Secretary in advance of any proposed external appointment and new directors will be asked to submit a list of potential situations falling within the conflicts of interest provisions of the Act in advance of joining the Board. The Chairman will then determine whether the relevant appointment causes a conflict or potential conflict of interest and should therefore be considered by the Board. Only directors who have no interest in the matter being considered would be able to participate in the Board approval process. In deciding whether to approve a conflict of interest, directors will also act in a way they consider, in good faith, will be most likely to promote the Company's success in taking such a decision. The Board can impose limits or conditions when giving authorisation if the directors consider this to be appropriate.

The Board believes that its arrangements for the authorisation of conflicts have operated effectively since they were introduced on 1 October 2008. The Board also confirms that its procedures for the approval of conflicts of interest have been followed by all the directors.

Directors' Report continued

Directors' indemnity

The Company's Articles of Association allow the Company, subject to the provisions of UK legislation, to:

- (a) indemnify any person who is or was a director, or a director of any associated company, directly or indirectly against any loss or liability, whether in connection with any proven or alleged negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by him or her, or otherwise, in relation to the Company or any associated company; and
- (b) purchase and maintain insurance for any person who is or was a director, or a director of any associated company, against any loss or liability or any expenditure he or she may incur, whether in connection with any proven or alleged negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by him or her, or otherwise, in relation to the Company or any associated company.

Directors' and officers' liability insurance cover is in place in respect of the directors and was in place throughout the year under review.

Directors' fees

The report on the directors' remuneration is set out on pages 46 to 56.

Financial instruments and the management of risk

By its nature as an investment trust, the Company is exposed to market risk, price risk, currency risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. The Company's policies for managing these risks are outlined in note 14 to the accounts on pages 79 to 86.

Investment managers

It is the opinion of the directors that the continuing appointment of the investment managers listed on page 12 is in the interests of the Company's shareholders as a whole and that the terms of engagement negotiated with them are competitive and appropriate to the investment mandates.

The Board and the Company's AIFM review the appointments of the investment managers on a regular basis and make changes as appropriate.

Share capital

The Company's share capital comprises:

a) ordinary shares of 25p nominal value each ('shares')

The voting rights of the shares on a poll are one vote for every four shares held (one vote per £1 of nominal value). At 31 December 2014 there were 189,561,000 shares in issue. During the year 10,510,000 shares have been issued. At 31 December 2015 there were 200,071,000 shares in issue and thus the number of voting rights was 50,017,750 on a poll. Since the year end, 192,646 shares have been bought back and at the date of this report there were 199,878,354 shares in issue.

The Company's Articles of Association permit the Company to purchase its own shares and to fund such purchases from its accumulated realised capital profits. At the AGM in April 2015 a special resolution was passed giving the Company authority, until the conclusion of the AGM in 2016, to make market purchases to be held in treasury of the Company's ordinary shares up to a maximum of 28,437,678 shares (being 14.99% of the issued ordinary share capital as at 30 April 2015). The Company has bought back 192,646 shares since the date of the last AGM, and so at the date of this report, the Company had valid authority, outstanding until the conclusion of the AGM in 2016, to make market purchases to be held in treasury of 28,245,032 shares.

The Board is seeking to renew its powers at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting to buy shares into treasury, for possible reissuance when the shares trade at a premium. The Company makes use of share buybacks, purchasing shares to be held in treasury with the objective of achieving a sustainable low discount (or a premium) to NAV. Shares are not bought back unless the result is an increase in the net asset value per ordinary share. Shares will only be re-sold from treasury at, or at a premium to, the net asset value per ordinary share.

The Company is also seeking to renew shareholder approval to issue shares, up to 10% of the starting total, provided that such shares are issued at or at a premium to net asset value.

b) 2.7% preference shares of £1 nominal value each ('2.7% preference shares')

The 2.7% preference shareholders have no rights to attend and vote at general meetings. At 31 December 2015 there were 500,000 2.7% preference shares in issue. Further details on the preference shares are given in note 17 on page 87.

c) 3.4% preference shares of £1 nominal value each ('3.4% preference shares')

The 3.4% preference shareholders have no rights to attend and vote at general meetings. At 31 December 2015 there were 2,055,000 3.4% preference shares in issue. Further details on the preference shares are given in note 17 on page 87.

At the AGM in April 2015 a special resolution was passed giving the Company authority, until the conclusion of the AGM in 2016, to make market purchases for cancellation of the Company's own 2.7% preference shares and 3.4% preference shares up to a maximum of all those in issue. This authority has not been used. Accordingly, as at 31 December 2015 the Company had valid authority, outstanding until the conclusion of the AGM in 2016, to make market purchases for cancellation of 500,000 2.7% preference shares and 2,055,000 3.4% preference shares. No preference shares were bought back between the year end and the date of this report. Accordingly, the Company has valid authority to make market purchases for cancellation of 500,000 2.7% preference shares and 2,055,000 3.4% preference shares. The directors intend to seek a fresh authority at the AGM in April 2016. There are no restrictions on the transfer of the Company's share capital and there are no shares or stock which carry specific rights with regards to control of the Company.

Independent auditor

Resolutions to reappoint Deloitte LLP as the Company's auditor and to authorise the directors to determine their remuneration will be proposed at the forthcoming AGM. However, as noted on page 45, the Audit Committee intends to carry out a tender for the audit of the Company's accounts during 2016, with a view to appointing a new audit firm for the audit of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016.

Directors' statement as to the disclosure of information to the auditor

Each of the directors at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- (1) so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware; and
- (2) the director has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held at 2.30 pm on Thursday 28 April 2016 at Merchant Taylors' Hall, 30 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8JB. The formal notice of the AGM is set out in the accompanying circular to shareholders, together with explanations of the resolutions.

Greenhouse gas emissions

The Company has a staff of seven employees, operating from small serviced office premises. Accordingly it does not have any significant greenhouse gas emissions to report from its own operations, nor does it have responsibility for any other emission producing sources under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Reports) Regulations 2013, including those within its underlying investment portfolio.

By order of the Board

Frostrow Capital LLP
Secretary

8 March 2016

Corporate Governance Statement

Background

The UK Listing Authority's Disclosure and Transparency Rules (the 'Disclosure Rules') require listed companies to disclose how they have applied the principles and complied with the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code (the 'Corporate Governance Code'), as issued by the Financial Reporting Council ('the FRC'). The provisions of the Corporate Governance Code, which was issued by the FRC in September 2014, were applicable in the year under review. The Corporate Governance Code can be viewed at www.frc.org.uk.

The related Code of Corporate Governance ('the AIC Code'), issued by the Association of Investment Companies ('the AIC'), provides specific corporate governance guidelines to investment companies. The FRC has confirmed that AIC member companies who report against the AIC Code and who follow the AIC's Corporate Governance Guide for Investment Companies (the 'AIC Guide') will be meeting their obligations in relation to the Corporate Governance Code and the associated disclosure requirements of the Disclosure Rules. The AIC Code issued in February 2015 was applicable in the year under review. The AIC Code can be viewed at www.theaic.co.uk.

Compliance

The Board has considered the principles and recommendations of the AIC Code by reference to the AIC Guide. The AIC Code, as explained by the AIC Guide, addresses all the principles set out in the Corporate Governance Code, as well as setting out additional principles and recommendations on issues that are of specific relevance to the Company.

The Board considers that reporting against the principles and recommendations of the AIC Code and by reference to the AIC Guide (which incorporates the Corporate Governance Code) will provide better information to shareholders.

The Company has complied with the recommendations of the AIC Code and the best practice provisions of the Corporate Governance Code throughout the year ended 31 December 2015 except as set out below:

- The Corporate Governance Code (C.3.5) includes provisions relating to the need for an internal audit function. As explained on page 43, the Company does not have an internal audit function.
- The Corporate Governance Code (B.7.1) includes provisions relating to the annual re-election of all directors. As explained on page 36, the Company considers that this provision is inappropriate to the Company.

The principles of the AIC Code

The AIC Code is made up of twenty one principles. Its three sections cover the Board; board meetings and relations with the investment managers; and shareholder communications.

Principles of the AIC Code

Application of the principles

The Board

<p>1. The chairman should be independent.</p>	<p>Mr H M Henderson has been Chairman of the Company since the Annual General Meeting in March 2003; he joined the Board in 1988. The Board considers that Mr Henderson is, and has been since his appointment, an independent non-executive director. Independence stems from the ability to make those objective decisions that may be in conflict with the interests of management; this in turn is a function of confidence, integrity and judgement. Mr Henderson has served on the Board for more than nine years. Accordingly, he stands for re-election by the shareholders each year and will do so for as long as he continues to serve on the Board. The Board is firmly of the view, however, that length of service does not of itself impair a director's ability to act independently; rather, a director's longer perspective adds value to the deliberations of a well-balanced investment trust company board. The other independent non-executive directors, under the chairmanship of the Senior Independent Director, review and evaluate annually the performance and continuing independence of the Chairman.</p> <p>Mr Henderson was formerly a partner of Cazenove & Co., the firm which for many years has acted as the Company's stockbroker. However, he did not have responsibility for or involvement with Cazenove's role with the Company, being for many years responsible for aspects of Cazenove's fund management division. Accordingly, the Board considers that the Chairman has no relationships that might create a conflict of interest between his interests and those of the other shareholders.</p> <p>Mr A Watson was appointed as the Senior Independent Director in February 2008. As noted above, he takes the lead in the annual evaluation of the Chairman. He is also able to act as a sounding board for the Chairman and serve as an intermediary for the other directors, should this prove necessary, and to act as a channel of communication for shareholders in the event that contact through the Chairman has failed to resolve concerns or is inappropriate.</p>
<p>2. A majority of the board should be independent of the manager.</p>	<p>At 31 December 2015 the Board was composed of seven independent non-executive directors and one executive director (the Chief Executive Officer). The Board is therefore independent of the Company's executive management. All the directors are wholly independent of the Company's various investment managers. In the opinion of the Board, each of the directors is independent in character and judgement and there are no relationships or circumstances relating to the Company that are likely to affect their judgement (see also section 1 above).</p>

Corporate Governance Statement continued

Principles of the AIC Code	Application of the principles
The Board	
3. Directors should be submitted for re-election at regular intervals. Nomination for re-election should not be assumed but be based on disclosed procedures and continued satisfactory performance.	<p>New directors stand for election by the shareholders at the annual general meeting of the Company that follows their appointment. Thereafter all directors stand for re-election at least every three years, as required by the Company's Articles of Association. Directors who have served for more than nine years stand for re-election annually. There are currently four directors with service of more than nine years: Mr H M Henderson, the Chairman, Mr Bevan, Mr Boyle and Mr A Watson.</p> <p>The Board has reviewed Provision B.7.1 of the Corporate Governance Code, which states that all directors of FTSE 350 companies should be subject to annual election by shareholders. The Board considers that the annual re-election of all the directors is inappropriate to the Company. There are two main reasons for this view: (a) it appears to place excessive emphasis on the short term and insufficient emphasis on the need for an effective board to work together and to refresh its composition over time; and (b) there is some danger, because many small and nominee shareholders choose not to exercise their voting rights, that if all the directors seek re-election at once a minority of the shareholders could engineer the removal of the whole Board for reasons injurious to the interests of the Company's investors as a whole. Therefore the Board considers it appropriate to continue to apply Provision B.7.1 as if the Company were not a constituent of the FTSE 350 Index, a view which a number of prominent institutional investors have shared.</p> <p>Every year the Board reviews its composition and the composition of its two Committees. The Board's Remuneration and Nomination Committee oversees this process. Further details are given under section 7 on page 38.</p>

Principles of the AIC Code

Application of the principles

The Board

<p>4. The board should have a policy on tenure, which is disclosed in the annual report.</p>	<p>New directors are appointed for an initial term ending three years from the date of their first annual general meeting after appointment and with the expectation that they will serve a minimum of two three-year terms, but there is no absolute limit to the period for which a director may serve. The continuation of directors' appointments is contingent on satisfactory performance evaluation and re-election at annual general meetings. Directors' appointments are reviewed formally every three years by the Board as a whole. None of the non-executive directors has a contract of service and a director may resign by notice in writing to the Board at any time; there are no set notice periods. The Board's tenure and succession policy seeks to ensure that the Board is well-balanced and refreshed regularly by the appointment of new directors with the skills and experience necessary, in particular, to replace those lost by directors' retirements. Directors must be able to demonstrate their commitment to the Company, including in terms of time. The Board seeks to encompass past and current experience of various areas that is relevant to the Company's objective and operations, the most important skill-sets being investment management, finance, marketing, financial services, risk management, custody and settlement, and investment banking. Specialist agents are used to assist with recruitment. While the roles and contributions of longer serving directors are subject to rigorous review, the Board is strongly of the view that length of service is only one factor and that the shareholders benefit from having directors with a longer perspective of the Company's history and its place in the savings market.</p>
<p>5. There should be full disclosure of information about the board.</p>	<p>Details of the directors are set out on pages 28 and 29. They demonstrate a broad range of investment, professional and commercial expertise and experience, gained overseas as well as in the United Kingdom.</p>
<p>6. The board should aim to have a balance of skills, experience, length of service and knowledge of the Company.</p>	<p>The Board considers that it has achieved this aim. Brief biographical details of each director are set out on pages 28 and 29.</p> <p>Board Diversity</p> <p>The Company welcomes the objectives of the Davies Report to improve the performance of corporate boards by encouraging the appointment of the best people from a range of differing perspectives and backgrounds. The Company recognises the benefits of diversity on the board, including gender, and takes this into account in its board appointments. The Company is committed to ensuring that its director search processes actively seek both men and women with the right qualifications so that appointments can be made, on the basis of merit, against objective criteria from a diverse selection of candidates. To this end the Board will continue to dedicate time to consider diversity during the director search process.</p>

Corporate Governance Statement continued

Principles of the AIC Code	Application of the principles
The Board	
7. The board should undertake a formal and rigorous annual evaluation of its own performance and that of its committees and individual directors.	The Board has established a process to evaluate its performance on an annual basis. This process is based on open discussion and seeks to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Board and its Committees. The Chairman leads on applying the conclusions of the evaluation. The Chairman reviews with each director his or her individual performance, contribution and commitment to the Company. The Senior Independent Director leads the annual evaluation of the Chairman and reviews the conclusions with him. The Board's Remuneration and Nomination Committee oversees this process. In addition, in consideration of Provision B.6.2 of the Corporate Governance Code, which states that evaluation of the board of FTSE 350 companies should be externally facilitated at least every three years, the Board concluded that, regardless of the size of the company, periodic external evaluation should add value to the process. Accordingly, in July 2013, the Board appointed BoardAlpha Limited to carry out an evaluation programme. The Board reviewed the report submitted to it and the Chairman has led on implementing those changes recommended by the report that the Board considered should be made. The report did not identify any material weaknesses or concerns. BoardAlpha Limited does not have any other connection with the Company. The Board intends to appoint an external organisation to facilitate its evaluation of the Board in 2016.
8. Director remuneration should reflect their duties, responsibilities and the value of their time spent.	The Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 46 to 56 details the process for determining the directors' remuneration and sets out the amounts payable.
9. The independent directors should take the lead in the appointment of new directors and the process should be disclosed in the annual report.	The Board's Remuneration and Nomination Committee oversees the recruitment process, which includes the use of a firm of non-executive director recruitment consultants. However, all the independent non-executive directors are asked to contribute and to consider serving on the sub-committee appointed to draw up the shortlist of candidates. Notwithstanding this, the Chairman would not expect to be involved in the selection of his successor.
10. Directors should be offered relevant training and induction.	<p>Directors newly appointed to the Board are provided with an introductory programme covering the Company's strategy, policies and operations, including those outsourced to third parties. Thereafter, directors are given, on a regular and ongoing basis, key information on the Company's investment portfolios, financial position, internal controls and details of the Company's regulatory and statutory obligations (and changes thereto). The directors are encouraged to attend industry and other seminars, conferences and courses, if necessary at the Company's expense, and to participate generally in industry events. A log of directors' training is maintained and reviewed each year by the Audit Committee.</p> <p>The directors have access to the advice and services of the Company's Executive team and AIFM and of the Company Secretary, through its appointed representative, who are responsible to the Board for ensuring that Board procedures are followed and that applicable rules and regulations are complied with.</p>
11. The chairman (and the board) should be brought into the process of structuring a new launch at an early stage.	This principle does not apply to the Company, which is a long established investment trust company.

Principles of the AIC Code

Application of the principles

Board meetings and the relationship with the manager

12. Boards and managers should operate in a supportive, co-operative and open environment.	Typically, the Board meets approximately ten times each year. The Chief Executive Officer (who is himself a director), other representatives of the Company's Executive team and the AIFM and a representative of the Company Secretary expect to be present at all meetings. The Board devotes two full days each year to meetings with the Company's investment managers and each investment manager sends representatives at least once a year. The Chairman seeks to encourage open debate within the Board and a supportive and co-operative relationship with the Executive team and with the Company's investment managers, advisors and support staff.
13. The primary focus at regular board meetings should be a review of investment performance and associated matters such as gearing, asset allocation, marketing/ investor relations, peer group information and industry issues.	The Chief Executive Officer and the AIFM monitor investment performance and all associated matters. The Chief Executive Officer reports to each Board meeting, at which investment performance, asset allocation, gearing, marketing and investor relations are usually key agenda items.
14. Boards should give sufficient attention to overall strategy.	The Board is responsible for determining the strategic direction of the Company and for promoting its success. At least one of its meetings each year is devoted entirely to reviewing overall strategy and progress is monitored throughout the year.
15. The board should regularly review both the performance of, and contractual arrangements with, the manager (or executives of a self-managed company).	<p>The Board's Remuneration and Nomination Committee reviews the performance of and the contractual arrangements with the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible to the Board for reviewing the performance and the contractual arrangements of his staff. The Board's Remuneration and Nomination Committee oversees this process.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer leads on the selection and monitoring of the investment managers and their terms of reference, which are approved by the Board and the AIFM.</p>
16. The board should agree policies with the manager covering key operational issues.	The Company manages its own operations through the Board and that of its AIFM, as set out on page 41. Each investment manager runs a discrete investment portfolio within the terms of the mandate given to them in an investment management contract. Further details are given on page 41. Shares are held by the Company's custodian/depositary.
17. Boards should monitor the level of the share price discount or premium (if any) and, if desirable, take action to reduce it.	<p>The Chief Executive Officer and his team monitor the share price and the discount/premium to net asset value on a daily basis and he reports to every Board meeting.</p> <p>The Board makes use where appropriate of share buybacks (at a discount) and issuance (at a premium) in order to add to the net asset value per share and achieve a sustainable low discount (or a premium) to NAV.</p>
18. The board should monitor and evaluate other service providers.	The Chief Executive Officer and the AIFM are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Company's various service providers. The Board's Audit Committee oversees this process together with the WIS Risk Committee.

Report of the Directors

Strategic Report

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Other Information

Corporate Governance Statement continued

Principles of the AIC Code	Application of the principles
Shareholder communications	
19. The board should regularly monitor the shareholder profile of the company and put in place a system for canvassing shareholder views and for communicating the board's views to shareholders.	<p>The Chairman is responsible for ensuring that there is effective communication with the Company's shareholders. He works closely with the Chief Executive Officer and there is regular liaison with the Company's stockbroker. There is a process in place for analysing and monitoring the shareholder register and a programme for meeting or speaking with the institutional investors and with private client stockbrokers and advisors. In addition to the Chief Executive Officer, the Chairman, or the Senior Independent Director, expects to be available to meet the larger shareholders.</p> <p>The Company encourages attendance at its Annual General Meeting as a forum for communication with the individual shareholders. The Notice of Annual General Meeting and related papers are sent to shareholders at least 20 working days before the meeting. The Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Chairman of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee all expect to be present at the Annual General Meeting and able to answer questions from shareholders as appropriate. Details of the proxy votes received in respect of each resolution are made available to shareholders. The Chief Executive Officer makes a presentation to the meeting.</p> <p>The directors may be contacted through the Company Secretary at the address shown on page 92.</p>
20. The board should normally take responsibility for, and have a direct involvement in, the content of communications regarding major corporate issues even if the manager is asked to act as spokesman.	While the Chief Executive Officer and his team together with the AIFM expect to lead on preparing and effecting communications with investors, all major corporate issues are put to the Board or, if time is of the essence, to a Committee thereof.
21. The board should ensure that shareholders are provided with sufficient information for them to understand the risk: reward balance to which they are exposed by holding the shares.	<p>The Board places importance on effective communication with investors and approves a marketing programme and budget each year to enable this to be achieved. Copies of the Annual Report and the Half Year Report are circulated to shareholders, to those who hold shares through the subsidiary company's products and, where possible, to investors through other providers' products and nominee companies (or written notification is sent when they are published online). In addition, the Company publishes a factsheet monthly and its net asset value per share daily. All this information is readily accessible on the Company's website (www.witan.com).</p> <p>The Company belongs to the Association of Investment Companies which publishes information to increase investors' understanding.</p>

The Board

The Board is collectively responsible for the success of the Company. Its role is to provide leadership within a framework of prudent and effective controls that enable risk to be assessed and managed. The Board sets the Company's strategic aims (subject to the Company's Articles of Association and to such approval of the shareholders in general meeting as may be required from time to time) and ensures that the necessary resources are in place to enable the Company's objectives to be met.

The Board has typically met approximately ten times a year and deals with the most important aspects of the Company's affairs, including the setting of parameters for and the monitoring of investment strategy, the review of investment performance and the extent to which borrowings may be used.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible to the Board and the AIFM for the overall management of the Company including investment performance, business development, shareholder relations, marketing, investment trust industry matters, administration and unquoted investments. The duties of the Chief Executive Officer include leading on investment strategy and asset allocation, on the selection and monitoring of the investment managers and their terms of reference and on the use of derivatives. The Board, in conjunction with the AIFM, sets limits on matters such as asset allocation, gearing and investment in derivatives, within which the Chief Executive Officer may operate at his discretion.

The Chief Executive Officer reports to each meeting of the Board. His report includes confirmation that the Board's investment limits and restrictions and those which govern the Company's tax status as an investment trust, have been adhered to.

The individual investment managers are each appointed to manage a discrete portfolio in accordance with guidelines which limit, for example, the markets in which they can invest, the size of each investment and the amount of cash that may be held in their portfolio in normal circumstances. They are not allowed to invest in unquoted securities, to borrow against the security of the portfolio, to sell stocks short or to use derivatives. The investment managers take decisions as to the purchase and sale of individual investments and are responsible for effecting those decisions on the best available terms. The Company and the AIFM receive monthly confirmation from each of the investment managers that they have carried out their duties in accordance with the terms of their investment mandates.

In addition to his responsibilities for the overall management of the Company, the Chief Executive Officer manages the Direct Holdings portfolio. A maximum of 10% of the Company's gross assets (at the time of purchase) may be invested in this portfolio and there are restrictions on the number, size and type of investments that may be made.

The Chairman is responsible for ensuring that the directors are provided, in a timely manner, with management, regulatory and financial information that is clear, accurate and relevant, whether from the Chief Executive Officer or otherwise.

Matters specifically reserved for decision by the full Board have been defined. There is an agreed procedure for directors, in the furtherance of their duties, to take independent professional advice, if necessary, at the Company's expense.

Board Committees

The Board has established an Audit Committee and a Remuneration and Nomination Committee. The membership of the Audit Committee and the Remuneration and Nomination Committee is set out on pages 28 and 29. The roles and responsibilities of the Committees are described in the Report of the Audit Committee on pages 44 and 45 and in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 46 to 56.

Meetings of the Board and its Committees

The number of formal meetings during the year of the Board and its Committees, and the attendance of the individual directors at those meetings, is shown in the table that follows.

	Board	Audit Committee	Remuneration and Nomination Committee
Number of meetings	10	4	3
H M Henderson	10	4*	3
A L C Bell	10	4*	3*
J E B Bevan	9	—	—
R W Boyle	10	4	—
M C Claydon	10	4	3
S E G A Neubert	10	—	—
R J Oldfield	8	—	3
A Watson	10	4	—

*Not a member of the Committee but in attendance by invitation for all or part of the meetings.

All the directors attended the Annual General Meeting in April 2015 and the Board's 'Away Day' in May 2015.

Corporate Governance Statement continued

Directors' remuneration

The directors' remuneration is detailed in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 46 to 56.

Accountability and audit

The directors' statement of responsibilities in respect of the accounts is set out on page 57.

The report of the independent auditor is set out on pages 60 to 63.

The Board has delegated contractually to external agents, including the various investment managers, the management of the investment portfolio, global custody (which includes the safeguarding of the assets), the investment administration, management and financial accounting, company secretarial and certain other administrative requirements and the registration services. Each of these contracts was entered into after full and proper consideration by the Board of the quality and cost of the services offered, including the control systems in operation in so far as they relate to the affairs of the Company. The Board receives and considers regular reports from the investment managers and ad hoc reports and information are supplied to the Board from its other contractors as required.

Internal control

The Board has established an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks faced by the Company. This process accords with the Turnbull guidance, is subject to regular review by the Audit Committee and was fully in place during the year under review and up to the date of this annual report. The Board remains responsible for the Company's system of internal control and has conducted its annual review of the effectiveness of the system, covering all the controls, including financial, operational and compliance controls and risk management systems. This review took into account points raised during the year in the regular appraisal of specific areas of risk. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risks of failure to achieve the Company's business objectives and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

In accordance with provisions C2 and C3 of the Corporate Governance Code the Board reviews the Company's business risks at least once a year. These are analysed and recorded in a risk map. The Company receives from its main contractors formal reports which detail the steps taken to monitor the areas of risk and which report the details of any known internal control failures.

As described elsewhere, the management of Witan's portfolio is outsourced to a number of third party investment managers around the world. There are currently 11 such investment managers as well as the Direct Holdings portfolio which is managed by the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility (under delegation from the Board and the AIFM) for a number of aspects of the management of the portfolio, including asset allocation, gearing and investment in derivatives. The Board has set guidelines in respect of each of these aspects within which he may operate. The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Board regularly on each of these areas, as well as on the overall performance of the Company and other matters of significance.

The in-house Executive management team of Witan and WIS is responsible for managing and controlling the relationships with the third party managers. The management team receives monthly reports on investment and compliance matters from each manager. During 2015, the investment managers were asked to provide detailed information on their operational structures and systems. The Board also receives each year from its investment managers reports on their internal controls; in most cases these include a report from the relevant company's auditors on the control policies and procedures in operation.

The Chief Executive Officer makes regular reports to the Board on the performance of and activity within the Direct Holdings portfolio. In addition, the portfolio's performance is independently measured by WM Performance Services, along with those of the third party managers.

The Company's subsidiary, WIS, is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority to provide investment products and services and was appointed as the Company's AIFM from July 2014. The compliance structures required for these activities, including a compliance manual and a compliance monitoring programme, have been duly put into place.

The Company has a formal policy for staff to raise in confidence any concerns about possible improprieties, whether in matters of financial reporting or otherwise, for appropriate independent investigation. Its staff comprises only seven people (including the Chief Executive Officer), who are well known to and have frequent formal and informal contact with the members of the Board.

The Company does not have an internal audit function. Through WIS, the AIFM, it delegates to third parties the management of its investments and most of its other operations and employs only a small staff. The investment managers and certain other key contractors are subject to external regulation and most have compliance and internal audit functions of their own. The Company's investments are held on its behalf by a global custodian appointed by the depositary. A specialist firm of investment accountants and administrators is responsible for investment administration, for maintaining accounting records and for preparing financial accounts, management accounts and other management information. Their work is reviewed by an independent accountant who also carries out some of the work that an internal audit function would cover. In addition, the Board receives from the investment administrator an annual report on its internal controls, including a report from its auditor on the control policies and procedures in operation. The investment performance of the investment managers, both individually and collectively, is measured for Witan by a company that is independent of all the investment managers. The corporate Company Secretary is a company with well-established experience in servicing investment trusts.

The appointment of these and other professional contractors provides a clear separation of duties and a structure of internal controls that is balanced and robust. The Board and the AIFM will continue to monitor its system of internal control in order to provide assurance that it operates as intended and the directors will review at least annually whether a function equivalent to an internal audit is needed.

Stewardship and the exercise of voting powers

It is the Board's view that, in order to achieve long-term success, companies need to maintain high standards of corporate governance and corporate responsibility. Therefore Witan expects the companies in which it is invested to comply with best practice in corporate governance matters, or to provide adequate explanation of any areas in which they fail to comply, whilst recognising that a different approach may be justified in special circumstances. In respect of UK companies, current best practice in corporate governance matters is set out in the UK Corporate Governance Code.

The Board encourages the Company's appointed investment managers to engage with companies and to vote shares, in the best long-term interest of Witan shareholders but in accordance with their own investment philosophies. Where applicable, it monitors the policies of the investment managers in respect of the UK Stewardship Code. Elsewhere in the world it can be more difficult to vote shares as each country has its own rules and practices regarding shareholder notification, voting restrictions, registration conditions and share blocking, including, for example, dealing constraints. Therefore, whilst the Company's investment managers are apprised of the Company's approach to the stewardship of its assets and the importance of sound corporate governance, they use their discretion according to their knowledge of the relevant circumstances. The investment managers report their compliance with the UK Stewardship Code, or equivalent legislation, to the Audit Committee each year.

In respect of the direct investments held, the Company's Executive management maintains regular touch with the management of the investee holdings and engages when issues arise that are controversial or potentially prejudicial to the interests of Witan's shareholders. An annual report is provided to the Audit Committee in compliance with the UK Stewardship Code.

Approval

This report was approved by the Board of directors on 8 March 2016 and is signed on its behalf by:

H M Henderson
Chairman

8 March 2016

Report of the Audit Committee

Statement by the Chairman of the Committee

As Chairman of the Audit Committee ('the Committee'), I am pleased to present the Report of the Committee for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Composition and responsibilities of the Committee

The Committee comprises three non-executive directors, including its Chairman, who are appointed by the Board. I was appointed Chairman of the Committee in 2007. The Board has taken note of the requirement that at least one member of the Committee should have recent and relevant financial experience and is satisfied that the Committee is properly constituted in this respect, as I am a Chartered Accountant and was previously a partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Mr Watson, who was appointed to the Committee in 2006, and Mrs Claydon who was appointed to the Committee in 2013, were members of the Committee throughout the year. Details of our qualifications and experience are given on pages 28 and 29.

The role of the Committee is to assist the directors in applying financial reporting and internal control principles and to maintain an appropriate relationship with the Group's auditor. The Committee's role and responsibilities are set out in its terms of reference, which comply with the UK Corporate Governance Code. The terms of reference are available on request from the Company Secretary and can be seen on the Company's website (www.witan.com). In summary, the Committee is responsible for monitoring the integrity of the Company's financial statements, including consideration of the Company's accounting policies and significant reporting judgements. It reviews the Company's internal financial controls and risk management systems using an external consultant where appropriate.

Risk

Management has identified (Strategic Report pages 20 and 21) five main areas of potential risk: market and investment portfolio, operational, corporate governance, accounting, legal and regulatory, and liquidity and going concern, and has set out the actions taken to evaluate and manage these risks. The auditor has also detailed two specific areas of risk in its report: investment valuation and ownership of investments and has set out the work it has performed to satisfy itself that these have been properly reflected in the financial statements. The Committee reviews the various actions taken and satisfies itself that they are sufficient: in particular the Committee reviews management's Risk Report at each meeting and requires amendments to both risks and mitigating actions if appropriate.

Meetings of the Committee

The Committee held three meetings during 2015, in February, August and November and also met in February 2016. Representatives of the external auditor were present at the meetings held in February 2015 and 2016 and November 2015. I report to the Board after each meeting on the main matters discussed at the meeting. In summary, the main matters dealt with at these meetings were as follows:

- Assessment of the controls to ensure the ownership, valuation and liquidity of investments: this includes assessing management reports on the controls and procedures of external managers and the external custodian/administrator and the review of the audit work performed. No significant issues were identified.
- Interim and year-end reporting, in the light of the requirements of the revised Code of Corporate Governance issued by the AIC, and the new requirements for a viability statement and additional disclosures on going concern and risk management. The Committee agreed the process, timing and responsibility for compliance.
- Following the appointment of WIS as the Company's AIFM, the Committee has worked with the Risk Committee of WIS, the Company's subsidiary, to review WIS' compliance with FCA regulations.

- A variety of more detailed matters including the adequacy of procedures and monitoring to ensure internal controls, whistleblowing, anti-money laundering compliance, data and IT systems protection and business continuity.
- In the light of the relative simplicity of the operations and the use of independent external consultants to advise on regulatory compliance and adherence to internal procedures, it was concluded that no internal audit function was required (see page 43).

Going concern

The Committee considered the issue of going concern and recommended that the Board should continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Group's accounts. The Board's conclusions are set out under "Liquidity and going concern" on page 21 and under note 1(b) on page 68.

External audit

The Committee reviews the scope and effectiveness of the audit process, including agreeing the auditor's assessments of materiality, and monitors the auditor's independence and objectivity. It conducted a formal review of the performance of the auditor during the year, concluding that performance had been satisfactory and did not give rise to any grounds for change. However, as reported below, recent legislation means that the Company has to carry out a tender for the audit.

Deloitte & Touche, a predecessor firm of Deloitte LLP, was first appointed as the Company's auditor in March 1997. The audit was subject to competitive tender in 2007, at which time Deloitte LLP was reappointed. The auditor is required to rotate the audit partner every five years. The current partner took on responsibility for the audit with effect from the audit of the Company's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014. In light of recent legislation on audit tendering, the Committee intends to carry out a tender for the audit of the Company's accounts during 2016, with a view to appointing a new audit firm for the audit of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016.

The Committee approved the proposed audit fee. The Committee has a rule that a specified engagement of the auditor to provide non-audit services cannot exceed 50% of the annual audit fees without Committee approval. As noted in note 5 on page 72, the Committee approved the appointment of Deloitte LLP to provide advice on one-off withholding tax claims. The appointment, which was made on a one-off basis, was awarded on a competitive basis and the Committee satisfied itself that Deloitte's audit teams and tax advisory team were independent of each other. Although the fees paid to date for this work have amounted to £108,000, the Committee is pleased to note that, to date, £951,000 of withholding tax has been recovered and it is hoped that further recoveries will be made in future.

The Committee is aware of the new limit on non-audit fees that is being introduced with effect from January 2017, from which time non-audit fees cannot be more than 70% of the average audit fees for the last three years.

Financial statements

The Board has requested the Committee to confirm that in its opinion the Board can make the required statement that the Annual 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. The Committee has given this confirmation on the basis of its review of the whole document, underpinned by involvement in the planning for its preparation, review of the processes to assure the accuracy of factual content, and by assurances from the Remuneration and Nomination Committee.

Approval

This report was approved by the Committee on 8 March 2016 and is signed on its behalf by:

Robert Boyle

Chairman of the Audit Committee

8 March 2016

Directors' Remuneration Report

Chairman's statement

Introduction

As Chairman of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee (the 'Committee'), I am pleased to present the Directors' Remuneration Report for the year ended 31 December 2015.

This report covers the remuneration-related activities of the Committee for the year ended 31 December 2015. It sets out the remuneration policy and remuneration details for the non-executive and executive directors of the Company. It has been prepared in accordance with the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (the 'Regulations') and the requirements of the Association of Investment Companies. The report is split into three main areas: this statement from me as Chairman of the Committee, an annual report on remuneration and a policy report. The annual report on remuneration provides details on remuneration in the financial year ending 31 December 2015 and other information required by the Regulations. It will be subject to an advisory vote at the Annual General Meeting in April 2016.

The Company's existing policy was subject to a binding shareholder vote at the Annual General Meeting in 2014 and took effect from 1 January 2015. As explained below, the Committee has reviewed the terms of the Chief Executive Officer's remuneration and proposes a number of changes to its policy, which will be submitted for shareholder approval at the Annual General Meeting in April 2016.

The Companies Act 2006 requires the auditor to report to shareholders on certain parts of the Directors' Remuneration Report and to state whether, in their opinion, those parts of the report have been properly prepared in accordance with the Regulations. The parts of the annual report on remuneration that are subject to audit are indicated in the report.

Role of the Committee

The remuneration-related role of the Committee is essentially twofold. First, it has a role in respect of executive remuneration, assisting the directors in determining the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer (the 'CEO') and evaluating his performance; and assisting the CEO in determining the remuneration arrangements for the Company's staff. Second, in respect of the non-executive directors, it serves as the Board's nomination committee with responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness and composition of the Board and considering the remuneration of the non-executive directors. The Committee's role and responsibilities are set out in its terms of reference, which are available on request from the Company Secretary and can be found on the Company's website (www.witan.com).

The Committee normally consists of three non-executive directors, including its Chairman, who are appointed by the Board. During the year I served as Chairman of the Committee and Mr H M Henderson and Mr R J Oldfield were members of the Committee. I was appointed to the Committee, and to act as its Chairman, in 2009. Mr Henderson and Mr Oldfield were appointed to the Committee in 2003 and 2011 respectively.

The Committee's programme is to meet formally at least twice a year and on such other occasions as required. The Committee held three formal meetings during the year, during which it addressed all the remuneration-related matters under its remit.

There have been no changes in the fees payable to non-executive directors, during the year. Since 1 April 2014, the non-executive directors' fees have been paid at the following annual rates:

	£
Chairman of the Company	57,000
Chairman of the Audit Committee	36,000
Chairman of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee	34,000
Senior Independent Director	34,000
Other non-executive directors	30,000

The implementation of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive has resulted in additional duties for non-executive directors. However, the Committee has decided that, to date, the additional duties are not sufficient to warrant the payment of any additional remuneration to the non-executive directors.

The Company's Articles of Association currently limit the aggregate fees payable to the non-executive directors to £350,000 per annum.

The aggregate non-executive directors' fees currently amount to £251,000 per annum.

During 2015 the Committee reviewed the components of variable remuneration for the CEO, in particular in light of the revisions to the UK Corporate Governance Code relating to clawback and malus. The Committee compared the terms of the CEO's remuneration with market standards for similar roles. The benchmark information was provided by McLagan.

As a result of the review, the Committee agreed that, while the CEO's salary was in line with those paid to the peer groups, the current bonus arrangements were out of line with payments made elsewhere in the market. The Committee proposes to address this by making a number of changes to the current arrangements as noted below. If approved by shareholders at the AGM in April 2016, the changes will be implemented with effect from 1 January 2016.

- The maximum total variable remuneration across all bonus plans will increase to 170% of salary from the current 100%, within which:
- the maximum discretionary bonus will increase from 20% of salary to 40%;
 - the maximum one-year formulaic bonus (the 'One-year Bonus') will increase from 30% of salary to 40% and
 - the maximum three-year formulaic bonus (the 'Long-Term Bonus') will increase from 50% of salary to 90%.
- In respect of Hurdle Rates, the one-year hurdle rate will become 3.0%, and the three-year hurdle rate will become 2.5%. (Currently the one-year hurdle rate is 2.5% and the three-year hurdle rate is 3.0%).
- The payment of all bonuses will be subject to increased deferral. 60% of all bonuses will be paid in March following the performance year end (the "First Bonus Payment Date") and the remaining 40% will be paid on a deferred basis over the subsequent three years in equal instalments on each anniversary of the First Bonus Payment Date. (Currently deferral only applies to half of the discretionary bonus and the One-year Bonus, which is paid after one further year.)
- Malus (where bonuses that have yet to be paid are forfeited) and clawback (whereby the CEO will be required to pay back part or all of a bonus that he has already received within 2 years after it has been paid) may be applied by the Remuneration Committee where:
- a) there has been material misstatement or error that caused an award to vest at a higher level

- b) than would otherwise have been the case;
- b) there has been a material failure in risk management; or
- c) there has been serious misconduct that has resulted or could result in dismissal.

- The CEO will be expected to maintain a significant holding of the Company's shares for his personal account. (To date there has not been any requirement to hold shares and all bonuses have been paid in cash.)
- All other terms of the CEO's remuneration arrangements will remain unchanged.

Catherine Claydon

Chairman of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee.

Annual report on remuneration

An ordinary resolution for the approval of this section of the Report (together with the Chairman's statement on page 46) will be put to members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The following section sets out the executive director's and the non-executive directors' remuneration for the year ended 31 December 2015. The information provided in this part of the Report has been audited by Deloitte LLP.

Single Total Figure Table for the Year (Audited) Non-executive directors

The following table shows the single figure of remuneration of the non-executive directors for the financial year ended 31 December 2015, together with the comparative figures for 2014:

	31 December 2015 Fees and total remuneration £ ⁽¹⁾	31 December 2014 Fees and total remuneration £ ^{(1) (2)}
J E B Bevan	30,000	29,250
R W Boyle	36,000	34,750
M C Claydon	34,000	33,250
H M Henderson	57,000	55,625
S E G A Neubert	30,000	29,250
R J Oldfield	30,000	29,250
A Watson	34,000	33,250
Total	251,000	244,625

Notes:

1. The non-executive directors are not entitled to any variable payments or benefits. No taxable benefits were paid in the year, although all reasonably incurred business expenses will be met.
2. Non-executive directors' fees were increased with effect from 1 April 2014.

Directors' Remuneration Report continued

CEO

The following table shows a single total figure of remuneration in respect of qualifying services for the financial year ending 31 December 2015 for the CEO, Mr A L C Bell, together with the comparative figures for 2014. Aggregate emoluments are shown in the last column of the table.

	Base pay ⁽¹⁾ £		Benefits ⁽²⁾ £		Annual Bonus ⁽³⁾ £		Long-Term Bonus ⁽³⁾ £		Pension related benefits £		Total £	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Mr A L C Bell	278,000	268,000	16,251	13,614	132,380	102,100	139,000	134,000	27,800	26,800	593,431	544,514

Notes:

- (1) Mr Bell is entitled to hold outside appointments and to retain any fees payable, subject to receiving the Board's permission. During 2015, in addition to the base salary set out above, Mr Bell received £52,154 (2014: £56,875) as director of Henderson High Income Trust plc and chairman of Gabelli Value Plus + Trust plc.
- (2) Taxable benefits include life assurance and health insurance.
- (3) Mr Bell's current service agreement provides that he is eligible to receive a bonus of up to 100% of his basic salary. The cash bonus arrangement consists of three separate elements:
- (i) Discretionary bonus
For a description of the terms of the discretionary bonus (including the performance measures), please see the policy report. The Committee reviewed Mr Bell's performance against the performance criteria, described on page 54, over the preceding year at its meeting in February 2016 to determine the appropriate level of the discretionary bonus that is payable for that year. Following that review, the Committee recommended, and the Board agreed, that Mr Bell should receive a discretionary bonus equal to 20% of his basic salary (£55,600) in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2015 (2014: 20%, £53,600).
 - (ii) One-year Bonus
For a description of the terms of the One-year Bonus (including the performance measures), please see the policy report. The Company outperformed its benchmark in 2015 by c2.3% (net asset value debt at par, excluding the effect of share buybacks) and therefore a bonus of £76,780 will be paid to Mr Bell based on the Company's financial performance for the year ending 31 December 2015 (2014: 1.5%, £48,500).
 - (iii) Long-Term Bonus
For a description of the terms of the Long-Term Bonus (including the performance measures), please see the policy report. The Company has outperformed its benchmark over the three financial years to 31 December 2015 by 11.2% (net asset value debt at par, excluding the effect of share buybacks) and therefore a Long-Term Bonus of £139,000 will be paid to Mr Bell (2014: 13.3%, £134,000).

Mr Bell's total variable remuneration in respect of the year ended 31 December 2015 is £271,380 (2014: £236,100).

As in previous years, payment of the discretionary bonus and the One-year Bonus will be partly deferred, with half paid in March 2016 and the remaining half in January 2017, subject to continuing employment. The Long-Term Bonus of £139,000 is payable in March 2016.

Scheme interests awarded during the financial year

No directors were awarded any interest over shares in the Company during the financial year ended 31 December 2015.

Payments to past directors

No payments were made to former directors of the Company during the financial year ended 31 December 2015 (2014: £nil).

Payments for loss of office

No loss of office payments were made to any person who has previously served as a director of the Company at any time during the financial year ended 31 December 2015 (2014: £nil).

Statement of directors' shareholdings

The interests of the CEO and the non-executive directors (including connected persons) in the Company's ordinary shares are shown in the table opposite. No share options or other share-based awards, with or without performance measures, were awarded to the CEO or to any non-executive director. There are no requirements or guidelines for the CEO or the non-executive directors to own shares in the Company.

	Shares held as at 31 December 2015	Shares held as at 31 December 2014
A L C Bell	120,000	120,000
J E B Bevan	—	—
R W Boyle	52,512	49,553
M C Claydon	47,326	47,131
H M Henderson	1,153,132 ⁽¹⁾	1,155,232 ⁽¹⁾
S E G A Neubert	9,537	4,398
R J Oldfield	21,500	21,500
A Watson	25,021	25,000

Note:

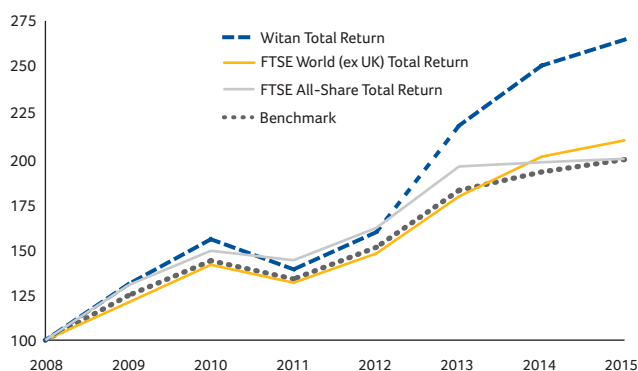
- (1) H M Henderson is the legal and beneficial owner of 722,732 shares in the Company and 430,400 shares in the Company are owned by connected persons.

Since the year end Mr Bell has bought 10,000 shares and now owns 130,000 shares and Mrs Claydon has acquired 1 share and now owns 47,327 shares. There have not been any other changes in the directors' interests.

None of the directors had an interest in the secured bonds, debenture stock or preference shares of the Company.

Total shareholder return performance graph

The line graph below sets out the Company's seven-year total shareholder return performance relative to the FTSE All-Share Index and the FTSE World (ex UK) Index (sterling adjusted). This line graph assumes a notional investment of £100 into the Indices on 31 December 2008 and the reinvestment of all income, excluding dealing expenses.



Source: Morningstar.

The Company is required to compare the Company's share price with a single broad equity market index. The Company has compared the share price total return against (i) a UK market index, namely the FTSE All-Share Index because the Company's shares are listed on the UK market and the UK forms the largest constituent of the Company's benchmark; and also (ii) a global index, namely the FTSE World (ex UK) Index because more than half of the Company's investments are held in overseas companies. The performance of the Company's benchmark is also shown.

CEO remuneration table

Year ended 31 December	CEO single figure of total remuneration £	Annual discretionary and One-year Bonus pay-out against maximum %	Long-Term Bonus pay-out against maximum %
2015 – Mr Bell	593,431	95.2	100.0
2014 – Mr Bell	544,514	76.2	100.0
2013 – Mr Bell	486,802	95.0	64.2
2012 – Mr Bell	400,535	86.5	13.7
2011 – Mr Bell	314,160	40.0	n/a
2010 – Mr Bell	409,495	100.0	n/a
2010 – Mr Clarke ⁽¹⁾	111,318	15.0	n/a
2009 – Mr Clarke ⁽¹⁾	253,273	30.0	n/a

Note:

(1) Mr R E Clarke was the CEO until 8 February 2010, when Mr Bell was appointed.

Percentage change in remuneration of CEO

The table below shows how the percentage change in the CEO's salary, benefits and bonus between 2014 and 2015 compares with the percentage increase in each of those components of pay for the Group's employees taken as a whole:

	Percentage increase in remuneration in 2015 compared with remuneration in 2014	
	CEO %	Employees %
Salary and fees	4	49
All taxable benefits	9	46
Annual bonuses (discretionary and One-year Bonus)	29	6
Long-Term Bonus	4	n/a
Total	9	44

The increase in the CEO's annual bonus in 2015 is primarily due to the better performance of the Company in 2015 than in 2014, which resulted in a higher percentage of the One-year Bonus being paid in respect of 2015 (see note 3(ii) on page 48).

The percentage increase for the employees' salary and fees and taxable benefits reflects an increase in the number of employees as well as salary increases.

Relative importance of spend on pay

Spend	2015 £000	2014 £000	Difference £000
Fees of non-executive directors	251	245	6
Remuneration paid to or receivable by all employees of the Group (including the CEO) in respect of the year ⁽¹⁾	1,103	860	243
Dividends paid to shareholders in respect of the year ended 31 December 2015	33,565	29,155	4,410
Share buybacks	–	363	(363)
Total payments to shareholders	33,565	29,518	4,047

Notes:

⁽¹⁾ Includes any accruals for future payment of the CEO's Long-Term Bonus, subject to performance being sustained and to his continued employment with the Company.

Statement of implementation of remuneration policy in 2016

The Company intends to implement the revised remuneration policy as detailed in the Chairman's Statement and in the policy section of the report with effect from 1 January 2016. There will not be any fee increases for non-executive directors in 2016.

Directors' Remuneration Report continued

Consideration by the directors of matters relating to directors' remuneration

The Board as a whole sets the fees that are payable to the non-executive directors and it has appointed the Committee to consider matters relating thereto. The Committee also considers the remuneration of the CEO and makes a recommendation on this to the Board for its approval.

As noted above (page 46), the Committee reviewed the terms of the CEO's remuneration during the year compared with information provided by McLagan. The Committee was not provided with any other advice or services, during the financial year ending 31 December 2015, in respect of the fees payable to the non-executive directors or the remuneration payable to the CEO.

The Committee assesses the workload and responsibilities of the non-executive directors and reviews, from time to time, the fees paid to non-executive directors of other investment trust companies.

Herbert Smith Freehills LLP provided legal advice to the Company throughout the year, including in relation to the operation of the Company's incentive arrangements and on the CEO's service agreement. This advice was available to be considered by the Committee.

The table below sets out the members of the Committee who were present during any consideration of the CEO's remuneration, and shows the number of meetings attended by each non-executive director:

Name	Number of meetings attended
M C Claydon	3/3
H M Henderson	3/3
R J Oldfield	3/3

Statement of shareholder voting

At the Annual General Meetings held on 30 April 2015 and 30 April 2014 respectively, ordinary resolutions to approve the Directors' Remuneration Report for the year ended 31 December 2014 and to approve the remuneration policy were passed on a show of hands. The proxy votes in each case were as follows:

Votes for	Votes against	Votes at proxies' discretion	Votes withheld	Total votes cast (excluding votes withheld)
Approval of Directors' Remuneration Report				
22,468,888	108,243	65,995	60,267	22,643,126
99.2%	0.5%	0.3%	–	100%
Approval of Remuneration Policy				
24,151,328	419,308	75,393	313,413	24,646,029
98.0%	1.7%	0.3%	–	100%

The Company is committed to ongoing shareholder dialogue and takes an active interest in voting outcomes. Where there are substantial votes against resolutions in relation to directors' remuneration, the reasons for any such vote will be sought and any actions in response will be detailed in future Directors' Remuneration Reports. There were no substantial shareholder votes against the resolutions at the Annual General Meeting in 2015.

Remuneration policy

A report on the Company's remuneration policy in accordance with the new Regulations was submitted for the first time in the 2013 Annual Report. An ordinary resolution for the approval of the policy was put to members at the AGM on 30 April 2014 and passed by the members. This policy took effect from 1 January 2015.

As set out on page 46, the Committee proposes to amend certain elements of the CEO's remuneration with effect from 1 January 2016 and accordingly a revised policy will be put to shareholders at the AGM in April 2016. All provisions of the revised policy, if it is approved by shareholders, are expected, in the absence of regulatory or other reasons for change, to remain in effect until the AGM in 2019 when the Company will next be required to submit its remuneration policy to its members.

Non-executive directors

All the directors are non-executive, with the exception of the CEO. New directors are appointed for an initial term ending three years from the date of their first annual general meeting after appointment and with the expectation that they will serve two three-year terms. The continuation of directors' appointments is contingent on satisfactory performance evaluation and re-election at annual general meetings. Non-executive directors' appointments are reviewed formally every three years by the Board as a whole. Each of the non-executive directors has a letter of appointment which sets out the terms on which they provide their services. A non-executive director may resign by notice in writing to the Board at any time; there are no set notice periods.

Remuneration policy for non-executive directors

The following table provides a summary of the key elements of the remuneration of the non-executive directors:

	Purpose	Operation
Fees	<p>Fees payable to the directors should reflect the time committed to the Company's affairs and should be sufficient to enable candidates of high calibre to be recruited.</p> <p>There are no performance-related elements and no fees are subject to clawback provisions.</p>	<p>Non-executive directors are to be remunerated in the form of fees, payable monthly in arrears, to the director personally or to a third party specified by him or her. There are no long-term incentive schemes or pension arrangements and the fees are not specifically related to their performance, either individually or collectively.</p> <p>The Committee determines the level of fee at its discretion. The fees are reviewed each year, although such review will not necessarily result in any increase in the fees. Proposed increases in fees are determined in the light of increases in inflation and in the Company's share price, net asset value and dividend payments.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Board, the Chairmen of the Board's Committees and the Senior Independent Director are paid higher fees than the other non-executive directors in recognition of their more onerous roles (see below).</p> <p>The Chairman of the Board receives a fee of £57,000 per annum. The Senior Independent Director receives a fee of £4,000 in addition to the annual base fee.</p> <p>Each non-executive director's annual base fee is £30,000.</p> <p>Additional fees are payable as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Chairman of Audit Committee £6,000; → Chairman of Remuneration and Nomination Committee £4,000. <p>All of the above fees took effect on 1 April 2014. The maximum amount of fees, in aggregate, that may be paid to non-executive directors in any financial year is £350,000 following approval by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting in April 2014.</p>

Directors' and officers' liability insurance cover is held by the Company in respect of all the directors (including the CEO).

Directors' Remuneration Report continued

Remuneration policy for the CEO (and any future executive director)

Currently the Company operates with one executive director, the CEO. This policy applies to the CEO, but would also be applied to any other executive director appointed by the Company.

	Purpose and link to strategy	Operation and clawback	Maximum opportunity	Performance measures
Base salary	<p>Base salary is set at market competitive levels in order to recruit and retain an executive director of a suitably high calibre.</p> <p>The level of pay reflects a number of factors including individual experience, expertise and pay appropriate to the position.</p>	Base salary is reviewed annually and fixed for 12 months.	<p>The Committee has agreed to increase the CEO's salary, with effect from 1 January 2016, by 1% to £281,000 per annum.</p> <p>Year-on-year, salary increases for any executive director will not exceed 10% per annum other than in times of abnormal inflation or other exceptional circumstances, in which case the increase will not exceed 20%.</p>	Not applicable.
Benefits-in-kind	Offering market-competitive level of benefits-in-kind to help recruit or retain an executive director of a suitably high calibre.	<p>An executive director may be eligible to receive a range of benefits including some or all of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → private medical insurance for the executive director and their family; → death in service insurance; → business-related expenses. <p>Where benefits are sourced through third party providers, the expense will reflect the cost of the provision of the benefits from time to time but will be kept under review by the Committee.</p>	<p>The maximum benefit that can be offered or paid to an executive director is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → private medical insurance provided on a family basis; → death in service insurance of 4 times base salary; → business-related expenses. 	Not applicable.
Pension	Offering market-competitive levels of guaranteed cash earnings to help recruit or retain an executive director of a suitably high calibre.	The CEO currently receives a cash payment, equal to 10% of base salary, in lieu of pension contributions.	The maximum cash payment in lieu of pension contributions is 10% of base salary.	Not applicable.

	Purpose and link to strategy	Operation and clawback	Maximum opportunity	Performance measures
Discretionary bonus	The purpose of the bonus arrangements is to incentivise the CEO to maximise the Company's performance and its return to shareholders.	<p>The CEO is eligible to receive a discretionary bonus of up to 40% (previously 20%) of basic annual salary. The Committee will review the CEO's performance against the performance criteria to determine the appropriate level of bonus payable in respect of the preceding year.</p> <p>The Committee may change the terms of this bonus or reduce any bonus payment that would otherwise be payable in order to comply with any relevant current or future regulations, including the FCA Remuneration Code. See note 2 on page 54 for the operation of deferral, malus and clawback.</p>	The maximum cash bonus payable to any executive director is 40% (previously 20%) of base salary.	Please see Note 1 on page 54 for details of the performance measures subject to the CEO's discretionary bonus.
One-year Bonus	The purpose of the bonus arrangements is to incentivise the CEO to maximise the Company's performance and its return to shareholders.	<p>The CEO is eligible to receive a bonus of up to 40% (previously 30%) of base salary by reference to the performance of the Company over the previous financial year.</p> <p>The Committee may change the terms of this bonus or reduce any bonus payment that would otherwise be payable in order to comply with any relevant current or future regulations, including the FCA Remuneration Code. See note 2 on page 54 for the operation of deferral, malus and clawback.</p>	The maximum cash bonus payable to any executive director is 40% (previously 30%) of base salary.	Please see Note 1 on page 54 for details of the performance measures subject to the CEO's One-year Bonus.
Long-Term Bonus	The purpose of the bonus arrangements is to incentivise the CEO to maximise the Company's performance and its return to shareholders.	<p>The CEO is eligible to receive a bonus of up to 90% (previously 50%) of base salary by reference to the performance of the Company over the previous three financial years.</p> <p>The Committee may, with shareholder approval as appropriate, change the terms of this bonus or reduce any bonus payment that would otherwise be payable in order to comply with any relevant current or future regulations, including the FCA Remuneration Code. See note 2 on page 54 for the operation of deferral, malus and clawback.</p>	The maximum cash bonus payable to any executive director is 90% (previously 50%) of base salary.	Please see Note 1 on page 54 for details of the performance measures subject to the CEO's Long-Term Bonus.

Directors' Remuneration Report continued

Notes:

1. Performance measures

Mr Bell's service agreement, as amended, provides that he is eligible to receive a bonus of up to 170% (previously 100%) of his basic salary. The cash bonus arrangement consists of three separate elements as set out below:

(i) Discretionary bonus

Each year Mr Bell is eligible to receive, at the absolute discretion of the Committee, a cash bonus of up to 40% (previously 20%) of his basic annual salary. The Committee has determined a number of criteria that it takes into account, including the management and administration of the Company and reporting to the Board, shareholders and other stakeholders, on which to judge his performance.

(ii) One-year Bonus

Each year Mr Bell is eligible to receive an additional cash bonus of up to 40% (previously 30%) of his basic annual salary. The bonus will be determined by the Company's net asset value per share total return performance over the previous financial year (debt at par, excluding the effect of share buybacks or issuance) relative to its benchmark. Outperformance of the benchmark by 3.0% (previously 2.5%) or more will generate a bonus of the full 40%. No bonus is payable if performance is in line with or below that of the benchmark. Relative performance of between nil and 3.0% will generate a pro rata bonus. (The benchmark (the 'Benchmark') is a composite of 40% FTSE All-Share Index, 20% FTSE All-World North America Index, 20% FTSE All-World Europe (ex UK) Index and 20% FTSE All-World Asia Pacific Index, all on a total return basis.)

(iii) Long-Term Bonus

Each year Mr Bell is eligible to receive a Long-Term Bonus of up to 90% (previously 50%) of his basic annual salary by reference to the Company's performance over the previous three financial years. The Long-Term Bonus will be determined by reference to the Company's net asset value per share total return (debt at par, excluding the effect of share buybacks or issuance) relative to its benchmark, as set out in the Company's audited annual accounts for the applicable financial years. Compounded average annual outperformance of the Benchmark by an average of 2.5% (previously 3%) per annum or more will generate a bonus of the full 90%. No bonus is payable if performance is in line with or below that of the Benchmark. Relative performance of between nil and 2.5% per annum will generate a pro rata bonus.

The Long-Term Bonus will be halved if, despite outperformance of the Benchmark over the relevant three financial years, the Company's net asset value total return per share is negative over that period.

Subject to shareholder approval, the Long-Term Bonus will be payable for the first time on this new basis in respect of the three-year period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018. The discretionary bonus and the One-year Bonus will both be payable for the first time on this basis in respect of the one-year period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

2. Deferral, malus and clawback

2.1 Deferral

All bonuses will be subject to deferral in terms of payment. 60% of any bonus will be paid in March following the performance year end ("First Bonus Payment Date"). 40% of all bonuses will be payable on a deferred basis over the following three years, in equal instalments on each anniversary of the First Bonus Payment Date.

2.2 Malus

Malus (where bonuses that have yet to be paid are forfeited) may be applied by the Remuneration Committee where:

- there has been material misstatement or error that causes an award to vest at a higher level than would otherwise have been the case;
- there has been a material failure in risk management;
- there has been serious misconduct that has or could result in dismissal.

2.3 Clawback

Any bonus will be subject to a clawback period of 2 years after it has been paid, whereby the CEO will be required to pay back part or all of any bonus already received. Clawback may be applied by the Remuneration Committee where:

- there has been material misstatement or error that causes an award to vest at a higher level than would otherwise have been the case;
- there has been a material failure in risk management;
- there has been serious misconduct that has or could result in dismissal.

3. Legacy plans

The Committee reserves the right to make remuneration payments and payments for loss of office that are not in line with the policy set out above (i) where the terms of such a payment were agreed before the policy came into effect or at a time when the relevant individual was not a director of the Company and (ii) in the opinion of the Committee, such a payment is not in consideration of the individual becoming a director of the Company. For these purposes, payments include the Committee making awards of variable remuneration.

4. Differences in the Company's remuneration policy for directors as compared to employees

The remuneration policy for the executive director differs principally from that for employees in that the executive director's remuneration is more heavily weighted towards variable pay so that a greater proportion of his pay is related to the Company's performance and the value created for shareholders.

Principles and approach to recruitment and internal promotion of directors

Non-executive directors

- 1) Remuneration of non-executive directors should reflect the specific circumstances of the Company and the duties and responsibilities of the non-executive directors. It should provide appropriate compensation for the experience and time committed to the proper oversight of the affairs of the Company.
- 2) Non-executive directors are not eligible to receive bonuses, pension benefits, share options or other benefits.
- 3) The total remuneration of the non-executive directors is determined by the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association and by shareholder resolution.
- 4) The basic non-executive director's fee will be paid to each non-executive director, with a higher fee per annum for the Chairman of the Company. An additional fee per annum will be paid to the Chairman of each of the Audit and Remuneration and Nomination Committees and to the Chairman of any other Committees that the Company forms; and to the Senior Independent Director.

Executive directors

- 1) When hiring a new executive director, or promoting to the Board from within the Group, the Committee will offer a package that is sufficient to retain and motivate and, if relevant, attract the right talent whilst paying no more than is necessary.
- 2) Ordinarily, remuneration for a new executive director will be in line with the policy set out in the table.
- 3) The maximum level of variable pay that may be awarded to a new director on recruitment or on promotion to the Board shall be limited to 170% of base salary (calculated at the date of grant, excluding any buy-out awards – see below).
- 4) The Committee may, where it considers it to be in the best interests of the Company and shareholders, offer an additional cash payment to an executive director in

order to replace awards which would be foregone by the individual on leaving his/her previous employment (i.e. buy-out arrangements) which will be intended to mirror forfeited awards as far as possible by reflecting the value, nature, time horizons and performance measures.

Letters of appointment/service contract

Non-executive directors' letters of appointment

The non-executive directors all have letters of appointment, which may be inspected at the Company's registered office. None of the non-executive directors is subject to any notice period. All continuing non-executive directors are required to stand for re-election by the shareholders at least every three years. The initial period of appointment is two terms of three years. All reasonably incurred expenses will be met.

Mr Henderson, Mr Bell, Mr Boyle and Mr Watson are proposed for re-election at the Annual General Meeting in April 2016.

CEO's service contract

The CEO's service contract with the Company may be inspected at the Company's registered office. The CEO's service agreement dated 3 February 2010, as amended, provided in 2015 for a salary of £278,000 (2014: £268,000) per annum. The salary has been increased to £281,000 with effect from 1 January 2016. Mr Bell's appointment may be terminated by either party on the giving or receiving of not less than nine months' written notice.

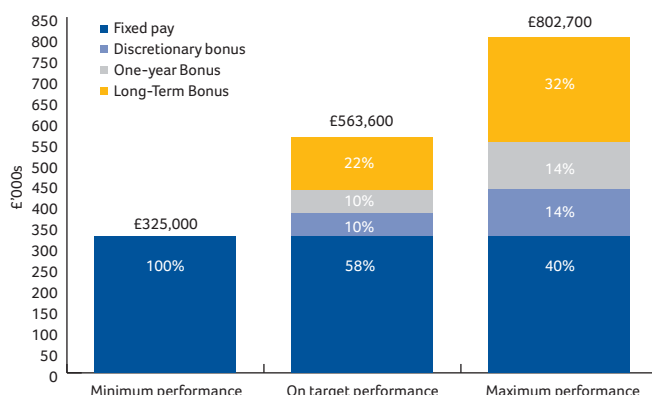
Please see 'Policy on payment for loss of office' (below) for further details of the CEO's service contract.

Illustration of application of remuneration policy

The chart on page 56 shows an indication of the values of the CEO's remuneration that would be received by the CEO in accordance with the revised remuneration policy for the first full year (i.e. year ending 31 December 2018) in which the policy applies at three direct levels of performance:

- minimum performance, i.e. fixed salary, taxable benefits and payment in lieu of pension contributions, with no bonus pay-out;
- on-target performance, fixed pay plus bonus payments assuming a 50% pay-out of each of the discretionary, One-year and Long-Term Bonuses; and
- maximum performance, fixed pay plus bonus payments assuming 100% pay-out of each of the discretionary, One-year and Long-Term Bonuses.

Directors' Remuneration Report continued



Policy on payment for loss of office

Non-executive directors

None of the non-executive directors is subject to any notice period. It is the Company's policy not to enter into any arrangement with any of the non-executive directors to entitle any of the non-executive directors to compensation for loss of office.

CEO (and any future executive directors)

The Company's policy is to agree a notice period for the CEO which would not exceed nine months.

The Company may, in its absolute discretion and without any obligation to do so, terminate the CEO's employment immediately by giving him written notice together with a payment of such sum as would have been payable by the Company to the CEO as salary (excluding future bonus accrual) in respect of his notice period. The Company may, at its discretion, make the termination payment in instalments over a period of no longer than six months from the termination date and on terms that any payment should be reduced to take account of mitigation by the CEO.

If a new executive director is recruited, the Company's policy regarding payments for loss of office will be the same as for the CEO.

If the CEO ceases employment as a result of a good leaver reason (i.e. death, ill-health, injury, disability, redundancy, retirement or due to any other circumstance that the Committee at its discretion permits), any bonus payment shall be pro-rated for time and performance. The Committee may, however, taking into account such factors as it considers appropriate, increase the proportion of the relevant bonus that becomes payable. If the CEO ceases employment other than as a 'good leaver', or if the CEO gives or receives notice prior to the date that the relevant bonus would otherwise have been paid, the CEO will forfeit any right to receive the relevant bonus for nil consideration unless the Committee, in its absolute discretion, determines otherwise.

A change of control of the Company shall not affect the amount of any bonus or the date on which it becomes payable unless the Committee determines otherwise, in which case the Committee shall determine whether the pro-rated performance targets attached to the applicable bonuses have been satisfied at that time.

If the Committee determines that the pro-rated performance targets have not been satisfied on the change of control, the applicable bonus shall immediately lapse unless the Committee determines otherwise. To the extent that the Committee determines that the pro-rated performance targets have been satisfied on the change of control, if the CEO ceases to be employed by the Company prior to the date that the applicable bonus would otherwise have been paid to the CEO other than as a result of:

- a reason which would have justified his summary dismissal;
- his cessation of employment without the giving or receiving of notice; or
- his resignation

the applicable bonus shall become payable to the extent determined at the time of the change of control on, or as soon as practicable after, the CEO's cessation of employment.

Statement of consideration of conditions elsewhere in the Company

The Committee considers the employment conditions, including salary increases, of employees other than the CEO when setting the CEO's remuneration.

The Company did not consult with employees when drawing up the remuneration policy.

Where possible, the Committee benchmarks the remuneration of the employees and CEO by obtaining details of remuneration paid to employees in comparable roles in other companies.

Statement of consideration of shareholder views

The Company places great importance on communication with its shareholders. The Company had frequent meetings with institutional shareholders and City analysts throughout the year to 31 December 2015 and met with shareholders in general at the Annual General Meeting held in 2015 and can confirm that it is not aware of negative views being expressed by shareholders in relation to its policy on Directors' Remuneration.

Approval

This report was approved by the Board of directors on 8 March 2016 and is signed on its behalf by:

Catherine Claydon

Chairman of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee
8 March 2016

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

in respect of the Annual Report, the Directors' Remuneration Report and the financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors are required to prepare the Group financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRSs') as adopted by the European Union ('EU') and Article 4 of the EU IAS Regulation and have also chosen to prepare the parent company financial statements under IFRSs as adopted by the EU. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, International Accounting Standard 1 requires that directors:

- properly select and apply accounting policies;
- 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 entity's financial position and financial performance; and
- make an assessment of the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Responsibility statement

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge:

- the financial statements, prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole;
- the Strategic Report includes 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 (on pages 20 and 21) of the principal risks and uncertainties that they face; and
- the financial statements, taken as a whole, are fair, balanced and understandable, and provide the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's position, performance, business model and strategy.

By order of the Board

H M Henderson
Chairman
8 March 2016

A L C Bell
Chief Executive
8 March 2016

Report of the Directors

Strategic Report

Statutory Information

Corporate Governance

Financial Statements

Other Information

Note to those who access this document by electronic means

The Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2015 has been approved by the Board of Witan Investment Trust plc. Copies of the Annual Report and the Half Year Report are circulated to shareholders, to those who hold shares through Witan Investment Services Limited's savings schemes and, where possible, to investors through other providers' products and nominee companies (or written notification is sent when they are published online). It is also made available in electronic format for the convenience of readers. Printed copies are available from the Company's Registered Office in London.

Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive

Witan Investment Trust plc is an 'alternative investment fund' ('AIF') for the purposes of the EU Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (Directive 2011/61/EU) (the 'AIFMD') and the Company has appointed its subsidiary, Witan Investment Services Limited ('WIS'), to act as its AIFM. WIS is authorised and regulated by the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority as a 'full scope UK AIFM'.

The Company is required to make certain disclosures available to investors in accordance with the AIFMD. Those disclosures that are required to be made pre-investment are included within the Investor Disclosure Document ('IDD') which can be found on the Company's website www.witan.com. There have not been any material changes to the disclosures contained within the IDD since its publication in July 2014.

The Company and AIFM also wish to make the following disclosures to investors:

- the investment strategy, geographic and sector investment focus and principal stock exposures are included in the Strategic Report. A list of the top 50 portfolio holdings is included on page 26;
- none of the Company's assets is subject to special arrangements arising from their illiquid nature;
- the Strategic Report and note 14 to the accounts set out the risk profile and risk management systems in place. There have been no changes to the risk management systems in place in the period under review and no breaches of any of the risk limits set, with no breach expected;
- there are no new arrangements for managing the liquidity of the Company or any material changes to the liquidity management systems and procedures employed by the Company; and
- all authorised Alternative Investment Fund Managers are required to comply with the AIFMD Remuneration Code. The relevant disclosures required are set out below.

Remuneration

During the year ended 31 December 2015, WIS had 11 members of staff and directors. The total remuneration paid during this period was:

	Senior Management (9) £'000	Staff (2) £'000
Fixed remuneration	871	176
Variable remuneration	305	17
Total	1,176	193

WIS has only one AIF, the Company. Further details of the Company's Remuneration Policy for its directors are set out in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 50 to 56.

Leverage

Circumstances when the Company may use leverage

The purpose of using leverage, through borrowing, known as gearing, is to improve (or "gear") returns for shareholders, by achieving investment returns higher than the interest cost of the borrowings. Accordingly, attention is paid to using a level of gearing appropriate for market conditions (put simply, borrowing more when markets are attractively valued and borrowing less at times when returns are expected to be poorer). In addition, a blend of long-term and short-term borrowings is used, to balance the certainty of cost associated with locking in fixed rates for longer periods with the flexibility of using short-term facilities which can be readily repaid when they are not required.

In a rising market, gearing will tend to enhance returns because of the investment fund's increased exposure to the market. By the same token, however, it will tend to increase losses triggered by a falling market.

Types and sources of leverage permitted

The Company has £185 million of long-term debt, consisting of debenture, secured bonds, fixed rate loan notes and preference share capital but this will reduce to £140 million when the debenture is repaid in October 2016. The Company also has a £50 million one-year facility, providing additional flexibility over the level of gearing, as well as enabling the Company to borrow in other currencies than sterling, if deemed appropriate. The Company may either invest its borrowings fully, or neutralise their effect with cash balances (or the sale of equity index futures) according to its assessment of the markets.

Restrictions on the use of leverage

The Company's delegated investment managers are not permitted to borrow within their portfolios but may hold cash if deemed appropriate.

The maximum level of leverage which the AIFM is entitled to employ on behalf of the Company

The Company has the legal power under its Articles of Association to borrow up to 100% of the adjusted total of shareholders' funds (and WIS has agreed to set the maximum leverage level at that 100% level). This is subject to practical constraints including a test of prudence and the long-standing policy is not to allow gearing to rise to more than 20%, other than temporarily in exceptional circumstances. Over the past five years it has generally varied between 5% and 15% and where appropriate the Company may hold a small net cash position.

Under AIFMD the Company is required to calculate leverage under the two methodologies specified by the Directive, the 'Gross Method' and the 'Commitment Method', the difference being that the Commitment Method allows certain exposures to be offset or netted.

The table below sets out the current maximum permitted limit and the actual level of leverage for the Company, as a percentage of adjusted shareholders' funds:

	Gross method %	Commitment method %
Maximum level	100	100
Actual level at 31 December 2015	10.7	14.3

The current difference between the two methods is that the Commitment Method allows certain exposures to be netted off (for example hedging, although currently this is not applicable) and projects what gearing would be if cash held at the year end were to be invested. The Gross Method produces a level in line with our own calculation, consistent with the actual historical numbers for gearing as defined on page 3.

There have not been any changes to the maximum level of leverage that the AIFM may employ on behalf of the Company or any changes to the right of reuse of collateral or any guarantee granted under the leveraging arrangements.

It is the Company's policy that leveraging arrangements are not collateralised.

Independent Auditor's Report

to the members of Witan Investment Trust plc

Opinion on financial statements of Witan Investment Trust plc

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 December 2015 and of the Group's profit for the year then ended;
- the Group financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (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.

The financial statements comprise the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, Consolidated and Individual Company Statements of Changes in Equity, Consolidated and Individual Company Balance Sheets, Consolidated and Individual Company Cash Flow Statements and the related notes 1 to 25. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and 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.

Separate opinion in relation to IFRSs as issued by the IASB

As explained in note 1 to the financial statements, in addition to complying with its legal obligation to apply IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, the Group has also applied IFRSs as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

In our opinion the financial statements comply with IFRSs as issued by the IASB.

Going concern and the Directors' assessment of the principal risks that would threaten the solvency or liquidity of the Trust

As required by the Listing Rules we have reviewed the Directors' statement regarding the appropriateness of the going concern basis of accounting contained within note 1 to the financial statements and the Directors' Statement on the longer term viability of the Group contained within the Strategic Report.

We have nothing material to add or draw attention to in relation to:

- the Directors' confirmation on page 20 that they have carried out a robust assessment of the principal risks facing the Trust, including those that would threaten its business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity;
- the disclosures on pages 20 and 21 that describe those risks and explain how they are being managed or mitigated;
- the Directors' statement in note 1(b) to the financial statements of the Annual Report about whether they considered it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing them and their identification of any material uncertainties to the Group's ability to continue to do so over a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements;
- the Directors' explanation on page 22 as to how they have assessed the prospects of the Group, over what period they have done so and why they consider that period to be appropriate, and their statement as to whether they have a reasonable expectation that the Group will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due over the period of their assessment, including any related disclosures drawing attention to any necessary qualifications or assumptions.

We agreed with the Directors' adoption of the going concern basis of accounting and we did not identify any material uncertainties. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Independence

We are required to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors and we confirm that we are independent of the Group and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those standards. We also confirm we have not provided any of the prohibited non-audit services referred to in those standards.

Our assessment of risks of material misstatement

The assessed risks of material misstatement described below are those that had the greatest effect on our audit strategy, the allocation of resources in the audit and directing the efforts of the engagement team:

Risk

How the scope of our audit responded to the risk

Valuation of investments of the Group

The investments balance, as set out in note 10 to the financial statements, of £1.71 billion (2014: £1.55 billion) is the most quantitatively significant balance on the balance sheet and is an area of focus because it is the main driver of the Group's performance. There is a risk that the investments are not recorded at their fair value, as described in accounting policy 1(h).

To test the valuation of investments as at 31 December 2015, we performed the following:

- for all investments with prices quoted in an active market, valued at £1.6 billion (2014: £1.4 billion), we have obtained and reviewed the custodian ISAE 3402 report for controls regarding investment valuations and have further agreed the bid prices to an independent pricing source;
- we critically assessed the valuation techniques applied to Other Investments, £68 million (2014: £107 million), and obtained evidence, such as independently obtained confirmations and challenged management judgement, to corroborate valuations used.

Ownership of investments

The investment balance is the most quantitatively significant balance on the balance sheet. The risk that the Group does not hold the rights and obligations to these investments could materially impact the financial statements

To test the ownership of investment balances as at 31 December 2015 we performed the following:

- assessed the ownership of all investments at year end by obtaining independent third party confirmations directly from the depositary and agreeing them to the schedule of investments held at year end. We also reviewed the assessment performed by the Board relating to custody controls, including their review of the custodian's ISAE 3402 report; and
- performed detailed testing on a sample of purchases and sales made during the year and performed testing on trades made around the year-end period to determine whether transactions have been recorded in the correct period.

The description of risks above should be read in conjunction with the significant issues considered by the Audit Committee discussed on page 44.

These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Independent Auditor's Report continued

Our application of materiality

We define materiality as the magnitude of misstatement in the financial statements that makes it probable that the economic decisions of a reasonably knowledgeable person would be changed or influenced. We use materiality both in planning the scope of our audit work and in evaluating the results of our work.

We determined materiality for the Group to be £15.8 million (2014: £14 million), which has been determined using 1% of total equity. Total equity has been chosen as a benchmark as it is considered the most relevant benchmark for investors.

We agreed with the Audit Committee that we would report to the Committee all known audit errors in excess of £10,000 (2014: £10,000), as well as differences below that threshold that, in our view, warranted reporting on qualitative grounds. We also report to the Audit Committee on disclosure matters that we identified when assessing the overall presentation of the financial statements.

An overview of the scope of our audit

Our Group audit was scoped by obtaining an understanding of the Group and its environment, including group-wide controls, and assessing the risks of material misstatement at the group level. Audit work to respond to the risks of material misstatement for all entities in the Group was performed directly by the audit engagement team.

Our Group audit scope also included the audit of Witan Investment Services (WIS) and we have audited 100% of the Company to Group materiality for the year ended 31 December 2015. The audit of WIS was performed for local statutory purposes at the level of materiality applicable to the entity, £42,956 (2014: £37,347), which was lower than Group materiality.

As the accounting is performed by service organisations, we obtained an understanding of how the Group uses service organisations in its operations and evaluated the design and implementation of relevant controls at the Group that relate to the services provided by service organisations. We reviewed the latest reports on internal controls from the service organisations and contacted them directly to obtain specific information we needed to conduct our audit.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion:

- the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Adequacy of explanations received and accounting records
Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- 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 are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Directors' remuneration

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are also required to report if in our opinion certain disclosures of directors' remuneration have not been made or the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited is not in agreement with the accounting records and returns. We have nothing to report arising from these matters.

Corporate Governance Statement

Under the Listing Rules we are also required to review the part of the Corporate Governance Statement relating to the company's compliance with certain provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code. We have nothing to report arising from our review.

Our duty to read other information in the Annual Report

Under International Standards on Auditing (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
- 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. We confirm that we have not identified any such inconsistencies or misleading statements.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, 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). We also comply with International Standard on Quality Control 1 (UK and Ireland). Our audit methodology and tools aim to ensure that our quality control procedures are effective, understood and applied. Our quality controls and systems include our dedicated professional standards review team, and independent partner reviews.

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.

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.

Andrew Partridge (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Deloitte LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
London, United Kingdom

8 March 2016

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2015			Year ended 31 December 2014		
		Revenue return £'000	Capital return £'000	Total £'000	Revenue return £'000	Capital return £'000	Total £'000
Investment income	2	45,818	–	45,818	38,297	–	38,297
Other income	3	1,460	–	1,460	1,440	–	1,440
Gains on investments held at fair value through profit or loss	10	–	64,563	64,563	–	79,073	79,073
Total income		47,278	64,563	111,841	39,737	79,073	118,810
Expenses							
Management and performance fees	4	(1,747)	(9,539)	(11,286)	(1,541)	(7,623)	(9,164)
Other expenses	5	(5,309)	(101)	(5,410)	(4,798)	(101)	(4,899)
Profit before finance costs and taxation		40,222	54,923	95,145	33,398	71,349	104,747
Finance costs	6	(2,484)	(7,199)	(9,683)	(2,115)	(6,095)	(8,210)
Profit before taxation		37,738	47,724	85,462	31,283	65,254	96,537
Taxation	7	(1,779)	–	(1,779)	(1,218)	–	(1,218)
Profit attributable to equity shareholders of the parent company		35,959	47,724	83,683	30,065	65,254	95,319
Earnings per ordinary share	9	18.49p	24.54p	43.03p	15.88p	34.47p	50.35p

The total column of this statement represents the Group's Statement of Comprehensive Income, prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union.

The revenue return and capital columns are supplementary to this and are prepared under guidance published by the Association of Investment Companies.

The Group does not have any other comprehensive income and hence the total profit, as disclosed above, is the same as the Group's total comprehensive income.

All items in the above statement derive from continuing operations.

The net profit for the year of the Company was £83,683,000 (2014: £95,319,000).

All income is attributable to the equity holders of Witan Investment Trust plc, the parent company. There are no minority interests.

The notes on pages 68 to 89 form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated and Individual Company Statements of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 December 2015

Group

Year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	Ordinary share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Other capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Total equity at 31 December 2014		47,390	18,106	46,498	1,274,185	55,068	1,441,247
Total comprehensive income:							
Profit for the year		–	–	–	47,724	35,959	83,683
Transactions with owners, recorded directly to equity:							
Ordinary dividends paid	8	–	–	–	–	(31,373)	(31,373)
Issue of ordinary shares	15,16	2,628	81,145	–	–	–	83,773
Total equity at 31 December 2015		50,018	99,251	46,498	1,321,909	59,654	1,577,330

Company

Year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	Ordinary share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Other capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Total equity at 31 December 2014		47,390	18,106	46,498	1,274,479	54,774	1,441,247
Total comprehensive income:							
Profit for the year		–	–	–	48,038	35,645	83,683
Transactions with owners, recorded directly to equity:							
Ordinary dividends paid	8	–	–	–	–	(31,373)	(31,373)
Issue of ordinary shares	15,16	2,628	81,145	–	–	–	83,773
Total equity at 31 December 2015		50,018	99,251	46,498	1,322,517	59,046	1,577,330

Group

Year ended 31 December 2014

	Notes	Ordinary share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Other capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Total equity at 31 December 2013		47,328	16,237	46,498	1,208,931	53,950	1,372,944
Total comprehensive income:							
Profit for the year		–	–	–	65,254	30,065	95,319
Transactions with owners, recorded directly to equity:							
Ordinary dividends paid	8	–	–	–	–	(28,947)	(28,947)
Buybacks of ordinary shares	15,16	–	–	–	(363)	–	(363)
Issue of ordinary shares	15,16	62	1,869	–	363	–	2,294
Total equity at 31 December 2014		47,390	18,106	46,498	1,274,185	55,068	1,441,247

Company

Year ended 31 December 2014

	Notes	Ordinary share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Other capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Total equity at 31 December 2013		47,328	16,237	46,498	1,209,070	53,811	1,372,944
Total comprehensive income:							
Profit for the year		–	–	–	65,409	29,910	95,319
Transactions with owners, recorded directly to equity:							
Ordinary dividends paid	8	–	–	–	–	(28,947)	(28,947)
Buybacks of ordinary shares	15,16	–	–	–	(363)	–	(363)
Issue of ordinary shares	15,16	62	1,869	–	363	–	2,294
Total equity at 31 December 2014		47,390	18,106	46,498	1,274,479	54,774	1,441,247

The notes on pages 68 to 89 form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated and Individual Company Balance Sheets

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	Group 31 December 2015 £'000	Company 31 December 2015 £'000	Group 31 December 2014 £'000	Company 31 December 2014 £'000
Non current assets					
Investments held at fair value through profit or loss	10	1,708,728	1,710,236	1,552,278	1,553,472
Current assets					
Other receivables	11	7,255	6,547	6,931	6,922
Cash and cash equivalents		57,587	56,582	46,554	45,136
		64,842	63,129	53,485	52,058
Total assets		1,773,570	1,773,365	1,605,763	1,605,530
Current liabilities					
Other payables	12	(8,265)	(8,060)	(9,088)	(8,855)
8½ per cent. Debenture Stock 2016	13	(44,583)	(44,583)	–	–
Bank loans		(3,000)	(3,000)	(45,000)	(45,000)
		(55,848)	(55,643)	(54,088)	(53,855)
Total assets less current liabilities		1,717,722	1,717,722	1,551,675	1,551,675
Non current liabilities					
At amortised cost:					
8½ per cent. Debenture Stock 2016	13	–	–	(44,581)	(44,581)
6.125 per cent. Secured Bonds due 2025	13	(63,354)	(63,354)	(63,292)	(63,292)
3.29 per cent. Secured Notes due 2035	13	(20,491)	(20,491)	–	–
3.47 per cent. Secured Notes due 2045	13	(53,992)	(53,992)	–	–
3.4 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1	13, 17	(2,055)	(2,055)	(2,055)	(2,055)
2.7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1	13, 17	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)
		(140,392)	(140,392)	(110,428)	(110,428)
Net assets		1,577,330	1,577,330	1,441,247	1,441,247
Equity attributable to equity holders					
Ordinary share capital	15	50,018	50,018	47,390	47,390
Share premium account	16	99,251	99,251	18,106	18,106
Capital redemption reserve	16	46,498	46,498	46,498	46,498
Retained earnings:					
Other capital reserves	16	1,321,909	1,322,517	1,274,185	1,274,479
Revenue reserve	16	59,654	59,046	55,068	54,774
Total equity		1,577,330	1,577,330	1,441,247	1,441,247
Net asset value per ordinary share	18	788.39p	788.39p	760.31p	760.31p

The financial statements of Witan Investment Trust plc (registered number 101625) were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 8 March 2016 and were signed on their behalf by

H M Henderson

A L C Bell

The notes on pages 68 to 89 form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated and Individual Company Cash Flow Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	Group 2015 £'000	Company 2015 £'000	Group 2014 £'000	Company 2014 £'000
Operating activities					
Profit before taxation		85,462	85,462	96,537	96,537
Interest paid	6	9,683	9,683	8,210	8,210
Gains on investments held at fair value through profit or loss	10	(64,563)	(64,877)	(79,073)	(79,228)
Net purchases of investments held at fair value through profit or loss	19	(91,933)	(91,933)	(38,165)	(38,165)
Net gains from futures contracts	10	1,048	1,048	6,413	6,413
Scrip dividends included in investment income	2	(1,116)	(1,116)	(1,200)	(1,200)
Increase in other receivables		(2,545)	(1,846)	(302)	(440)
(Decrease)/increase in other payables		(592)	(564)	956	991
Net cash outflow from operating activities before interest and taxation		(64,556)	(64,143)	(6,624)	(6,882)
Interest paid		(9,347)	(9,347)	(8,149)	(8,149)
Tax on overseas income		(1,745)	(1,745)	(1,962)	(1,962)
Recovery of prior years' withholding tax		103	103	581	581
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(75,545)	(75,132)	(16,154)	(16,412)
Financing activities					
Equity dividends paid	8	(31,373)	(31,373)	(28,947)	(28,947)
Issue of Secured Notes net of issue expenses		74,472	74,472	–	–
Buybacks of ordinary shares		–	–	(363)	(363)
Issue proceeds of ordinary shares		85,702	85,702	365	365
(Repayment)/drawdown of bank loans		(42,000)	(42,000)	35,000	35,000
Net cash inflow from financing		86,801	86,801	6,055	6,055
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		11,256	11,669	(10,099)	(10,357)
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the period		46,554	45,136	57,532	56,372
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes		(223)	(223)	(879)	(879)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		57,587	56,582	46,554	45,136

The notes on pages 68 to 89 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015

1 Accounting policies

The financial statements of the Group have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRSs') as adopted by the European Union and therefore the Group financial statements comply with Article 4 of the EU IAS Regulation. These comprise standards and interpretations approved by the International Accounting Standards Board ('IASB'), together with interpretations of the International Accounting Standards and Standing Interpretations Committee approved by the International Accounting Standards Committee ('IASC') that remain in effect, to the extent that they have been adopted by the European Union.

These financial statements are presented in pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Group operates.

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, except for the revaluation of certain financial instruments. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below. Where presentational guidance set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice *Financial Statements of Investment Trust Companies and Venture Capital Trusts* ('the SORP') issued by the Association of Investment Companies ('the AIC') in November 2014 is consistent with the requirements of IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, the directors have sought to prepare the financial statements on a basis compliant with the recommendations of the SORP.

Sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not always readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may vary from these estimates.

(b) Going concern

The Group's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance, are set out in the Strategic Report on pages 9 to 25. The financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2015 is shown on the balance sheet on page 66. The cash flows of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2015 are not untypical and are set out on page 67. The Company had fixed debt and preference share capital totalling £184,975,000, as set out in note 13 on page 78; the 8.5% Debenture Stock is repayable 2016. In 2015, the Group renewed a one-year secured multi-currency borrowing facility for £50 million, of which £3 million was drawn down at 31 December 2015 (2014: £45 million). The

Company issued two Secured Notes repayable in 2035 and 2045 for £21 million and £54 million respectively.

(c) Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the Company and the entity controlled by the Company (its subsidiary) made up to 31 December each year. Control is achieved where the Company has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an investee entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of the subsidiary to bring the accounting policies used by it into line with those used by the Group. All intra-group transactions, balances, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation.

(d) Presentation of the Statement of Comprehensive Income

In order to better reflect 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. In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, net capital returns may not be distributed by way of dividend. Additionally, the net revenue is the measure the directors believe appropriate in assessing the Group's compliance with certain requirements set out in section 1158 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

(e) Income

Dividends receivable on equity shares are recognised as revenue for the year on an ex-dividend basis. Where no ex-dividend date is available, dividends receivable on or before the year end are treated as revenue for the year. Provision is made for any dividends not expected to be received. The fixed returns on debt securities and non-equity shares are recognised on a time apportionment basis so as to reflect the effective yield on the debt securities and shares. Interest receivable from cash and short-term deposits is accrued to the end of the period. Stock lending fees and underwriting commission are recognised as earned. Any special dividends are looked at individually to ascertain the reason behind the payment. This will determine whether they are treated as income or capital. Where the Group has elected to receive its dividends in the form of additional shares rather than cash, the amount of cash dividend foregone is recognised as income. Any excess in the value of shares received over the amount of cash dividend foregone is recognised as a gain in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(f) Expenses

All expenses and interest payable are accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenses are presented as capital where a

connection with the maintenance or enhancement of the value of the investments can be demonstrated. In this respect the investment management fees and finance costs are allocated 25% to revenue and 75% to capital to reflect the Board's expectations of long-term investment returns. Any performance fees payable are allocated wholly to capital, reflecting the fact that, although they are calculated on a total return basis, they are expected to be attributable largely, if not wholly, to capital performance.

(g) Taxation

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

The tax currently payable is based on the taxable profit for the period. Taxable profit differs from net profit as reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The Group's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that were applicable at the balance sheet date.

In line with the recommendations of the SORP, the allocation method used to calculate tax relief on expenses presented against capital returns in the supplementary information in the Statement of Comprehensive Income is the 'marginal basis'. Under this basis, if taxable income is capable of being offset entirely by expenses presented in the revenue return column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income then no tax relief is transferred to the capital return column.

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 as such under section 1158 of the 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.

(h) Investments held at fair value through profit or loss

When a purchase or sale is made under a contract, the terms of which require delivery within the timeframe of the relevant market, the investments concerned are recognised or derecognised on the trade date.

All the Group's investments are defined by IFRSs as adopted by the European Union as investments held at fair value through profit or loss. All gains and losses are allocated to the capital return within the Statement of Comprehensive Income as 'Gains or losses on investments held at fair value through profit or loss'. Also included within this heading are transaction costs in relation to the purchase or sale of investments.

All investments are designated upon initial recognition as held at fair value through profit or loss, and 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. Investments in unit trusts or OEICs are valued at the closing price, the bid price or the single price as appropriate, released by the relevant investment manager.

The Group derecognises a financial asset only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset to another entity. On derecognition of a financial asset, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable and the cumulative gain or loss that had been accumulated in equity is recognised in profit or loss.

Fair values for unquoted investments, or for investments for which there is only an inactive market, are established by using various valuation techniques. These may include recent arm's length market transactions, the current fair value of another instrument that is substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, option pricing models and reference to similar quoted companies. Where there is a valuation technique commonly used by market participants to price the instrument and that technique has been demonstrated to provide reliable estimates of prices obtained in actual market transactions, that technique is utilised. Where no reliable fair value can be estimated for such instruments, they are carried at cost, subject to any provision for impairment.

The subsidiary company, Witan Investment Services Limited, is held at fair value in the Company balance sheet. This is considered to be the net asset value of the shareholder's funds, as shown in its balance sheet.

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

for the year ended 31 December 2015

1 Accounting policies continued

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(j) Dividends payable

Interim dividends are recognised in the period in which they are paid. Final dividends are not recognised until approved by the shareholders in general meeting.

(k) Fixed borrowings

All debentures and secured bonds are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration received, less issue costs where applicable. After initial recognition, all interest-bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with the interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future payments over the expected life of the financial liabilities, or, where appropriate, a shorter period, to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

(l) Foreign currency translation

Transactions involving foreign currencies are converted at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities that are fair valued and denominated in foreign currencies are re-translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the balance sheet date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and allocated to the capital return.

(m) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

(i) Changes in accounting policy and disclosures

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year.

(ii) Standards not affecting the reported results nor the financial position

The following new and revised Standards and Interpretations have been adopted in the current year. Their adoption has not had any significant impact on the amounts reported in these financial statements.

IAS 40 Amendment (AI 2011-13)	Interrelationship between IFRS 3 and IAS 40 (ancillary services)
IFRS 3 Amendment (AI 2011-13)	Scope exceptions for joint ventures

IFRS 13 Amendment (AI 2011-13)	Scope of paragraph 52 (portfolio exception)
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At the date of authorisation of these financial statements, the following Standards and Interpretations, which have not been applied in these financial statements, were in issue but not effective (and in some cases had not yet been adopted by the European Union).

IAS 1 Amendment	Disclosure Initiative
IAS 16 and IAS 38 Amendment	Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation
IAS 16 and IAS 38 Amendment (AI 2010-12)	Revaluation method – proportionate restatement of accumulated depreciation/amortisation
IAS 16 and IAS 41 Amendment	Bearer Plants
IAS 19 Amendment	Defined Benefit Plans: Employee Contributions
IAS 19 Amendment (AI 2012-14)	Discount rate: regional market issue
IAS 24 Amendment (AI 2010-12)	Key management personnel
IAS 27 Amendment	Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements
IAS 34 Amendment (AI 2012-14)	Disclosure of information 'elsewhere in the interim report'
IFRS 2 Amendment (AI 2010-12)	Definition of vesting conditions
IFRS 3 Amendment (AI 2010-12)	Accounting for contingent consideration in a business combination
IFRS 5 Amendment (AI 2012-14)	Changes in methods of disposals
IFRS 7 Amendment (AI 2012-14)	Servicing contracts
IFRS 7 Amendment (AI 2012-14)	Applicability of the offsetting disclosures to condensed interim financial statements
IFRS 8 Amendment (AI 2010-12)	Aggregation of operating segments
IFRS 8 Amendment (AI 2010-12)	Reconciliation of the total of the reportable segments' assets to the entity's assets
IFRS 11 Amendment	Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations

The directors do not expect that the adoption of the Standards listed on page 70 will have a material impact on the financial statements of the Group in future periods.

Beyond the information above, it is not practical to provide a reasonable estimate of the effect of these Standards until a detailed review has been completed.

(n) Derivative financial instruments

The Group's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in market prices, foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. Derivative transactions which the Company may enter into comprise forward exchange contracts (the purpose of which is to manage currency risks arising from the Company's investing activities), quoted options on shares held within the portfolio, or on indices appropriate to sections of the portfolio (the purpose of which is to provide protection against falls in the capital values of the holdings) and futures contracts appropriate to sections

of the portfolio (to provide additional market exposure or to provide protection against falls in the capital values of the holdings). The Company may also write options on shares represented in the portfolio where such options are priced attractively relative to the investment managers' longer-term expectations for the relevant share prices. The Group does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes. Hedge accounting is not used.

The use of financial derivatives is governed by the Group's policies as approved by the Board, which has set written principles for the use of financial derivatives.

Changes in the fair value of derivative financial instruments are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as they arise. If capital in nature, the associated change in value is presented as a capital item in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

2 Investment income

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Franked:		
UK dividends from listed investments	19,416	16,160
UK special dividends from listed investments	1,124	346
	20,540	16,506
Unfranked:		
Overseas dividends from listed investments	22,396	19,592
Overseas special dividends from listed investments	716	128
Property income dividends	47	–
Scrip dividends from listed investments	1,116	1,200
Fixed interest and convertible bonds	1,003	871
	25,278	21,791
Total investment income	45,818	38,297
	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Analysis of investment income by geographical segment:		
United Kingdom	21,645	17,409
North America	6,685	5,958
Continental Europe	9,244	7,515
Japan	1,666	1,218
Asia Pacific (ex Japan)	5,055	4,119
Latin America	207	389
Other	1,316	1,689
Total investment income	45,818	38,297

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

for the year ended 31 December 2015

3 Other income

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Deposit interest	127	202
Stock lending income	186	140
Income from the subsidiary company's third party business	1,147	1,098
	1,460	1,440

At 31 December 2015 the total value of securities on loan by the Company for stock lending purposes was £119,797,000 (2014: £48,122,000). The maximum aggregate value of securities on loan at any time during the year ended 31 December 2015 was £132,302,000 (2014: £61,749,000). Collateral, revalued on a daily basis at a level equivalent to at least 105% (110% for equities) of the market value of the securities lent, was provided against all loans. Collateral in respect of UK securities is usually in the form of CREST DBVs (Delivery by Values); the content of CREST DBVs is subject to a concentration limit of 10%.

4 Management fees

	Year ended 31 December 2015			Year ended 31 December 2014		
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Management fees	1,747	5,241	6,988	1,541	4,625	6,166
Performance fees	–	4,298	4,298	–	2,998	2,998
	1,747	9,539	11,286	1,541	7,623	9,164

A summary of the terms of the management agreements is given on page 17 in the Strategic Report.

5 Other expenses

Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of the auditor's remuneration is as follows:

	2015 Revenue £'000	2014 Revenue £'000
Fees payable to the Company's auditor and its associates for the audit of the Company's annual accounts	54	49
Fees payable to the Company's auditor and its associates for other services to the Group: – the audit of the Company's subsidiary	5	5
Total audit fees	59	54
Tax services (advice, preparation and submission within local jurisdictions of withholding tax claims)*	61	32
Other services	3	2
Total non-audit fees	64	34
Total fees paid	123	88

*The fees for this work were specifically approved by the Audit Committee (see page 45).

	2015 Revenue £'000	2014 Revenue £'000
Auditor's remuneration (see page 72)	123	88
Tax advisory services	9	11
Directors' fees (see the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 46 to 56)	250	245
Employers' national insurance contributions on the directors' fees	27	25
Employee costs (including executive director's remuneration):		
– salaries and bonuses	1,103	860
– employers' national insurance contributions	153	122
– pension contributions (or payments in lieu thereof)	81	61
Advisory, consultancy and legal fees	149	138
Investment accounting fees	269	261
Company secretarial fees	130	125
Insurances	52	54
Occupancy costs	104	133
Bank charges and overseas safe custody fees	381	363
Depositary fees	118	59
Marketing expenses*	766	829
Savings scheme expenses (Witan Wisdom and Jump Savings)	616	589
Other expenses	780	691
Irrecoverable VAT	198	144
Total†	5,309	4,798

* Includes £50,000 sponsorship paid to the Royal Horticultural Society (2014: £50,000).

†The total includes costs of £1,277,000 (2014: £1,259,000) in respect of the subsidiary company's third party business which are offset by the subsidiary company's income from that business. The analysis relates to the revenue return column only.

Expenses included in the capital return column for 2015 were £101,000 (2014: £101,000). These related to investment advisory costs.

The average number of employees during the year was 7 (2014: 6).

6 Finance costs

	Year ended 31 December 2015			Year ended 31 December 2014		
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Interest payable on overdrafts and loans repayable within one year	1,025	3,072	4,097	86	258	344
Interest payable on Secured Bonds and Notes repayable between 1 and 5 years	–	–	–	947	2,840	3,787
Interest payable on Secured Bonds and Notes repayable in more than 5 years	1,376	4,127	5,503	999	2,997	3,996
Preference share dividends	83	–	83	83	–	83
	2,484	7,199	9,683	2,115	6,095	8,210

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for the year ended 31 December 2015

7 Taxation

	Year ended 31 December 2015			Year ended 31 December 2014		
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
(a) Analysis of the charge for the year						
UK corporation tax at 20.25% (2014: 21.5%)	–	–	–	–	–	–
Foreign tax suffered	2,454	–	2,454	2,040	–	2,040
Recovery of prior years' withholding tax	(381)	–	(381)	(581)	–	(581)
Foreign tax recoverable	(294)	–	(294)	(241)	–	(241)
Total current tax for the year (see note 7 (b))	1,779	–	1,779	1,218	–	1,218

(b) Factors affecting the current tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is lower than that resulting from applying the effective standard rate of corporation tax in the UK for a large company of 20.25% (2014: 21.5%). The difference is explained below.

	Year ended 31 December 2015			Year ended 31 December 2014		
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Net profit on ordinary activities before taxation	37,738	47,724	85,462	31,283	65,254	96,537
Corporation tax at 20.25% (2014: 21.5%)	7,642	9,664	17,306	6,726	14,030	20,756
Effects of:						
Non-taxable UK dividends	(4,159)	–	(4,159)	(3,549)	–	(3,549)
Non-taxable overseas dividends	(4,907)	–	(4,907)	(4,388)	–	(4,388)
Withholding tax written off	2,148	–	2,148	1,799	–	1,799
Recovery of prior years' withholding tax	(381)	–	(381)	(581)	–	(581)
Non-taxable gains on investments held at fair value through profit or loss	–	(13,074)	(13,074)	–	(17,001)	(17,001)
Excess management expenses not utilised in year	3,089	–	3,089	2,665	–	2,665
Unused loan relationship deficits for the year	1,717	–	1,717	1,499	–	1,499
Preference dividends not deductible in determining taxable profit	17	–	17	18	–	18
Capitalised expenses	(3,410)	3,410	–	(2,971)	2,971	–
Disallowable expenses	23	–	23	–	–	–
Current tax charge	1,779	–	1,779	1,218	–	1,218

(c) Deferred tax

Due to the Company's status as an investment trust, and the intention to continue meeting the conditions required to obtain approval in the foreseeable future, the Company has not provided deferred tax on any capital gains and losses arising on the revaluation or disposal of investments.

No provision has been made for deferred tax on income outstanding at the end of the year as this will be covered by unrelieved business charges and eligible unrelieved foreign tax (2014: £nil).

(d) Factors that may affect future tax charges

The Company has not recognised a deferred tax asset of £37,153,000 (2014: £32,242,000) arising as a result of having unrelieved loan relationship deficits and eligible unrelieved foreign tax.

It is unlikely that the Company will obtain relief for these in the future so no deferred tax asset has been recognised.

8 Dividends

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Amounts recognised as distributions to equity holders in the year:		
Fourth interim dividend for the year ended 31 December 2014 of 4.6p (2013: 4.5p) per ordinary share	8,727	8,519
First interim dividend for the year ended 31 December 2015 of 3.85p (2014: 3.6p) per ordinary share	7,450	6,815
Second interim dividend for the year ended 31 December 2015 of 3.85p (2014: 3.6p) per ordinary share	7,550	6,815
Third interim dividend for the year ended 31 December 2015 of 3.85p (2014: 3.6p) per ordinary share	7,670	6,815
Refund of unclaimed dividends	(24)	(17)
	31,373	28,947
Fourth interim dividend for the year ended 31 December 2015 of 5.45p (2014: 4.6p) per ordinary share	10,895	8,727

Total in respect of the year:

Set out below is the total dividend to be paid in respect of the year. This is the basis on which the requirements of section 1158 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 are considered.

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Revenue profits available for distribution	35,959	30,065
First interim dividend for the year ended 31 December 2015 of 3.85p (2014: 3.6p) per ordinary share	(7,450)	(6,815)
Second interim dividend for the year ended 31 December 2015 of 3.85p (2014: 3.6p) per ordinary share	(7,550)	(6,815)
Third interim dividend for the year ended 31 December 2015 of 3.85p (2014: 3.6p) per ordinary share	(7,670)	(6,815)
Fourth interim dividend for the year ended 31 December 2015 of 5.45p (2014: 4.6p) per ordinary share	(10,895)	(8,727)
Revenue retained for the year	2,394	893

9 Earnings per ordinary share

The earnings per ordinary share figure is based on the net profit for the year of £83,683,000 (2014: £95,319,000) and on 194,455,343 ordinary shares (2014: 189,302,044), being the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the year.

The earnings per ordinary share figure detailed above can be further analysed between revenue and capital, as below. The Company has no securities in issue that could dilute the return per ordinary share. Therefore the basic and diluted earnings per ordinary share are the same.

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Net revenue profit	35,959	30,065
Net capital profit	47,724	65,254
Net total profit	83,683	95,319

Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the year	194,455,343	189,302,044
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Notes to the Financial Statements continued

for the year ended 31 December 2015

9 Earnings per ordinary share continued

	2015 Pence	2014 Pence
Revenue earnings per ordinary share	18.49	15.88
Capital earnings per ordinary share	24.54	34.47
Total earnings per ordinary share	43.03	50.35

10 Investments held at fair value through profit or loss

(i) Group changes in investments held at fair value through profit or loss

	2015		2014	
	Group £'000	Company £'000	Group £'000	Company £'000
Listed in the United Kingdom	732,292	732,292	667,393	667,393
Listed abroad	976,436	976,436	884,885	884,885
Investment in subsidiary undertaking	–	1,508	–	1,194
	1,708,728	1,710,236	1,552,278	1,553,472

(ii) Group changes in investments held at fair value through profit or loss

	Valuation 31 December 2014 £'000	Purchases £'000	Sales £'000	Investment gains/(losses) £'000	Valuation 31 December 2015 £'000	Cost 31 December 2015 £'000
United Kingdom	665,728	218,464	181,859	29,959	732,292	625,467
North America	394,169	148,166	138,113	38,908	443,130	343,263
Continental Europe	228,407	86,515	70,929	17,903	261,896	227,833
Japan	73,232	27,007	15,936	(9,422)	74,881	64,581
Asia Pacific (ex Japan)	161,429	63,284	39,603	(10,796)	174,314	176,753
Latin America	13,704	1,648	9	(6,675)	8,668	15,119
Other	15,609	–	5,055	2,993	13,547	17,624
	1,552,278	545,084	451,504	62,870	1,708,728	1,470,640

The above figures do not include the gains/losses on futures positions.

Included in the above figures are purchase costs of £1,317,000 (2014: 607,000) and sales costs of £436,000 (2014: £304,000). These comprise mainly stamp duty and commission and include £nil in respect of changes in portfolio managers (2014: £nil).

(iii) Gains/(losses) in investments held at fair value through profit or loss

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Realised gains on sales of investments	86,781	63,230
Realised gain on futures	1,048	6,413
Movement in investment holding gains	(23,911)	12,633
Movement in unrealised gain on futures	868	(2,324)
Net movement on foreign exchange on cash and cash equivalents	(223)	(879)
	64,563	79,073

(iv) Derivatives**Open future contracts as at year ended 31 December 2015**

Contract	Position long	Settlement value £'000	Nominal exposure £'000	Unrealised gain/(loss) £'000
FTSE Index Future	380	23,187	23,553	366
MSCI Index Future	500	13,477	13,357	(120)
		36,664	36,910	246

The realised gain on the closing of futures positions during the year was £1,048,000.

Open future contracts as at year ended 31 December 2014

Contract	Position long	Settlement value £'000	Nominal exposure £'000	Unrealised loss £'000
Nikkei Index Future	750	35,344	34,722	(622)

During the period realised gains on closing of futures positions was £6,413,000.

(v) Substantial share interests

The Company has notified interests in 3% or more of the voting rights of three of the investee companies, all of which are closed-ended investment funds. However, the Board does not consider any of the Company's investments to be individually material in the context of these financial statements.

It is the Company's stated policy to invest no more than 15% of its gross assets in other listed investment companies (including listed investment trusts).

11 Other receivables

	2015		2014	
	Group £'000	Company £'000	Group £'000	Company £'000
Sales for future settlement	155	155	676	676
Unrealised gain on derivatives designated as held at fair value through profit or loss*	366	366	–	–
Taxation recoverable	945	945	1,082	1,082
Intercompany account	–	1,976	–	715
Prepayments and accrued income	3,077	3,077	2,476	2,476
Share issue proceeds receivable	–	–	1,929	1,929
Other debtors	2,712	28	768	44
	7,255	6,547	6,931	6,922

*The unrealised gain on derivatives related to a long position in FTSE 100 Futures, nominal value at 31 December 2015: £23,553,000.

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

for the year ended 31 December 2015

12 Other payables

	2015		2014	
	Group £'000	Company £'000	Group £'000	Company £'000
Purchases for future settlement	538	538	528	528
Unrealised loss on derivatives designated as held at fair value through profit or loss*	120	120	622	622
Preference dividends	38	38	38	38
Accruals	7,569	7,364	7,900	7,667
	8,265	8,060	9,088	8,855

*The unrealised loss on derivatives related to a long position in MSCI Emerging Markets Futures, nominal value at 31 December 2015: £13,357,000 (2014: Nikkei 225 Futures, nominal value: £34,722,000)

13 Fixed borrowings

	2015		2014	
	Group £'000	Company £'000	Group £'000	Company £'000
Financial instruments redeemable other than in instalments are as follows:				
Amounts falling due within one year				
8½ per cent. Debenture Stock 2016	44,583	44,583	—	—
Amounts falling due after more than one year				
8½ per cent. Debenture Stock 2016	—	—	44,581	44,581
6.125 per cent. Secured Bonds due 2025	63,354	63,354	63,292	63,292
3.29% Secured Notes due 2035	20,491	20,491	—	—
3.47% Secured Notes due 2045	53,992	53,992	—	—
2,055,000 3.4 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each (see note 17 on page 87)	2,055	2,055	2,055	2,055
500,000 2.7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each (see note 17 on page 87)	500	500	500	500
	140,392	140,392	110,428	110,428

On 15 December 2000 the Company issued £100,000,000 (nominal) 6.125 per cent. Secured Bonds due 2025, net of discount and issue costs totalling approximately £2,000,000. The discount and the issue costs will be written back over the life of the Secured Bonds. The nominal value of the remaining Secured Bonds in issue (£64,290,000 at 31 December 2015) is redeemable on 15 December 2025. The nominal value of the Debenture Stock (£44,589,050) is redeemable on 1 October 2016.

During 2015 the Company issued £21,000,000 (nominal) 3.29% Secured Notes due 2035 and £54,000,000 (nominal) 3.47% Secured Notes due 2045 net of issue costs totalling approximately £528,000. These costs will be written back over the life of the Secured Notes.

The Debenture Stock, Secured Bonds and the Secured Notes are secured by floating charges over all the undertaking and assets of the Company. The security of the charges applies pari passu to both issues.

14 Financial instruments

Risk management policies and procedures

As an investment company, Witan invests in equities and other investments for the long term so as to secure its investment objective as stated on the inside front cover. In pursuing its investment objective, the Group is exposed to a variety of risks that could result in either a reduction in the Group's net assets or a reduction in the profits available for distribution by way of dividends.

These risks, market risk (comprising price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk), liquidity risk and credit risk, and the directors' approach to the management of them, are set out below.

The objectives, policies and processes for managing the risks and the methods used to manage the risks, as set out below, have not changed from the previous accounting period, although in some instances additional resources have been allocated to some areas.

14.1 Market risk

The fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument held by the Group may fluctuate due to changes in market prices. This market risk comprises: price risk (see note 14.2), currency risk (see note 14.3) and interest rate risk (see note 14.4). The Board reviews and agrees policies for managing these risks, which policies have remained substantially unchanged from those applying in the year ended 31 December 2014. The investment managers assess the exposure to market risk when making each investment decision and monitor the overall level of market risk on the whole of their investment portfolios on an ongoing basis.

14.2 Price risk

Price risks (i.e. changes in market prices other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk) may affect the value of the quoted and the unquoted investments.

Management of the risk

The Board manages the risks inherent in the investment portfolios by regularly reviewing relevant information from the investment managers. The Board meets regularly and at each meeting reviews investment performance. The Board monitors the managers' compliance with their mandates and also whether each mandate and asset allocation is compatible with Witan's objective.

When appropriate, Witan has the ability to manage its exposure to risk through the controlled use of derivatives.

The Group's exposure to other changes in market prices at 31 December on its quoted equity investments, and on index futures and investments, was as follows:

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Investments held at fair value through profit or loss	1,708,728	1,552,278
Nominal futures exposure (long position)	36,910	34,722

Concentration of exposure to price risks

An analysis of the Group's investment portfolio is shown on page 27. This shows that the greater geographical weighting is to UK companies, with significant exposure also to North America, Asia and Continental Europe. Accordingly, there is a concentration of exposure to those regions, although an investment's country of domicile or of listing does not necessarily equate to its exposure to the economic conditions in that country.

Price risk sensitivity

The following table illustrates the sensitivity of the profit after taxation for the year and the value of the shareholders' funds to an increase or decrease of 15% in the fair values of the Group's equity investments (including exposure through futures contracts). This level of change is considered to be reasonably possible based on observation of market conditions and historical trends. The sensitivity analysis is based on the Group's equities and equity exposure through options at each balance sheet date, with all other variables held constant. The results of these example calculations are significant but not unreasonable, given that most of the Group's assets are equity investments.

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

for the year ended 31 December 2015

14 Financial instruments continued

	2015		2014	
	Increase in fair value £'000	Decrease in fair value £'000	Increase in fair value £'000	Decrease in fair value £'000
Income statement – profit after tax				
Revenue return	–	–	–	–
Capital return – investments	256,309	(256,309)	232,842	(232,842)
Capital return – futures	5,537	(5,537)	5,208	(5,208)
	261,846	(261,846)	238,050	(238,050)

14.3 Currency risk

A proportion of the Group's assets, liabilities and income is denominated in currencies other than sterling (the Group's functional currency, and the currency in which it reports its results). As a consequence, movements in exchange rates affect the sterling value of those items.

Management of the risk

The investment managers monitor their exposure to currencies as part of their normal investment processes. The Board receives a monthly report on the currency exposures of the entire fund.

Income denominated in foreign currencies is converted into sterling upon receipt. The Group does not normally use financial instruments to mitigate the currency exposure in the period between the time that income is included in the financial statements and its receipt.

Foreign currency exposure

The fair values of the Group's monetary items that have foreign currency exposure at 31 December are shown below. Where the Group's equity investments (which are not monetary items) are denominated in a foreign currency, they have been included separately in the analysis so as to show the overall level of exposure.

	US\$ £'000	Euro £'000	Yen £'000	Other £'000
2015				
Receivables (due from brokers, dividends and other income receivable)	581	310	438	875
Cash at bank and on deposit	2,849	1,298	–	147
Payables (due to brokers, accruals and other creditors)	(1,081)	–	–	–
Payables (unrealised loss on derivatives designated as held at fair value through profit or loss)	(120)	–	–	–
Total foreign currency exposure on net monetary items	2,229	1,608	438	1,022
Investments at fair value through profit or loss that are equities	460,610	171,963	76,686	253,128
Total net foreign currency exposure	462,839	173,571	77,124	254,150
2014				
Receivables (due from brokers, dividends and other income receivable)	1,103	247	180	888
Cash at bank and on deposit	2,312	1,333	3,522	39
Payables (due to brokers, accruals and other creditors)	(199)	–	–	(43)
Payables (unrealised loss on derivatives designated as held at fair value through profit or loss)	–	–	(622)	–
Total foreign currency exposure on net monetary items	3,216	1,580	3,080	884
Investments at fair value through profit or loss that are equities	397,012	153,429	50,448	299,934
Total net foreign currency exposure	400,228	155,009	53,528	300,818

The above amounts are not necessarily representative of the exposure to risk during the year as levels of monetary foreign currency exposure change significantly throughout the year.

Foreign currency sensitivity

The following table illustrates the sensitivity of the profit after tax for the year and the Group's equity in regard to the Group's monetary financial assets and financial liabilities and the exchange rates for the £/US dollar, £/Euro and £/Japanese yen. The results of these example calculations are significant but not unreasonable in the context of the majority of the Group's assets being invested overseas.

It assumes the following changes in exchange rates:

£/US dollar +/- 15% (2014: 15%)

£/Euro +/- 15% (2014: 15%)

£/Japanese yen +/- 15% (2014: 15%)

The sensitivity analysis is based on the Group's monetary foreign currency financial instruments held at the balance sheet date and takes account of any forward foreign exchange contracts that offset the effects of changes in currency exchange rates.

If sterling had depreciated against the currencies shown, this would have the following effect:

	2015			2014		
	US\$ £'000	Euro £'000	Yen £'000	US\$ £'000	Euro £'000	Yen £'000
Income statement - profit after tax						
Revenue return	1,649	931	240	1,412	767	182
Capital return	79,784	31,107	13,533	70,061	25,678	8,903
Change to the profit after tax	81,433	32,038	13,773	71,473	26,445	9,085
Change to the shareholders' funds	81,433	32,038	13,773	71,473	26,445	9,085

If sterling had appreciated against the currencies shown, this would have the following effect:

	2015			2014		
	US\$ £'000	Euro £'000	Yen £'000	US\$ £'000	Euro £'000	Yen £'000
Income statement - profit after tax						
Revenue return	(1,219)	(688)	(178)	(1,044)	(567)	(135)
Capital return	(58,939)	(22,992)	(10,002)	(51,784)	(18,979)	(6,580)
Change to the profit after tax	(60,158)	(23,680)	(10,180)	(52,828)	(19,546)	(6,715)
Change to the shareholders' funds	(60,158)	(23,680)	(10,180)	(52,828)	(19,546)	(6,715)

In the opinion of the directors, neither of the above sensitivity analyses is representative of the year as a whole since the level of exposure changes frequently, as part of the currency risk management process used to meet the Group's objective.

14.4 Interest rate risk

Interest rate movements may affect the level of income receivable from fixed interest securities and cash at bank and on deposit.

Management of the risk

The possible effects on fair value and cash flows that could arise as a result of changes in interest rates are taken into account when making investment decisions.

The Group holds cash balances, partly to meet payments as they fall due but also when appropriate to offset the long-term borrowings that it has in place.

The Group finances part of its activities through preference shares that do not have redemption dates and through debenture stock and secured bonds that were issued as part of the Company's planned gearing.

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

for the year ended 31 December 2015

14 Financial instruments continued

Interest rate exposure

The exposure at 31 December 2015 of financial assets and financial liabilities to interest rate risk is shown by reference to:

- floating interest rates: when the interest rate is due to be re-set; and
- fixed interest rates: when the financial instrument is due to be repaid.

The Group's exposure to floating interest rates on assets is £54,587,000 (2014: £1,554,000). This represents cash holdings minus variable rate borrowing.

The Group's exposure to fixed interest rates on assets is £25,312,000 (2014: £34,137,000). This represents investments in bonds.

The Group's exposure to fixed interest rates on liabilities is £184,975,000 (2014: £110,428,000). This represents fixed rate borrowing.

Interest receivable and finance costs are at the following rates:

- interest received on cash balances, or paid on bank overdrafts and loans, is at margin under/over LIBOR or its foreign currency equivalent (2014: same);
- the finance charge on the preference shares is at a weighted average interest rate of 3.3% (2014: 3.3%);
- the finance charge on the debenture stock is at a weighted average interest rate of 8.5% (2014: 8.5%);
- the finance charge on the secured bonds is at a weighted average interest rate of 6.125% (2014: 6.125%); and
- the finance charge on the secured notes is at a weighted average interest rate of 3.41% for an average period of 26.6 years (2014: nil).

The above year end amounts are not representative of the exposure to interest rates during the year, as the level of exposure changes as investments are made in fixed interest securities, long-term debt is partially redeemed and as the level of cash balances varies during the year. In the context of the Group's balance sheet, the exposure to interest rate risk is not considered to be material.

Interest rate sensitivity

Based on the Group's monetary financial instruments at each balance sheet date, an increase or decrease of 200 basis points in interest rates would decrease or increase revenue after tax by £1,137,000 (2014: £706,000), capital return after tax by £45,000 (2014: £675,000), and total profit after tax and shareholders' funds by £1,092,000 (2014: £31,000).

This level of change is considered to be reasonably possible based on observation of current market conditions. This is not representative of the year as a whole, since the exposure changes as investments are made. In the context of the Group's balance sheet, the outcome is not considered to be material.

14.5 Liquidity risk

This is the risk that the Group will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with its financial liabilities.

Management of the risk

Liquidity risk is not significant as the majority of the Group's assets are investments in quoted equities and other quoted securities that are readily realisable. The Group has borrowed £44,587,000 by its issue of 8½ per cent Debenture Stock 2016 and £63,174,000 by its issue in 2000 of 6.125 per cent Secured Bonds due 2025. During the year, the Group issued 3.47% and 3.29% Secured Notes for £54,000,000 and £21,000,000 respectively. The Group is able to draw short-term borrowings of up to the sterling equivalent of £50,000,000 from its secured and committed multi-currency borrowing facility with BNP Paribas, London Branch (expiring December 2016). £3,000,000 was drawn down under the facility at 31 December 2015.

The Board gives guidance to the investment managers as to the maximum amount of the Company's resources that should be invested in any one company. The policy is that the Group should remain fully invested in normal market conditions.

Liquidity risk exposure

The remaining contractual maturities of the financial liabilities at 31 December 2015, based on the earliest date on which payment can be required, were as follows:

	2015			2014		
	Within 1 year £'000	Between 1 and 5 years £'000	More than 5 years £'000	Within 1 year £'000	Between 1 and 5 years £'000	More than 5 years £'000
Debenture stock*	47,432	–	–	3,790	47,432	–
Secured bonds*	3,938	15,751	83,806	3,938	15,751	87,744
Secured notes*	2,565	10,259	130,712	–	–	–
Preference shares†	83	332	2,555	83	332	2,555
Other creditors and accruals	8,263	–	–	9,078	–	–
Bank loan and interest payable	3,003	–	–	45,043	–	–
	65,284	26,342	217,073	61,932	63,515	90,299

* The above figures show interest payable over the remaining terms of each instrument. The figures also include the capital to be repaid.

† The figures in the 'More than 5 years' columns do not include the ongoing annual finance cost of £83,000.

14.6 Credit risk

The failure of the counterparty to a transaction to discharge its obligations under that transaction could result in the Group suffering a loss.

Management of the risk

The risk is managed as follows:

- interest received on cash balances, or paid on bank overdrafts and loans, is at margin under/over LIBOR or its foreign currency equivalent;
- transactions involving derivatives are entered into only with investment banks, the credit rating of which is taken into account so as to minimise the risk to the Group of default;
- investment transactions are carried out with a large number of brokers, whose credit standard is reviewed periodically by the investment managers, and limits are set on the amount that may be due from any one broker;
- stock lending transactions are carried out with a number of approved counterparties, the credit ratings of which are reviewed periodically, and limits are set on the amount that may be sent to any one counterparty. Other than stock lending, none of the Company's financial assets or liabilities is secured by collateral or other credit enhancements;
- cash at bank is held only with reputable banks with high quality external credit ratings.

None of the Group's financial liabilities is past its due date or impaired.

Credit risk exposure

The table below summarises the credit risk exposure of the Group as at the year end.

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Fixed interest securities	25,312	34,137
Cash	57,587	46,554
Receivables:		
Sales for future settlement	155	676
Unrealised gain on derivative designated as held at fair value through profit or loss	366	–
Taxation recoverable	945	1,082
Accrued income	3,077	2,476
Other debtors	2,712	2,697
	90,154	87,622

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

for the year ended 31 December 2015

14 Financial instruments continued

14.7 Fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities

Except for those financial liabilities measured at amortised cost that are shown below, the financial assets and financial liabilities are either carried in the balance sheet at their fair value (investments and derivatives) or the balance sheet amount is a reasonable approximation of fair value (amounts due from brokers, dividends and interest receivable, amounts due to brokers, accruals, cash at bank and bank overdrafts).

	2015		2014	
	Fair value £'000	Balance sheet amount £'000	Fair value £'000	Balance sheet amount £'000
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:				
Non current liabilities				
Preference shares	1,399	2,555	1,384	2,555
Debenture stock	46,765	44,583	49,471	44,581
Secured Bonds	78,198	63,354	80,659	63,292
Secured Notes	73,009	74,483	–	–
	199,371	184,975	131,514	110,428

The fair values shown above are derived from the offer price at which the securities are quoted on the London Stock Exchange or, in the case of the Secured Notes, calculating a present value by using a discount rate which reflects the yield on a UK gilt of similar maturity plus a credit spread of 1.15%.

Fair value hierarchy disclosures

The table below sets out fair value measurements using the IFRS 7 fair value hierarchy.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

At 31 December 2015	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Equity investments	1,640,781	–	–	1,640,781
Investments in other funds	–	68,198	–	68,198
Derivatives (nominal exposure of £36,910,000)	246	–	–	246
Total	1,641,027	68,198	–	1,709,225

At 31 December 2014	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Equity investments	1,444,457	–	–	1,444,457
Investments in other funds	–	107,821	–	107,821
Derivatives (nominal exposure of £34,722,000)	(622)	–	–	(622)
Total	1,443,835	107,821	–	1,551,656

Categorisation within the hierarchy has been determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement of the relevant asset as follows:

Level 1 – valued using quoted prices in an active market for identical assets.

Level 2 – valued by reference to valuation techniques using observable inputs other than quoted prices within Level 1.

Level 3 – valued by reference to valuation techniques using inputs that are not based on observable market data.

The valuation techniques used by the Group are explained in the accounting policies in note 1(h). There were no transfers during the year between Level 1 and Level 2.

Level 2 Financial assets

Level 2 Financial assets refer to investments in Trilogy Emerging Markets Fund, Polar Capital Insurance Fund and iShares MSCI fund (2014: Trilogy Emerging Markets Fund, Polar Capital Insurance Fund, Polar Japan Funds and iShares MSCI fund).

Level 3 Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value measurement of financial assets

There were no Level 3 investments at 31 December 2015 or 31 December 2014.

Capital management

The Group's capital management objectives are:

- to ensure that it will be able to continue as a going concern; and
- to maximise the income and capital return to its equity shareholders through an appropriate balance of equity capital and debt.

The Group's total capital employed at 31 December 2015 was £1,765,305,000 (2014: £1,596,675,000) comprising £187,975,000 of debt (2014: £155,428,000) and £1,577,330,000 of equity share capital and other reserves (2014: £1,441,247,000).

Gearing

The Group's policy is to manage the effective gearing in the portfolio to be below 20%, other than temporarily in exceptional circumstances. Effective gearing is defined as the difference between shareholders' funds and the total market value of the investments (including the nominal value (effective underlying exposure) of futures positions which were £36,910,000 long at 31 December 2015 (2014: £34,722,000 long)) expressed as a percentage of shareholders' funds. At 31 December 2015 effective gearing was 10.7% (2014: 10.1%) and the calculation is set out below:

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Value of investments per the Balance Sheet	1,708,728	1,552,278
Add:		
Nominal exposure of futures	36,910	34,722
Adjusted gross value of investments (including futures nominal exposure)	1,745,638	1,587,000
Shareholders' funds per the Balance Sheet (A)	1,577,330	1,441,247
Excess of gross value of investments over shareholders' funds (B)	168,308	145,753
Effective gearing (B as a percentage of A)	10.7%	10.1%

The Board monitors and reviews the broad structure of the Group's capital on an ongoing basis. This review includes:

- the planned level of gearing, which takes into account the Chief Executive Officer's view on the market;
- the opportunity to buy back equity shares, which takes account of the difference between the net asset value per share and the share price (ie the level of share price discount or premium); and
- the extent to which revenue in excess of that which is required to be distributed should be retained.

The Group's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital are unchanged from the preceding accounting period.

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

for the year ended 31 December 2015

14 Financial instruments continued

The Company is subject to several externally imposed capital requirements:

- the terms of issue of the Company's Debenture stock and Secured Bonds require the aggregate amount outstanding in respect of borrowings, measured in accordance with the policies used to prepare the annual financial statements, not to exceed a sum equal to the Company's capital and reserves at any time;
- as a public company, the Company has a minimum issued share capital of £50,000; and
- in order to be able to pay dividends out of profits available for distribution by way of dividends, the Company has to be able to meet one of the two capital restriction tests imposed on investment companies by company law.

These requirements are unchanged since the previous year end and the Company has complied with them.

15 Called up share capital

	Group and Company 2015 £'000	Group and Company 2014 £'000
Called up and issued:		
200,071,000 ordinary shares of 25p each (2014: 189,561,000)	50,018	47,390

During the year, 10,510,000 ordinary shares were issued for net proceeds of £83,773,000 (2014: 51,000 shares bought back at a cost of £363,000 and 301,000 shares issued for £2,294,000).

16 Share premium account and reserves

	Share premium account £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Capital reserve arising on investments sold £'000	Capital reserve arising on revaluation of investments held £'000	Revenue reserve £'000
Group					
At 1 January 2015	18,106	46,498	1,012,812	261,373	55,068
Net movement on investments	–	–	87,829	(23,043)	–
Net movement on foreign exchange	–	–	(223)	–	–
Expenses and interest payable charged to capital net of tax relief	–	–	(16,839)	–	–
Issue of ordinary shares to market	81,145	–	–	–	–
Profit for the year	–	–	–	–	35,959
Ordinary dividends paid	–	–	–	–	(31,373)
At 31 December 2015	99,251	46,498	1,083,579	238,330	59,654
Company					
At 1 January 2015	18,106	46,498	1,012,812	261,667	54,774
Net movement on investments	–	–	87,829	(22,729)	–
Net movement on foreign exchange	–	–	(223)	–	–
Expenses and interest payable charged to capital net of tax relief	–	–	(16,839)	–	–
Issue of ordinary shares to market	81,145	–	–	–	–
Profit for the year	–	–	–	–	35,645
Ordinary dividends paid	–	–	–	–	(31,373)
At 31 December 2015	99,251	46,498	1,083,579	238,938	59,046

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, dividends may only be paid out of current period revenue or revenue reserves.

17 Preference shares

Included in non current liabilities is £2,555,000 in respect of issued preference shares as follows:

	Group and Company 2015 £'000	Group and Company 2014 £'000
2,055,000 3.4 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each	2,055	2,055
500,000 2.7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each	500	500
	2,555	2,555

The 3.4 per cent. and 2.7 per cent. cumulative preference shares constitute a single class and confer the right, in priority to any other class of shares:

- (i) to receive a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the respective rates (exclusive of tax credit thereon) of 3.4 per cent. and 2.7 per cent. per annum, such dividend being payable half-yearly on 15 January and 15 July in each year in respect of the 3.4 per cent. cumulative preference shares, and on 1 February and 1 August in each year in respect of the 2.7 per cent. cumulative preference shares; and
- (ii) to receive repayment of capital at par in a winding up of the Company (but do not confer any further right to participate in profits or assets).

The preference shareholders are entitled to receive notices of general meetings of the Company but are not entitled to attend or vote thereat (except on a resolution for the voluntary liquidation of the Company or for any alteration to the objects of the Company set out in its Articles of Association).

In the event of a poll at a general meeting of the Company, every member of the Company who is present in person or by proxy and who is entitled to vote thereat, whether an ordinary shareholder or, in the circumstances outlined above, a preference shareholder, has one vote for every £1 nominal value of shares registered in their name. Accordingly, on a poll each ordinary shareholder has one vote for every four shares held.

18 Net asset value per ordinary share

The net asset value per ordinary share of 788.39p (2014: 760.31p) is based on the net assets attributable to the ordinary shares of £1,577,330,000 (2014: £1,441,247,000) and on the 200,071,000 ordinary shares in issue at 31 December 2015 (2014: 189,561,000).

The movements during the year of the net assets attributable to the ordinary shares were as follows:

	£'000
Total net assets at 1 January 2015	1,441,247
Total profit for the year	83,683
Dividends paid in the year on the ordinary shares (see note 8)	(31,373)
Issue of ordinary shares to market	83,773
Net assets attributable to the ordinary shares at 31 December 2015	1,577,330

An alternative net asset value per ordinary share can be calculated by deducting from the total assets less current liabilities of the Company the preference shares, the debenture stock and the Secured Bonds and Notes at their market (or fair) values rather than at their par (or book) values. Details of the alternative values are set out in note 14.7. The net asset value per ordinary share at 31 December 2015 calculated on this basis is 781.2p (2014: 749.2p).

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

for the year ended 31 December 2015

19 Notes to the cash flow statement

Purchases and sales of investments are considered to be operating activities of the Company, given its purpose, rather than investing activities. The cash flows associated with these activities are presented below.

	Group and Company 2015 £'000	Group and Company 2014 £'000
Proceeds on disposal of fair value through profit or loss investments	452,025	352,950
Purchases of fair value through profit or loss investments	(543,958)	(391,115)
	(91,933)	(38,165)

20 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

At 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2014 there were no capital commitments in respect of securities not fully paid up and no underwriting liabilities. In November 2005 the Company took a lease on office premises at 14 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA which was renewed for a further five years in October 2015.

21 Operating lease arrangements

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Minimum lease payments under operating leases recognised for the year	49	49

At the balance sheet date, the Group had outstanding commitments for the future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Within one year	73	—
In the second to fifth years inclusive	219	—

The operating lease payments represent rentals payable by the Group for its office property.

The lease was re-negotiated during 2015 for a further term of five years and to include additional office space.

22 Subsidiary undertaking

The Company has an investment in the issued ordinary share capital of its wholly-owned subsidiary undertaking, Witan Investment Services Limited, which was incorporated on 28 October 2004, is registered in England and Wales and operates in the United Kingdom.

23 Related party transactions disclosures

Balances and transactions between the Company and its subsidiary, which are related parties, amounting to £452,000 have been eliminated on consolidation and are not disclosed in this note.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of the directors, who are the key management personnel of the company for each of the relevant categories specified in IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures is provided in the audited part of the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 47 to 48.

Directors' transactions

Dividends totalling £229,000 (2014: £215,000) were paid in the year in respect of ordinary shares held by the Company's directors.

24 Segment reporting

The Group adopted IFRS 8 Operating Segments with effect from 1 January 2009. IFRS 8 requires operating segments to be identified on the basis of internal reports about components of the Group that are reviewed regularly by the Chief Executive Officer and that are used to allocate resources to the segments and to assess their performance. The identification of the Group's reportable segments did not change as a result of the adoption of IFRS 8.

Geographical segments

Geographical segments are considered to be the primary reporting segment. An analysis of investment income by geographical segment is set out in note 2 on page 71. Analyses of expenses by geographical segment and of profit by geographical segment have not been given as it is not possible to prepare such information in a meaningful way. An analysis of the investments by geographical segment is set out in note 10 on page 76. Analyses of the remaining assets and liabilities by geographical region have not been given as either it is not possible to prepare such information in a meaningful way or the results are not considered to be significant.

Business segments

Business segments are considered to be the secondary reporting segment. The Group has two business segments: (i) its activity as an investment trust, which is the business of the parent company, Witan Investment Trust plc, and recorded in the accounts of that company; and (ii) the provision of alternative investment fund manager, executive and marketing management services and the management of savings schemes, which is the business of the subsidiary company, Witan Investment Services Limited, and recorded in the accounts of that company.

	31 December 2015			31 December 2014		
	Investment trust £'000	Management services £'000	Total £'000	Investment trust £'000	Management services £'000	Total £'000
Revenue*	46,127	1,151	47,278	38,635	1,102	39,737
Interest expense	9,683	–	9,683	8,210	–	8,210
Net result	83,683	–	83,683	95,319	–	95,319
Carrying amount of assets	1,575,822	1,508	1,577,330	1,440,053	1,194	1,441,247

* The investment and other income of the parent company.

25 Subsequent events

Since the year end, the Board has declared a fourth interim dividend in respect of the year ended 31 December 2015 of 5.45p per ordinary share (see also page 4 and note 8 on page 75).

Since the year end, 192,646 ordinary shares of 25p have been bought back.

Historical Record

(unaudited)

	Market price per ordinary share in pence	Debt at fair value		Debt at par value		Earnings per ordinary share in pence	Dividends per ordinary share in pence
		Net asset value per ordinary share in pence ^(b)	Share price (discount)/ premium % ^(b)	Net asset value per ordinary share in pence ^(c)	Share price discount % ^(c)		
31 December 2005	414.0	458.9	(9.8)	469.5 ^(a)	(11.8)	8.96 ^(a)	8.8
31 December 2006	454.5	508.4	(10.6)	517.1	(12.1)	10.24	9.2
31 December 2007	478.5	537.9	(11.0)	545.7	(12.3)	11.08	9.9
31 December 2008	351.0	400.3	(12.3)	410.1	(14.4)	11.60	10.2
31 December 2009	444.6	497.0	(10.5)	502.7	(11.6)	10.63	10.5
31 December 2010	516.5	578.1	(10.7)	584.4	(11.6)	9.45	10.9
31 December 2011	450.0	503.7	(10.7)	516.9	(12.9)	13.27	12.0
31 December 2012	503.0	568.9	(11.6)	581.8	(13.5)	14.50	13.2
31 December 2013	669.0	717.6	(6.8)	725.2	(7.7)	15.44	14.4
31 December 2014	753.5	749.2	0.6	760.3	(0.9)	15.88	15.4
31 December 2015	780.0	781.2	(0.2)^(d)	788.4	(1.1)	18.49	17.0

(a) The figure for 2005 has been calculated in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRSs') as adopted by the European Union.

(b) The net asset value per ordinary share is calculated by deducting from the total assets less current liabilities of the Group the fixed borrowings at their fair (or market) values. The share price discount shown reflects this calculation.

(c) The net asset value per ordinary share is calculated by deducting from the total assets less current liabilities of the Group the fixed borrowings at their par (not their market) values. The share price discount shown reflects this calculation.

(d) The average premium to the net asset value, including income, with debt at fair value, in 2015 was 0.1% (2014: average discount 2.8%). (Source: Datastream)

Unsolicited approaches for shares: warning to Shareholders

Many companies have become aware that their shareholders have received unsolicited phone calls or correspondence concerning investment matters. These are typically from overseas based 'brokers' who target UK shareholders offering to sell them what often turn out to be worthless or high risk shares in US or UK investments. They can be very persistent and extremely persuasive. Shareholders are therefore advised to be very wary of any unsolicited advice, offers to buy shares at a discount or offers of free company reports.

Please note that it is very unlikely that either the Company or the Company's Registrar, Computershare Investor Services PLC, would make unsolicited telephone calls to shareholders and that any such calls would relate only to official documentation already circulated to shareholders and never in respect of investment 'advice'.

If you are in any doubt about the veracity of an unsolicited phone call, please call either the Company Secretary or the Registrar at the numbers provided on page 92.

Witan Wisdom and Jump

How to invest

Naturally, Witan's shares can be traded through any UK stockbroker but there is a variety of other ways to invest in Witan Investment Trust plc. Witan is available for investment through two savings schemes managed by Witan Investment Services Limited – Witan Wisdom and Jump Savings. Advisers who wish to purchase Witan shares for their clients can do so via a stockbroker, Witan Savings Schemes or via a growing number of dedicated platforms. These include Ascentric, Nucleus, Seven Investment Management and Transact. A growing number of platforms offer investment trusts directly to investors including Alliance Trust Savings, Hargreaves Lansdown, Barclays Stockbrokers, Halifax Share Dealing Limited, Interactive Investor and AJ Bell.

Witan Wisdom

Shareholders who hold their investment via Witan Wisdom are charged a single flat annual fee of £30* +VAT for both the Witan Wisdom Share Plan and ISA. There is no charge other than government stamp duty, for regular savings or dividend reinvestment. Lump sum dealing will be charged at a flat rate of £15.

Witan Wisdom offers two different savings wrappers:

The Witan Wisdom ISA is a stocks and shares ISA that enables investors to buy Witan shares within a tax efficient wrapper. Investors have an annual ISA allowance of up to £15,240 for both the 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years. The minimum lump sum investment with Witan Wisdom ISA is £2,000, with the regular savings minimum being £100 per month. Investors can also transfer existing ISAs to Witan Wisdom while retaining their tax efficient wrapper during and after transfer.

The Witan Wisdom Share Plan is our straightforward, low-cost savings scheme. The minimum lump sum investment is £500, and the minimum regular contribution is £50 per month or quarter. There is no maximum. Accounts can also be held jointly, or designated to a child.

Jump Savings for children

Jump gives parents, grandparents and other adults the chance to invest in Witan on behalf of a child. This flexible savings plan has a minimum lump sum investment set at £250 and regular contributions can be made from £50 per month or quarter. Jump is available in three different wrappers:

Junior ISA – Is a tax efficient wrapper available to children born before 1 September 2002 or after 3 January 2012, or those who did not qualify for a Child Trust Fund. The account can only be opened by the parent though others can add to it. It currently has an annual subscription limit of £4,080 for both the 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years. You can open a Jump Junior ISA with a minimum lump sum investment of £250 or £50 per month or quarter.

Jump Child Trust Fund – Like the Junior ISA, the Child Trust Fund (CTF) is a tax efficient savings vehicle with an annual limit of £4,080 each year (measured by the child's birthday). Each child born in the UK from 1 September 2002 up to and including 2 January 2012 was eligible for a CTF. You can transfer existing CTFs to a Jump CTF or directly into a Jump Junior ISA subject to a minimum transfer value of £1,000. In addition, from April 2015 the UK Government plans to allow CTF investors to transfer to Junior ISAs. Once permissions are confirmed, you will be able to transfer existing CTFs to the Jump Junior ISA subject to minimum transfer values. Please contact Witan for further details.

Jump Savings Plan – the Jump Savings Plan offers greater flexibility than the Junior ISA or Child Trust Fund in terms of the limits, access and control of the investment. It can also be opened by grandparents, relatives and other family friends. You can open a Jump Savings Plan with a lump sum investment of £250 or £50 per month or quarter. Shareholders who hold their investment via Jump are charged a single flat annual fee of £31.60* + VAT.

NB: Given the flat rate annual fees for Wisdom and Jump, the cost is high for the minimum subscription levels to our plans and investors should consider carefully the suitability for them if they do not plan to add to the account.

Brochures and applications for all of our products are available by calling 0800 082 81 80 or online via www.witan.com. If you would prefer to write to request further information, the address details can be found on page 92. To keep up to date on news and commentary from Witan Investment Trust plc please visit www.witan.com/stayintouch to provide us with your email address.

Witan Investment Trust plc is an equity investment. Investors are reminded that past performance is not a guide to future performance and the value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Please note that tax assumptions may change if the law changes, and the value of tax relief (if any) will depend upon your individual circumstances. Investors should consult their own tax advisers in order to understand any applicable tax consequences. Issued and approved by Witan Investment Services Limited. Witan Investment Services Limited of 14 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA is registered in England and Wales number 5272533. Witan Investment Services Limited provides investment products and services and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. We may record telephone calls for our mutual protection and to improve customer service.

*Subject to adjustment in line with the UK CPI inflation every 3 years compounded. In accordance with this policy, there will be an adjustment in line with inflation applied to the Annual Management Fee ('AMF') for Witan Wisdom shareholders with effect from 6 April 2017 and for Jump shareholders with effect from 6 April 2018. You can select to pay the AMF by direct debit thus avoiding the possibility of selling shares if the AMF cannot be recovered from cash held at the time of dividend reinvestment.

Shareholder Information

Points of Contact

If you have any questions or need more information concerning Witan, you may contact us in the following ways:

Freephone:
0800 082 8180

E-mail:
wisdom@ifdsgroup.co.uk

Post:
For Witan Wisdom and Jump Savings queries:
Witan Wisdom
PO Box 10550
Chelmsford
CM99 2BA

Points of Reference

You can follow the progress of your investment through the newspapers. Witan's share price appears daily in the national press stock exchange listings under 'Investment Trusts' or 'Investment Companies' and is also included on the Witan website (www.witan.com).

The London Stock Exchange Daily Official List (SEDOL) code is 0974406.

Dividend

A fourth interim dividend of 5.45p per share has been declared, payable on 1 April 2016. The record date for the dividend was 4 March 2016 and the ex-dividend date for the dividend was 3 March 2016 (see pages 4 and 30).

Dividend Tax Allowance

From April 2016 dividend tax credits will be replaced by an annual £5,000 tax-free allowance on dividend income across an individual's entire share portfolio. Above this amount, individuals will pay tax on their dividend income at a rate dependent on their income tax bracket and personal circumstances. The Company will continue to provide registered shareholders with a confirmation of the dividends it has paid and this should be included with any other dividend income received when calculating and reporting total dividend income received. It is the shareholder's responsibility to include all dividend income when calculating any tax liability.

Capital Gains Tax

The calculation of the tax on chargeable gains will depend on your personal circumstances. If you are in any doubt about your personal tax position, you are recommended to contact your professional adviser.

Disability Act

Copies of this Annual Report and other documents issued by Witan Investment Trust plc are available from the Company Secretary. If needed, copies can be made available in a variety of formats, including Braille, audio tape or larger type as appropriate.

You can contact our Registrar, Computershare Investor Services PLC, which has installed textphones to allow speech and hearing impaired people who have their own telephone to contact them directly, without the need for an intermediate operator, by

dialling 0370 702 0005. Specially trained operators are available during normal business hours to answer queries via this service.

Alternatively, if you prefer to go through a 'typetalk' operator (provided by The Royal National Institute for Deaf People), you should dial **18001** followed by the number you wish to dial.

Registered Office

14 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AA

Company Secretary

Frostrow Capital LLP
25 Southampton Buildings
London WC2A 1AL
Telephone: 020 3008 4910

Registered Number

Registered as an investment company in England and Wales, Number 101625.

Custodian, Investment Administrator and Depositary

BNP Paribas Securities Services
55 Moorgate
London EC2R 6PA

Registrar

Computershare Investor Services PLC
The Pavilions
Bridgwater Road
Bristol BS99 6ZZ
Telephone: 0370 707 1408*

*Calls cost about 2 pence per minute from a BT line plus any network extras; calls from other providers, or from mobile phones, may cost more.

Auditor

Deloitte LLP
Chartered Accountants
2 New Street Square
London EC4A 3BZ

Solicitors

Herbert Smith Freehills LLP
Exchange House
Primrose Street
London EC2A 2HS

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

Stockbroker

J.P. Morgan Cazenove
25 Bank Street
Canary Wharf
London E14 5JP



The Company is a member of:



The Company conducts its affairs so that its shares can be recommended by independent financial advisers ('IFAs') to retail private investors. The shares are excluded from the Financial Conduct Authority's restrictions which apply to non-mainstream investment products because they are shares in a UK-listed investment trust.

Our relationship with the RHS



Witan Investment Trust has enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the Royal Horticultural Society ('RHS') for more than 18 years. Over this time, Witan has helped to redevelop a number of new gardens at Wisley including the Walled Garden West, the Herb Garden, the Bowes-Lyon Rose Garden and the Vegetable Garden at Hyde Hall, which is scheduled to open to the public in Spring 2017. In 2016, Witan will sponsor a garden at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, which runs from 5 to 10 July. Tickets are available via the RHS website (www.rhs.org.uk). Witan shareholders who hold their shares through Witan Wisdom or Jump Savings, or on the main register, are eligible to apply for a ballot for a ticket that will allow free entry for two adults to any one of the four RHS gardens in the UK.

If you would like to request a ticket then please phone us on 0800 082 8180 or email wisdom@ifdsgroup.co.uk confirming the full name of the account holder.



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