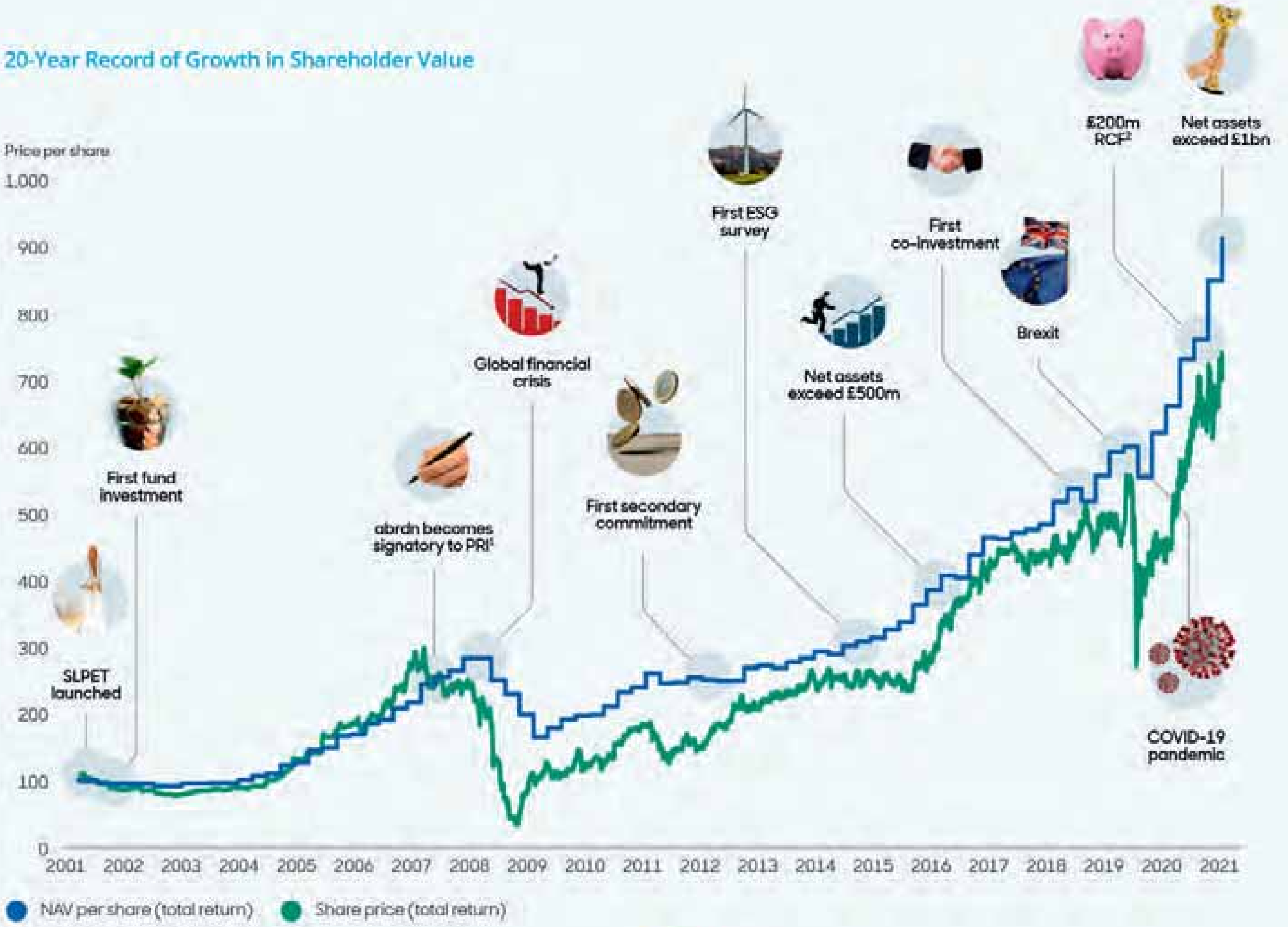
Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc

Providing access to a diversified portfolio of private equity investments

Annual Report
30 September 2021

slpet.co.uk

20-Year Record of Growth in Shareholder Value



[1]Principles for Responsible Investment.
[2]Revolving Credit Facility.

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The Company

Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc (the "Company" or "SLPET") is an investment trust with a premium listing on the London Stock Exchange.

The Company has appointed abrdn Capital Partners LLP (formerly SL Capital Partners LLP), a wholly owned subsidiary of abrdn plc, formerly Standard Life Aberdeen PLC, as its alternative investment fund manager ("AIFM") and Manager (the "Manager")

Visit our Website

To find out more about Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc, please visit: slpet.co.uk

SCAN ME

Contents

Highlights

Net Asset Value ("NAV") Total Return*+
Year ended 30 September 2021
37.9%
30 September 2020 11.7%

Share Price Total Return*+
Year ended 30 September 2021
60.6%
30 September 2020 -4.6%

FTSE All-Share Index Total Return
Year ended 30 September 2021
27.9%
30 September 2020 -16.6%

Net Assets
As at 30 September 2021
£1,036.0m
30 September 2020 £770.3m

Share Price
As at 30 September 2021
498.0p
30 September 2020 320.0p

Expense Ratio*+
As at 30 September 2021
1.10%
30 September 2020 1.10%

Performance Highlights

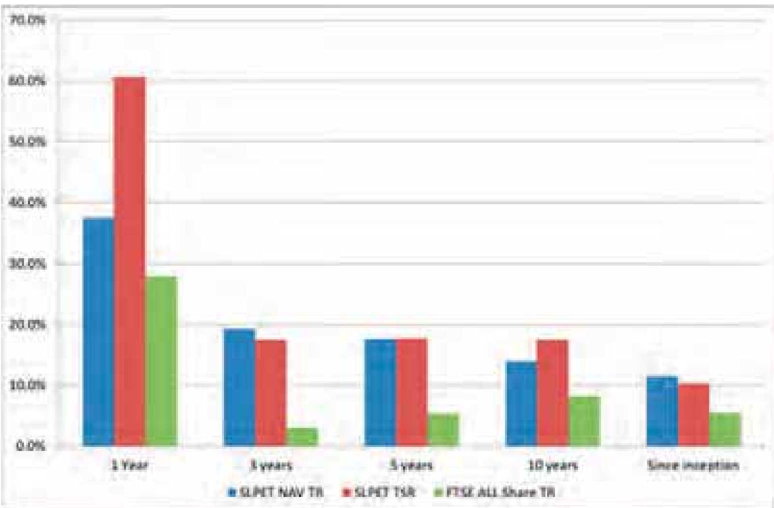
Performance Highlights to 30 September 2021

Record annual NAV growth, ahead of the FTSE All-Share index

The Company's NAV total return*+ ("NAV TR") was 37.9% (2020: 11.7%) versus 27.9% (2020: -16.6%) for the FTSE All-Share Index ("FTSE All Share TR"). This was the highest annual NAV TR in the Company's 20 year history.

The share price total return ("TSR")*+ of 60.6% also outperformed the comparator index despite the strong performance in the public markets in 2021.

The Company has delivered returns in excess of the wider UK market over all time frames (as shown in the chart on the right hand side).



Over-commitment ratio is at the lower end of the long-term target range of 30% - 75%

Total outstanding commitments of £557.1m (2020: £471.4m). The value of outstanding commitments in excess of liquid resources and the undrawn loan facility as a percentage of portfolio NAV was 32.5% (2020: 30.9%[1]).

Rebound in investment activity following the global pandemic, focused on non-cyclical strategies

In total, £307.1m (2020: £140.0m) was committed during the year to eight primary fund commitments, two secondary transactions and ten co-investments. Most new investments have a Technology or Healthcare focus and so are expected to increase the Company's exposure to these sectors over time.

Co-investment increasing as a proportion of the portfolio

Strong annual deployment and growth in the existing co-investment portfolio has resulted in co-investments equating to 11% of the portfolio at year end (2020: 5%). The co-invest portfolio stands at thirteen portfolio companies (2020: three portfolio companies).

Record year in terms of realisations, the highest annual total in the Company's history

The portfolio continued to generate strong realisations during the year, with distributions of £198.7m (2020: £140.7m). Distributions reflected a relatively quick return to private equity deal-making and exits once the initial impacts of the global pandemic were overcome.

Strong balance sheet providing firepower for future investment

The Company had cash and cash equivalents of £29.7m at 30 September 2021 (2020: £33.1m). In addition, SLPET had an undrawn syndicated revolving credit facility of £200.0m (2020: £200.0m).

* Considered to be an Alternative Performance Measure. See pages 97 and 98 for more information.
\+ A Key Performance Indicator by which the performance of the Manager is measured by the Board.
[1] In previous reporting, the Company has reported this measure as a percentage of the Net Asset Value of the Company. Going forward, this measure will now be calculated as a percentage of the total portfolio value of the Company. Comparative figures based on the previous methodology can be found in the Alternative Performance Measures section on page 97.

Ten Year Financial Record

Ten Year Financial Record

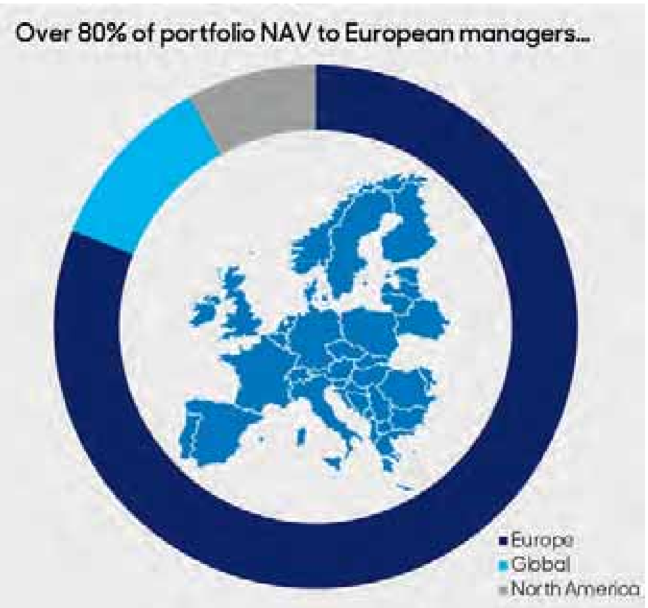
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Per share data										
NAV (diluted) (p)	224.9	243.4	257.4	281.6	346.4	389.6	430.2	461.9	501.0	673.8
Share price (p)	162.4	198.0	230.0	214.0	267.3	341.5	345.5	352.0	320.0	498.0
Discount*+ to diluted NAV per Share (%)	(27.8)	(18.6)	(10.6)	(24.0)	(22.8)	(12.3)	(19.7)	(23.8)	(36.1)	(26.1)
Dividend per Share (p)	2.00	5.00	5.00	5.25	5.40	12.00	12.40	12.80	13.20	13.60
Expense Ratio*+1 (%)	0.97	0.99	0.96	0.98	0.99	1.14[2]	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10
Returns data										
NAV Total Return*+ (%)	0.1	9.1	7.7	11.9	24.8	14.9	13.3	10.5	11.7	37.9
Total Shareholder Return*+ (%)	22.4	23.4	19.1	(4.0)	27.9	31.9	5.8	5.7	(4.6)	60.6
Portfolio data										
Net Assets (£m)	369.7	401.2	409.1	438.7	532.6	599.0	661.4	710.1	770.3	1,036.0
Top 10 Managers as a % of net assets	80.2	68.4	65.0	65.2	65.0	58.9	63.6	67.9	67.8	62.9
Top 10 investments as a % net assets	63.5	51.7	52.9	48.6	45.9	47.7	48.4	53.9	48.3	40.3

Source: The Manager & Refinitiv
[1] For further information on the calculation of the expense ratio, as well as the ongoing charges ratio of the Company, please refer to page 97.
[2] The incentive fee arrangement ended on 30 September 2016. Following the end of the incentive fee period, a single management fee of 0.95% per annum of the NAV of the Company replaced the previous management and incentive fees.
* Considered to be an Alternative Performance Measure. See pages 97 and 98 for more information.
+ A Key Performance Indicator by which the performance of the Manager is measured by the Board.

Key Features

Conviction

- A listed private equity fund-of-funds offering, with SLPET's top 10 fund investments representing 41% of portfolio NAV
- Successful track record of selecting top performing managers and funds over 20 years
- 76% of our investments fall within top or second quartile from a total value over paid in capital perspective



Focus

- Core focus on the European mid-market since the Company's inception in 2001, providing deep market intelligence, a long-term track record of performance and exposure to a segment of the market that can be hard to access
- Continued bias to Europe (79%) with a tilt towards North Western Europe (68%) given the number and breadth of investment opportunities available there
- No single geography overexposed, helping to provide resilience during financial market volatility (Brexit, Covid-19 pandemic)

Diversification

Increased exposure towards high growth areas which have proven to be relatively stable and predictable through cycles and periods of market dislocation:

- We have purposefully sought to invest in managers and investments focused on high growth, non-cyclical sectors and sub-sectors
- Sector exposure has moved more towards high growth sectors which have proven to be relatively stable and predictable, notably since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Technology and Healthcare represent 41% of the portfolio. When combined with Consumer Staples these non-cyclical sectors equate to 53%
- Over 550 underlying private companies, well-balanced across different regions, sectors and vintages
- 55% of the portfolio held for four or more years which will drive distributions going forward with value accretion coming from the less mature vintages

Responsible Investment

Environmental, Social and Governance ('ESG') is integrated into the Company's investment philosophy and process:

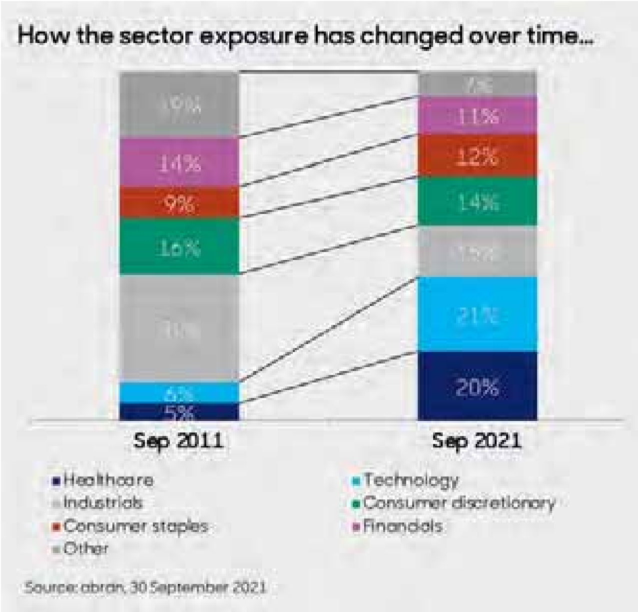
- abrdn has been a signatory of the Principles for Responsible Investment ("PRI") since obtaining an A+ rating for strategy and governance in 2020
- SLPET partner's with private equity managers that are ESG leaders and/or culturally committed to ESG improvement
- Private equity firms in the Company's portfolio are subject to the Manager's annual Responsible Investment Survey.

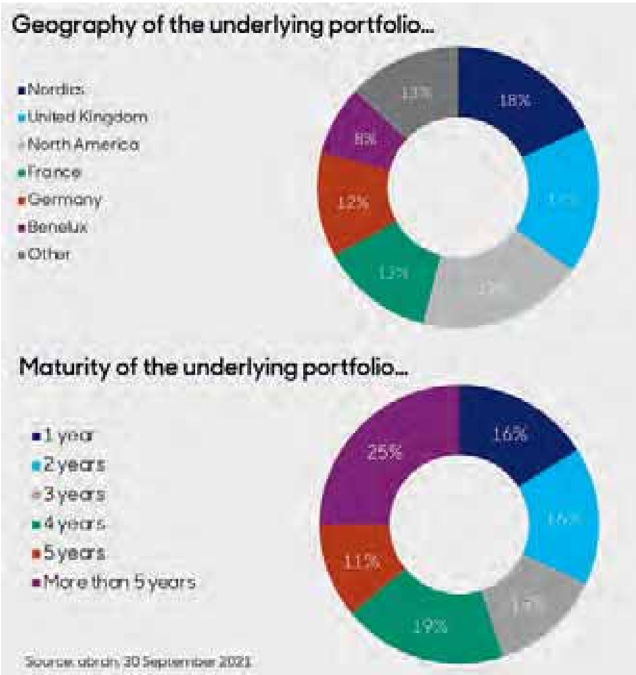
Further detail on the Manager's approach to ESG can be found on page 18.

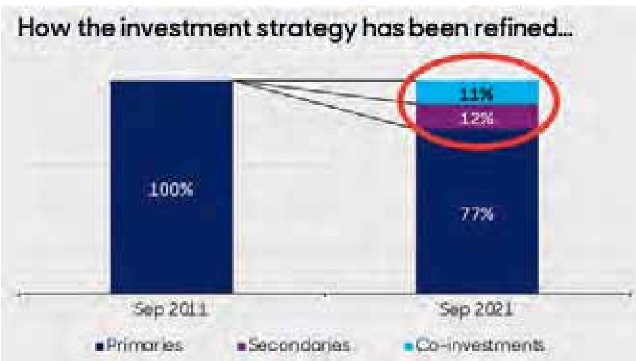
Evolving Portfolio

Deploying a larger share of SLPET's capital via co-investments and secondaries, bringing further control over capital deployment, sector exposure and costs of investment:

- In 2019 we refined SLPET's investment strategy to include co-investments which we view as complementary to investing in primaries and secondaries
- Co-investment brings the benefit of greater portfolio management and cash control, as well as lower underlying investment costs
- Secondaries allow for improved vintage year diversification and increased exposure to more mature, cash generative portfolios







Strategic Report

Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc provides investors with diversified exposure to leading private equity funds and private companies, mainly in Europe.

Investment Strategy

Investment Objective

The Company's investment objective is to achieve long-term total returns through holding a diversified portfolio of private equity funds and direct investments into private companies alongside private equity managers ("co-investments"), a majority of which will have a European focus.

Investment Policy

The Company: (i) commits to private equity funds on a primary basis; (ii) acquires private equity fund interests in the secondary market; and (iii) makes direct investments into private companies via co-investments. Its policy is to maintain a broadly diversified portfolio by country, industry sector, maturity and number of underlying investments.

The objective is for the portfolio to comprise around 50 "active" private equity fund investments; this excludes funds that have recently been raised, but have not yet started investing, and funds that are close to or being wound up. The Company may also invest up to 20% of its assets in co-investments.

The Company may also hold direct private equity investments or quoted securities as a result of distributions in specie from its portfolio of fund investments. The Company's policy is normally to dispose of such assets where they are held on an unrestricted basis.

To maximise the proportion of invested assets, the Company follows an over-commitment strategy by making commitments which exceed its uninvested capital. In making such commitments, the Manager, together with the Board, will take into account the uninvested capital, the value and timing of expected and projected cashflows to and from the portfolio and, from time to time, may use borrowings to meet drawdowns. The Board has agreed that the over-commitment ratio should sit within the range of 30% to 75% over the long-term.

The Company's maximum borrowing capacity, defined in its articles of association, is an amount equal to the aggregate of the amount paid up on the issued share capital of the Company and the amount standing to the credit of the reserves of the Company. However, it is expected that borrowings would not normally exceed 30% of the Company's net assets at the time of drawdown.

The Company's non-sterling currency exposure is principally to the euro and US dollar. The Company does not seek to hedge this exposure into sterling, although any borrowings in euros and other currencies in which the Company is invested would have such a hedging effect.

Cash held pending investment is invested in short-dated government bonds, money-market instruments, bank deposits or other similar investments. Cash held pending investment may also be invested in other listed investment companies or trusts. The Company will not invest more than 15% of its total assets in such listed equities.

The investment limits described above are all measured at the time of investment.

Portfolio Construction Approach

Through its primary and secondary fund investments and co-investments, the Company is directly and indirectly invested in a diverse range of underlying companies. At 30 September 2021, the portfolio had exposure to 578 underlying companies, 36 fund investments and 9 co-investments.

Investments made by the Company are typically with or alongside private equity firms with whom the Manager has an established relationship of more than 10 years.

The Company predominantly invests in European mid-market companies. Around 80% of portfolio by value is invested in European domiciled operating companies and the Board expects this to remain the case over the longer term, with a weighting towards North Western Europe. This has been the geographic focus of the Company since its inception in 2001 and where it has a strong, long-term track record. However, the Company also selectively seeks exposure to North American mid-market companies, as a means to access emerging growth or investment trends that cannot be fully captured by investing in Europe alone.

The Company has a well-balanced portfolio in terms of non-cyclical and cyclical exposure. Currently the largest single sector exposure represents 21% of the portfolio by value and it is expected that no single sector will be more than 30% of the portfolio over the longer term. Over time, the Manager anticipates a continuation of the recent shift toward sectors that are experiencing long-term growth (such as Technology and Healthcare) at the expense of more cyclical sectors, such as Industrial and Consumer Discretionary.

Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") is a strategic priority for the Board and the Manager. The Company aims to be an active, long-term responsible investor and ESG is a fundamental component of the Company's investment philosophy and process. Further details on the Company's ESG processes are set out on page 18.

Chair's Statement

Christina McComb, OBE, Chair

"The results for the year to 30 September 2021 show record annual performance"

Introduction

I am delighted to present the Company's Annual Report and Accounts for the period to 30 September 2021, a year in which the Company's portfolio has exhibited record annual growth and continued to deliver strong realised returns to shareholders. 2021 was also an important landmark year: the 20th anniversary of the Company's launch, in which the Company has extended its track record of delivering returns in excess of the wider market in all years since inception.

The strength of performance achieved in the year is all the more remarkable given the disruption of the global pandemic. The Board continues to have confidence in the Company's investment strategy, which has remained consistently focused on partnering with a relatively small group of high quality private equity firms, predominately in the European mid-market. Our diversified portfolio, spanning primary, secondary and co-investments, is well positioned to continue to deliver growth in the future. Co-investment, in particular, has continued to grow as a proportion of the portfolio and will bring the benefits of lower cost of investment and a more immediate means of impacting portfolio construction and balance sheet management in the years ahead.

Proposed Name Change

Following the Manager's sale of the Standard Life brand to Phoenix Group in May 2021, the Board is proposing that the Company changes its name to abrdn Private Equity Opportunities Trust plc. We believe that the proposed name change aligns the Company with the Manager's new brand and comes at an exciting time in the Company's development. The proposed name change is subject to a shareholder vote, which will take place at the Company's Annual General Meeting ("AGM") in March 2022.

Performance

The results for the year to 30 September 2021 show record annual share price and NAV performance, on a total return basis. Net assets exceeded £1 billion for the first time, closing at £1,036.0 million (2020: £770.3 million); Net Asset Value ("NAV") per share total return for the year was 37.9% and the share price total return was 60.6%, exceeding the 27.9% total return from our comparator index, the FTSE All-Share Index. A review of the Company's performance, market background and investment activity during the year under review, as well as the Manager's investment outlook, are provided in the Investment Manager's Review which begins on page 25.

Investments and Realisation Activity

The 12 months ended 30 September 2021 was a very active year for investment: the Company made commitments totalling £307.1 million, more than twice the level of the prior year. These commitments were well diversified, with eight new primary investments, two secondary investments and ten co-investments. Outstanding commitments at the year end amounted to £557.1 million (2020: £471.4 million).

The Company received £198.7 million of distributions in the year (2020: £140.7 million), another annual record. The realised return equated to 2.8 times cost.

Liquidity

At the year end, the Company had cash and cash equivalents of £29.7 million. The over-commitment ratio of 32.5% at year end was at the lower end of the Company's target range (30-75%). This means that the Company has ample firepower for new investments in the months and years ahead.

Dividends

The Company has paid three quarterly dividends of 3.4 pence per share and the Board has announced a fourth quarterly dividend of 3.4 pence per share. This will be paid on 28 January 2022 to shareholders on the register on 24 December 2021 and will make a total dividend for the year to 30 September 2021 of 13.6 pence per share. This represents an increase of 3.0% on the 13.2 pence per share paid for the year to 30 September 2020.

Discount

The discount of the Company's share price to its NAV ranged between 7.7% to 33.8% during the year, and averaged 21.1%, which was slightly narrower than the 23.1% of the close peer group. The Board does not have a stated discount control policy. However, the Board and Manager monitor the discount on a regular basis to ensure that the Company is not an outlier versus its peer group. The Board has, in the past, bought back its own shares to manage the discount but the Board's policy is generally to preserve cash for investment purposes and did not conduct any share buy-backs during the year under review.

Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG")

The Board fundamentally believes that integrating ESG best practice into the Company's strategy and investment processes will help to generate stronger, more sustainable returns for shareholders over the long term. Accordingly, the Board monitors closely the Manager's policy and practice to invest only with private equity firms who are ESG market leaders or have a strong cultural commitment to improve their ESG credentials.

While the Board is encouraged by the efforts of the Manager in this regard, we have challenged the Manager to continue to raise ESG standards across the industry and to publicise the work that it has done in this area. For further detail on this topic, including ESG case studies and details of the Manager's annual ESG survey, see page 18.

Investment Manager

Each year, the Board, through the Management Engagement Committee, considers whether the continued appointment of the Manager is in the best interests of shareholders as a whole. Following our most recent review, the Board considers that the Manager continues to have well qualified personnel and processes in place to deliver the Company's investment objective over the long term for shareholders.

Board

I am delighted to welcome two new Directors: Yvonne Stillhart and Dugald Agble, who joined the Board in the year following an external search process. Both Yvonne and Dugald have deep experience of private equity and private markets and they have already started to make a strong contribution. As is our policy, they will both stand for election at the Company's AGM in March 2022.

Following the new Board appointments, I will be retiring from the Board in March 2022, having served on the Board since 2013, the last 3 years as Chair. The Board has selected Alan Devine as my successor as Chair. Alan has served on the Board since 2014 and has been Senior Independent Director since January 2019.

Annual General Meeting ("AGM")

The AGM of the Company will be held at the Balmoral Hotel, 1 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2EQ at 12:30 pm on 22 March 2022 ,when the Board and Manager will be happy to take questions from Shareholders. The Board recognises, however, that not all Shareholders may wish to travel at present so the Manager has recorded a presentation that will be available on the Company's website before the AGM. Given that guidance with regard to the pandemic can be fast-changing, if, for any reason, the location of the AGM has to be changed then the Company will make the appropriate announcement via the Regulatory News Service and on the Company's website. For that reason, we would encourage Shareholders to vote on the proposed resolutions in advance of the AGM and, should you have any questions before that, you can engage with the Board by emailing SLPET.Board@abrdn.com.

Outlook

Whilst the global pandemic is not yet behind us, many are turning their attention to other macroeconomic factors including inflation, rising interest rates and tapering of quantitative easing. At the same time, private equity as an asset class continues to raise record levels of capital, potentially raising levels of competition.

Despite the potential challenges that lie ahead, I would note that the Manager has helped guide the Company for 20 years and has experience of investing through multiple cycles. More broadly, I believe the private equity model of active ownership allows companies to react and innovate quicker when faced with changing circumstances. As such, private equity remains an attractive area for investment going forward and SLPET provides diversified exposure to an attractive sub-segment of the asset class.

Finally, as I leave the Board, I should like to thank my fellow Directors and the Manager team. Chairing the Company has been a privilege and I feel confident in the prospects going forward.

Christina McComb, OBE
Chair,
26 January 2022

Q&A with the Chair

Q: As you prepare to retire from the Board, what do you regard as the key achievements of the Company over the past nine years?

I will go back a little further! In 2021, the Company celebrated 20 years since its inception. In that period, we have delivered an annualised NAV total return of 11.4% and outperformed a return of 5.4% from our comparator index the FTSE All-Share. I am particularly delighted that over the last year we experienced the strongest annual performance in terms of NAV total return in our history at 37.9%, in addition to the highest distribution level of £198.7 million, driven by strong exit activity in the portfolio.

I would also point to the consistency of the Company's strategy. The principal pillars of our investment approach remain the same as they were when I joined the Board: we select the best private equity managers and strategies to achieve consistent returns for our shareholders. Through the relationships that our Manager abrdn Capital Partners has nurtured over the years, we are able to secure access to a broad range of opportunities. This means that our portfolio is well diversified, including over 550 underlying private companies at the latest count.

In recent years, we have refined our investment policy, notably introducing co-investments. Over the course of the year under review, I am pleased to report that the Manager completed ten co-investment deals, and this now comprises approximately 11% of portfolio value across a total of 13 co-investments at 30 September 2021. Alongside our activity in the secondaries market, we believe this creates a well balanced portfolio strategy and enables us to invest in particularly promising growth businesses in our target sectors.

Q: How has the Company responded to the COVID pandemic?

I am reassured that the Manager has responded well to the global pandemic, to ensure that our portfolio is protected and supported. I believe that a key factor has been our policy of diversification: our exposure to sectors particularly badly affected has been contained. Whilst the Board adopted a cautious approach to new investment commitments during the early stages of the pandemic, we have observed the robustness of the mid-market growth company sector during 2021, including in the Technology and Healthcare sectors where the Company is well represented.

With the increased £200.0 million credit facility that the Company put in place in September 2020, our balance sheet is strong and well positioned to exploit new opportunities as the world emerges from the pandemic.

Q: With increased focus on ESG, how does the Company take these matters into consideration?

The Board is strongly committed to ESG and for us this means at the level of the manager, the private equity managers who we back and the underlying investee companies. Best practice is evolving in this area but the Board believes that the manager, abrdn, has strong track record in its commitment and processes. Specifically, the manager conducts an annual survey of the PE funds and is proactive in addressing any areas of relative weakness.

Q: What can you say about the Board's succession planning?

I was delighted to welcome two new directors to the Board in the final quarter of 2021. Yvonne Stillhart and Dugald Agble bring deep experience of private equity and private markets; they have already started to make a strong contribution. I am also pleased to announce that the Board has selected Alan Devine to be my successor when I stand down in March. Alan has served as Senior Independent Director since 2019; he brings considerable experience in debt markets and private equity backed businesses. Along with Calum Thomson and Diane Seymour Williams, we have a strong and diverse Board who I am confident will continue to guide the Company forward.

Q: What do you see as the key strengths of the Company?

The Company has had a consistent investment strategy for over 20 years and is proven throughout the cycle. It has a focused group of long standing private equity manager relationships from the global network of our Manager. This allows the Company to commit to private equity funds that are often oversubscribed and difficult to access, as well as generating strong co-investment dealflow, allowing the Manager to be selective. Further, we are focused on regularly accessing the secondary market for both buy and sell opportunities which are accretive to the Company's returns. The result is a diversified portfolio of over 550 underlying companies, well balanced by sector, geography and maturity, which provides comfort irrespective of the market cycle. We also believe our approach to Fees and Dividends is a differentiator, in that we currently do not pay a Performance Fee and we also offer Shareholders a regular and progressive yield.

Q: Looking forward, what are your reflections on the prospects for private equity and the Company in particular?

It is clear to me that the private equity model of active ownership creates the environment for innovative growth companies to thrive and create value on behalf of their shareholder and other stakeholders, including employees and wider society. This has been demonstrated through the strong performance of the private equity class during the pandemic. I believe that the Company's strategy of selecting best in class private equity managers, operating in growth sectors, will continue to provide strong and consistent returns to our shareholders in the future.

Principal Risks & Uncertainties

The Board and Audit Committee carry out a regular and robust review of the risk environment in which the Company operates, changes to the environment and individual risks. The Board also identifies emerging risks such as climate change which might affect the Company.

The Company has discussed climate change with the Manager. The Company is committed to being an active, long-term responsible investor and ESG is a fundamental component of the Company's investment philosophy and process. The Manager commits the Company's capital with private equity managers who demonstrate strong adherence to ESG principles and processes or have a cultural commitment to improve their ESG credentials. Focus on climate change is part of that assessment and the Manager also tracks private equity managers' ongoing initiatives around climate change via the Manager's annual Responsible Investing Survey (see page 19 for further information). The private equity industry is still relatively early in its response to climate change and the Manager is focused on engaging with its portfolio of private equity managers to help promote further positive change.

During the year, the continuance of the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted public health and mobility, but has also had an influence on global financial markets and the future economic outlook.

There are a number of risks which, if realised, could have a material adverse effect on the Company and its financial condition, performance and prospects. The Board has in place a process to assess and monitor Company's principal and emerging risks and the operating and control environment risks of the Company.

The Board considers its risk appetite in relation to each principal risk and monitors this on an ongoing basis. Where a risk is approaching or is outside the tolerance level, the Board will consider taking action to manage the risk. Currently, the Board considers the risks to be managed within acceptable levels.

The principal risks faced by the Company relate to the Company's investment activities and these are set out below.

Principal Risks & Uncertainties Continued

Risk	Definition	Tolerance	Update / Mitigation
Market	a) Pricing risk The Company is at risk of the economic cycle impacting listed financial markets and hence potentially affecting the pricing of underlying investments and timing of exits. b) Currency risk The Company has a material proportion of its investments and cash balances in currencies other than sterling and is therefore sensitive to movements in foreign exchange rates.	Medium	a) The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in pricing risk volatility and continued fluctuations in valuations across sectors particularly impacted by the pandemic during the year (e.g. travel, leisure and hospitality). The Manager remains alert to potential instability in these areas moving forward, as well as potential de-rating of sectors that have benefitted from the pandemic (e.g. SaaS, e-commerce, etc). Periods of lockdown also resulted in disruptions to private equity M&A. This has pushed out the timing of some exits in the portfolio but, nevertheless, the Company has experienced record realisation activity in the year. The Company also has a strong balance sheet position to mitigate any further unanticipated delay in the timing of exits. Inflation and interest rate rises have the potential to impact both the valuations of the existing underlying portfolio and the pricing of new investments in the future. Pricing risk is mitigated by the Company having a diversified portfolio of fund investments and co-investments. b) The Manager monitors the Company's exposure to foreign currencies and reports to the Board on a regular basis. It is not the Company's policy to hedge foreign currency risk. The Company's non-sterling currency exposure is primarily to the euro and the US dollar. The Covid-19 pandemic had an indirect impact on currencies, as countries respond with different monetary and fiscal policies. During the year ended 30 September 2021 sterling appreciated by 5.5% relative to the euro (2020: depreciated 2.5%) and appreciated by 4.3% relative to the US dollar (2020: appreciated 4.9%).
Liquidity	The risk that the Company is unable to meet short-term financial demands.	Low	The Company manages its liquid investments to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet contractual commitments and also seeks to have cash available to meet other short-term needs. Additional short-term flexibility is achieved through the use of the revolving multi-currency loan facility, which was extended to £200.0 million in 2020 and remained undrawn at 30 September 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the timing of some exits within the portfolio and therefore the cash distributions received by the Company. However, to date, distributions have been exceptionally strong and there is a sufficient amount of liquidity available, particularly with a larger undrawn loan facility. Liquidity risk is monitored by the Manager on an ongoing basis and by the Board on a regular basis. The Company had cash and cash equivalents of £29.7m (2020: £33.1m) as at 30 September 2021.

Risk	Definition	Tolerance	Update / Mitigation
Over-commitment	The risk that the Company is unable to settle outstanding commitments to fund investments.	Medium	The Company makes commitments to private equity funds and co-investments, which are typically drawn over three to five years. Hence the Company will tolerate a degree of over-commitment risk in order to deliver long-term investment performance. In order to mitigate this risk, the Manager ensures that the Company has appropriate levels of resources, whether through resources available for investment or the revolving credit facility, relative to the levels of over-commitment. The Manager will also forecast and assess the maturity of the underlying portfolio to determine likely levels of distributions in the near term. The Manager will also track the over-commitment ratio and ensure that it sits within the range, agreed with the Board, of 30% to 75% over the long term. The over-commitment ratio rose slightly during the year due to to the increased level of investment activity. At 30 September 2021 the Company had £557.1m (2020: £471.4m) of outstanding commitments, with £46.7m (2020: £67.6m) expected not to be drawn. The over-commitment ratio was 32.5% (2020: 30.9%)
Credit	The exposure to loss from failure of a counterparty to deliver securities or cash for acquisitions or disposals of investments or to repay deposits.	Low	The Company places funds with authorised deposit takers from time to time and, therefore, is potentially at risk from the failure of such an institution. The Company's cash is held by BNP Paribas Securities Services S.A., which is rated 'A+' by S&P Global Ratings. The Company's money-market funds are held in two Aberdeen Standard Investments (Lux) Liquidity funds, rated 'A' by S&P Global Ratings. The credit quality of the counterparties is kept under regular review. Should the credit quality or the financial position of these financial institutions deteriorate significantly, the Manager would move cash balances to other institutions.
Investment selection	The risk that the Manager makes decisions to invest in funds and/or co-investments that are not accretive to the Company's NAV over the long term.	Medium	The Manager undertakes detailed due diligence prior to investing in, or divesting, any fund or co-investment. It has an experienced team which monitors market activity closely. The Manager has long-established relationships with the third party fund managers in the Company's portfolio which have been built up over many years. ESG factors are integrated into the investment selection process and the Board and the Manager believes that will improve investment decision making and help to generate stronger, more sustainable returns. Please see pages 18 and 23 for more information on the Company's ESG Strategy and How We Invest.

Principal Risks & Uncertainties Continued

Risk	Definition	Tolerance	Update / Mitigation
Operational	The risk of loss or a missed opportunity resulting from a regulatory failure or a failure relating to people, processes or systems.	Low	The Manager's business continuity plans are reviewed on an ongoing basis alongside those of the Company's key service providers. The Board has received reports from its key service providers setting out the measures that they put in place to address the Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to their existing business continuity framework. Having considered these arrangements and reviewed service levels since the pandemic evolved, the Board is confident that a good level of service has and will be maintained.

The financial risk management objectives and policies of the Company are contained in note 18 to the financial statements which can be found on pages 91 to 95 of this Annual Report.

Review of performance

An outline of the performance, market background, investment activity and portfolio during the year under review and the performance over the longer term, as well as the investment outlook, are provided in the Highlights, Chair's Statement, and Investment Manager's Review. Details of the Company's investments can be found on page 41. The ten largest investments are shown on page 37 and the top ten underlying private company investments are shown on page 39.

Stakeholder Engagement & Responsible Management

Section 172 Statement

The Board is required to describe how the Directors have discharged their duties and responsibilities over the course of the financial year following the guidelines set out in the UK under section 172 (1) of the Companies Act 2006 (the "s172 Statement"). This Statement on pages 15 and 16, provides an explanation of how the Directors have promoted the success of the Company for the benefit of its shareholders as a whole, taking into account the likely long-term consequences of decisions, the need to foster relationships with all stakeholders and the impact of the Company's operations on the environment.

Stakeholders

The Company is an investment trust and is externally managed, has no employees, and is overseen by an independent non-executive board of directors. The Board makes decisions to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of the shareholders as a whole, with the ultimate aim of delivering its investment objective to achieve long-term total returns.

The Directors set the Company's investment mandate, monitor the performance of all service providers (including the Manager) and are responsible for reviewing strategy on a regular basis. All this is done with the aim of preserving and enhancing shareholder value over the longer term.

The following section discusses how the actions taken by and on behalf of the Company by the Board work towards ensuring that that the interests of all stakeholders are appropriately considered. In line with the FRC Guidance, this statement focuses on stakeholders that are considered key to the Company's business and does not therefore cover every stakeholder in the Company.

Shareholders

The Board is committed to maintaining open channels of communication and to engaging with shareholders. The Board seeks shareholder feedback in order to ensure that decisions are taken with the views of shareholders in mind. These shareholder communications include:

Annual General Meeting

The AGM ordinarily provides an opportunity for the Directors to engage with shareholders, answer their questions and meet them informally. At the AGM there is typically a presentation on the Company's performance and the future outlook. To allow the Board to engage with as many shareholders as possible, the Board alternates the location of the AGM between Edinburgh and London. The next AGM will take place on 22 March 2022 in Edinburgh and the Board encourages shareholders to lodge their vote by proxy on all the resolutions put forward.

Shareholder Meetings

Unlike trading companies, shareholders in investment companies often meet representatives of the Manager rather than members of the Board. Feedback from the Manager's meetings with shareholders is provided to the Board at every meeting. The Chair, the Chair of the Audit Committee and other members of the Board are also available to meet with shareholders to understand their views. During the year, the Chair met with the Company's largest shareholder and fed back its views to the full Board.

Publications

The Company publishes a full annual report each year that contains a strategic report, governance section, financial statements and additional information. The report is available online and in paper format. The Company also produces a half-yearly report each year. The purpose of these reports is to provide shareholders with a clear understanding of the Company's activities, portfolio, financial position and performance. The Manager also publishes a Monthly Factsheet, which includes commentary on portfolio and market performance, and a Monthly Net Asset Value Statement. The purpose of these publications is to keep shareholders abreast of the Company's developments.

Investor Relations and Website

The Company subscribes to the Manager's Investor Relations programme (further details are on page 55). The Company's website contains a range of information on the Company and includes a full monthly portfolio listing of the Company's investments as well as podcasts and presentations by the Manager. Details of financial results, the investment process and Manager together with Company announcements and contact details can be found at: slpet.co.uk.

Keeping in Touch

The Board encourages shareholder feedback and invites shareholders to write to the Board at its registered office. The Board has also set up an email account to encourage shareholders to write directly to the Board. Shareholders are invited to email any feedback or questions to the Board at SLPET.Board@abrdn.com. Any questions received will be replied to by either the Manager or Board via the Company Secretary.

The Manager

The Manager's performance is critical for the Company to achieve its investment objective and the Board seeks to maintain a close and constructive working relationship with the Manager. The Board meets the Manager at formal Board meetings five times per year and more regularly as necessary. The Board Members also keep in touch with the Manager informally

Stakeholder Engagement & Responsible Management Continued

throughout the year and receive reports and updates as appropriate. During the year, the Management Engagement Committee, on behalf of the Board, reviewed the continued appointment of Manager, and the terms of the Management Agreement, and believes that its continued appointment is in the best interests of shareholders.

Suppliers

As an investment trust, the Company has outsourced its entire operations to third party suppliers. The Board is responsible for selecting the most appropriate outsourced service providers and monitors their services to ensure a constructive working relationship. The Board maintains regular contact with its key external providers, namely the Administrator, the Company Secretary, the Registrar, the Depositary and the Broker, and receives regular reporting from them. The Board, via the Management Engagement Committee, ensures that the arrangements with service providers are reviewed at least annually. The aim is to ensure that contractual arrangements remain in line with best practice, services being offered meet the requirements and needs of the Company and performance is in line with the expectations of the Board, Manager, and other relevant stakeholders. The Audit Committee considers the internal controls at these service providers to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Debt Providers

On behalf of the Board, the Manager maintains a positive working relationship with Citi, Société Générale and State Street Bank International, the providers of the Company's multi-currency revolving credit facility, and provides regular updates on business activity and compliance with its loan covenants.

Investee Funds and Companies

Responsibility for actively monitoring the activities of investee funds and companies has been delegated by the Board to the Manager.

On behalf of the Board and its stakeholders, the Manager invests in a carefully selected range of private equity mangers, built from years of established relationships and proprietary research. The Manager assesses all investment opportunities and participates on the advisory boards of some investee entities.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the work of the Manager and this is not limited solely to the investment performance of the investee companies. The Board also has regard for environmental (including climate change), social and governance matters that subsist within the portfolio companies. Please see the Company's ESG Strategy on page 18 for more details.

Principal Decisions

Pursuant to the Board's aim of promoting the long term success of the Company, the following principal decisions were taken during the year:

The Investment Manager's Review on pages 25 to 36 details the key investment decisions taken during the year. In the opinion of the Board, the performance of the investment portfolio is the key factor in determining the long term success of the Company. Accordingly, at each Board meeting the Directors discuss performance in detail with the Investment Manager. As explained in more detail on page 53, during the year the Management Engagement Committee decided that the continuing appointment of the Manager was in the best interests of shareholders.

The Board carefully assessed the size of the dividend and is pleased to have paid three quarterly dividends of 3.4 pence per share and to have announced a fourth quarterly dividend of 3.4 pence per share making a total dividend for the year to 30 September 2021 of 13.6 pence per share. This represents an increase of 3.0% on the 13.2 pence per share paid for the year to 30 September 2020. See the Chair's Statement on page 8 for more details.

Following a formal recruitment process, the Board decided to appoint Yvonne Stillhart and Dugald Agble as independent non-executive Directors on 1 September 2021 following the retirement of Jonathan Bond earlier in the year. New appointments seek to achieve a good balance of skills, experience, gender and ethnicity reflecting the objectives of the Company. Shareholders' interests are best served by ensuring a smooth and orderly refreshment of the Board which serves to provide continuity and maintain the Board's open and collegiate style.

The Board agreed resolutions put to shareholders at the AGM in March 2021 including amendments to the Company's Articles of Association. The main change was to allow shareholders access to general meetings virtually or through a mixture of virtual and physical participation, if required in the future in case of any further unprecedented events such as Covid-19. The Directors believe that flexibility in the Company's ability to engage with shareholders in as broad a manner as possible benefits its members as a whole.

Board Diversity Policy

The Board recognises the importance of having a range of skilled, experienced individuals with appropriate knowledge represented on the Board in order to allow it to fulfil its obligations. The Board also recognises the benefits and is supportive of the principle of diversity in its recruitment of new Board members. The Board will not display any bias for age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic or national origins, or disability in considering the appointment of its Directors. In view of its size, the Board will continue to ensure that all appointments are made on the basis of merit against the specification prepared for each appointment. The Board does not therefore consider it appropriate to set measurable objectives in relation to its diversity.

At 30 September 2021, there were three male and three female Directors on the Board.

Modern Slavery Act

Being a company that does not offer goods and services to customers and has no turnover, the Board considers that the Company is not within the scope of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Company is therefore not required to make a slavery and human trafficking statement. In any event, the Board considers the Company's supply chains, dealing predominantly with professional advisers and service providers in the financial services industry, to be low risk in relation to this matter.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting ("SECR") Statement: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Consumption Disclosure

The Company has no employees, premises or operations either as a producer or provider of goods and services. Therefore, it is not required to disclose energy and carbon information as there are zero emissions associated or attributed to the Company and no underlying global energy consumption.

Viability Statement

The Board has decided that five years is an appropriate period over which to consider its viability. The Board considers this to be an appropriate period for an investment trust company with a portfolio of private equity investments and the financial position of the Company.

In determining this time period the Directors considered the nature of the Company's commitments and the Company's associated cash flows. Generally the private equity funds and co-investments in which the Company invests call monies over a five year period, whilst they are making investments, and these drawdowns should be offset by the more mature funds and co-investments, which are realising their investments and distributing cash back to the Company. The Manager presents the Board with a comprehensive review of the Company's detailed cash flow model on a regular basis, including projections for up to five years ahead depending on the expected life of the commitments. This analysis takes account of the most up to date information provided by the underlying managers, together with the Manager's current expectations in terms of market activity and performance.

The Directors have also carried out an assessment of the principal risks as noted on pages 11 to 14 and discussed in note 18 to the financial statements that are facing the Company over the period of the review. These include those that would threaten its business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity such as over-commitment, liquidity and market risks. When considering the risks, the Board reviewed the impact of stress testing on the portfolio, including the effects of any substantial future falls in investment values. By having a portfolio of fund investments, diversified by manager, vintage year, sector and geography; by assessing market and economic risks as decisions are made on new commitments; and by monitoring the Company's cash flows together with the Manager, the Directors believe the Company is able to withstand economic cycles. The Directors are also aware of the Company's indirect exposure to ongoing risks through underlying funds. These are continually assessed by the Manager monitoring the underlying managers themselves and by participation on a number of fund advisory boards.

Based on the results of this analysis, and the ongoing ability to adjust the portfolio, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due over the five year period following the date of this report.

Future Strategy

The Board intends to maintain the strategic policies set out in the Strategic Report for the year ending 30 September 2022 as it is believes that these are in the best interests of shareholders.

Long-Term Investment

The Manager's investment process seeks to outperform its comparator index over the longer term. The Board has in place the necessary procedures and processes to continue to promote the long-term success of the Company. The Board will continue to monitor, evaluate and seek to improve these processes as the Company continues to grow over time, to ensure that the investment proposition is delivered to shareholders and other stakeholders in line with their expectations.

On behalf of the Board
Christina McComb, OBE
Chair
26 January 2022

Our Manager's Approach to ESG

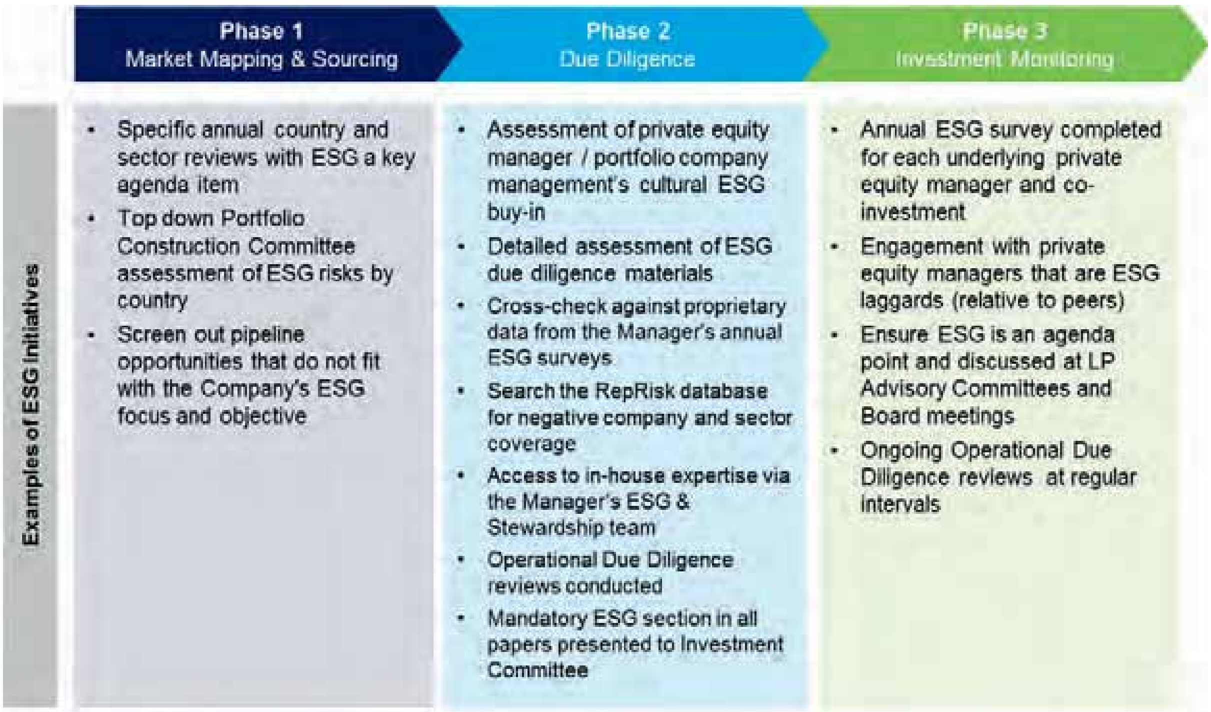
Introduction

The Company is committed to being an active, long-term responsible investor and ESG is a fundamental component of the Company's investment philosophy and process. The Manager commits the Company's capital with private equity managers who demonstrate strong adherence to ESG principles and processes or have a cultural commitment to improve their ESG credentials.

The Manager has been a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment ("PRI") for over 10 years and was awarded a PRI rating of A+ for Strategy & Governance in 2020. It has an ESG policy specific to private equity and has incorporated ESG considerations into the Company's investment activity over the last decade. Its Investment Committee is ultimately responsible for ensuring ESG is considered in investment decision making. The Manager also has a dedicated ESG Committee to help drive further progress through specific ESG initiatives. As part of its approach, every new investment made on behalf of the Company during the year under review was subject to specific ESG due diligence.

The Manager's ESG investment process is outlined at a high-level below:

The Investment Manager's ESG Investment Process



	Phase 1 Market Mapping & Sourcing	Phase 2 Due Diligence	Phase 3 Investment Monitoring
Examples of ESG initiatives	• Specific annual country and sector reviews with ESG a key agenda item • Top down Portfolio Construction Committee assessment of ESG risks by country • Screen out pipeline opportunities that do not fit with the Company's ESG focus and objective	• Assessment of private equity manager / portfolio company management's cultural ESG buy-in • Detailed assessment of ESG due diligence materials • Cross-check against proprietary data from the Manager's annual ESG surveys • Search the RepRisk database for negative company and sector coverage • Access to in-house expertise via the Manager's ESG & Stewardship team • Operational Due Diligence reviews conducted • Mandatory ESG section in all papers presented to Investment Committee	• Annual ESG survey completed for each underlying private equity manager and co-investment • Engagement with private equity managers that are ESG laggards (relative to peers) • Ensure ESG is an agenda point and discussed at LP Advisory Committees and Board meetings • Ongoing Operational Due Diligence reviews at regular intervals

Source: Aberdeen Standard Investments

The Manager focuses on the integration of ESG principles into the operations of underlying private equity managers. Key facets include culture, governance with senior accountability, full integration into a manager's investment processes and appropriate disclosure to assist investors.

There are different ESG approaches depending on the type of private equity investment:

- **Primary investment** - Assessment typically includes analysing private equity manager's ESG cultural buy-in, its ESG process, procedures and reporting, its engagement with underlying portfolio companies, its ESG Survey score and an Operational Due Diligence review of the manager and the fund.

- **Co-investment** - Assessment normally includes a detailed review of the underlying company's ESG due diligence documents, sector and company analysis using the RepRisk database and leveraging expertise on specific ESG issues, be it via the Manager's central ESG & Stewardship team or a third party expert. The primary ESG assessment of the private equity manager will be taken into account in all cases.

- **Secondary investment** - Leverages primary investment and/or co-investment processes depending on the transaction characteristics. If the secondary is concentrated in a small number of underlying portfolio companies then it may follow the co-investment process. The primary ESG assessment of the private equity manager will be taken into account where possible.

The Manager undertakes an annual Responsible Investing Survey which monitors ESG progress at the underlying private equity managers that the Company invests with. The survey is in its seventh year and provides the Manager with data that feeds into new investment decision-making, helping to better assess and benchmark ESG performance within the portfolio.

In this year's survey, 72 private equity firms took part from across the globe, including 19 firms that are within SLPET's portfolio (covering 74% of NAV). Ratings were assigned based on responses according to the following definitions:

- Green: criteria implemented and monitored at manager and / or portfolio company level.

- Amber: criteria partially implemented / being implemented and monitored at manager and / or portfolio company level.

- Red: no criteria implemented and monitored at manager and / or portfolio company level.

Overall ESG ratings were based on the private equity managers' responses to twenty questions, covering areas such as climate change, diversity and employee well-being. 79% of respondents from within SLPET's portfolio obtained a rating of 'Green', with the remaining 21% rated 'Amber'. There were no respondents from within the Company's portfolio that rated 'Red'. On the back of the results, the Manager has no significant concerns around the ESG focus of the Company's portfolio of private equity managers. However, the Manager will engage with non-respondents and laggards in the portfolio.

In summary, the Board and Manager fundamentally believe that integrating ESG into SLPET's strategy and investment processes improves the investment decision making and ultimately will help to generate stronger, more sustainable returns for its investors.

Our Manager's Approach to ESG Continued

Mademoiselle Desserts is a leading French manufacturer of premium frozen pastry. SLPET made a co-investment into the business in 2019, alongside the lead manager IK Investment Partners.

Lead Manager: IK Partners
Company size: Mid-market
SLPET's investment: €6.0m
Geographic focus: France, UK and Netherlands
Investment year: 2019
Sector: Consumer

Company overview

Established in 1984, Mademoiselle Desserts ('MD'), is a leading French manufacturer of premium industrial frozen pastry. MD has a well-established product pastry offering in more traditional pastries including semi-finished, ready-to-bake and fully baked goods. MD offers a wide range of products, from flans to mini muffins & donuts. IK completed the acquisition of MD in May July 2018 and is pursuing a buy and build strategy of value creation.

ESG Initiatives

- Mademoiselle Desserts has been committed to a policy of sustainable development since 2007 and has been a member of the United Nations Global Compact since 2014.

- The group has 20 key well-defined and monitored ESG commitments and communicates its progress regularly and transparently in its annual Corporate Social Responsibility report. Key ESG issues covered in the report include: nutrition and health, ingredients and their sources, responsible purchasing practices, the environmental impact of operations, health & safety and anti-discrimination policies.

- MD launched the 'CLEAN M' initiative in 2017 with a goal of having ingredient lists as clean as possible. This focuses on dyes, preservatives and emulsifiers in order to reduce/eliminate undesirable ingredients (e.g. hydrogenated vegetable fat or E171 white colouring found in pastry decorations). MD also launched the 'NUTRI M' initiative to increase the fibre content, reduce sugar, salt and fat in its products. So far it has moved the nutriscore of all of its products to A, B or C.

- In 2020, Mademoiselle Desserts launched the 'PACK M' initiative to eliminate 100% of plastics containing carbon black by 2021, have 90% recyclable packaging by 2025 when a sorting facility exists and reduce the overall weight of plastics in factories by 5% in 2025. It reports that 3.9 tonnes of plastic were phased out in 2020.

- In 2021, MD invested €8m in the reduction of its GHG emissions: through an investment in new refrigeration facilities, MD saved 3,000t CO_2 at the Renaison site; and heat recovery from refrigeration compressors reduced its annual gas consumption at the Valade site by 30%. From 2019 to 2020, the total consumption of electricity and gas across the company's 12 production sites reduced by 11% and 19% respectively.

- MD supports 130 charities and has donated in 2020 the equivalent of €400k cakes and desserts.

Sponsor Credentials

- IK's responsible investment policy has been in place since 2012. IK has been a signatory to the UN Global Compact since 2014 and prepares an annual report on progress with implementation of its principles.

- IK became a signatory to the UN PRI in 2017 and in 2020, IK published its third UN PRI report and scored an A+ in the private equity section.

- ESG risks and opportunities are considered pre and post initial investment for all portfolio companies. ESG is an obligatory component of each Investment Committee memorandum and value creation plan. ESG training and support is provided to all team members.

- IK obtained the top rating in the 2021 abrdn Private Equity Responsible Investing survey.

FUNECAP GROUPE

Funecap is the number two vertically integrated funeral services and crematoria provider in France

Lead Manager: Latour Capital
Company size: Mid-cap
SLPET's investment: €9.0m
Geographic focus: France and Italy
Investment year: 2021
Sector: Consumer Staples

Company overview

Founded in 2010 by Thierry Gisserot and Xavier Thoumieux, Funecap is the #2 vertically integrated funeral services and crematoria provider in France. The founders have successfully grown the business from scratch to >€300 million revenue in 10 years through organic and inorganic growth (>195 add-on acquisitions completed since foundation).

ESG Initiatives

- Funecap aims to reduce environmental impact across their operations with focus on improving energy efficiency, reducing CO_2 emissions, reducing waste and preserving biodiversity to facilitate sustainable development.
- Sustainable design and structures have been integrated in all construction projects and renovations of funeral homes. All cremation facilities are fitted with filtration systems to reduce emissions.
- Funecap meets and in some cases exceeds all emissions regulations (e.g. it has implemented devices to reduce nitrous oxide emissions which goes beyond the regulatory requirements). Importantly in 2021 Funecap achieved the ISO 14001 (the international standard for environmental management systems) certification for its Père Lachaise crematoria in Paris.
- In addition, the Group has launched diverse initiatives to reduce its footprint, such as sourcing certified wood, operating electrical hearses, and reducing its paper consumption. In its crematoria, Funecap works with specialised recycling company OrthoMetals to recycle metal waste from cremation activities.
- Funecap operates a fleet of electrical hearses which contributes to the city of Paris' Climate and Energy plan, and plans to increase the proportion of electrical hearses.
- Funecap operates in a regulated sector and is subject to regular audits by local authorities and regulatory body – no issues have been raised.
- Group wide Gender Equality index maintained to monitor workforce diversity and promote equality which is also mirrored in the equality based remuneration policy and practices
- A Charter of Secularity and Diversity is signed to ensure no personal convictions and beliefs of staff interfere with service delivery.
- The group has implemented a strong central function to support the fast growing business. This includes policies such as a code of ethics. They have also implemented comprehensive IT and cyber security policies.
- Latour have appointed a dedicated ESG Officer within Funecap to help further drive ESG initiatives across the business
- Creation of a foundation that supports charitable programs such as listed funeral monuments restoration, child protection and support

Sponsor Credentials

- Latour became a signatory of the France Invest Charter in 2011, the UN PRI in 2012, and the Initiative Climat International (iCI) in 2021. Latour has an ESG Policy which abrdn reviewed as part of Fund III diligence in 2019. The GP also generates an Annual ESG Report for LPs. Latour scored the highest rating in abrdn's 2021 Responsible Investment survey.
- The Latour team regularly completes ESG training sessions provided by third-party consultants. ESG is fully embedded in the investment process and in company value creation plans.
- Latour have a genuine focus on operational ESG - creating value through an improved ESG footprint. Each underlying company has its own action plan to deliver. They have also nominated ESG Officers within each company and are linking CEO bonuses to ESG commitments.
- The GP is working towards becoming SFDR Article 8. A carbon footprint assessment programme has been initiated which is focused not just on attaining metrics but also how to improve them.

Investment Review

For the year ended 30 September 2021, the Company's NAV TR was 37.9% versus 27.9% for the FTSE All-Share Index, the Company's comparator index.

How We Invest

In order to achieve the investment objective, maintain a balanced portfolio and take advantage of opportunities as they arise, the Company invests in three types of private equity investment:

	Investment Rationale	Our ESG Approach	% of Portfolio
Primary Investment	The Company commits to investing up to a predetermined amount in a new private equity fund. The committed capital will generally be drawn over a three to five year period as investments in underlying private companies are made. Proceeds are then returned to the Company when the underlying companies are sold, typically over a four to five year holding period. Primary investment has been the core focus of the Company's Investment Objective since its inception in 2001. Primary investments provide the Company with: (i) consistent exposure to the top-performing private equity managers; (ii) underlying portfolio diversification; (iii) a steady, predictable cashflow profile; and (iv) help drive the Company's dealflow in secondary and co-investments.	The ESG assessment of primary investments typically includes analysing private equity manager's ESG cultural buy-in, its ESG process, procedures and reporting, its engagement with underlying portfolio companies, its ESG Survey score and an Operational Due Diligence review of the manager and the fund.	77% (2020: 83%) The Manager expects primary investments to remain the majority of the portfolio over the longer term.
Secondary investment	The Company agrees to purchase the beneficial ownership of a fund commitment from another investor, with the prior approval of the private equity manager of the fund. Typically this would occur at a point where the fund has already utilised most of its investment commitments. The price paid in this type of transaction will reflect the commitments being assumed by the new investor and the age profile and quality of the underlying portfolio. Secondary investments are opportunistic in nature. They allow the Manager to gain exposure to new managers and investments at a later stage in the investment cycle. Therefore they typically have a shorter investment duration than primary investment.	The ESG approach to secondary investments typically mirrors the primary investment and/or co-investment processes depending on the transaction characteristics. If the secondary is concentrated in a small number of underlying portfolio companies then it may follow the co-investment process. The primary investment ESG assessment of the private equity manager will likely be incorporated.	12% (2020: 12%) The Manager expects secondary investments to remain between 10% and 20% over the longer term.

How We Invest Continued

	Investment Rationale	Our ESG Approach	% of Portfolio
Co-investment	The Company makes direct investments into private companies alongside other private equity managers. The Company's strategy is to invest alongside private equity managers with which the Company has made a primary investment or other private equity managers based on detailed due diligence by the Manager. Co-investment was introduced to the Investment Objective in 2019. An individual co-investment is of higher risk profile than a primary investment given that it relates to a single portfolio company and therefore does not benefit from the diversification of primary investment. The Manager is seeking to build a diversified portfolio of 15-20 co-investments in order to mitigate concentration risk.	The ESG assessment of co-investments normally includes a detailed review of the underlying company's ESG due diligence documents, sector and company analysis using the RepRisk database and leveraging expertise on specific ESG issues, be it via the Manager's central ESG & Stewardship team or a third party expert. For co-investment or underlying portfolio company ESG risks, the focus is on a broad range of topics, including but not limited to: · Environmental - Energy efficiency, CO_2/climate change, water and waste; · Social - Health & Safety, diversity and inclusion, employee engagement and turnover, supply chain, product /service safety; and · Governance - Ethics, risk management and structures, compliance, cybersecurity.	11% (2020: 5%) The Manager expects co-investments to increase up to 20% of portfolio by value.

As it takes time for the primary commitments to be drawn down and invested into portfolio companies, the Manager employs an "over-commitment" strategy (see page 7 for more detail). This ensures the portfolio is as fully invested as possible, but requires careful management of the cash and loan facilities available to meet the obligations to fund outstanding commitments.

Secondary investment and co-investment have a complementary investment profile, helping the Company to deploy cash more quickly than primary investments and therefore allowing the Manager to have more control over liquidity management. They also typically exhibit shorter holding periods than primary investment, thereby reducing the overall average duration of the Company's portfolio and, in most cases, generating higher Internal Rates of Return. Co-investments sourced by the Manager also typically have no fees or carried interest payable, further enhancing the potential cash returns received by the Company. The Manager may also sell interests via the secondary market for relative value, portfolio construction or liquidity management reasons.

Investment Manager's Review

Alan Gauld,
Lead Portfolio Manager
abrdn Capital Partners LLP

Summary of the Year

SLPET turned 20 years old during 2021 and marked this milestone with the strongest annual performance in its history. It delivered NAV TR of 37.9% during the year, ahead of the previous high of 36.9%. We believe this shows the value in the Company's conviction approach, backing a relatively small group of differentiated private equity managers who can thrive in different market conditions. Furthermore, SLPET's strategic exposure to more resilient sectors, namely Technology, Healthcare and Consumer Staples, positioned the Company well throughout the global pandemic, with these sectors helping to drive performance. On a combined basis these sectors now equate to more than 50% of the portfolio as at 30 September 2021.

A number of full exits and IPOs have underpinned the uplifts in valuation during the year. Notable exits include Colisee (Nordic-based care services), Questel (provider of IP information and management software) and Itiviti (electronic trading software). Prominent IPOs in the portfolio include Moonpig (UK-based online gifting business), Dr Martens (leading consumer footwear brand), Nordnet (Nordic savings and investments platform) and Inpost (self-service lockers for ecommerce consumers).

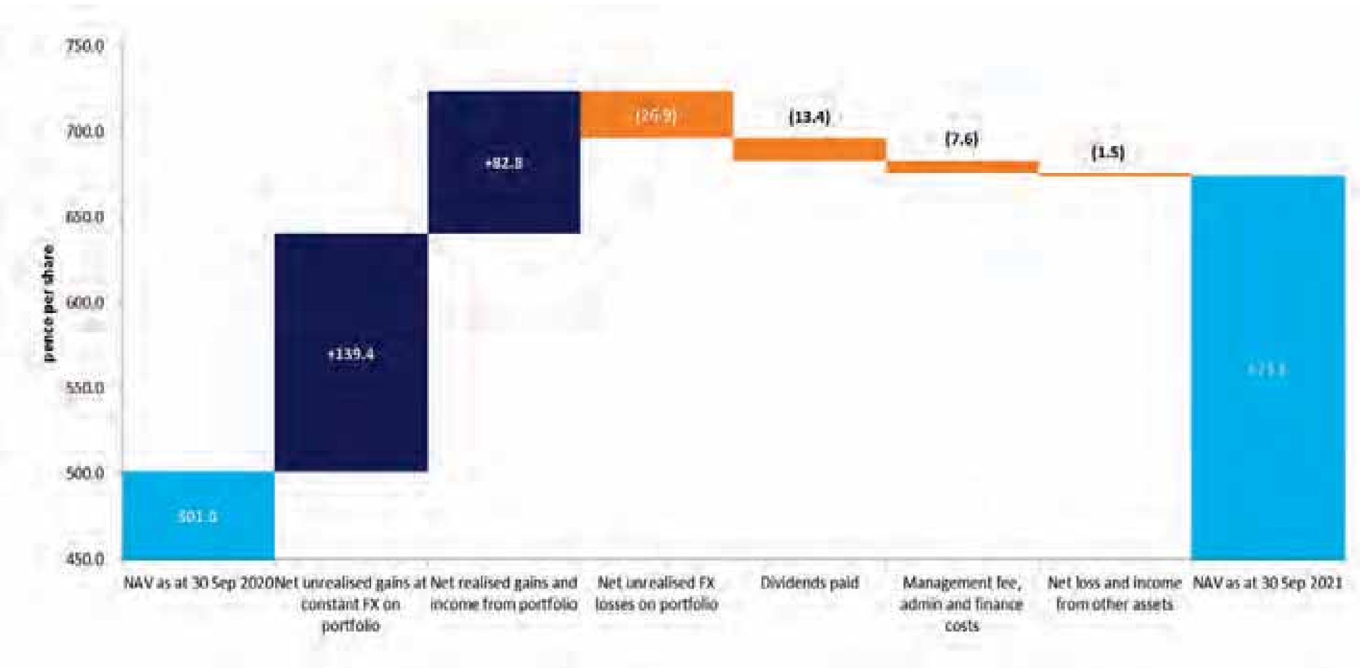
On the new investment side, we have seen a number of interesting new underlying companies enter the portfolio, with a strong bias toward Healthcare and Technology. We are particularly pleased with co-investment activity, with ten new co-investments closed during the year ended 30 September 2021. The Company also committed to eight new primary funds during the 12 month period. These funds helped to increase the Company's exposure to the lower mid-market, growth capital and sector specialist strategies. Lastly, two secondary transactions were completed, one being an opportunistic purchase of two funds focused on the German buyout market and the other comprising a large, diversified portfolio of funds with exposures across North American and European funds and assets.

In terms of cashflows, the aforementioned exit and IPO activity has helped drive strong distribution activity. Total distributions received for the year ended 30 September 2021 were £198.7 million, which is the highest amount that SLPET has ever received in a single year. This strong exit activity is continuing the trend in the prior financial year, which itself was the third highest annual total since inception (£140.7 million). As a result, the balance sheet is in a robust position with £29.7 million of cash and an undrawn £200.0 million revolving credit facility providing the Company with ample firepower for new investments in the months and years ahead.

Investment Manager's Review Continued

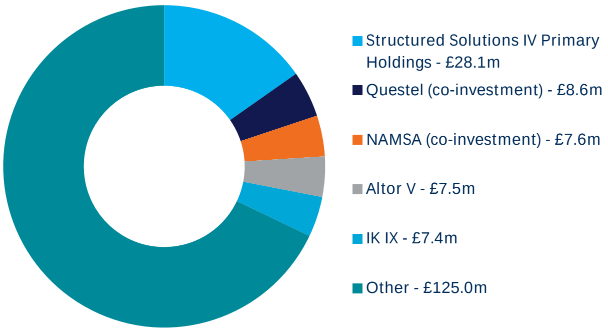
Performance

The NAV TR for the year ended 30 September 2021 was 37.9% versus 27.9% for the FTSE All-Share Index. The valuation of the portfolio at 30 September 2021 increased by 47.4% on the prior year on a constant currency basis. The increase in value of the portfolio on a per share basis was 195.3p. This was made up of net unrealised gains at constant foreign exchange ("FX") and net realised gains and income from the portfolio of a combined 222.2p, partially offset by unrealised FX losses from the portfolio of 26.9p.



The unrealised gains in the year ended 30 September 2021 are attributable to the strong performance of the underlying portfolio. At 30 September 2021 the underlying portfolio exhibited average last twelve months ("LTM") revenue and earnings before interest, taxes depreciation and amortisation ("EBITDA") growth of 14.2% and 24.0%. Realised gains were derived from full or partial sales of companies during the 12 month period.

Drawdowns



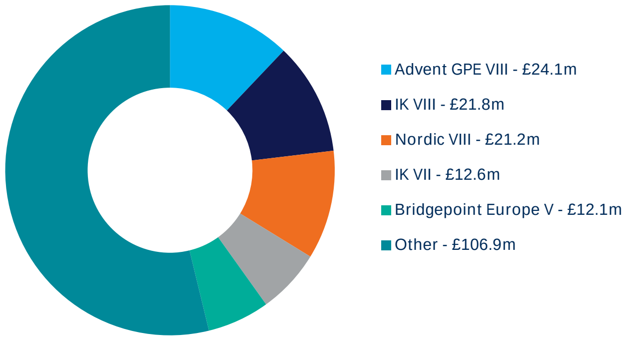
During the year £184.2 million was invested into existing and new underlying companies. Drawdowns were used to invest into a diverse set of predominantly European headquartered companies. The largest single drawdown (£28.1 million) related to Structured Solutions IV, which is a diversified secondary transaction. Drawdowns related to co-investments totalled £52.7 million in the year. Secondary and co-investment activity are covered in detail later in the review.

Drawdowns from primary funds remained close to half of total drawdowns, equating to £91.6 million in the year. Notable new underlying companies included:

- Syntegon (CVC VII) - Machinery and equipment used in the packaging sector;
- Zahneins (PAI Europe VII) - The largest dental chain in Germany with over 30 sites;
- SpaMedica (Nordic Capital IX) - Leading provider of cataract surgery in the UK;
- CSM Ingredients (Investindustrial VII) – B2B manufacturer of bakery ingredients (pastry and bakery);
- Questel (IK Fund IX) – Global provider of intellectual property ("IP") solutions;
- Quantum (PAI Europe VII) – UK-based chilled food supplier.

The private equity funds that the Company invests into often use credit facilities to help finance underlying investments prior to drawing the capital from investors. We estimate that the Company had around £47.3 million held on underlying fund credit facilities at 30 September 2021 (30 September 2020: £46.9 million), and we expect that this will all be drawn over the next 12 months.

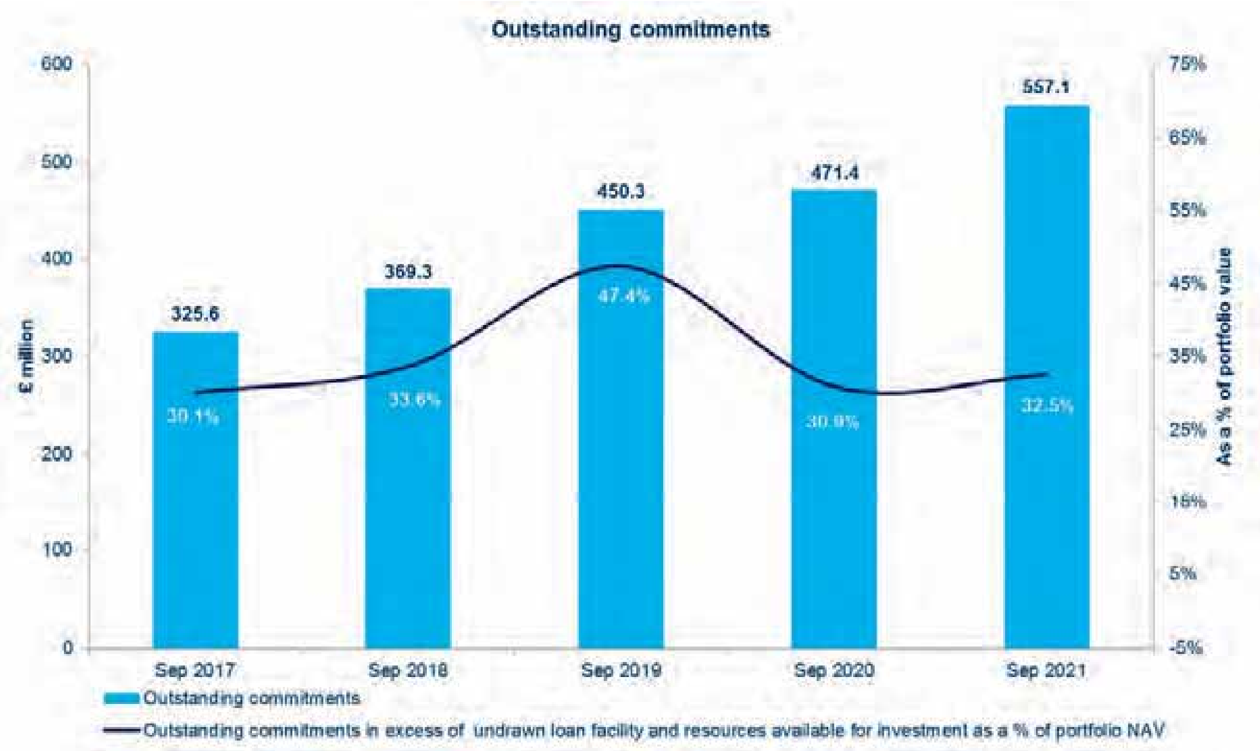
Distributions



£198.7 million of distributions were received during the year, which is a record annual total for the Company. Exit activity was driven by the strong market appetite for high quality private companies in resilient sectors following the global pandemic. Both trade and financial buyers were active and public markets had robust demand for new IPOs. The headline realised return from the portfolio equated to 2.8 times cost (30 September 2020: 3.5 times cost).

Investment Manager's Review Continued

Commitments



During the financial year, the Company completed eight primary fund commitments, two secondaries and ten co-investments. In total, new commitments and investments in the 12 month period equated to £307.1m. The total outstanding commitments at 30 September 2021 were £557.1 million (30 September 2020: £471.4 million).

The value of outstanding commitments in excess of liquid resources as a percentage of portfolio value increased to 32.5% in the financial year (30 September 2020: 30.9%). This is largely due to the strong investment activity during the year ended 30 September 2021. This figure is at the lower end of our long-term target range of 30%-75%. We estimate that £46.7 million of the reported outstanding commitments are unlikely to be drawn down (30 September 2020: £67.6 million), driven by the nature of private equity investing.

Note:

In previous reporting, the Company has reported this measure as a percentage of the net asset value of Company. Going forward, this measure will now be calculated as a percentage of the portfolio NAV of the Company. Comparative figures based on the previous methodology can be found in the Alternative Performance Measures section on page 97.

Investment Activity

Primary funds

£175.7 million was committed to eight new primary funds during the year ended 30 September 2021. Four of these funds invest in Europe, three have global focus and one is concentrated on the North American mid-market. The new commitments are all with private equity firms with which the Manager has a long-term relationship. The funds fit with the Company's strategy of increasing exposure to the lower mid-market (e.g. Triton, PAI, IK, Nordic Capital Evolution), growth capital (e.g. Permira, Advent Tech) and / or sector specialists (e.g. Permira, ArchiMed, Excellere, Advent Tech).

Investment	£m	Description
Triton Smaller Mid Cap II	21.3	€815m fund focused primarily on lower mid-market companies based in German speaking and Nordic countries.
PAI Mid-Market I	21.8	€900m fund focused primarily on lower mid-market companies across Western Europe.
IK Small Cap III	21.3	€1.2bn fund investing in Northern European based lower mid-market companies.
Nordic Capital Evolution Fund	25.9	€1.2bn fund investing predominately in lower mid-market Technology, Healthcare and Financial Services companies across Northern Europe.
Permira Growth Opportunities 2	24.8	$3.5bn fund investing in growth equity opportunities across the globe.
ArchiMed III	12.8	€650m fund investing in Healthcare companies in Europe and North America.
Excellere Partners Fund IV	25.3	$850m fund focused predominately on Healthcare-related companies in North America.
Advent Technology II	22.5	$4bn fund focused on Technology companies across the globe.

Investment Manager's Review Continued

Primary Investment Case Study - ArchiMed

ArchiMed are a leading dedicated European healthcare investor providing deep sub-sector specialism.

Investment: Med III
Commitment year: 2021
Fund size: €650 million
Company's commitment: €15 million
Geographic focus: Western Europe and North America
Target company size: Lower mid-market
Sectors: Healthcare Industries
Investment strategy: Buyout / Growth

Business Overview

ArchiMed was established in 2014 by Denis Ribon & Vincent Guillaumot, and is headquartered in Lyon, France. Having observed the increased sector specialisation in the US private equity market, the firm was founded with the specific objective to invest in the European healthcare market, primarily in MedTech, BioPharma, Life Sciences, Consumer Health, Healthcare IT and Diagnostics.

The firm has grown substantially since then becoming one of the leading dedicated healthcare specialists with unparalleled operational expertise, particularly in the small and mid-cap market. Med III has a clear investment thesis that should provide differentiated dealflow to generalist buyout funds. Historically the firm has completed a very high proportion of primary transactions (i.e. when they are the first financial investor).

They adopt a "value-add partner" approach to support growing businesses in search of scale, internationalisation, and strategic development resources. ArchiMed have invested heavily in their in-house Operating Partner and Strategic Partner functions.

Sponsor Exposure

- abrdn have been tracking ArchiMed closely since their inception culminating in our commitment to the buy-and-build strategy, MED Platform I, in July 2020 and their LMM fund Med III in June 2021.
- We have completed two co-investments with ArchiMed on behalf of SLPET: Prollenium, a medical aesthetics business, and NAMSA, a global medical device CRO.
- Whilst early days, both businesses are performing well. NAMSA has recently completed a recapitalisation, returning ~36% of invested capital back to LPs within 12 months of investment.

Previous / current investments

Co-investments

During the 12 month period, the Company invested and committed £76.9 million into ten co-investments.

Investment	£m	Description
NAMSA	9.0	US-based healthcare business providing preclinical and clinical CRO specialised in providing services to medical device companies
Funecap	7.8	Leading French funeral services and crematoria business
Boost.ai	7.2	Global leader in conversational artificial intelligence
KD Pharma	4.2	Global leader in pharmaceutical grade omega 3 manufacturing
Planet	9.0	Provider of integrated digital payment services
Questel	8.5	A global leader in intellectual property solutions
Insightsoftware	7.3	Provider of financial reporting and enterprise performance management (EPM) software
Prollenium	8.6	Medical aesthetics company
Riskalyze	6.8	A risk-centric wealth management platform based in North America
Wundex	8.6	German home care provider for patients with chronic wounds

At 30 September 2021 there were 13 co-investments in the Company's portfolio, equating to 11% of NAV. Aside from the new investments in the 12 month period, the portfolio consists of Action (European non-food discount retail), Visma (Northern European provider of mission critical ERP software to SMEs) and Mademoiselle Desserts (a pan-European manufacturer of premium frozen pastry). All companies have thus far managed well through the global pandemic with each of the investment cases remaining intact. Mademoiselle Deserts has been the most impacted since the hotel, restaurant and cafe channel is a core end market for the business. However, we have strong conviction in the company's position as the hospitality sector begins opening up again across Europe.

Investment Manager's Review Continued

Case Study - Co-investment

Questel is a global fast-growing Intellectual Property information and management specialist.

Lead Manager: IK
Company size: Large
SLPET's investment: €10.0m
Geographic focus: Global
Investment year: 2021
Sector: Technology

Company Overview

- Created in 1978 and spun-off from France Telecom in 2001, Questel is one of the leading players in the Intellectual Property ("IP") software and services market. The company has been technology focused from the outset, which differentiates the business.
- The company core segments include (i) a SaaS division including the IP Business Intelligence database allowing advanced research and analysis of patents as well as more recent Innovation Management Software and IP Management Software (ii) international filing administrative and translation services and (iii) patent annuities and trademark renewals solutions and legal services.
- Questel supports more than 15,000 customers worldwide - 80% are large and mid-sized corporations and 20% IP firms. High visibility on earnings thanks to its SaaS and annuities highly recurring model and the stickiness of its Filing activity.
- Questel is a highly resilient business that has grown organically at a CAGR of 11-12% over the last 4 years (in a market growing at 7% CAGR). IK's active M&A strategy has underpinned the overall growth, with a CAGR of 17% over the same period. EBITDA growth has been faster at 18.5% CAGR, with operational leverage and acquisition synergies kicking in. The cash conversion is attractive at c.75%, and we expect this to improve further over the holding period. The GP case does not envisage any further M&A activity, though IK do have further transformational acquisitions in the pipeline.

The Opportunity

Led by one the best management teams in Europe and backed by high conviction, incumbent sponsor (IK), Questel provides mission critical software and services to a strongly growing end-market and their market leadership position is well protected by strong barriers to entry and sticky customer base. The continued integration and realisation of both top line and bottom line synergies from recent transformational acquisitions will further strengthen the Group's financial profile making it a strong PE target or IPO candidate upon exit.

Secondary Investments

During the 12 month period, the Company invested and committed £54.5 million into two secondaries.

Investment	£m	Description
Capiton IV and V	9.4	DACH-based lower mid-market funds
Structures Solutions IV	45.1	Diversified secondary transaction into a portfolio of large cap funds

After the market dislocation and hiatus in activity caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, overall activity levels in the secondary market recovered from September 2020. With this background, the Manager's team of nine secondary specialists has remained selective in reviewing secondary opportunities that fit the Company's investment criteria and portfolio profile during the last year. The two secondary transactions described above were closed in the second half of the year as secondary activity was opening up more generally. Both transactions arose out of and benefited from the Manager's long-term relationships and insights into the underlying funds and portfolios. They provide the Company with exposure to high quality private equity funds at an attractive entry point.

capiton

Secondary Investment Case Study – Capiton A.G.

Attractive opportunity to gain exposure to Capiton, a high quality GP operating in the attractive German lower mid-cap segment.

Investment: secondary interests in Capiton V and IV
Closing date: April 2021
Vintage years: 2015 (Capiton V), 2009 (Capiton IV)
Fund sizes: €440m (Capiton V) / €350m (Capiton IV)
SLPET's secondary exposure: €9.8m
Geographic focus: DACH
Target company size: Lower Mid-Market
Sectors: Industrials, IT, Health care, Consumer Discretionary
Investment strategy: Buyout

Transaction overview

- The Manager has a long-standing relationship with Capiton dating back to 2009 and has completed primary, secondary and direct investments with them in that time.
- The Manager secured direct access to the seller of interests in Capiton IV and V in December 2020 and moved quickly to agree a deal with the seller by the end of that month.
- The deal was subsequently closed in April 2021.

Underlying investments

- Capiton focuses on making control investments in businesses in the DACH lower mid-market
- Over 90% of the exposure acquired related to the 2015-vintage Capiton V fund
- Capiton V's three largest investments are in med-tech, industrial tech and pet food, with the remaining portfolio spread across pharmaceuticals, software and industrials
- The majority of the assets have shown good performance in spite of the Covid-19 challenges

Why we invested

- Strong relationship with Capiton and existing exposure to the target funds provided the Manager with insights and conviction in the quality of the underlying portfolio
- Attractive mix of assets with a bias towards tech and healthcare assets and with good growth prospects
- Reasonable valuation and leverage levels across the portfolio
- Good fit within the SLPET portfolio as consideration was being given to potential commitments to Capiton VI and a number of co-investment opportunities with Capiton

Examples of current investments

RAITH NANOFABRICATION · ALPHAPET · GPE · Euro Vital Pharma

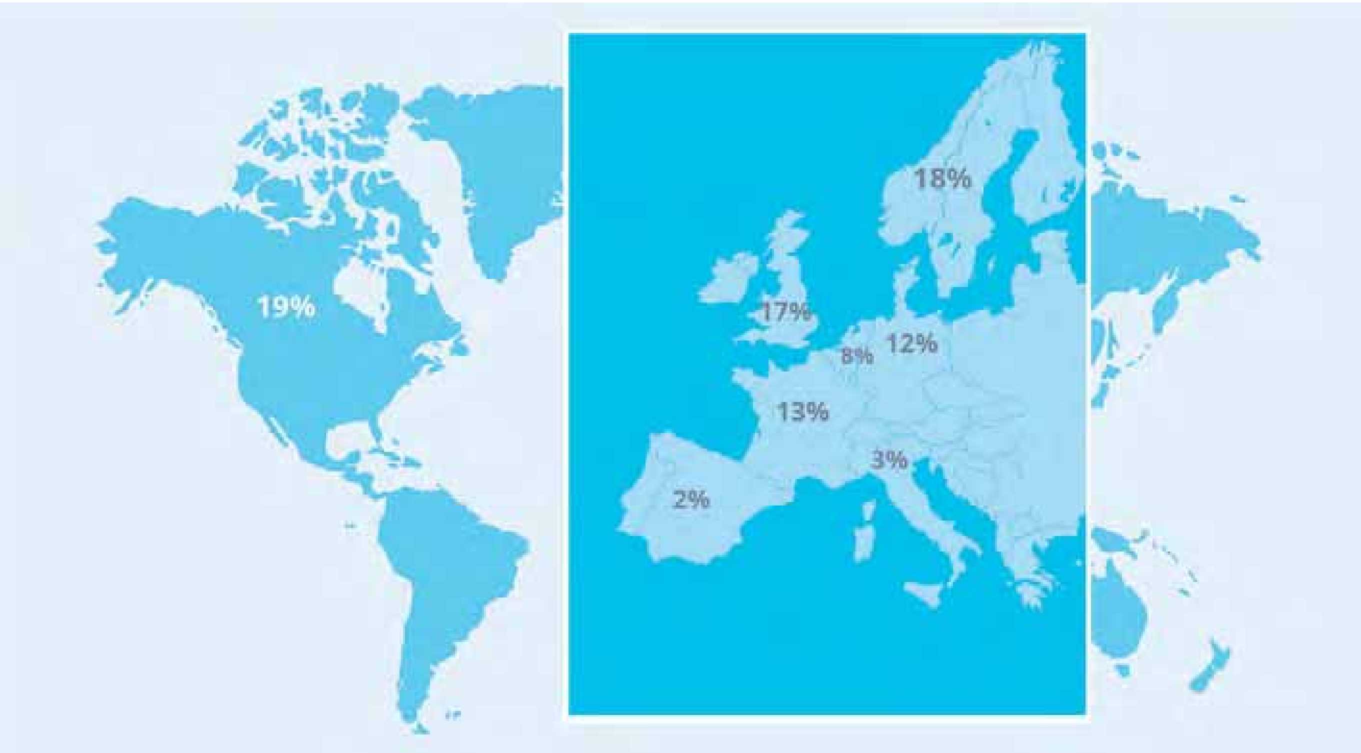
Investment Manager's Review Continued

Portfolio Construction

The underlying portfolio predominately consists of 578 private companies, largely within the European mid-market and spread across different countries, sectors and vintages. At 30 September 2021, only seven companies equated to more than 1% of portfolio NAV, with the largest single underlying company exposure equating to 4.2% (Action).

Geographic Exposure[1]

We believe that the portfolio is well diversified and that has helped to mitigate the financial impacts of the global pandemic. At 30 September 2021, 79% of underlying private companies were headquartered in Europe (2020: 85%). The Company's underlying portfolio companies remains largely positioned to North Western Europe, with only 5% of underlying portfolio companies by value in Italy and Spain (2020: 5%). SLPET is well diversified by region across North Western Europe, with the Nordics equating to 18% of the underlying company exposure (2020: 17%). North America is the highest exposure at 19% (2020: UK, 18%).



[1] Based on the latest available information from underlying managers.
[2] In addition to the above, 6% of underlying portfolio companies are based in European countries not separately disclosed above, while 2% are based in countries out width of Europe, excluding North America.

Sector Exposure[1]

Over recent years the portfolio's sector exposure has moved more towards high growth areas, such as Information Technology and Healthcare, which have also been more resilient in the current environment. At 30 September 2021 Technology and Healthcare represented a combined 41% of underlying portfolio companies (2020: 39%). When combined with Consumer Staples, these more stable, non-cyclical sectors equate to 53% of underlying portfolio companies (2020: 51%).

[1] Based on the latest available information from underlying managers.

Whilst the other half of the underlying portfolio companies are exposed to more cyclical sectors, there has been resilient performance and notable success stories during the global pandemic, especially where a business has a valuable product, essential service offering and/or a strong online sales component. Some examples within our top 20 underlying private companies by value include Benvic (PVC compounds), Photobox (online photograph printing), and Dr Martens (footwear brand with a strong online offering).

Maturity Analysis[1]

The maturity profile of the portfolio is largely unchanged from last year. With 55% of underlying portfolio companies being in vintages of four years and older (2020: 52%), this should underpin consistent distribution activity moving forward.

The inner circle of the chart below shows the multiple calculated for the underlying portfolio companies held within each holding period.

[1] Based on the latest available information from underlying managers.

Investment Manager's Review Continued

Outlook

The Company has seen record performance in the year ended 30 September 2021 and we believe that the portfolio is well positioned as we look ahead. The portfolio benefits from an attractive mix of companies in cyclical and non-cyclical sectors (roughly 50:50), with an increasing weighting towards technology and healthcare businesses that should provide resilience and growth in the coming quarters. There is no outsized exposure to any single country. Therefore, we take comfort that the portfolio's diversified exposures across its targeted sectors, geographies and managers should position the Company well whatever may lie ahead.

Both SLPET's balance sheet and investment pipeline are in a strong position. The Company will continue to invest predominately in Europe, with a core focus on mid-market buyouts and a preference for non-cyclical sectors. The Company has long focused on partnering with a relatively small group of underlying private equity firms that are differentiated and have a specialised sector focus. We are excited about the current opportunity set in European private equity, where many innovative and high growth businesses currently reside and where companies are staying private for longer.

Primary funds remain the backbone of SLPET's portfolio and we are starting to see co-investments grow materially as a proportion of the Company's NAV (currently 11%). Co-investment was introduced into the investment objective in 2019 and we expect it to grow as a proportion of the Company's NAV. It brings the benefit of greater portfolio management and cash control, as well as lower underlying investment costs. As a result, co-investment has the potential to act as a strong driver of the Company's performance in the years ahead. In terms of secondaries, the Company will continue to invest selectively in opportunities that fit with the overall portfolio objectives, are accretive to returns and help optimise the management of any excess cash. We will also continue to consider selling positions as a part of our active portfolio management strategy.

In terms of specific risks to the private equity industry, the market is currently accumulating record levels of 'dry powder' (capital raised but not yet invested) due to the increasing popularity of the asset class with investors. Whilst businesses in general are staying private for longer, these high levels of dry powder are likely to lead to additional competition for deals in the coming years. However, data suggests the vast majority of this capital is being accumulated at the larger end of the market. Hence the Company's core focus on the mid-market should position it well as we look ahead.

We have said many times over the years that the private equity model of active ownership thrives on the opportunities that present themselves during periods of market dislocation and economic headwinds. Having controlling ownership of underlying businesses provides the opportunity for private equity firms to respond more efficiently and effectively to changing market circumstances and to directly add value to their portfolio companies, whether that is through operational initiatives such as digitalisation or ESG, or through inorganic initiatives such as buy and build. While the prospect of inflation and interest rate rises currently dominates headlines, we remain confident in both the private equity model and SLPET's ability to successfully navigate whatever conditions lie ahead.

Alan Gauld,
Lead Portfolio Manager
abrdn Capital Partners LLP
26 January 2022

Ten Largest Investments

1

5.4% of NAV

Fund Size: €13.0bn
Strategy: Mid to large buyouts
Enterprise Value of investments: $200m-$3bn
Geography: Global with a focus on Europe and North America
Website: www.adventinternational.com

Invests in attractive niches within business & financial services, healthcare, industrial, retail and technology sectors

Advent International Global Private Equity VIII	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	55,818	57,759
Cost (£'000)	31,102	37,682
Commitment (€'000)	45,000	45,000
Amount Funded	95.2%	95.2%
Income (£'000)	-	-

2

4.9% of NAV

Fund Size: €2.1bn
Strategy: Mid-market buyouts
Enterprise Value of investments: €50m-€500m
Geography: Northern Europe
Website: www.altor.com

Focuses on investing in and developing medium-sized companies with a Nordic origin that offer potential for value creation through revenue growth, margin expansion, improved capital management and strategic re-positioning

Altor Fund IV	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	51,229	41,819
Cost (£'000)	30,679	31,327
Commitment (€'000)	55,000	55,000
Amount Funded	69.7%	69.3%
Income (£'000)	2,614	67

3

4.2% of NAV

Fund Size: €4.3bn
Strategy: Mid to large buyouts
Enterprise Value of investments: €200m-€800m
Geography: Northern Europe (Global in healthcare)
Website: www.nordiccapital.com

Invests in medium to large-sized buyout deals in Northern Europe, through five dedicated sector teams, with the ability to invest in healthcare on a global basis

Nordic Capital Fund IX	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	43,119	22,254
Cost (£'000)	21,065	15,404
Commitment (€'000)	30,000	30,000
Amount Funded	79.3%	58.0%
Income (£'000)	-	-

4

4.0% of NAV

Fund size: €5.0bn
Strategy: Mid to large buyouts
Enterprise Value of investments: €500m–€3bn
Geography: Global
Website: www. permira.com

Focused on identifying investments in market leading businesses with strong growth potential. Sector approach transforming companies to become global leaders

Permira V	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	41,692	37,338
Cost (£'000)	15,494	15,463
Commitment (€'000)	30,000	30,000
Amount Funded	95.2%	90.1%
Income (£'000)	-	-

5

4.0% of NAV

Fund size: €2.5bn
Sector: Consumer staples
Location: Netherlands
Year of Investment: 2020
Private Equity Manager: 3i Group plc
Investment: Co-investment
Company Website: www.action.nl

Since its establishment in 1993, Benelux-based Action has grown into the leading non-food discount retailer in the region with more than 1,900 stores and over 65,000 employees

3i Venice SCSp (Action)	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	41,454	29,103
Cost (£'000)	22,630	22,630
Commitment (€'000)	26,540	26,540
Amount Funded	100.0%	100.0%
Income (£'000)	-	-

Ten Largest Investments Continued

6

3.7% of NAV

Fund Size: €375m
Strategy: Lower mid-market buyouts
Enterprise Value of investments: Under €200m
Geography: Primarily Southern Europe
Website: www.investindustrial.com

Lower mid-market strategy of established mid-market firm. Pan-European focus but with a weighting towards Southern Europe

Investindustrial Growth	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	38,195	18,649
Cost (£'000)	16,178	15,748
Commitment (€'000)	25,000	25,000
Amount Funded	72.8%	70.9%
Income (£'000)	-	-

7

3.6% of NAV

Fund Size: £1.0bn
Strategy: Mid-market buyouts
Enterprise Value of investments: £75m-£350m
Geography: UK
Website: www.exponentpe.com

Target businesses have strong market positions, evidence of historical constraints and are capable of transformation. Companies often have a significant international footprint

Exponent Private Equity Partners III, LP.	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	37,704	32,782
Cost (£'000)	25,262	26,104
Commitment (£'000)	28,000	28,000
Amount Funded	87.8%	89.0%
Income (£'000)	348	-

8

3.5% of NAV

Fund size: €3.6bn
Strategy: Complex buyouts and global healthcare
Enterprise Value of investments: €150m–€800m
Geography: Northern Europe (Global in Healthcare)
Website: www.nordiccapital.com

Invests in medium to large-sized buyout deals in Northern Europe, through five dedicated sector teams, with the ability to invest in healthcare on a global basis

Nordic Capital VIII	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	36,551	38,202
Cost (£'000)	20,959	24,388
Commitment (€'000)	45,200	45,200
Amount Funded	89.8%	30.8%
Income (£'000)	-	-

9

3.5% of NAV

Fund Size: €7.0bn
Strategy: Mid to large buyouts
Enterprise Value of investments: €250m - €6bn
Geography: Europe and North America
Website: www.cinven.com

Targets companies that have the ability to deploy clearly identified sector strategies to accelerate growth in Europe or globall

Sixth Cinven Fund	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	35,978	29,322
Cost (£'000)	21,477	20,385
Commitment (€'000)	28,100	28,100
Amount Funded	88.2%	82.0%
Income (£'000)	-	-

10

3.5% of NAV

Fund Size: $3.6bn
Strategy: Mid-market buyouts
Enterprise Value of investments: $200m - $1bn
Geography: Europe and North America
Website: www.towerbrook.com

Control-oriented private equity investments in mid-market companies in Europe and North America, principally on a proprietary basis and in situations characterized by complexity

Towerbrook Investors IV	30/9/21	30/9/20
Value (£'000)	35,816	26,555
Cost (£'000)	16,947	16,948
Commitment ($'000)	36,561	36,561
Amount Funded	59.9%	59.1%
Income (£'000)	456	49

Performance information has been prepared by SLPET and has not been approved by the General Partners of the funds or any of their Associates.
Income figures are for the year ended 30 September 2021 and 30 September 2020 respectively.
The amount funded figure as at 30 September 2020 has been revised for some investments above following an update to the calculation of this figure.
The Company's position in Action is held through 3i Venice SCSp, a special purpose vehicle managed by 3i as co-investment lead.

Ten Largest Underlying Private Companies

As at 30 September 2021[1, 2]

1

4.0% of NAV

ACTION

Sector: Consumer staples
Location: Netherlands
Year of Investment: 2020
Private Equity Manager: 3i Group plc
Investment: Co-investment
Company website: www.action.nl

(Number 5 in the Company's Ten Largest Investments)

Since its establishment in 1993, Benelux-based Action has grown into the leading non-food discount retailer in the region with more than 1,900 stores and over 65,000 employees.

2

1.4% of NAV

R1

Sector: Healthcare
Location: USA
Year of Investment: 2016
Private Equity Manager: TowerBrook Investors
Investment: TowerBrook Investors IV
Company website: www.r1cm.com

R1 RCM, headquartered in Chicago, provides outsourced revenue cycle management services that help healthcare providers to more efficiently and cost effectively manage their revenue cycles through people, processes and integrated technology and analytics solutions. The company offers a fully outsourced end-to-end-technology enabled solution, which spans the entire revenue cycle from patient registration to collection from patients and third-party payors.

3

1.4% of NAV

Sector: Consumer staples
Location: USA
Year of Investment: 2020
Private Fund Manager: Advent International
Investment: Advent International Global Private Equity IX

A prestige and professional haircare brand.

Due to disclosure restrictions associated with our holding in Advent International Global Private Equity IX, no further information can be provided in relation to this underlying investment.

4

1.3% of NAV

Trustly

Sector: Financials
Location: Sweden
Year of Investment: 2018
Private Fund Manager: Nordic Capital Partners
Investment: Nordic Capital Fund IX
Company Website: www.trustly.com

Founded in 2008, Trustly is a global leader in online banking payments. Trustly's digital account-to-account platform facilitates fast, simple and secure payments and links merchants across Europe, North America and Latin America with consumers directly from their online banking accounts.

5

1.3% of NAV

VISMA

Sector: Information technology
Location: Norway
Year of Investment: fund investment: 2020
co-investment: 2020
Private Equity Manager: Hg Capital
Investments: Hg Vardos Co-invest L.P. / Hg Saturn 2
Company Website: www.visma.com

Visma is a leading provider of mission-critical business software to SMBs in Northern Europe. The company provides the following services to more than 1.1 million customers: accounting; resource planning and payroll software; and transaction process outsourcing, such as debt collection and procurement services.

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Ten Largest Underlying Private Companies Continued

6

1.1% of NAV

Sector: Industrials
Location: France
Year of Investment: 2018
Private Equity Manager: Investindustrial
Investment: Investindustrial Growth
Company Website: www.benvic.com

Founded in 1963, Benvic develops, produces and markets highly customised, innovative PVC-based thermoplastic solutions in the form of powders and compounds that are utilised across a wide range of rigid and flexible end-applications including building and construction, automotive and aerospace, cabling, packaging and fluid transport.

7

1.1% of NAV

Sector: Information technology
Location: UK
Year of Investment: 2018
Private Equity Manager: HgCapital
Investment: HgCapital 8
Company Website: www.theaccessgroup.com

Founded in 1991, the Access Group ('Access') is a leading UK mid-market Enterprise Resource Planning business, providing financial management systems and human capital management software, as well as industry specific software solutions. Access' software helps over 55,000 UK businesses and not-for-profit organisations to work efficiently, with expertise across numerous industries.

8

1.0% of NAV

Sector: Industrials
Location: France
Year of Investment: 2016
Private Equity Manager: Towerbrook Investors
Investment: TowerBrook Investors IV
Company Website:www.infopro-digital.com

InfoPro Digital provides professional communities with a full range of business solutions to help them be more efficient and generate better and growing sales opportunities, leveraging its expertise in managing data around its portfolio of leading brands across six key industry verticals. These solutions are delivered as software, databases, digital solutions, lead generation, analysis and insight, trade shows, events and training.

9

0.9% of NAV

Sector: Consumer discretionary
Location: United Kingdom
Year of Investment: 2014
Private Equity Manager: Permira
Investment: Permira V
Company Website: www.drmartens.com

Dr. Martens is an iconic British footwear brand which was founded in 1947. The business has over 100 stores globally as well as growing worldwide e-commerce trade.

10

0.9% of NAV

Sector: Healthcare
Location: United Kingdom
Year of Investment: 2011
Private Equity Manager: Nordic Capital Partners
Investment: Nordic Capital VII
Company Website: www.bindingsite.com

Binding Site provides specialist diagnostic products to clinicians and laboratory professionals worldwide, principally for the diagnosis of blood cancers and immune system disorders. Founded by researchers at the University of Birmingham, Binding Site has continued to build on its strong scientific foundations, supporting research and development within their field and responding to the changing needs of patients, researchers and clinicians for over 25 years.

[1] All % of NAV figures are based on gross valuations, before any carry provision.
[2] Based on latest available information.

Investment Portfolio

Vintage	Investment	Number of investments	Outstanding commitments £'000	Cost £'000	Valuation £'000[1]	Net multiple[2]	% of NAV
2016	Advent International Global Private Equity VIII	29	1,856	31,102	55,818	2.1x	5.4
2014	Altor Fund IV	19	14,360	30,679	51,229	1.9x	4.9
2018	Nordic Capital Fund IX	15	5,328	21,065	43,119	2.0x	4.2
2014	Permira V	15	1,239	15,494	41,692	3.8x	4.0
2020	3i Venice SCSp (Action)[3]	1	-	22,630	41,454	1.8x	4.0
2018	Investindustrial Growth	6	5,835	16,178	38,195	2.3x	3.7
2015	Exponent Private Equity Partners III, LP.	10	3,421	25,262	37,704	1.7x	3.6
2013	Nordic Capital VIII	14	3,981	20,959	36,551	1.8x	3.5
2016	Sixth Cinven Fund	16	2,852	21,477	35,978	1.8x	3.5
2013	TowerBrook Investors IV	13	10,871	16,947	35,816	2.2x	3.5
2016	IK Fund VIII	12	2,105	28,909	35,006	1.5x	3.4
2014	CVC VI	25	4,148	16,611	30,879	2.0x	3.0
2014	PAI Europe VI	13	2,471	19,792	30,772	1.9x	3.0
2017	HgCapital 8	12	7,244	13,083	30,769	2.1x	3.0
2019	Advent International Global Private Equity IX	24	10,862	10,293	29,452	2.9x	2.8
2017	CVC Capital Partners VII	31	10,750	18,616	28,902	1.6x	2.8
2021	Structured Solutions IV Primary Holdings LP*	45	17,846	28,093	28,507	1.0x	2.7
2015	Bridgepoint Europe V	12	2,498	18,121	25,089	1.9x	2.4
2015	Equistone Partners Europe Fund V	17	2,485	19,548	24,575	1.6x	2.4
2016	Astorg VI	8	3,950	11,445	20,494	1.5x	2.0
2018	PAI Europe VII	13	12,571	13,601	17,485	1.3x	1.7
2015	Nordic Capital VII	8	1,988	16,601	16,656	1.4x	1.6
2018	Bridgepoint Europe VI	13	11,329	14,148	15,762	1.2x	1.5
2018	Equistone VI	24	12,180	14,070	15,681	1.1x	1.5
2018	Triton Fund V	15	13,393	12,563	14,909	1.2x	1.4
2012	IK Fund VII	4	1,718	11,543	13,511	2.1x	1.3
2019	Altor Fund V	13	22,149	7,807	11,907	1.5x	1.1
2017	Onex Partners IV LP	9	947	10,982	11,605	1.4x	1.1
2019	Vitruvian I CF LP	5	8,123	9,119	10,511	1.1x	1.0
2012	Advent International Global Private Equity VII	20	1,203	6,033	10,433	2.3x	1.0
2020	Vitruvian III	29	854	4,563	9,927	2.2x	0.9
2020	Hg Saturn 2	5	6,408	5,362	9,104	1.7x	0.9

Investment Portfolio Continued

Vintage	Investment	Number of investments	Outstanding commitments £'000	Cost £'000	Valuation £'000[1]	Net multiple[2]	% of NAV
2021	IK Co-invest Questel (Questel)[3]	1	-	8,554	9,033	1.1x	0.9
2020	MPI-COI-NAMSA SLP (NAMSA)[3]	1	1,354	7,562	9,020	1.2x	0.9
2020	Hg Vardos Co-invest L.P. (Visma)[3]	1	-	5,390	8,996	1.7x	0.8
2019	IK IX	6	13,789	7,714	7,869	1.0x	0.8
2019	PAI Strategic Partnerships SCSp	2	264	6,516	7,565	1.2x	0.7
2021	Hg Isaac Co-Invest LP (Insightsoftware)[3]	1	137	7,143	7,358	1.0x	0.7
2011	Montagu IV	5	1,014	5,381	7,254	1.9x	0.7
2021	MPI-COI-PROLLENIUM SLP (Prollenium)[3]	1	1,427	7,124	7,208	1.0x	0.7
2021	Hg Riley Co-Invest LP (Riskalyze)[3]	1	-	6,836	7,123	1.0x	0.7
2019	American Industrial Partners VII	8	7,998	6,957	6,906	1.0x	0.7
2015	Capiton V	10	1,132	6,721	6,903	1.0x	0.7
2012	Equistone Partners Europe Fund IV	8	769	9,393	6,449	2.2x	0.6
2019	Cinven 7	6	16,340	5,230	6,194	1.2x	0.6
2019	Investindustrial VII	9	16,603	5,465	5,744	1.1x	0.6
2018	MSouth Equity Partners IV	7	10,354	5,767	4,924	0.9x	0.5
2021	Capiton VI Wundex Co-Investment (Wundex)[3]	1	3,196	5,352	4,811	0.9x	0.5
2019	Great Hill Partners VII	16	4,884	3,454	4,468	1.7x	0.4
2021	Latour Co-invest Funecap (Funecap)[3]	1	2,115	4,287	4,292	1.0x	0.4
2020	Hg Genesis 9	5	10,116	2,772	4,238	1.5x	0.4
2019	Alphaone International S.à.r.l. (Mademoiselle Desserts)[3]	1	1,704	3,522	3,475	1.0x	0.3
2020	Nordic Capital X	10	20,369	1,123	2,660	2.4x	0.3
2020	PAI Mid-Market I	3	18,969	2,500	2,037	0.8x	0.2
2013	Bridgepoint Europe IV	5	711	3,109	1,966	1.6x	0.2
2001	CVC III*	1	386	4,283	1,731	2.6x	0.2
2008	CVC V*	4	429	4,750	1,685	2.4x	0.2
2020	Seidler Equity Partners VII L.P.	2	12,932	1,853	1,626	0.9x	0.2
2019	ASI Omega Holdco (KD Pharma)[3]	1	2,774	1,462	1,587	1.1x	0.2
2021	Nordic Capital WH1 Beta, L.P. (Boost.ai)[3]	1	2,149	1,560	1,508	1.0x	0.1
2020	Vitruvian IV	6	19,796	1,695	1,260	0.7x	0.1

Vintage	Investment	Number of investments	Outstanding commitments £'000	Cost £'000	Valuation £'000[1]	Net multiple[2]	% of NAV
2006	3i Eurofund V	1	-	11,308	1,052	2.7x	0.1
2006	HgCapital 5	1	213	6,578	740	1.7x	0.1
2019	Gilde Buy-Out Fund IV	2	-	2,262	414	1.2x	0.0
2009	Capiton IV GmbH & Co. Beteiligungs KG	5	146	241	95	1.1x	0.0
2020	Hg Mercury 3	3	10,553	105	84	0.8x	0.0
2007	Industri Kapital 2007 Fund	0	1,492	5,545	58	1.4x	0.0
2003	Industri Kapital 2004 Fund*	0	-	-	10	2.4x	0.0
2019	Borromin Capital Fund III L.P[4]	0	208	808	8	1.6x	0.0
2021	Advent Technology II	0	23,362	-	-	0.0x	0.0
2021	ArchiMed III	0	12,893	-	-	0.0x	0.0
2021	Eurazeo Payment Luxembourg Fund SCSp (Planet)[3]	0	9,025	-	-	0.0x	0.0
2021	Excellere Partners Fund IV	0	25,958	-	-	0.0x	0.0
2021	IK Small Cap Fund III	0	21,294	196	-	0.0x	0.0
2021	Nordic Capital Evolution Fund	0	25,785	-	-	0.0x	0.0
2021	Permira Growth Opportunities II	1	25,958	-	-	0.0x	0.0
2020	Triton Smaller Mid-Cap Fund II	3	21,488	-	-	0.0x	0.0
	Total investments[5]	635	557,051	703,214	1,007,843		97.3
	Non-portfolio assets less liabilities				28,124		2.7
	Total shareholders' funds				1,035,967		100.0

[1] All funds are valued by the manager of the relevant fund or co-investment as at 30 September 2021, with the exception of those funds suffixed with an * which were valued as at 30 June 2021 or initial funding amount paid.
[2] The net multiple has been calculated by the Manager in sterling on the basis of the total realised and unrealised return for the interest held in each fund and co-investments. These figures have not been reviewed or approved by the relevant fund or its manager.
[3] Co-investment position. The name of the underlying co-investment which is indirectly held by the Company has been included within the bracketed text.
[4] Formerly Steadfast Capital III.
[5] The 635 underlying investments represent holdings in 578 separate companies, 36 fund investments and 9 co-investments.

Top 30 Underlying Private Company Investments

Entity	Description	Fund/Co-Investment	Year of Investment[1]	% of NAV[2]
Action	Non-food discount retailer	3i Venice SCSp	2020	4.0%
R1 RCM	Healthcare revenue services	TowerBrook Investors IV	2016	1.4%
Undisclosed[3]	A prestige and professional haircare brand	Advent International Global Private Equity IX	2020	1.4%
Trustly	Online payment provider	Nordic Capital Fund IX	2018	1.3%
Visma	Accounting software and services	Hg Vardos Co-invest L.P. / Hg Saturn 2	2020	1.3%
Benvic	Developer and producer of PVC-based solutions	Investindustrial Growth	2018	1.1%
Access Group	Software solutions	HgCapital 8	2018	1.1%
InfoPro Digital	B2B professional information services	TowerBrook Investors IV	2016	1.0%
Dr. Martens	Global footwear brand	Permira V	2014	0.9%
Binding Site	Clinical laboratory diagnostics	Nordic Capital VII	2011	0.9%
Insightsoftware	Financial reporting and enterprise performance management software provider	Hg Isaac Co-Invest LP / Hg Saturn 2	2021	0.9%
Questel	Intelligence Software	IK Co-invest Questel	2021	0.9%
NAMSA	Provider of medical devices	MPI-COI-NAMSA SLP	2020	0.9%
Froneri	Ice cream manufacturer for take home and private label segments	PAI Strategic Partnerships SCSp / PAI Europe VII	2019	0.8%
Vizrt	Professional software for real-time media	Nordic Capital VIII	2015	0.8%
Photobox	Online photo laboratory	Exponent Private Equity Partners III, LP.	2016	0.8%
Allegro	Online marketplace	Sixth Cinven Fund	2017	0.8%
Riskalyze	Risk tolerance software	Hg Riley Co-Invest LP/ Hg Mercury 3	2021	0.8%
Trioplast	Manufacturer of polyethylene film	Altor Fund IV	2018	0.8%
RevolutionRace	Outdoor apparel webshop	Altor Fund IV	2017	0.8%

Entity	Description	Fund/Co-Investment	Year of Investment[1]	% of NAV[2]
Undisclosed[3]	Software provider to automotive collision repairers, parts suppliers and insurers	Advent International Global Private Equity VIII	2017	0.8%
Informatica	Enterprise data integration	Permira V	2015	0.7%
Litera	Provider of end to end document lifecycle solutions	HgCapital 8	2019	0.7%
Lindorff	Leading European financial institutions debt collector	Nordic Capital VIII	2014	0.7%
Prollenium	Medical aesthetics company	MPI-COI-PROLLENIUM SLP	2021	0.7%
TriMedx	Healthcare technology management	TowerBrook Investors IV	2016	0.7%
Undisclosed[3]	Generics pharmaceutical company	Advent International Global Private Equity VIII	2018	0.7%
Tricor	Business services	Permira V	2017	0.7%
Mademoiselle Desserts	Dessert and confectionery producer	Alphaone International S.à.r.l. / IK Fund VIII	2018	0.7%
Refresco	Independent bottler of beverages	PAI Europe VI	2018	0.6%

[1] Year of investment is disclosed as the first year of investment by a portfolio investment.
[2] All % of NAV figures are based on gross valuations, before any carry provision.
[3] Due to disclosure restrictions associated with our holding in the associated fund investments, we are unable to name the underlying private company.

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Governance

The Board of Directors of the Company is a highly experienced group of individuals with substantial understanding of investment trusts, private equity and the financial services industry. The Board works closely with the Investment Manager to deliver shareholder value. The Board is responsible for stewardship, including overall strategy, investment policy, borrowings, dividends, corporate governance procedures and risk management.

Your Board of Directors

Christina McComb, OBE

Status:
Chair and Independent Non-Executive Director

Experience:
Christina has over 25 years' experience of investing in growth companies, having spent much of her career at leading private equity firm 3i Group plc. She is currently Chair of financial mutual OneFamily, Senior Independent Director of Big Society Capital, the UK's leading social investment fund and a Non-Executive Director of Seraphim Space Investment Trust plc. She is also a Trustee of the 3i Pension Scheme and a Trustee of Nesta.

Length of service:
Appointed on 29 January 2013, and as Chair on 1 January 2019

Last re-elected to the board:
23 March 2021

Committee member:
Audit Committee, Management Engagement Committee (Chair), and Nomination Committee (Chair)

Contribution:
The Board has reviewed the contribution of Christina McComb and has concluded that she has chaired the Company expertly, fostering a collaborative spirit between the Board and Investment Manager, whilst ensuring that meetings remain focused on the key areas of stakeholder relevance.

Dugald Agble

Status:
Independent Non-Executive Director

Experience:
Dugald holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College London and has spent over 20 years direct investment experience in Private Equity. He started his career at Nomura Principal Finance Group, which later evolved into Terra Firma Capital Partners. More recently, Dugald has been involved in investing in emerging and frontier markets at Helios Investment Partners and 8 Miles. Dugald is a Supervisory Board Member at FMO, the Dutch finance institution.

Length of service:
Appointed on 1 September 2021

Last re-elected to the board:
Not applicable, appointed during the year under review.

Committee member:
Audit Committee, Management Engagement Committee, and Nomination Committee

Contribution:
The Board has reviewed the contribution of Dugald Agble since his appointment, in light of his proposed election at the AGM, and has concluded that he provides significant investment insight to the Board and knowledge of the private equity and investment management sector.

Your Board of Directors Continued

Alan Devine

Status:
Senior Independent Non-Executive Director

Experience:
Alan holds an MBA and is a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers in Scotland. He was formerly CEO of the Royal Bank of Scotland Shipping Group and has a wide background of knowledge and over 40 years' experience in both commercial and investment banking. Alan is a Non-Executive Director of Irish company Capitalflow Holdings DAC where he is Chairman of the Remuneration and Audit Committees. Alan is also Chairman of the private equity owned Irish based cash logistics company known as GSLS.

Length of service:
Appointed on 28 May 2014, and as Senior Independent Director on 1 January 2019

Last re-elected to the board:
23 March 2021

Committee member:
Audit Committee, Management Engagement Committee, and Nomination Committee

Contribution:
The Board has reviewed the contribution of Alan Devine in light of his proposed re-election at the AGM and has concluded that his contribution to the Board, from a funding, industry and corporate governance perspective, has been invaluable.

Diane Seymour-Williams

Status:
Independent Non-Executive Director

Experience:
Diane is a Non-executive Director of Mercia Asset Management PLC and PraxisIFM Group Limited, and is a Director of Acorn Capital Advisers Limited. Diane worked at Deutsche Asset Management Group (previously Morgan Grenfell) for 23 years where she held various senior positions, including CIO and CEO of Asia. More recently, she spent nine years at LGM Investments, a specialist global emerging and frontier markets equities manager, where she was Global Head of Relationship Management. She is a pro-bono member of the Investment Committees of Newnham College, Cambridge and the Canal & River Trust.

Length of service:
Appointed on 7 June 2017

Last re-elected to the board:
23 March 2021

Committee member:
Audit Committee, Management Engagement Committee, and Nomination Committee

Contribution:
The Board has reviewed the contribution of Diane Seymour-Williams in light of her proposed re-election at the AGM and has concluded that she continues to provide significant investment insight to the Board and knowledge of the investment management sector.

Calum Thomson

Status:
Independent Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Audit Committee

Experience:
Calum is a qualified chartered accountant and was an audit partner with Deloitte LLP for over 21 years. Calum is a Non-executive Director and the Audit Committee chair of the Diverse Income Trust plc, the AVI Global Trust plc and Baring Emerging EMEA Opportunities plc. He is also a Non-executive Director and Audit Committee chair of BLME Holdings Limited.

Length of service:
Appointed on 30 November 2017

Last re-elected to the board:
23 March 2021

Committee member:
Audit Committee (Chair), Management Engagement Committee, and Nomination Committee

Contribution:
The Board has reviewed the contribution of Calum Thomson in light of his proposed re-election at the AGM and has concluded that he has chaired the Audit Committee expertly and continues to provide significant financial and risk management insight to Board discussions.

Yvonne Stillhart

Status:
Independent Non-Executive Director

Experience:
Yvonne has over 30 years senior executive experience in business building, transformational leadership, private equity and infrastructure investment, finance, banking as well as risk and investment management across broad industries and geographical regions. Earlier in her career, she co-founded and led as a Senior Executive Partner and member of the Investment Committee Akina AG, a Swiss based private equity manager which merged in 2017 with Unigestion S.A. Yvonne serves currently as a non-executive Director and member of the Audit and Risk committee at UBS Asset Management Switzerland Ltd., and is the Chairperson and member of the Social and Ethics committee of the South African listed EPE Capital Ltd.

Yvonne holds a Director Certificate from Harvard Business School, the Certificate in Risk Governance from the DCRO Institute and the Global ESG Competent Boards Certificate (GCB.D). She is fluent in German, English, Spanish and French.

Length of service:
Appointed on 1 September 2021

Last re-elected to the board:
Not applicable, appointed during the year under review.

Committee member:
Audit Committee, Management Engagement Committee, and Nomination Committee

Contribution:
The Board has reviewed the contribution of Yvonne Stillhart since appointment, in light of her proposed election at the AGM and has concluded that she provides knowledge of the private equity sector and financial insight to Board discussions.

Directors' Report

The Directors present their report and the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended 30 September 2021.

Results and Dividends

The financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2021 are contained on pages 77 to 96. Interim dividends of 3.4 pence per Ordinary share were paid in April, July and October 2021. The Board declared, on 14 December 2021, a fourth interim dividend for the year to 30 September 2021 of 3.4 pence per share is payable on 28 January 2022 to shareholders on the register on 24 December 2021.

Principal Activity and Status

The Company is registered as a public limited company in Scotland under company number SC216638, is an investment company within the meaning of Section 833 of the Companies Act 2006 and carries on business as an investment trust.

The Company has applied for and has been accepted as an investment trust under Sections 1158 and 1159 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and Part 2 Chapter 1 of Statutory Instrument 2011/2999. This approval relates to accounting periods commencing on or after 1 October 2012. The Directors are of the opinion that the Company has conducted its affairs so as to be able to retain such approval.

The Company intends to manage its affairs so that its Ordinary shares continue to be a qualifying investment for inclusion in the stocks and shares component of an Individual Savings Account.

Capital Structure and Voting Rights

The Company's issued share capital at 30 September 2021 consisted of 153,746,294 (2020: 153,746,294) Ordinary shares of 0.2 pence each in issue.

Each ordinary shareholder is entitled to one vote on a show of hands and, on a poll, to one vote for every Ordinary share held.

Management Agreement

The Company has appointed abrdn Capital Partners LLP , a wholly owned subsidiary of abrdn, as its alternative investment fund manager ("AIFM") and Manager (the "Manager").

abrdn Capital Partners LLP has been appointed to provide investment management, risk management, administration and company secretarial services, and promotional activities to the Company. In addition, abrdn Capital Partners LLP has sub-delegated administrative and secretarial services to Aberdeen Asset Management PLC and promotional activities to abrdn.

The management fee, payable quarterly, is calculated as 0.95% per annum of the Company's net asset value at the end of the relative quarter. No fee is payable on any investments in any investment trust, collective investment scheme or any other company or fund managed, operated or advised by the Manager or any other subsidiary of abrdn where there is an entitlement to a fee on that investment.

Further details of the fees payable to the Manager are shown in notes 3 and 4 to the financial statements.

The management agreement is terminable on not less than twelve months' written notice.

External Agencies

The Board has contractually delegated depositary services (which include the custody and safeguarding of the Company's assets) to IQ-EQ Depositary Company (UK) Limited and the share registration services to Equiniti Limited. These contracts were entered into after full and proper consideration by the Board of the quality and cost of services offered in so far as they relate to the affairs of the Company.

Substantial Interests

Information provided to the Company by major shareholders pursuant to the FCA's Disclosure, Guidance and Transparency Rules is published by the Company via a Regulatory Information Service.

The table below sets out the interests in 3% or more of the issued share capital of the Company, of which the Board was aware as at 30 September 2021.

Shareholder	Number of Ordinary shares	% held
Phoenix Group Holdings[1]	87,011,458	56.6
Interactive investor	7,180,622	4.7
Hargreaves Lansdown	5,173,552	3.4
Quilter Cheviot Investment Management	5,105,732	3.3
Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund	4,805,941	3.1

[1] The voting rights of these shares are exercisable by abrdn.

The Company has not been notified of any changes to these holdings as at the date of this Report.

Relationship Agreement with Standard Life Assurance Limited
The Company's largest shareholder, Phoenix Group Holdings, holds its shares through Standard Life Assurance Limited ("SLAL", which is 100% owned by Phoenix Group Holdings). SLAL has irrevocably undertaken to the Company that, at any time when SLAL and its Associates (meaning any company which is a member of the SLAL group) are entitled to exercise or control 30% or more of the rights to vote at general meetings of the Company, it will not (and will procure that none of its Associates will) seek to nominate directors to the Board of the Company who are not independent of SLAL and its Associates, enter into any transaction or arrangement with the Company which is not conducted at arm's length and on normal commercial terms, take any action that would have the effect of preventing the Company from carrying on an independent business as its main activity or from complying with its obligations under the Listing Rules or propose or procure the proposal of any shareholder resolution which is intended or appears to be intended to circumvent the proper application of the Listing Rules.

Directors

Each of the Directors of the Company as at 30 September 2021, whose biographies are shown on pages 47 to 49 are considered by the Board to be independent of the Company and the Manager and free of any relationship which could materially interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement on issues of strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct.

All of the Directors held office throughout the year under review and up to the date of signing the financial statements, with the exception of Yvonne Stillhart and Dugald Agble who were appointed as Directors on 1 September 2021.

The Directors attended scheduled Board and Committee meetings during the year ended 30 September 2021 as follows (with their eligibility to attend the relevant meetings in brackets):

	Board Meetings	Audit Committee Meetings	Management Engagement and Nomination Committee Meetings
Dugald Agble[1]	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Alan Devine	5 (5)	2 (2)	1 (1)[3]
Christina McComb	5 (5)	2 (2)	2 (2)[3]
Diane Seymour-Williams	4 (5)	2 (2)	2 (3)[4]
Yvonne Stillhart[1]	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Calum Thomson	5 (5)	2 (2)	3 (3)
Jonathon Bond[2]	3 (3)	2 (2)	1 (2)

[1] Appointed as a Director on 1 September 2021.
[2] Retired from the Board on 23 March 2021.
[3] Meetings of the Nomination Committee were not attended as Chair succession was being discussed.
[4] Meeting was not attended due to being hospitalised.

The Board and Committees meet more frequently when business needs require. There are a number of matters reserved for the Board's approval which include overall strategy, investment policy, borrowings, dividend policy and Board composition.

All of the Directors will retire and, being eligible, will offer themselves for election or re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board believes that each Director has the requisite high level and range of business, investment and financial experience which enables the Board to provide clear and effective leadership and proper governance of the Company. Each Director remains independent and free from any relationship which could materially interfere with the exercise of their judgement on issues of strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct. Following the Company's formal annual performance evaluation, the Board concluded that each Director's performance continues to be effective and each Director demonstrates commitment to the role, and their individual performances contribute to the long-term sustainable success of the Company. The Board therefore recommends the election, or re-election, of each of the Directors at the Annual General Meeting. The biographies on pages 47 to 49 set out their range of skills and experience as well as length of service and their contribution to the Board during the year.

Directors' Report Continued

Board's Policy on Tenure

In normal circumstances, it is the Board's expectation that Directors will not serve beyond the Annual General Meeting following the ninth anniversary of their appointment. However, the Board takes the view that independence of individual Directors is not necessarily compromised by length of tenure on the Board and that continuity and experience can add significantly to the Board's strength. The Board believes that recommendation for re-election should be on an individual basis following a rigorous review which assesses the contribution made by the Director concerned, but also taking into account the need for regular refreshment and diversity.

It is the Board's policy that the Chair of the Board will not normally serve as a Director beyond the Annual General Meeting following the ninth anniversary of his or her appointment to the Board. However, this may be extended in certain circumstances or to facilitate effective succession planning and the development of a diverse Board. In such a situation the reasons for the extension will be fully explained to shareholders and a timetable for the departure of the Chair clearly set out.

The Role of the Chair and Senior Independent Director

Christina McComb is the Chair and Alan Devine is the Senior Independent Director.

The Chair is responsible for providing effective leadership to the Board, by setting the tone of the Company, demonstrating objective judgement and promoting a culture of openness and debate. The Chair facilitates the effective contribution and encourages active engagement by each Director. In conjunction with the Company Secretary, the Chair ensures that Directors receive accurate, timely and clear information to assist them with effective decision making. The Chair leads and acts upon the results of the formal and rigorous annual Board and Committee evaluation process by recognising strengths and addressing any weaknesses of the Board. She also ensures that the Board engages with major shareholders and that all Directors understand shareholder views.

The Senior Independent Director acts as a sounding board for the Chair and acts as an intermediary for other directors, when necessary. Working closely with the Nomination Committee, the Senior Independent Director takes responsibility for an orderly succession process for the Chair, and leads the annual appraisal of the Chair's performance. The Senior Independent Director is also available to shareholders to discuss any concerns they may have.

Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance

The Company maintains insurance in respect of directors' and officers' liabilities in relation to their acts on behalf of the Company. The Company's articles of association provide that any director or other officer of the Company is to be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against any liability incurred by him as a director or other officer of the Company to the extent permitted by law.

Management of Conflicts of Interest

The Board has a procedure in place to deal with a situation where a Director has a conflict of interest. As part of this process, each Director discloses other positions held and all other conflict situations that may need to be authorised either in relation to the Director concerned or his or her connected persons. The Board considers each Director's situation and decides whether to approve any conflict or other external positions, taking into consideration what is in the best interests of the Company and whether the Director's ability to act in accordance with his or her wider duties is affected. Each Director is required to notify the Company Secretary of any potential, or actual, conflict situations that will need authorising by the Board. Authorisations given by the Board are reviewed at each Board meeting.

No Director has a service contract with the Company although all Directors are issued with letters of appointment. There were no contracts during, or at the end of the year, in which any Director was interested.

The Company has a policy of conducting its business in an honest and ethical manner. The Company takes a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and has procedures in place that are proportionate to the Company's circumstances to prevent them. The Manager also adopts a group-wide zero-tolerance approach and has its own detailed policy and procedures in place to prevent bribery and corruption. Copies of the Manager's anti-bribery and corruption policies are available on its website.

In relation to the corporate offence of failing to prevent tax evasion, it is the Company's policy to conduct all business in an honest and ethical manner. The Company takes a zero-tolerance approach to facilitation of tax evasion whether under UK law or under the law of any foreign country and is committed to acting professionally, fairly and with integrity in all its business dealings and relationships.

Corporate Governance

The Company is committed to high standards of corporate governance. The Board is accountable to the Company's shareholders for good governance and this statement describes how the Company has applied the principles identified in the UK Corporate Governance Code as published in July 2018 (the "UK Code"), which is available on the Financial Reporting Council's (the "FRC") website: frc.org.uk.

The Board has also considered the principles and provisions of the AIC Code of Corporate Governance as published in February 2019 (the "AIC Code"). The AIC Code addresses the principles and provisions set out in the UK Code, as well as setting out additional provisions on issues that are of specific relevance to the Company. The AIC Code is available on the AIC's website: theaic.co.uk.

The Board considers that reporting against the principles and provisions of the AIC Code, which has been endorsed by the FRC, provides more relevant information to shareholders.

The Board confirms that, during the year, the Company complied with the principles and provisions of the AIC Code and the relevant provisions of the UK Code, except as set out below.

The UK Code includes provisions relating to:

- interaction with the workforce (provisions 2, 5 and 6);
- the role and responsibility of the chief executive (provisions 9 and 14);
- previous experience of the chair of a remuneration committee (provision 32); and
- executive directors' remuneration (provisions 33 and 36 to 40).

The Board considers that these provisions are not relevant to the position of the Company, being an externally managed investment company. In particular, all of the Company's day-to-day management and administrative functions are outsourced to third parties. As a result, the Company has no executive directors, employees or internal operations. The Company has therefore not reported further in respect of these provisions.

The full text of the Company's Corporate Governance Statement can be found on its website.

Board Committees

The Board has appointed a number of Committees, as set out below. Copies of their terms of reference, which clearly define the responsibilities and duties of each Committee, are available on the Company's website, or upon request from the Company.

The performance of the Committees and their terms of reference are reviewed by the Board on an ongoing basis and formally at least annually.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is chaired by Calum Thomson who is a Chartered Accountant and has recent and relevant financial experience. The Committee comprises all non-executive Directors. The Audit Committee and Board consider that Christina McComb was independent on appointment, and continues to be independent of the Manager. Given the size of the Board, and the continued independence of Christina McComb, the Board believes that it is appropriate for all the independent Directors, including the Chair, to constitute the Audit Committee. The Board is satisfied that the Committee as a whole has competence relevant to the investment trust sector.

The Audit Committee's Report is contained on pages 62 to 66.

Management Engagement Committee

The Management Engagement Committee comprises the full Board and is chaired by Christina McComb. The main responsibilities of the Committee include:

- monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Manager;
- reviewing at least annually the continued retention of the Manager;
- reviewing, at least annually, the terms of appointment of the Manager including, but not limited to, the level and method of remuneration and the notice period of the Manager; and
- reviewing the performance and remuneration of the other key service providers to the Company.

The Committee met in respect of the year ended 30 September 2021 to review of performance and the terms of appointment of the Manager. Following which, the Committee recommended to the Board that the continuing appointment of the Manager was in the best interests of the shareholders and the Company as a whole. In reaching this decision, the Committee considered the Company's long-term performance record and concluded that it remained satisfied with the capability of the Manager to deliver satisfactory investment performance, that its processes are thorough and robust and that it employs a well-resourced team of skilled and experienced fund managers. In addition, the Committee is satisfied that the Manager has the secretarial, administrative and promotional skills required for the effective operation and administration of the Company.

Directors' Report Continued

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee comprises the full Board and is chaired by Christina McComb. The Committee met a number of times during the year to carry out its responsibilities. The main responsibilities of the Committee include:

- regularly reviewing the structure, size and composition (including the skills, knowledge, experience, diversity and gender) of the Board;
- undertaking succession planning, taking into account the challenges and opportunities facing the Company and identifying candidates to fill vacancies;
- recruiting new Directors, undertaking open advertising or engaging external advisers to facilitate the search, as appropriate, with a view to considering candidates from a wide range of backgrounds, on merit, and with due regard for the benefits of diversity on the Board, taking care to ensure that appointees have enough time available to devote to the position;
- ensuring that new appointees receive a formal letter of appointment and suitable induction and ongoing training;
- arranging for the annual Board and Committee performance evaluations and ensuring that Directors are able to commit the time required to properly discharge their duties;
- making recommendations to the Board as to the position of Chair, Senior Independent Director and Chair of the Nomination, Audit and Management Engagement Committees;
- assessing, on an annual basis, the independence of each Director; and
- approving the re-election of any Director, subject to the UK Code, the AIC Code, or the Articles of Association, at the Annual General Meeting, having due regard to their performance, ability to continue to contribute to the Board in the light of the knowledge, skills and experience required and the need for progressive refreshing of the Board.

In respect of the appointment of Dugald Agble and Yvonne Stillhart, who were appointed as independent non-executive Directors on 1 September 2021, the Board used the services of an external search consultant, Nurole Limited. Nurole Limited is independent of the Company and Board of Directors.

Going Concern

The Board has considered its obligation to satisfy itself as to the appropriateness of the adoption of the going concern assumption as a basis for the preparation of the financial statements.

At 30 September 2021, the Company had a £200.0 million (2020: £200.0 million) committed, multi-currency syndicated revolving credit facility, under which £nil (2020: £nil) had been drawn down. The facility is provided by Citi, Société Générale and State Street Bank International (2020: Citi and Société Générale).

The Directors are mindful of the Principal Risks and Uncertainties disclosed in the Strategic Report on pages 11 to 14, including the over-arching risk of Covid-19 and its impact on global markets, and they believe that the Company has adequate financial resources to continue its operational existence for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of approval of this Report. They have arrived at this conclusion having reviewed the Company's revolving credit facility, the future cash flow projections, the ongoing expenses forecasts for the coming year, and taking into account that the Company had net resources available for investment at the year end.

Accordingly, the Directors believe that it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Accountability and Audit

The respective responsibilities of the Directors and the Independent Auditor in connection with the financial statements appear on pages 67 and 75.

The Directors confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's Independent Auditor was unaware, and that each Director has taken all the steps that they might reasonably be expected to have taken as a Director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's Independent Auditor was aware of that information.

Independent Auditor

Shareholders approved the re-appointment of BDO LLP as the Company's Independent Auditor at the AGM on 23 March 2021 and resolutions to approve its re-appointment for the year to 30 September 2022 and to authorise the Directors to determine its remuneration will be proposed at the AGM on 22 March 2022.

Relations with Shareholders

The Board recognises the importance of promoting the Company to prospective investors both for improving liquidity and enhancing the value and rating of the Company's shares. One of the benefits of being managed by abrdn is the ability to subscribe to, and participate in, the promotional programme run by abrdn on behalf of a number of investment trusts under its management. The Company's financial contribution to the programme is matched by abrdn. The Company also supports abrdn's investor relations programme which involves regional roadshows, promotional and public relations campaigns. abrdn's promotional and investor relations teams report to the Board on a quarterly basis giving analysis of the promotional activities as well as updates on the shareholder register and any changes in the make-up of that register.

Shareholders and investors may obtain up to date information on the Company through its website and the Manager's Customer Services Department (see contact details on page 103).

The Board also communicates directly with shareholders and their representative bodies without the involvement of the management group (including the Company Secretary or the Manager) in situations where direct communication is required, and representatives from the Manager and Board meet with major shareholders on at least an annual basis in order to gauge their views, and report back to the Board on these meetings. In addition, the Company Secretary only acts on behalf of the Board, not the Manager, and there is no filtering of communication.

The Company's Annual General Meeting provides a forum for communication primarily with private shareholders and is attended by the Board. The Manager makes a presentation to the meeting and all shareholders have the opportunity to put questions to both the Board and the Manager at the meeting.

The notice of the Annual General Meeting is sent out at least 20 working days in advance of the meeting. All shareholders have the opportunity to put questions to the Board and Manager at the meeting.

Additional Information

Where not provided elsewhere in the Directors' Report, the following provides the additional information required to be disclosed by Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

There are no restrictions on the transfer of Ordinary shares in the Company issued by the Company other than certain restrictions which may from time to time be imposed by law (for example, the Market Abuse Regulation). The Company is not aware of any agreements between shareholders that may result in a transfer of securities and/or voting rights.

The rules governing the appointment of Directors are set out in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 58 and 59. The Company's Articles of Association may only be amended by a special resolution passed at a general meeting of shareholders.

Annual General Meeting

The Notice of the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at 12:30pm at the Balmoral Hotel, 1 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2EQ on Tuesday, 22 March 2022, and related notes, may be found on pages 107 to 112.

At the time of writing it is the Board's intention that the Annual General Meeting will be held in person. However, should government restrictions on public gatherings and requirements to socially distance, the Annual General Meeting will satisfy the minimum legal requirements.

Shareholders are encouraged vote on the resolutions proposed in advance of the AGM and submit questions to the Board and the Manager by emailing SLPET.Board@abrdn.com.

Resolutions including the following business will be proposed:

Dividend Policy

As a result of the timing of the payment of the Company's quarterly dividends, the Company's shareholders are unable to approve a final dividend each year. In line with good corporate governance, the Board therefore proposes to put the Company's dividend policy to shareholders for approval at the Annual General Meeting and on an annual basis thereafter.

The Company's dividend policy is that interim dividends on the Ordinary shares are payable quarterly in April, July, October and January. Resolution 4 will seek shareholder approval for the dividend policy.

Issue of Ordinary Shares

Resolution 12, which is an ordinary resolution, will, if passed, renew the Directors' authority to allot new Ordinary shares up to 10% of the issued share capital of the Company (excluding treasury shares) as at the date of the passing of the resolution.

Directors' Report Continued

Resolution 13, which is a special resolution, will, if passed, renew the Directors' existing authority to allot new Ordinary shares or sell treasury shares for cash without the new Ordinary shares first being offered to existing shareholders in proportion to their existing holdings. This will give the Directors authority to make limited allotments or sell shares from treasury of up to 10% of the total ordinary issued share capital, excluding treasury shares, as at the date of the passing of the resolution.

The authority to issue shares on a non pre-emptive basis includes shares held in treasury (if any) which the Company sells or transfers, including pursuant to the authority conferred by Resolution 12.

New Ordinary shares will only be issued at prices representing a premium to the last published net asset value per share.

The authorities being sought under resolutions 12 and 13 shall expire at the conclusion of the Company's next AGM in 2023 or, if earlier, on the expiry of 15 months from the date of the passing of the resolutions, unless such authorities are renewed prior to such time. The Directors have no current intention to exercise these authorities and will only do so if they believe it is advantageous and in the best interests of shareholders.

Purchase of the Company's Ordinary Shares

Resolution 14, which is a special resolution, seeks to renew the Board's authority to make market purchases of the Company's Ordinary shares in accordance with the provisions contained in the Companies Act 2006 and the FCA's Listing Rules. Accordingly, the Company will seek authority to purchase up to a maximum of 14.99% of the issued share capital (excluding treasury shares) at the date of passing of the resolution at a minimum price of 0.2 pence per share (being the nominal value). Under the Listing Rules, the maximum price that may be paid on the exercise of this authority must not exceed the higher of: (i) 105% of the average of the middle market quotations (as derived from the Daily Official List of the London Stock Exchange) for the shares over the five business days immediately preceding the date of purchase; and (ii) the higher of the last independent trade and the highest current independent bid on the trading venue on which the purchase is carried out.

The Board does not intend to use this authority to purchase the Company's Ordinary shares, unless to do so would result in an increase in the net asset value per Ordinary share and would be in the best interests of shareholders. Any Ordinary shares purchased shall either be cancelled or held in treasury. The authority being sought shall expire at the conclusion of the AGM in 2023 or, if earlier, on the expiry of 15 months from the date of the passing of the resolution unless such authority is renewed prior to such time.

Notice of General Meetings

The Companies Act 2006 provides that the minimum notice period for general meetings of listed companies is 21 days, but with an ability for companies to reduce this period to 14 days (other than for annual general meetings) provided that two conditions are met. The first condition is that the company offers a facility, accessible to all shareholders, to appoint a proxy by means of a website. The second condition is that there is an annual resolution of shareholders approving the reduction of the minimum notice period from 21 days to 14 days.

The Board is therefore proposing Resolution 15 as a special resolution to approve 14 days as the minimum period of notice for all general meetings of the Company other than annual general meetings, renewing the authority passed at last year's annual general meeting. The approval would be effective until the end of the Company's next annual general meeting, when it is intended that the approval be renewed.

The Board would consider on a case by case basis whether the use of the flexibility offered by the shorter notice period is merited, taking into account the circumstances, including whether the business of the meeting is time sensitive and it would therefore be to the advantage of the shareholders to call the meeting on shorter notice.

Change of Company Name

Conditional on Resolution 16, a special resolution, being approved by Shareholders at the AGM, the Board intends to change the Company's name to "abrdn Private Equity Opportunities Trust plc".

It is intended that the change of name will be implemented following the AGM, subject to the resolution to be proposed at the AGM being passed by Shareholders.

Conditional on the name of the Company being changed to abrdn Private Equity Opportunities Trust plc the Board intends to change the Company's ticker to "APEO".

Further information on the proposed name change is provided in the Chair's Statement on page 8.

Recommendation

The Board considers that the resolutions to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting are in the best interests of the Company and most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole. Accordingly, the Board recommends that shareholders vote in favour of the resolutions as they intend to do in respect of their own beneficial shareholdings, amounting to 65,788 Ordinary shares, representing 0.04% of the issued share capital.

By order of the Board
Aberdeen Asset Management PLC
Company Secretary
1 George Street
Edinburgh EH2 2LL
26 January 2022

Directors' Remuneration Report

This Directors' Remuneration Report comprises three parts:

1. a Remuneration Policy which is subject to a binding shareholder vote every three years (or sooner if varied during this interval) – most recently voted on at the Annual General Meeting on 24 February 2020;
2. an Implementation Report which is subject to an advisory vote on the level of remuneration paid during the year; and
3. an Annual Statement.

Company law requires the Company's Independent Auditor to audit certain of the disclosures provided in the Directors' Remuneration Report. Where disclosures have been audited, they are indicated as such. The Independent Auditor's report is included on pages 69 to 76.

As the Company has no employees, and the Board is comprised wholly of non-executive Directors, and given the size and nature of the Company, the Board has not established a separate Remuneration Committee. The Director's Remuneration Policy and level of Directors' remuneration are determined by the Nomination Committee, which is chaired by Christina McComb and comprises all of the Directors.

Remuneration Policy

The Directors' Remuneration Policy takes into consideration the principles of UK corporate governance and the AIC's recommendations regarding the application of those principles to investment companies.

No communication was received from shareholders during the year regarding Directors' remuneration.

The Directors' Remuneration Policy will be subject to a vote at the 2022 Annual General Meeting and Resolution 2, set out in the Notice of Annual General Meeting seeks shareholder approval of the Company's proposed new Directors' Remuneration Policy. If Resolution 2 is passed, the Policy will become effective immediately. If Resolution 2 is not passed, the Company will continue to operate under its current Directors' Remuneration Policy and will seek shareholder approval for a revised Policy as soon as practicable.

The new Policy remains largely unchanged with only one amendment to include the following provision:

- Directors who are resident outside of the United Kingdom, will be entitled to an incremental fee of £1,000 per annum.

The Company's policy is that the remuneration of the Directors, all of whom are non-executive, should reflect the experience of the Board as a whole and be fair and comparable to that of other investment trusts with a similar capital structure and similar investment objectives. Directors are remunerated exclusively in the form of fees, payable quarterly in arrears to the Director personally. The fees for the Directors are determined within the limits set out in this Remuneration Policy which limits the aggregate of the fees payable to the Directors to £350,000 per annum. It is intended that the fees payable to the Directors should reflect their duties, responsibilities, and the value and amount of time committed to the Company's affairs, and should also be sufficient to enable candidates of a high quality to be recruited and retained. There is no performance-related remuneration scheme and therefore the Directors do not receive bonuses, pension benefits, share options, long-term incentive schemes or other benefits, and the fees are not specifically related to the Directors' performance, either individually or collectively.

The fees for the two years ended 30 Septmber 2021 and 2020 are set out in the table below. Fees are reviewed annually and, if considered appropriate, increased accordingly.

	30 September 2021 £	30 September 2020 £
Chair	62,500	62,500
Senior Independent Director	46,500	46,500
Chair of Audit Committee	46,500	46,500
Director	42,500	42,500

Appointment

- The Company only intends to appoint non-executive Directors.
- All the Directors are non-executive and are appointed under the terms of letters of appointment.
- The terms of appointment provide that Directors should retire and be subject to election at the first Annual General Meeting after their appointment. The Company's Articles of Association require all Directors to retire by rotation at least every three years. However, notwithstanding the Articles of Association, the Board has agreed that all Directors should retire annually and seek re-election at the AGM.
- Any Director newly appointed to the Board will receive the fee applicable to each of the other Directors at the time of appointment together with any other fee then currently

payable in respect of a specific role which the new Director is to undertake for the Company.

- Directors who are resident outside of the United Kingdom, will be entitled to an incremental fee of £1,000 per annum. *(subject to shareholder consent at the Annual General Meeting)*

- No incentive or introductory fees will be paid to encourage a person to become a Director.

- Directors are not eligible for bonuses, pension benefits, share options, long-term incentive schemes or other benefits.

- Directors are not entitled to re-imbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties, including travel expenses.

- The Company indemnifies its Directors for all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities which may be incurred in the discharge of duties as a Director of the Company.

Performance, Service Contracts, Compensation and Loss of Office

- Directors' remuneration is not subject to any performance related fee.

- No Director has a service contract.

- No Director was interested in contracts with the Company during the period or subsequently.

- The terms of appointment provide that a Director may be removed without notice.

- There is no notice period and no provision for compensation upon early termination of appointment, save for any arrears of fees which may be due.

- No Director is entitled to any other monetary payment or any assets of the Company.

Directors' & Officers' liability insurance cover is maintained by the Company on behalf of the Directors.

There were no changes to the Directors' Remuneration Policy during the year except to propose to amend the policy as set out above at the Annual General Meeting. The Remuneration Policy is reviewed by the Nomination Committee on an annual basis and it is the Committee's intention that the Remuneration Policy to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting will apply for the three year period ending 30 September 2025.

Statement of Voting on the Directors' Remuneration Policy at General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting held on 24 February 2020, shareholders approved the Directors' Remuneration Policy. 99.98% of proxy votes were cast in favour of the resolution and 0.02% were cast against.

Resolution 2, to approve the new Directors' Remuneration Policy will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Implementation Report

Review of Directors' Fees

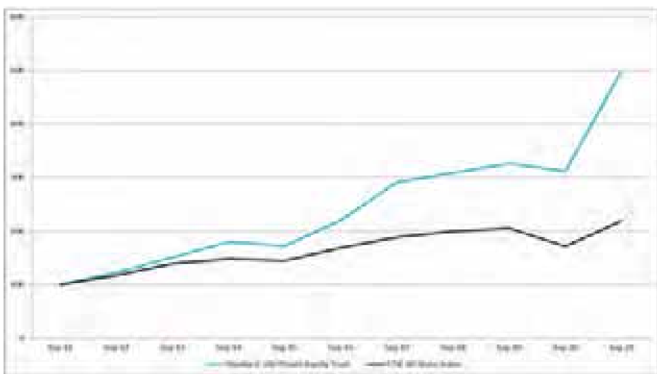
The Nomination Committee carried out a review of the level of Directors' fees during the year, which included consideration of fees paid by comparable investment trusts and the sector as a whole. Following this review, the Committee concluded that, with effect from 1 October 2021, annual fees would be increased by £1,500 with the exception of the Chair's fee, which would be increased by £2,000.

With effect from 1 October 2021 the Directors' fees are Chair £64,500, Chairman of the Audit Committee and Senior Independent Director £48,000 each and for the other Directors £44,000. The Directors' fees were previously last increased in October 2019. The additional fee paid for the role of Senior Independent Director will be reduced from £4,000 to £2,000 after the AGM.

The Nomination Committee was not provided with advice or services by any person in respect of its consideration of the Directors' remuneration.

Company Performance

The graph below shows the share price and NAV total return (assuming all dividends are reinvested) to Ordinary shareholders compared to the total return from the FTSE All-Share Index for the ten year period to 30 September 2021 (rebased to 100 at 30 September 2011). This index was chosen for comparison purposes only.



Directors' Remuneration Report Continued

Statement of Voting on the Directors' Remuneration Report at General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting held on 24 February 2021, shareholders approved the Directors' Remuneration Report in respect of the year ended 30 September 2020. 99.91% of proxy votes were in favour of the resolution and 0.09% were against.

A resolution to approve the Directors' Remuneration Report (excluding the Directors' Remuneration Policy) in respect of the year ended 30 September 2021 will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Spend on Pay

As the Company has no employees, the Directors do not consider it appropriate to present a table comparing remuneration paid to employees with distributions to shareholders. The total fees paid to Directors are shown below.

Audited Information

Directors' Remuneration

The Directors who served during the year received the following emoluments in the form of fees:

Director	Year ended 30 September 2021	Year ended 30 September 2020
Dugald Agble[1]	3,106	n/a
Alan Devine	46,500	46,500
Christina McComb	62,500	62,500
Diane Seymour-Williams	42,500	42,500
Yvonne Stillhart[1]	3,179	n/a
Calum Thomson	46,500	46,500
Jonathon Bond[2]	20,173	42,500
Total	224,458	240,500

[1] Appointed as a Director on 1 September 2021.
[2] Retired from the Board on 23 March 2021.

The above amounts exclude any employers' national insurance contributions, if applicable. All fees are at a fixed rate and there is no variable remuneration. Fees are pro-rated where a change takes place during a financial year. There were no payments to third parties included in the fees referred to in the table above. No other forms of remuneration were received by the Directors and none of the Directors has any taxable expenses, compensation for loss of office or non-cash benefit for the year ended 30 September 2021 (2020: nil).

Annual Percentage Change in Directors' Remuneration

The table below sets out the annual percentage change in Directors' remuneration for the past two years.

Director	Year ended 30 September 2021 Fees%	Year ended 30 September 2020 Fees%
Dugald Agble[1]	100	n/a
Alan Devine	-	5.68
Christina McComb	-	9.65
Diane Seymour-Williams	-	3.66
Yvonne Stillhart[1]	100	n/a
Calum Thomson	-	3.33
Jonathon Bond[2]	n/a	3.66

[1] Appointed as a Director on 1 September 2021.
[2] Retired from the Board on 23 March 2021.

Directors' Interests in the Company

The Directors are not required to have a shareholding in the Company. The Directors (including their connected persons) at 30 September 2021 and 30 September 2020 had no interest in the share capital of the Company other than those interests, all of which are beneficial, shown in the following table.

	30 September 2021 Ordinary shares	30 September 2020 Ordinary shares
Dugald Agble[1]	-	n/a
Alan Devine	6,460	6,249
Christina McComb	14,128	13,909
Diane Seymour-Williams	31,500	31,500
Yvonne Stillhart[1]	-	n/a
Calum Thomson	13,700	13,700
Jonathon Bond	n/a	11,870

[1] Appointed as a Director on 1 September 2021.
[2] Retired from the Board on 23 March 2021.

There have been no changes to the Directors' interests in the share capital of the Company since the year end up to the date of approval of this Report.

Annual Statement

On behalf of the Board and in accordance with Part 2 of Schedule 8 of the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, it is confirmed that the above Remuneration Report summarises, as applicable, for the year to 30 September 2021:

- the major decisions on Directors' remuneration;
- any substantial changes relating to Directors' remuneration made during the year; and
- the context in which the changes occurred and decisions have been taken.

Christina McComb, OBE
Chair of the Nomination Committee
26 January 2022

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee presents its Report for the year ended 30 September 2021.

Principal Objective of the Audit Committee

The principal objective of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board in relation to the reporting of financial information, the review of financial controls and the management of risk.

The Committee has defined terms of reference which are reviewed and re-assessed for their adequacy on at least an annual basis. Copies of the terms of reference are published on the Company's website and are available from the Company on request.

Main Functions of the Audit Committee

The Committee's main functions are:

- to review and monitor the internal control systems and risk management systems (including review of non-financial risks) on which the Company is reliant (the Directors' statement on the Company's internal controls and risk management is set out below);
- to consider whether there is a need for the Company to have its own internal audit function;
- to monitor the integrity of the half-yearly and annual financial statements of the Company and any formal announcements relating to the Company's financial performance, by reviewing, and challenging where necessary, the actions and judgements of the Manager;
- to review, and report to the Board on, the significant financial reporting issues and judgements made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements, half-yearly financial reports, any formal announcements relating to the Company's financial performance;
- to review the content of the Annual Report and advise the Board on whether, taken as a whole, it is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's position and performance, business model and strategy;
- to review and challenge the assessment of going concern and viability statement;
- to meet with the Auditor to review the proposed audit programme of work and the findings of the Auditor. The Committee shall also use this as an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the audit process;
- to develop and implement policy on the engagement of the Auditor to supply non-audit services. Non-audit fees paid to the Auditor during the year under review amounted to £nil (2020: £nil). All non-audit services must be approved in advance by the Audit Committee and will be reviewed in the light of relevant guidance and statutory requirements regarding the provision of non-audit services by the external audit firm, and the need to maintain the Auditor's independence;
- to review a statement from abrdn detailing the arrangements in place within the group whereby staff may, in confidence, escalate concerns about possible improprieties in matters of financial reporting or other matters;
- to make recommendations to the Board in relation to the appointment of the Auditor and to approve the remuneration and terms of engagement of the Auditor; and
- to monitor and review the Auditor's independence, objectivity, effectiveness, resources and qualification, taking into consideration relevant UK professional and regulatory requirements.

Activities During the Year

The Audit Committee met twice during the financial year ended 30 September 2021.

Meeting	Audit Committee Activity
January 2021	· Review of Annual Report · Review of Report from the External Auditor · Review of the External Auditor's performance · Review of Principal Risks and Uncertainties · Review of Control Environment and Internal Control Reports · Review of Going Concern and Viability · Review of Risk Appetite Statements · Review of Corporate Governance arrangements · Review of Capital: Revenue Split
June 2021	· Review of Half Yearly Report · Review of the External Auditor's Audit Plan · Review of Principal and Emerging Risks · Review of Control Environment and Internal Control Reports · Review of the Dividend Strategy · Review of Capital: Revenue Split · Review of Service Provider Response to Covid-19 · Review of Board Response to Covid-19 · Review of s172 Compliance Statement

Representatives of abrdn's internal audit, risk and compliance departments reported to the Committee at these meetings and the Company's Independent Auditor also attended the Meetings.

Viability Statement

The Audit Committee reviewed the assessment of viability and challenged the assumptions made. In additional the stress testing applied to the viability statement was challenged and reviewed.

Internal Controls and Risk Management

The Board, via the Audit Committee, confirms that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Company's significant business and operational risks, that has been in place for the year ended 30 September 2021 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report, is regularly reviewed by the Board and accords with the FRC's guidance on internal controls.

The Board has overall responsibility for ensuring that there is a system of internal controls and risk management in place and a process for reviewing its effectiveness. Day-to-day measures have been delegated to the Manager with an effective process of reporting to the Board for supervision and control. The system of internal controls and risk management is designed to meet the Company's particular needs and the risks to which it is exposed. Accordingly, the system of internal control and risk management is designed to manage, rather than eliminate, the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and, by its nature, can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The design, implementation and maintenance of controls and procedures to safeguard the assets of the Company and to manage its affairs properly extends to operational and compliance controls and risk management. The Board, via the Audit Committee, considers the potential cause and possible effect of the risk as well as reviewing the controls in place to mitigate them.

Clear lines of accountability have been established between the Board and the Manager. The Board and Audit Committee receive regular reports covering key performance and risk indicators and consider control and compliance issues brought to its attention. In carrying out its review, the Board has had regard to the activities of abrdn, including its internal audit and compliance functions, and the Auditor.

The Board, via the Audit Committee, has reviewed the abrdn process for identifying and evaluating the significant risks faced by the Company and the policies and procedures by which these risks are managed. The Board has also reviewed the effectiveness of abrdn's system of internal control including its annual internal controls report prepared in accordance with the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board's International Standard on Assurances Engagements ("ISAE") 3402, "Assurance Reports on Controls at a Service Organisation".

Risks are identified and documented through a risk management framework by each function within the abrdn's activities. Risk is considered in the context of the FRC's guidance on internal controls and includes financial, regulatory, market, operational and reputational risk. This helps the internal audit risk assessment model identify those functions for review. Any weaknesses identified are reported to the Board and timetables are agreed for implementing improvements to systems. The implementation of any remedial action required is monitored and feedback provided to the Board.

Audit Committee Report Continued

The key components designed to provide effective internal control are outlined below:

- written agreements are in place which specifically define the roles and responsibilities of the Manager and other third party service providers;
- the Board and Manager have agreed clearly defined investment criteria, specified levels of authority and exposure limits. Reports on these issues, including performance statistics and investment valuations, are regularly submitted to the Board;
- the Manager prepares forecasts and management accounts which allow the Board to assess the Company's activities and review its performance; the emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception;
- as a matter of course abrdn's internal audit and compliance departments continually review its operations; and
- bi-annually, the Audit Committee carries out an assessment of internal controls by considering documentation from abrdn, including the internal audit and compliance functions and reports to the Board on its conclusions.

The Board, via the Audit Committee, has considered the need for an internal audit function. However, the Company has no employees and the day-to-day management of the Company's assets has been delegated to abrdn which has its own compliance and internal control systems. The Board has therefore decided to place reliance on those systems and internal audit procedures and has concluded that it is not necessary for the Company to have its own internal audit function.

No significant weaknesses in the control environment were identified. The Committee, therefore, concluded that there were no significant issues which required to be reported to the Board.

Financial Statements and Significant Issues

During its review of the Company's financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2021, the Audit Committee considered the following significant issues, in particular those communicated by the Auditor during its planning and reporting of the year end audit. The Committee also considered the appropriateness of the external auditor's audit plan and challenged the specific work to be undertaken in relation to the over-commitment ratio and its impact on the cash flow forecasts as detailed below. :

Significant Issue	How the issue was addressed:
Valuation of unquoted investments	The Company's accounting policy for valuing unquoted investments is set out in note 1 (c) on page 81. The Audit Committee reviewed and challenged the valuations prepared by the Manager taking account of the latest available information about the Company's investments, the Manager's knowledge of the underlying investments through its participation on fund advisory boards and comparison to current market data where appropriate. The Audit Committee satisfied itself that the valuation of investments had been carried out consistently with prior periods and in accordance with published industry guidelines.
Over-commitment risk	The Board considers and monitors commitments and the risk of over-commitment at all Board meetings. The Audit Committee reviewed how the Company's commitment risks and cash flow had been managed over the course of the financial year and expectations for the future and also reviewed the future cash flow projections prepared by the Manager. In particular, the Audit Committee considered and questioned the underlying assumptions as to outflows and inflows, based on the Manager's knowledge of developments at the underlying funds and historical accuracy of the model in projecting cash flow. The Audit Committee also considered the Independent Auditor's work and conclusions in this area. In particular, the Independent Auditors were requested to challenge the Manager's calculation of commitments. The Auditor tested the stress scenarios relating to the cash flow forecast and challenged the Manager to provide explanations relating to additional stress scenarios. No adjustments were found to be necessary.
Fair, balanced and understandable	The Audit Committee, when considering the draft Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2021, concluded that taken as a whole, it is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's position and performance, business model and strategy. In reaching this conclusion, the Committee has assumed that the reader of the Annual Report and financial statements would have a reasonable knowledge of the investment industry in general and of investments trusts in particular.

Audit Committee Report Continued

Review of Independent Auditor

The Audit Committee has reviewed the effectiveness of the independent Auditor, BDO LLP ("BDO"), including:

- Independence - the Auditor discusses with the Audit Committee, at least annually, the steps it takes to ensure its independence and objectivity and makes the Committee aware of any potential issues, explaining all relevant safeguards.
- Quality of audit work - including the ability to resolve issues in a timely manner (identified issues are satisfactorily and promptly resolved), its communications/presentation of outputs (the explanation of the audit plan, any deviations from it and the subsequent audit findings are comprehensive and comprehensible), and working relationship with management (the Audit Committee believes that the Auditor has a constructive working relationship with the Manager).
- Quality of people and service - including continuity and succession plans (the audit team is made up of sufficient, suitably experienced staff with provision made for knowledge of the investment trust sector and consistency in the team on the periodic rotation of the audit partner).
- Fees – including current and proposed fees for future years.

The Audit Committee has also reviewed the findings of the FRC issued in July 2021, relating to its annual review of BDO and has confirmed that no change of audit approach, relating to the Company, was necessary as a result of those findings.

The Independent Auditor's report is included on pages 69 to 76. Details of the amounts paid to BDO during the year for audit services are set out in note 4 to the financial statements.

Tenure of the Independent Auditor

BDO was initially appointed as the Company's independent Auditor on 24 August 2018. In accordance with present professional guidelines the audit partner is rotated after no more than five years and the year ended 30 September 2021 is the fourth year for which the present audit partner has served.

The next audit tender of the Company is due to take place by 2028 in compliance with the EU regulations and FRC Guidance on audit tenders.

The Audit Committee is satisfied that BDO is independent and therefore supports the recommendation to the Board that the re-appointment of BDO be put to shareholders for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

Calum Thomson
Chair of the Audit Committee
26 January 2022

Directors' Responsibility Statement

Directors' Responsibilities

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 financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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 for the Company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether they have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK Accounting Standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business; and
- prepare a Directors' Report, a Strategic Report and Directors' Remuneration Report which comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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 ensuring that the annual report and accounts, taken as a whole, are fair, balanced, and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the company's position and performance, business model and strategy.

Website publication

The Directors are responsible for ensuring the Annual Report and the financial statements are made available on a website. Financial statements are published on the Company's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements, which may vary from legislation in other jurisdictions. The maintenance and integrity of the Company's website is the responsibility of the Directors. The Directors' responsibility also extends to the ongoing integrity of the financial statements contained therein.

Directors' responsibilities pursuant to DTR4

The Directors confirm to the best of their knowledge:

- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit and loss of the Company; and
- the Annual Report includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the financial position of the Company, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that they face.

On behalf of the Board
Christina McComb, OBE
Chair
26 January 2022

Financial Statements

The Company's NAV per share was 673.8 pence at 30 September 2021, a 34.5% increase from 501.0 pence at 30 September 2020.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 30 September 2021and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements of Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc (the 'Company') for the year ended 30 September 2021 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. Our audit opinion is consistent with the additional report to the audit committee.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Our evaluation of the Directors' assessment of the Company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included:

- Reviewing the forecasted cash flows that support the Directors' assessment of going concern and challenging management's assumptions and judgements made in the forecasts, assessing them for reasonableness, and checking the precision of the prior forecast to current year actuals. In particular we considered the available cash resources relative to the forecast expenditure and future commitments given that the Board has taken the decision to make commitments to new fund investments which are greater than the current cash and committed credit facilities (see key audit matter below);
- Evaluating the appropriateness of Directors' method of assessing the going concern in light of worst-case assumptions and the undrawn commitments modelling, discussed in more detail below.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In relation to the Company's reporting on how it has applied the UK Corporate Governance Code, we have nothing material to add or draw attention to in relation to the Directors' statement in the financial statements about whether the Directors considered it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc Continued

Overview

		2021	2020
Key audit matters	Valuation and ownership of investments	Yes	Yes
	*Unfunded commitments and cash flow modelling	Yes	No
Materiality	£10,300,000 (2020: £7,700,000) based on 1% (2020: 1%) of net assets		

*Unfunded commitments and cash flow modelling is considered to be a key audit matter in the current year due to the increased level of outstanding commitments. This was also highlighted as a key area of focus for the Audit Committee.

An overview of the scope of our audit

Our audit was scoped by obtaining an understanding of the Company and its environment, including the Company's system of internal control, and assessing the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements. We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including assessing whether there was evidence of bias by the Directors that may have represented a risk of material misstatement. All audit work was performed by BDO LLP.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) that we identified, including those which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy, the allocation of resources in the audit, and directing the efforts of the engagement team. 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.

Key audit matter		How the scope of our audit addressed the key audit matter
Valuation and ownership of investments: (Note 1(c) page 81 and Note 9 on page 87):	All the company's investments are held in private equity funds and direct investments into private companies alongside private equity managers ('co-investments'). There is a level of estimation uncertainty and judgement involved in the preparation of the underlying general partner ('GP') valuations which apply to all investments, and as such, there is a significant risk over the valuation of these investments. In addition, the Investment Manager's fee is based on the value of the net assets of the fund. As the Investment Manager is able to make adjustments to the underlying valuations, there is a potential risk of overstatement of investment valuations. The increase in direct co-investments in the portfolio opens the valuations to more judgement in determining fair values as the valuations of these investments are more exposed to the individual input assumptions. There is a risk that the valuation inputs may not be appropriate. As investments make up the majority of the statement of financial position, valid title to these investments is also part of the key audit matter. There is a risk that the Company does not have the appropriate title for the investments.	We responded to this matter by testing the valuation of 100% of the portfolio of investments. We performed the following procedures: · Considered the appropriateness of the overall valuation policies undertaken by underlying private equity fund managers in line with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation ('IPEV') Guidelines. · Discussed with the Investment Manager key judgements affecting the private equity fund valuations, such as the basis for the valuation and any adjustments made to the independent valuation produced by the underlying fund manager on the private equity funds. · We attended the Valuation Committee meeting held on 8 December 2021 to obtain evidence of good governance and challenges from the Members on the inputs in the valuation preparation. · Compared the year end valuations to the independent valuations produced by the managers of the underlying funds. Where an up-to-date independent valuation was not available, we agreed the cash roll forward performed by the GP to direct confirmation from the GP. Where cash roll forward was performed by the investment manager, we tested the cash flows and adjustments between June and year end. · Considered the need for the Investment Manager to adjust the underlying valuations for specific cases, such as carried interest, and agreed these adjustments to the underlying calculations and support; considering where hurdles are met or not based on performance. · Considered the accuracy of the underlying GPs' valuation process by comparing the Net Asset Value per the most recent audited financial statements to a sample of funds to the GP statement for the coterminous period in order to place reliance on year end GP reports. · Considered the appropriateness of the underlying valuation technique and confirmed that the inputs in the valuation use appropriate trading information and appropriate market benchmarks used by the GP for co-investments. In respect of title and ownership of investments, we obtained direct confirmation from IQ-EQ, the depositary, regarding all investments held at the year end date. We also agreed ownership to individual general partners statements uploaded by general partners into the IQ-EQ portal.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc Continued

Key audit matter		How the scope of our audit addressed the key audit matter
		Key observations Based on our procedures performed we did not identify any exceptions with regards to valuation or ownership of investments.
Unfunded commitments and cash flow modelling: (Note 16 and page 90)	The Board has taken the decision to make commitments to new fund investments which are greater than the current cash and committed credit facilities. As private equity funds generally call monies over a five-year period whilst they are making investments, the drawdowns for funds which are investing should be offset by the more mature funds which are realising their investments and distributing cash back to the Company. There is a risk of having an obligation to pay out more cash than is available at any particular time. To minimise the risk of having an obligation to pay out more cash than is in the bank or on short-term deposit on any particular day, a committed, multi-currency revolving credit facility was arranged.	The Investment Manager monitors the Company's ongoing cash requirements by the use of cash flow modelling and reports to the Board on a regular basis. We have reviewed these and the underlying assumptions by performing the following procedures: · We reviewed the accuracy of the model including the valuations and commitment balances by agreeing valuation and commitments in the model to general partners statements · Reviewed the model for timing and accuracy of projected commitments by agreeing inputs in the model to third party general partners statements. · Tested the likelihood of anticipated drawdowns based on historic data. · Tested the reasonableness of the forecasted dividends to be paid by the Company by confirming the sufficiency of the cash reserves and cash surplus from the forecasts. · Performed sensitivity on the 'worst case' cash flow model by assuming accelerated drawdowns of the total amount of outstanding commitments as well as lower realisations from investment disposals. We have agreed the terms to the facility agreement and confirmed the year-end balance on this facility with the third party provider. Key observations Based on our procedures performed we did not identify any exceptions with regards to the unfunded commitments and cash flow modelling.

Our application of materiality

We apply the concept of materiality both in planning and performing our audit, and in evaluating the effect of misstatements. We consider materiality to be the magnitude by which misstatements, including omissions, could influence the economic decisions of reasonable users that are taken on the basis of the financial statements.

In order to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that any misstatements exceed materiality, we use a lower materiality level, performance materiality, to determine the extent of testing needed. Importantly, misstatements below these levels will not necessarily be evaluated as immaterial as we also take account of the nature of identified misstatements, and the particular circumstances of their occurrence, when evaluating their effect on the financial statements as a whole.

Based on our professional judgement, we determined materiality for the financial statements as a whole and performance materiality as follows:

	Company financial statements	
	2021	2020
Materiality	£10,300,000	£7,700,000
Basis for determining materiality	1% of net assets	
Rationale for the benchmark applied	In setting materiality, we considered the nature and composition of the investment portfolio. Given that the fund portfolio is comprised of unquoted funds which typically are not complex in nature, we have applied 1% of net assets.	
Performance materiality	£7,700,000	£5,400,000
Basis for determining performance materiality	75% of materiality The level of performance materiality applied was set after having considered a number of factors including the expected total value of known and likely misstatements and the level of transactions in the year.	

Lower Threshold

We have set a lower testing threshold for those items impacting revenue return of £674,000 (2020: £274,000), which is based on 10% of revenue return before tax (2020: 10%) of this respectively.

Reporting threshold

We agreed with the audit committee that we would report to them all audit differences in excess of £200,000 (2020: £150,000), as well as differences below that threshold that, in our view, warranted reporting on qualitative grounds.

Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc Continued

Corporate governance statement

The Listing Rules require us to review the Directors' statement in relation to going concern, longer-term viability and that part of the Corporate Governance Statement relating to the Company's compliance with the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code specified for our review.

Based on the work undertaken as part of our audit, we have concluded that each of the following elements of the Corporate Governance Statement is materially consistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained during the audit.

Going concern and longer-term vilability	· The Directors' statement with regards to the appropriateness of adopting the going concern basis of accounting and any material uncertainties identified; and · The Directors' explanation as to their assessment of the Company's prospects, the period this assessment covers and why the period is appropriate.
Other Code provisions	· Directors' statement on fair, balanced and understandable; · Board's confirmation that it has carried out a robust assessment of the emerging and principal risks; · The section of the annual report that describes the review of effectiveness of risk management and internal control systems; and · The section describing the work of the audit committee.

Other Companies Act 2006 reporting

Based on the responsibilities described below and our work performed during the course of the audit, we are required by the Companies Act 2006 and ISAs (UK) to report on certain opinions and matters as described below. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Strategic report and Directors' report	In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit: · the information given in the Strategic report and the Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and · the Strategic report and the Directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements. In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the Directors' report.
Directors' remuneration	In our opinion, the part of the Directors' remuneration report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.
Matters on which we are required to report by exception	We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion: · adequate accounting records have not been kept , or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or · the financial statements and the part of the Directors' remuneration report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or · certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or · we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Directors

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, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the entity and the industry in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the Company which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included but were not limited to the Companies Act 2006, the UK Listing rules, the DTR rules, the principles of the UK Corporate Governance Code, FRS 102, VAT and other taxes. We also considered the Company's qualification as an Investment Trust under UK tax legislation.

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including fraud and considered the fraud risk areas to be management override of controls and valuation of investments.

Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- obtaining an understanding of the control environment in monitoring compliance with laws and regulations;
- enquiries of management and those charged with governance;
- reviewing correspondence with the relevant authorities;
- testing the appropriateness of journal entries in the general ledger and adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements, reviewing accounting estimates for possible bias and obtaining an understanding of the business rationale of any significant transactions that are outside the normal course of the business for the Company and those that appear to be unusual;
- We have obtained independent confirmations for bank, investment and loan balances.
- review of minutes of board meetings throughout the period; and
- the procedures set out in the Key Audit Matters section above.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc Continued

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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.

Peter Smith (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor
London, UK
26 January 2022

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127)

Statement of Comprehensive Income

		For the year ended 30 September 2021			For the year ended 30 September 2020		
	Notes	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Total capital gains on investments	9	–	291,578	291,578	–	85,196	85,196
Currency (losses)/gains	14	–	(2,368)	(2,368)	–	337	337
Income	2	8,968	–	8,968	4,662	–	4,662
Investment management fee	3	(884)	(7,959)	(8,843)	(682)	(6,137)	(6,819)
Administrative expenses	4	(1,020)	–	(1,020)	(1,038)	–	(1,038)
Profit before finance costs and taxation		7,064	281,251	288,315	2,942	79,396	82,338
Finance costs	5	(323)	(1,568)	(1,891)	(199)	(885)	(1,084)
Profit before taxation		6,741	279,683	286,424	2,743	78,511	81,254
Taxation	6	(735)	587	(148)	(1,516)	460	(1,056)
Profit after taxation		6,006	280,270	286,276	1,227	78,971	80,198
Earnings per share – basic and diluted	8	3.91p	182.29p	186.20p	0.80p	51.36p	52.16p

The Total columns of this statement represents the profit and loss account of the Company.

There are no items of other comprehensive income, therefore this statement is the single statement of comprehensive income of the Company.

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

No operations were acquired or discontinued in the year.

The dividend which has been recommended based on this Statement of Comprehensive Income is 13.60p (2020: 13.20p) per ordinary share.

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

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	As at 30 September 2021 £'000	As at 30 September 2021 £'000	As at 30 September 2020 £'000	As at 30 September 2020 £'000
Non-current assets					
Investments	9		1,007,843		721,650
			1,007,843		721,650
Current assets					
Receivables	10	1,144		16,839	
Cash and cash equivalents		29,714		33,135	
		30,858		49,974	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Payables	11	(2,734)		(1,331)	
Net current assets			28,124		48,643
Total assets less current liabilities			1,035,967		770,293
Capital and reserves					
Called-up share capital	13		307		307
Share premium account	14		86,485		86,485
Special reserve	14		51,503		51,503
Capital redemption reserve	14		94		94
Capital reserves	14		897,578		631,904
Revenue reserve	14		–		–
Total shareholders' funds			1,035,967		770,293
Net asset value per equity share	15		673.8p		501.0p

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

The Financial Statements of Standard Life Private Equity Trust PLC, registered number SC216638 on pages 77 to 96 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 26 January 2022 and were signed on its behalf by Christina McComb, Chair.

Christina McComb, OBE
Chair

26 January 2022

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 September 2021

	Notes	Called-up share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Special reserve £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 October 2020		307	86,485	51,503	94	631,904	–	770,293
Profit after taxation		–	–	–	–	280,270	6,006	286,276
Dividends paid	7	–	–	–	–	(14,596)	(6,006)	(20,602)
Balance at 30 September 2021	13,14	307	86,485	51,503	94	897,578	–	1,035,967

For the year ended 30 September 2020

		Called-up share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Special reserve £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 October 2019		307	86,485	51,503	94	571,694	–	710,083
Profit after taxation		–	–	–	–	78,971	1,227	80,198
Dividends paid	7	–	–	–	–	(18,761)	(1,227)	(19,988)
Balance at 30 September 2020	13,14	307	86,485	51,503	94	631,904	–	770,293

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

Statement of Cash Flows

		For the year ended 30 September 2021		For the year ended 30 September 2020	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cashflows from operating activities					
Profit before taxation			286,424		81,254
Adjusted for:					
Finance costs	5		1,891		1,084
Gains on disposal of investments	9		(96,065)		(97,684)
Revaluation of investments	9		(195,839)		12,095
Currency losses / (gains)	14		2,368		(688)
Decrease in debtors			60		850
Increase in creditors			1,394		94
Tax deducted from non-UK income	6		(148)		(1,056)
Interest paid and arrangement fees			(1,539)		(2,358)
Net cash outflow from operating activities			(1,454)		(6,409)
Investing activities					
Purchase of investments	9	(185,338)		(165,359)	
Distributions of capital proceeds by funds	9	187,772		137,222	
Disposal of quoted investments	9	2,193		13,993	
Receipt of proceeds from disposal of unquoted investments		16,376		6,673	
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from investing activities			21,003		(7,471)
Financing activities					
Ordinary dividends paid	7	(20,602)		(19,988)	
Net cash outflow from financing activities			(20,602)		(19,988)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(1,053)		(33,868)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			33,135		66,315
Currency (losses)/gains on cash and cash equivalents			(2,368)		688
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year			29,714		33,135
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:					
Money-market funds			16,414		24,678
Cash			13,300		8,457
Cash and cash equivalents			29,714		33,135

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, Financial Reporting Standard 102 and with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Financial Statements of Investment Trust Companies and Venture Capital Trusts (the 'SORP'), updated in October 2019. They have also been prepared on the assumption that approval as an investment trust will continue to be granted. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Directors believe that this is appropriate for the reasons outlined in the Directors' Report on page 54. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently throughout the current and prior year.

Rounding is applied to the disclosures in these financial statements, where considered relevant.

(b) Revenue, expenses and finance costs. Dividends from quoted investments are included in revenue by reference to the date on which the investment is quoted ex-dividend. Interest receivable is dealt with on an accruals basis. Dividends and income from unquoted investments are included when the right to receipt is established, which is the notice value date. Dividends are accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

All expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenses are charged through the revenue account of the Statement of Comprehensive Income except as follows:

– transaction costs incurred on the purchase and disposal of investments are recognised as a capital item in the Statement of Comprehensive Income;
– the Company charges 90% of investment management fees and finance costs to capital, in accordance with the Board's expected long-term split of returns between capital gains and income from the Company's investment portfolio. Bank interest expense has been charged wholly to revenue.

(c) Investments. Investments have been designated upon initial recognition as fair value through profit or loss. On the date of making a legal commitment to invest in a fund or co-investment, such commitment is recorded and disclosed. When funds are drawn in respect of these commitments, the resulting investment is recognised in the financial statements. The investment is removed when it is realised or when the investment is wound up. Subsequent to initial recognition, investments are valued at fair value as detailed below. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are included as a capital item in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and are ultimately recognised in the capital reserves.

Unquoted investments are stated at the directors' estimate of fair value and follow the recommendations of the European Private Equity & Venture Capital Association ("EVCA") and the British Private Equity & Venture Capital Association ("BVCA"). The estimate of fair value is normally the latest valuation placed on an investment by its manager as at the Statement of Financial Position date. The valuation policies used by the manager in undertaking that valuation will generally be in line with the joint publication from the EVCA and the BVCA, 'International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation guidelines'. Where formal valuations are not completed as at the Statement of Financial Position date, the last available valuation from the manager is adjusted for any subsequent cash flows occurring between the valuation date and the Statement of Financial Position date. The Company's Manager may further adjust such valuations to reflect any changes in circumstances from the last manager's formal valuation date to arrive at the estimate of fair value.

For listed investments, which were actively traded on recognised stock exchanges, fair value is determined by reference to their quoted bid prices on the relevant exchange as at the close of business on the last trading day of the Company's financial year.

(d) Dividends payable – Dividends are recognised in the period in which they are paid.

(e) Capital and reserves

Share premium – The share premium account represents the premium above nominal value received by the Company on issuing shares net of issue costs.

Special reserve – Court approval was given on 27 September 2001 for 50% of the initial premium arising on the issue of the ordinary share capital to be cancelled and transferred to a special reserve. The reserve is a distributable reserve and may be applied in any manner as a distribution, other than by way of a dividend.

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

Capital redemption reserve – this reserve is used to record the amount equivalent to the nominal value of any of the Company's own shares purchased and cancelled in order to maintain the Company's capital.

Capital reserves:

Capital reserve – gains/(losses) on disposal – Represents gains or losses on investments realised in the period that have been recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, in addition to the transfer of any previously recognised unrealised gains or losses on investments within "Capital reserve – revaluation" upon disposal. This reserve also represents other accumulated capital related expenditure such as management fees and finance costs, as well as other currency gains/losses from non-investment activity.

Capital reserve – revaluation – Represents increases and decreases in the fair value of investments that have been recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income during the period.

Revenue reserve – The revenue reserve represents accumulated revenue profits retained by the Company that have not currently been distributed to shareholders as a dividend.

The revenue and capital reserves – gains/(losses) on disposal represent the amount of the Company's reserves distributable by way of dividend.

(f) Taxation

i) **Current taxation** – Provision for corporation tax is made at the current rate on the excess of taxable income net of any allowable deductions. In line with the recommendations of the SORP, the allocation method used to calculate tax relief on expenses presented against capital 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 column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income, then no tax relief is transferred to the capital column. Withholding tax suffered on income from overseas investments is taken to the revenue column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

ii) Deferred taxation is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the Statement of Financial Position date, where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more or a right to pay less tax in future have occurred at the Statement of Financial Position date, measured on an undiscounted basis and based on enacted tax rates. This is subject to deferred tax assets only being recognised if it is considered more likely than not that there will be suitable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted. Timing differences are differences arising between the Company's taxable profits and its results as stated in the financial statements which are capable of reversal in one or more subsequent periods.

Due to the Company's status as an investment trust company, 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.

(g) Foreign currency translation, functional and presentation currency

Foreign currency translation – Transactions in foreign currencies are converted to sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Overseas assets and liabilities are translated at the exchange rate prevailing at the Company's Statement of Financial Position date. Gains or losses on translation of investments held at the year end are accounted for in the Statement of Comprehensive Income through inclusion in total capital gains/losses on investments and is transferred to capital reserves. Gains or losses on the translation of overseas currency balances held at the year end are also accounted for through the Statement of Comprehensive Income and are transferred to capital reserves.

Functional and presentation currency – For the purposes of the financial statements, the results and financial position of the Company is expressed in sterling, which is the functional currency and the presentation currency of the Company.

Rates of exchange to sterling at 30 September were:

	2021	2020
Euro	1.1635	1.1025
US Dollar	1.3484	1.2928
Canadian Dollar	1.7082	1.7269

Transactions in overseas currency are translated at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of transaction.

The Company's investments are made in a number of currencies. However, the Board considers the Company's functional currency to be sterling. In arriving at this conclusion, the Board considers that the shares of the Company are listed on the London Stock Exchange. The Company is regulated in the United Kingdom, principally having its shareholder base in the United Kingdom, pays dividends as well as expenses in sterling.

(h) Cash and cash equivalents – Cash comprises bank balances and cash held by the Company. Cash equivalents comprise money-market funds which are used by the Company to provide additional short-term liquidity. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(i) Debtors – Debtors are recognised initially at fair value. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less the appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts.

(j) Creditors – Creditors are recognised initially at fair value. They are subsequently stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(k) Segmental reporting – The Directors are of the opinion that the Company is engaged in a single segment of business activity, being investment business. Consequently, no business segmental analysis is provided.

(l) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty – The preparation of financial statements requires the Company to make estimates and assumptions and exercise judgements in applying the accounting policies that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses arising during the year. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The area where estimates and assumptions have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is the determination of fair value of unquoted investments, as disclosed in note 1(c).

2 Income

	Year to 30 September 2021 £'000	Year to 30 September 2020 £'000
Income from fund investments	8,956	4,505
Interest from cash balances and money-market funds	12	157
Total income	8,968	4,662

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

3 Investment management fees

	Year to 30 September 2021			Year to 30 September 2020		
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Investment management fee	884	7,959	8,843	682	6,137	6,819

The Manager of the Company is abrdn Capital Partners LLP (formerly SL Capital Partners LLP). In order to comply with the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive, the Company appointed abrdn Capital Partners LLP as its Alternative Investment Fund Manager from 1 July 2014. The Manager was renamed as abrdn Capital Partners LLP as of 29 November 2021.

The investment management fee payable to the Manager is 0.95% per annum of the NAV of the Company. The investment management fee is allocated 90% to the capital reserve – gains/(losses) on disposal and 10% to the revenue reserve. The management agreement between the Company and the Manager is terminable by either party on twelve months written notice.

Investment management fees due to the Manager as at 30 September 2021 amounted to £2,227,000 (30 September 2020: £1,010,000).

4 Administrative expenses

	Year to 30 September 2021 £'000	Year to 30 September 2020 £'000
Directors' fees	224	241
Employers' national insurance	26	27
Marketing fees	244	191
Secretarial and administration fees	222	222
Fees and subscriptions	67	65
Depositary fees	53	52
Professional and consultancy fees	49	36
Auditor's remuneration	45	43
Legal fees	2	17
Other expenses	88	144
Total	1,020	1,038

No non-audit services were provided by the Company auditor, BDO LLP during the year to 30 September 2021.

Irrecoverable VAT has been shown under the relevant expense line.

The administration fee payable to IQ-EQ Administration Services (UK) Ltd is adjusted annually in line with the retail prices index. The administration agreement is terminable by the Company on three months' notice.

The secretarial fee payable to Aberdeen Asset Management PLC is adjusted annually in line with the retail price index. The secretarial agreement is terminable by the Company on six months' notice.

The emoluments paid to the directors during the year can be found in the Directors' Remuneration Report on page 60.

5 Finance costs

	Year to 30 September 2021			Year to 30 September 2020		
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Bank loan commitment fee	140	1,260	1,400	69	621	690
Bank loan arrangement fee	34	308	342	29	264	293
Bank interest expense	149	–	149	101	–	101
Total	323	1,568	1,891	199	885	1,084

6 Taxation

		Year to 30 September 2021 £'000	Year to 30 September 2020 £'000
(a)	Analysis of the tax charge throughout the year		
	Overseas withholding tax	148	1,056

		Year to 30 September 2021			Year to 30 September 2020		
		Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
(b)	Factors affecting the total tax charge for the year						
	Return before taxation	6,741	279,683	286,424	2,743	78,511	81,254
	The tax assessed for the year is different from the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK. The differences are explained below.						
	Return multiplied by the effective rate of corporation tax in the UK – 19.0% (2020: 19.0%)	1,281	53,140	54,421	521	14,917	15,438
	Non-taxable capital gains on investments[1]	–	(55,400)	(55,400)	–	(16,187)	(16,187)
	Non-taxable currency gains/(losses)	–	450	450	–	(64)	(64)
	Non-taxable income	(694)	–	(694)	(61)	–	(61)
	Overseas withholding tax	148	–	148	1,056	–	1,056
	Surplus management expenses and loan relationship deficits not relieved/(relieved)	–	1,223	1,223	–	874	874
	Total tax charge/(credit) for the year	735	(587)	148	1,516	(460)	1,056

[1] The Company carries on business as an investment trust company with respect to sections 1158-1159 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010. As such any capital gains are exempt from UK taxation.

(c) **Factors that may affect future tax charges.** At the year end there is a potential deferred tax asset of £5,764,000 (2020: £3,157,000) in relation to excess management expenses carried forward. The deferred tax asset is unrecognised at the year end in line with the Company's stated accounting policy.

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

Changes to the UK corporation tax rates include reductions to the main rate to 19% from 1 April 2017 and to 17% from 1 April 2020. However, it was announced at Budget 2020 that the Corporation Tax main rate for the years 1 April 2020 and 2021 would remain at 19%. A proposed revision to Corporation Tax was introduced in Finance Bill 2021, which retains the main rate at 19% from 1 April 2022, followed by an increase to 25% from 1 April 2023. Deferred taxes at the Statement of Financial Position date have been measured at these enacted rates and reflected in these financial statements.

7 Dividend on ordinary shares

	Year to 30 September 2021 £'000	Year to 30 September 2020 £'000
Amount recognised as a distribution to equity holders in the year:		
2020 third quarterly dividend of 3.30p (2019: 3.20p) per ordinary share paid on 30 October 2020 (2019: paid on 25 October 2019)	5,074	4,920
2020 fourth quarterly dividend of 3.30p per ordinary share (2019: 3.20p) paid on 29 January 2021 (2019: paid on 24 January 2020).	5,074	4,920
2021 first quarterly dividend of 3.40p (2020: 3.30p) per ordinary share paid on 20 April 2021 (2020: paid on 24 April 2020)	5,227	5,074
2021 second quarterly dividend of 3.40p (2020: 3.30p) per ordinary share paid on 27 July 2021 (2020: paid on 31 July 2020)	5,227	5,074
Total	20,602	19,988

Set out below are the total dividends paid and proposed in respect of the financial year, which is the basis on which the requirements of sections 1158-1159 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 are considered. Of the total profit after taxation for the year of £286,276,000 (2020: £80,198,000), the total revenue and capital profits which are available for distribution by way of a dividend for the year is £90,437,000 (2020: £92,293,000).

2021 first quarterly dividend of 3.40p (2020: 3.30p) per ordinary share paid on 20 April 2021 (2020: paid on 24 April 2020)	5,227	5,074
2021 second quarterly dividend of 3.40p (2020: 3.30p) per ordinary share paid on 27 July 2021 (2020: paid on 31 July 2020)	5,227	5,074
2021 third quarterly dividend of 3.40p (2020: 3.30p) per ordinary share paid on 29 October 2021 (2020: paid on 30 October 2020)	5,227	5,074
Proposed 2021 fourth quarterly dividend of 3.40p per ordinary share (2020: 3.30p per ordinary share) due to be paid on 28 January 2022 (2020: 29 January 2021).	5,227	5,074
Total	20,908	20,296

8 Earnings per share – basic and diluted

	Year to 30 September 2021 p	Year to 30 September 2021 £'000	Year to 30 September 2020 p	Year to 30 September 2020 £'000
The net return per ordinary share is based on the following figures:				
Revenue net return	3.91	6,006	0.80	1,227
Capital net return	182.29	280,270	51.36	78,971
Total net return	186.20	286,276	52.16	80,198
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue:		153,746,294		153,746,294

There are no diluting elements to the earnings per share calculation in 2021 (2020: none).

9 Investments

	Year to 30 September 2021			Year to 30 September 2020		
	Quoted Investments £'000	Unquoted Investments £'000	Total £'000	Quoted Investments £'000	Unquoted Investments £'000	Total £'000
Fair value through profit or loss:						
Opening market value	–	721,650	721,650	11,435	627,298	638,733
Opening investment holding (gains)	–	(108,790)	(108,790)	(316)	(120,569)	(120,885)
Opening book cost	–	612,860	612,860	11,119	506,729	517,848
Movements in the year:						
Additions at cost	2,422	147,656	150,078	–	137,150	137,150
Secondary purchases	–	35,260	35,260	–	8,657	8,657
Distribution of capital proceeds	–	(187,772)	(187,772)	–	(137,222)	(137,222)
Disposal of quoted investments	(2,193)	–	(2,193)	(11,257)	–	(11,257)
Secondary sales	–	(1,084)	(1,084)	–	–	–
	229	606,920	607,149	(138)	515,314	515,176
Gains on disposal of underlying investments	–	96,294	96,294	–	97,546	97,546
(Losses)/gains on disposal of quoted investments	(229)	–	(229)	138	–	138
Closing book cost	–	703,214	703,214	–	612,860	612,860
Closing investment holding gains	–	304,629	304,629	–	108,790	108,790
Closing market value	–	1,007,843	1,007,843	–	721,650	721,650

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

	Year ended 30 September 2021			Year ended 30 September 2020		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
(Losses) / gains on investments held at fair value through profit or loss based on historical costs	(229)	96,294	96,065	138	97,546	97,684
Losses / (gains) recognised as unrealised in previous years in respect of distributed capital proceeds or disposal of investments	–	3,370	3,370	(316)	(65,156)	(65,472)
(Losses) / gains on distribution of capital proceeds or disposal of investments based on the carrying value at the previous year end date	(229)	99,664	99,435	(178)	32,390	32,212
Net movement in unrealised investment gains	–	192,469	192,469	–	53,377	53,377
Total capital (losses) / gains on investments held at fair value through profit or loss	(229)	292,133	291,904	(178)	85,767	85,589

Transaction costs. During the year expenses were incurred in acquiring or disposing of investments. These have been expensed through capital and are included within capital gains on investments of £291,578,000 (2020: £85,196,000) in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The total costs were as follows:

	30 September 2021 £'000	30 September 2020 £'000
Transaction costs	326	393

10 Receivables

	30 September 2021 £'000	30 September 2020 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Unamortised bank loan arrangement fees	1,091	1,433
Prepayments	53	114
Investments receivable	–	15,292
Total	1,144	16,839

11 Payables

	30 September 2021 £'000	30 September 2020 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Management fee	2,227	1,010
Accruals	448	289
Secretarial and administration fee	48	28
Bank interest	11	4
Total	2,734	1,331

12 **Bank loans.** At 30 September 2021, the Company had a £200.0 million (30 September 2020: £200.0 million) committed, multi-currency syndicated revolving credit facility, of which £nil (30 September 2020: £nil) had been drawn down. The faciltiy is provided by Citi, Société Générale and State Street Bank International. The facility expires on 6 December 2024.

At 30 September 2021, an amended agreement was executed to change the interest rate for drawdowns in GBP from LIBOR to Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA). The interest rate on this facility remains as the reference rate of the currency drawn plus 1.625%, rising to 2.0% depending on utilisation, while the commitment fee payable on non-utilisation remains as 0.7% per annum.

13 Called-up share capital

	30 September 2021 £'000	30 September 2020 £'000
Issued and fully paid:		
Ordinary shares of 0.2p		
Opening balance of 153,746,294 (2020: 153,746,294) ordinary shares	307	307
Closing balance of 153,746,294 (2020: 153,746,294) ordinary shares	307	307

The Company may buy back its own shares where it is judged to be beneficial to shareholders, taking into account the discount between the Company's Net Asset Value and the share price, and the supply and demand for the Company's shares in the open market.

No shares were bought back during the year (2020: Nil).

14 Reserves

	Share premium account £'000	Special reserve £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Capital reserves Gains/ (losses) on disposal £'000	Revaluation £'000	Revenue reserve £'000
Opening balances at 1 October 2020	86,485	51,503	94	523,114	108,790	–
Gains on disposal of investments	–	–	–	96,065	–	–
Management fee charged to capital	–	–	–	(7,959)	–	–
Finance costs charged to capital	–	–	–	(1,568)	–	–
Transaction costs	–	–	–	(326)	–	–
Tax relief on management fee and finance costs above	–	–	–	587	–	–
Currency losses	–	–	–	(2,368)	–	–
Revaluation of investments	–	–	–	–	195,839	–
Return after taxation	–	–	–	–	–	6,006
Dividends during the year	–	–	–	(14,596)	–	(6,006)
Closing balances at 30 September 2021	86,485	51,503	94	592,949	304,629	–

The revenue and capital reserve – gains / (losses) on disposal represent the amounts of the Company's reserve distributable by way of dividend.

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

15 Net asset value per equity share

	30 September 2021	30 September 2020
Basic and diluted:		
Ordinary shareholders' funds	£1,035,967,006	£770,293,260
Number of ordinary shares in issue	153,746,294	153,746,294
Net asset value per ordinary share	673.8p	501.0p

The net asset value per ordinary share and the ordinary shareholders' funds are calculated in accordance with the Company's articles of association.

There are no diluting elements to the net asset value per equity share calculation in 2021 (2020: none).

16 Commitments and contingent liabilities

	30 September 2021 £'000	30 September 2020 £'000
Outstanding calls on investments	557,051	471,392

This represents commitments made to fund and co-investment interests remaining undrawn.

17 **Parent undertaking, related party transactions and transactions with the Manager.** The ultimate parent undertaking of the Company is Phoenix Group Holdings. The results for the year to 30 September 2021 are incorporated into the group financial statements of Phoenix Group Holdings, which will be available to download from the website www.thephoenixgroup.com.

Standard Life Assurance Limited ("SLAL", which is 100% owned by Phoenix Group Holdings), and the Company have entered into a relationship agreement which provides that, for so long as SLAL and its Associates exercise, or control the exercise, of 30% or more of the voting rights of the Company, SLAL and its Associates, will not seek to enter into any transaction or arrangement with the Company which is not conducted at arm's length and on normal commercial terms, take any action that would have the effect of preventing the Company from carrying on an independent business as its main activity or from complying with its obligations under the Listing Rules or propose or procure the proposal of any shareholder resolution which is intended or appears to be intended to circumvent the proper application of the Listing Rules. During the year ended 30 September 2021, SLAL received dividends from the Company totalling £11,539,000 (2020: £11,195,000).

As at 30 September 2021, the Company was invested in the Aberdeen Liquidity Funds, managed by Aberdeen Standard Investments (Lux), ("ASI Lux") who share the same ultimate parent as the Manager. As at 30 September 2021 the Company had invested £16,414,000 in the Aberdeen Liquidity Funds (30 September 2020: £24,678,000) which are included within cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position. During the year, the Company received interest amounting to £10,000 (2020: £32,000) on sterling denominated positions. There was no interest on euro denominated positions. As at 30 September 2021, interest of £1,000 was due to the Company on sterling denominated positions (30 September 2020: £1,000). There was no interest payable on euro denominated positions (30 September 2020: £nil). No additional fees are payable to ASI (Lux) as a result of this investment.

During the year ended 30 September 2021 the Manager charged management fees totalling £8,843,000 (2020: £6,819,000) to the Company in the normal course of business. The balance of management fees outstanding at 30 September 2021 was £2,227,000 (30 September 2020: £1,010,000).

Standard Life Investments Limited, which shares the same ultimate parent as the Manager, received fees for the provision of promotional activities of £240,000 (2020: £210,000) during the year. The balance of promotional fees outstanding at 30 September 2021 was a payable of £180,000 (30 September 2020: receivable of £60,000).

The Company Secretarial services for the Company are provided by Aberdeen Asset Management PLC, which shares the same ultimate parent as the Manager. During the year ended 30 September 2021, the Company incurred secretarial fees of £71,000 (2020: £76,000). The balance of secretarial fees outstanding at 30 September 2021 was £35,000 (2020: £18,000).

No other related party transactions were undertaken during the year ended 30 September 2021.

18 Risk management, financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities. The Company's financial instruments comprise fund and other investments, money-market funds, cash balances, debtors and creditors that arise from its operations. The assets and liabilities are managed with the overall objective of achieving long-term total returns for shareholders.

Summary of financial assets and financial liabilities by category. The carrying amounts of the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities, as recognised at the Statement of Financial Position date of the reporting periods under review, are categorised as follows:

	30 September 2021 £'000	30 September 2020 £'000
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss:		
Fixed asset investments – designated as such on initial recognition	1,007,843	721,650
Financial assets measured at amortised cost:		
Investments receivable	–	15,292
Money-market funds, cash and short-term deposits	29,714	33,135
	1,037,557	770,077
Non-financial assets		
Other receivables	1,144	1,547
	1,144	1,547
Financial Liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:	–	–
Accruals	2,734	1,331
	2,734	1,331

Assets/liabilities measured at amortised cost. The carrying value of the current assets and liabilities is deemed to be fair value due to the short-term nature of the instruments and/or the instruments bearing interest at the market rates.

Risk management. The Directors manage investment risk principally through setting an investment policy and by contracting management of the Company's investments to an investment manager under terms which incorporate appropriate duties and restrictions and by monitoring performance in relation to these. The Company's investments are in private equity funds, typically unquoted limited partnerships and co-investments. These are valued by their managers generally in line with the EVCA and the BVCA guidelines, which provide for a fair value basis of valuation. The funds may hold investments that have become quoted or the co-investment may become quoted and these will be valued at the appropriate listed price, subject to any discount for marketability restrictions.

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

As explained in the Company's investment policy, risk is spread by investing across a range of countries and industrial sectors, thereby reducing excessive exposure to particular areas. The Manager's investment review and monitoring process is used to identify and, where possible, reduce risk of loss of value in the Company's investments.

The Company's investing activities expose it to various types of risk that are associated with the financial instruments and markets in which it invests. The most important types of financial risk to which the Company is exposed are market risk, overcommitment risk, liquidity risk, credit risk and interest rate risk.

The nature and extent of the financial instruments outstanding at the Statement of Financial Position date and the risk management policies employed by the Company are discussed below.

Market risk

a) Price risk. The Company is at risk of the economic cycle impacting the listed financial markets and hence potentially affecting the pricing of new underlying investments, the valuation of existing underlying investments and the price and timing of exits. By having a diversified and rolling portfolio of investments the Company is well placed to take advantage of economic cycles.

100% of the Company's investments are held at fair value. The valuation methodology employed by the managers of the unquoted investments may include the application of EBITDA ratios derived from listed companies with similar characteristics. Therefore, the value of the Company's portfolio is indirectly affected by price movements on listed financial exchanges. A 10% increase in the valuation of investments at 30 September 2021 would have increased the net assets attributable to the Company's shareholders and the total return for the year by £100,784,000 (2020: £72,165,000); a 10% change in the opposite direction would have decreased the net assets attributable to the Company's shareholders and the total return for the year by an equivalent amount. Due to the private nature of the underlying companies in which the Company's investments are invested, it is not possible for the Company to pinpoint the effect to the Company's net assets of changes to the EBITDA ratios of listed markets any more accurately.

b) Currency risk. The Company makes fund and co-investment commitments in currencies other than sterling and, accordingly, a significant proportion of its investments and cash balances are in currencies other than sterling. In addition, the Company's syndicated revolving credit facility is a multi-currency facility. Therefore, the Company's NAV is sensitive to movements in foreign exchange rates.

The Company's syndicated revolving credit facility is a multi-currency facility. As at 30 September 2021, the facility is undrawn (2020: undrawn) and therefore there is no impact to the Company's NAV from foreign exchange rate movements. When the facility is drawn to fund investments, it is typically drawn in the currency of the investment and would therefore provide a notional hedging effect to the Company's foreign exchange exposure.

The Manager monitors the Company's exposure to foreign currencies and reports to the Board on a regular basis. It is not the Company's policy to hedge foreign currency risk. It is expected that the majority of the Company's commitments and investments will be denominated in euros. Accordingly, the majority of the Company's liquidity and any indebtedness is usually held in that currency. No currency swaps or forwards were used during the year.

The table below sets out the Company's currency exposure.

	30 September 2021		30 September 2020	
	Local Currency '000	Sterling Equivalent £'000	Local Currency '000	Sterling Equivalent £'000
Fixed asset investments:				
Euro	951,223	817,588	684,939	621,288
Sterling	69,213	69,213	48,432	48,432
US Dollar	163,206	121,042	67,136	51,930
Money-market funds, cash and short-term deposits:				
Euro	12,243	10,523	22,825	20,704
Sterling	16,523	16,523	9,190	9,190
US Dollar	3,596	2,667	4,189	3,240
Canadian Dollar	3	1	3	1
Investment receivable				
Euro	–	–	13,128	11,908
Sterling	–	–	335	335
US Dollar	–	–	3,942	3,049
Other debtors and creditors:				
Euro	(14)	(12)	(3)	(3)
Sterling	(1,537)	(1,537)	266	266
US Dollar	(55)	(41)	(61)	(47)
Total		1,035,967		770,293
Outstanding commitments:				
Euro	463,209	398,134	420,009	380,978
Sterling	10,878	10,878	15,641	15,641
US Dollar	199,608	148,039	96,667	74,773
Total		557,051		471,392

c) Currency sensitivity. During the year ended 30 September 2021 sterling appreciated by 5.5% relative to the euro (2020: depreciated 2.5%) and appreciated by 4.3% relative to the US dollar (2020: appreciated 4.9%).

To highlight the sensitivity to currency movements, if the value of sterling had weakened against both of the above currencies by 10% compared to the exchange rates at 30 September 2021, the capital gain for the year would have increased by £105,752,000 (2020: £79,119,000); a 10% change in the opposite direction would have decreased the capital gain for the year by £86,524,000 (2020: £64,734,000).

The calculations above are based on the portfolio valuation and cash and loan balances as at the respective Statement of Financial Position dates and are not necessarily representative of the year as a whole.

Notes to the Financial Statements Continued

Based on similar assumptions, the amount of outstanding commitments would have increased by £60,686,000 at the year end (2020: £50,639,000), a 10% change in the opposite direction would have decreased the amount of outstanding commitments by £49,652,000 (2020: £41,432,000).

Liquidity risk. The Company has significant investments in unquoted investments which are relatively illiquid. As a result, the Company may not be able to quickly liquidate its investments at an amount close to their fair value in order to meet its liquidity requirements, including the need to meet outstanding undrawn commitments. The Company manages its liquid investments to ensure sufficient cash is available to meet contractual commitments and also seeks to have cash available to meet other short-term financial needs. Short term flexibility is achieved, where necessary, through the use of the syndicated revolving multi-currency loan facility. Liquidity risk is monitored by the Manager on an ongoing basis and by the Board on a regular basis. Payables, as disclosed in note 11, all fall due within one year and the loan facility, as described in note 12, remains undrawn as at 30 September 2021 (2020: undrawn).

Credit risk. Credit risk is the exposure to loss from failure of a counterparty to deliver securities or cash for acquisitions or disposals of investments or to repay deposits. The Company places funds with authorised deposit takers from time to time and, therefore, is potentially at risk from the failure of any such institution. At the year end, the Company's financial assets exposed to credit risk amounted to the following:

	30 September 2021 £'000	30 September 2020 £'000
Money-market funds, cash and short-term deposits	29,714	33,135
Investment receivable	–	15,292
	29,714	48,427

The Company's cash is held by BNP Paribas Securities Services S.A., which is rated 'A+' by Standard and Poors. The Company's money-market funds are held in two Aberdeen Standard Investments (Lux) Liquidity funds, rated 'A' by Standard and Poors. Should the credit quality or the financial position of either bank deteriorate significantly, the Manager would move the cash balances to another institution.

Interest rate risk. The Company will be affected by interest rate changes as it holds some interest bearing financial assets and liabilities which are shown in the table below, however, the majority of its financial assets are investments in private equity investments which are non-interest bearing. Interest rate movements may affect the level of income receivable on money-market funds and cash deposits and interest payable on the Company's variable rate borrowings. The possible effects on the cash flows that could arise as a result of changes in interest rates are taken into account when making investment and borrowing decisions. Derivative contracts are not used to hedge against any exposure to interest rate risk.

Interest risk profile. The interest rate risk profile of the portfolio of financial assets and liabilities at the Statement of Financial Position date was as follows:

	30 September 2021		30 September 2020	
	Weighted average interest rate %	£'000	Weighted average interest rate %	£'000
Floating rate				
Financial assets: Money-market funds, cash and short-term deposits	(0.24)	29,714	(0.32)	33,135

The weighted average interest rate is based on the current yield of each asset, weighted by its market value. The weighted average interest rate on the bank balances is based on the interest rate payable, weighted by the total value of the balances. The weighted average period for which interest rates are fixed on the bank balances is 31.0 days (2020: 31.0 days). The loan facility, as disclosed on note 12, remains undrawn.

Interest rate sensitivity. An increase of 1% in interest rates would have decreased the net assets attributable to the Company's shareholders and decreased the total gain for the year ended 30 September 2021 by £1,000 (2020: £1,000). A decrease of 1% would have increased the net assets attributable to the Company's shareholders and increased the total gain for the year ended 30 September 2021 by an equivalent amount. The calculations are based on the interest paid and received during the year.

19 **Fair Value hierarchy.** FRS 102 requires an entity to classify fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy has the following classifications:

– Level 1: The unadjusted quoted price in an active market for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

– Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable (i.e., developed using market data) for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

– Level 3: Inputs are unobservable (i.e., for which market data is unavailable) for the asset or liability.

The Company's financial assets and liabilities, measured at fair value in the Statement of Financial Position, are grouped into the following fair value hierarchy at 30 September 2021:

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Unquoted investments	–	–	1,007,843	1,007,843
Net fair value	–	–	1,007,843	1,007,843

As at 30 September 2020

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Unquoted investments	–	–	721,650	721,650
Net fair value	–	–	721,650	721,650

Unquoted investments. Unquoted investments are stated at the directors' estimate of fair value and follow the recommendations of the EVCA and the BVCA. The estimate of fair value is normally the latest valuation placed on an investment by its manager as at the Statement of Financial Position date. The valuation policies used by the manager in undertaking that valuation will generally be in line with the joint publication from the EVCA and the BVCA, 'International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation guidelines'. Fair value can be calculated by the manager of the investment in a number of ways. In general, the managers with whom the Company invests adopt a valuation approach which applies an appropriate comparable listed company multiple to a private company's earnings or by reference to recent transactions. Where formal valuations are not completed as at the Statement of Financial Position date, the last available valuation from the manager is adjusted for any subsequent cash flows occurring between the valuation date and the Statement of Financial Position date. The Company's Manager may further adjust such valuations to reflect any changes in circumstances from the last manager's formal valuation date to arrive at the estimate of fair value.

Corporate Information

abrdn assets under management and administration were £532 billion as at 30 June 2021, managed for a range of clients including 23 UK-listed closed end investment companies.

Alternative Performance Measures

Alternative Performance Measures

Alternative performance measures ("APMs") are numerical measures of the Company's current, historical or future performance, financial position or cash flows, other than financial measures defined or specified in the applicable financial framework. The Company's applicable financial framework includes FRS 102 and the AIC SORP. The directors assess the Company's performance against a range of criteria which are viewed as particularly relevant for closed-end investment companies.

Discount

The amount by which the market price per share is lower than the net asset value per share of an investment trust. The discount is normally expressed as a percentage of the net asset value per share.

	As at 30 September 2021	As at 30 September 2020
Share price (p)	498.0	320.0
Net Asset Value per share (p)	673.8	501.0
Discount (%)	26.1	36.1

Dividend yield

The annual dividend per Ordinary share divided by the share price, expressed as a percentage, calculated at the year end.

	2021	2020
Dividend per share (p)	13.6	13.2
Share price (p)	498.0	320.0
Dividend yield (%)	2.7	4.1

NAV total return

NAV total return shows how the NAV has performed over a period of time in percentage terms, taking into account both capital returns and dividends paid to shareholders. This involves reinvesting the net dividend into the NAV at the end of the quarter in which the shares go ex-dividend. Returns are calculated to each quarter end in the year and then the total return for the year is derived from the product of these individual returns.

	NAV per share (p)	Dividend per share (p)
30 September 2020	501.0	
24 December 2020	490.6	3.3
18 March 2021	507.6	3.4
24 June 2021	567.0	3.4
23 September 2021	626.0	3.4
30 September 2021	673.8	
NAV total return	37.9%	

Ongoing charges ratio/ expense ratio

The ongoing charges ratio is calculated as management fees and all other recurring operating expenses that are payable by the Company, excluding the costs of purchasing and selling investments, performance fees, finance costs, taxation, non-recurring costs, and the costs of any share buy-back transactions, expressed as a percentage of the average NAV during the period. The ratio also includes for the first time an allocation of the look-through expenses of the Company's underlying investments, excluding performance-related fees.

The ongoing charges ratio has been calculated in accordance with the applicable guidance issued by the Association of Investment Companies ("AIC"), which was last updated in October 2020.

Alternative Performance Measures Continued

From the current year to 30 September 2021, the Company will also produce the expense ratio. This calculation replicates that of the ongoing charges ratio as previously described, with the exception of look-through expenses, providing sole focus on the direct costs of the Company. This new ratio is considered as a KPI of the Company in measuring the performance of the Manager.

	Year ended 30 September 2021 £'000	Year ended 30 September 2020 £'000
Investment management fee	8,843	6,819
Administrative expenses	1,020	1,038
Ongoing charges	9,863	7,857
Average net assets	899,097	715,755
Expense ratio	1.10%	1.10%[1]
Look-through expenses	1.69%	1.68%
Ongoing charges ratio	2.79%	2.78%

[1] For the year ended 30 September 2020, the ongoing charges figure reported by the Company was calculated in line with the expense ratio for 2020 as per above.

The look-through expenses represent an allocation of the management fees and other expenses charged by the underlying investments held in the portfolio of the Company. Performance related fees, such as carried interest, are excluded from this figure. This is calculated over a five year historic average, and is recalculated on an annual basis based on the previous calendar year.

Over-commitment ratio

Outstanding commitments less resources available for investment and the value of undrawn loan facilities divided by portfolio NAV.

	As at 30 September 2021 £000s	As at 30 September 2020 £000s
Undrawn Commitments	557,051	471,392
Less undrawn loan facility	(200,000)	(200,000)
Less resources available for investment	(29,714)	(48,427)
Net outstanding commitments	327,337	222,966
Portfolio NAV	1,007,843	721,650
Over-commitment ratio	32.5%	30.9%

In previous reporting, the Company has reported this measure as a percentage of the Net Asset Value of Company. As a comparison to the previous method of calculation, the ratio would be:

30 September 2021: 31.6%
30 September 2020: 28.9%

Share price total return

The theoretical return derived from reinvesting each dividend in additional shares in the Company on the day that the share price goes ex-dividend.

Date	Share price (p)	Dividend per share (p)
30 September 2020	320.0	
24 December 2020	380.0	3.3
18 March 2021	435.0	3.4
24 June 2021	438.0	3.4
23 September 2021	472.0	3.4
30 September 2021	498.0	
Total shareholder return	60.6%	

Glossary of Terms

Buy-out fund
A fund which acquires controlling stakes in established private companies.

Close Peer Group
Similarly positioned private equity investment trusts.

Co-investment
An investment made directly into a private company alongside other private equity managers.

Commitment
The amount committed by the Company to an investment, whether or not such amount has been advanced in whole or in part by or repaid in whole or in part to the Company (see also Over-commitment).

Comparator Index
A market index against which the overall performance of the Company can be assessed. The manager does not manage the portfolio with direct reference to any index or its constituents.

Distribution
A return that an investor in a private equity fund receives. Within the Annual Report and Financial Statements, the terms "cash realisations" and "distributions" are used interchangeably, the figure being derived as follows: proceeds from disposal of underlying investments by funds, plus income from those fund investments less overseas withholding tax suffered.

Drawdown
A portion of a commitment which is called to pay for an investment.

Dry powder
Capital committed by investors to private equity funds that has yet to be invested.

EBITDA
Earnings before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortisation.

Enterprise value ("EV")
The value of the financial instruments representing ownership interests in a company plus the net financial debt of the company.

IPO
Initial Public Offering, the first sale of stock by a private company to the public market.

Net Asset Value ("NAV")
The value of total assets less liabilities. Liabilities for this purpose include current and long-term liabilities. The net asset value divided by the number of shares in issue produces the net asset value per share.

Outstanding commitments
The outstanding commitments represents the sum of the promises the Company has made to invest in particular funds at the launch of those funds, with the expectation that the underlying manager will call on the Company at different times in the future. The Manager works on the basis that these commitments, which may not be called upon for up to five years, will be funded by the distributions from existing funds in which the Company has been invested.

Over-commitment
Where the aggregate commitments to invest by the Company exceed the sum of its resources available for investment plus the value of any undrawn loan facilities.

Portfolio NAV
The total value of the portfolio of the Company.

Primary investment / primary funds
The managers of private equity funds look to raise fresh capital to invest, typically every five years, and the Company commits to investing in such funds. The capital committed to a fund will generally be drawn over a five year period as investments in private companies are made.

Resources available for investment
This corresponds to the Company's assets that are not invested in funds or co-investments. The amount includes cash and cash equivalents, quoted investments and short-term investment receivables and payables as follows:

	As at 30 September 2021 £000s	As at 30 September 2020 £000s
Cash and cash equivalents	29,714	33,135
Investment receivables	-	15,292
Resources available for investment	29,714	48,427

Roll forward
The latest valuation calculated on a bottom-up valuation basis adjusted for any subsequent cash movements up to the reporting date and updated for exchange rates at the reporting date.

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Glossary of Terms Continued

Secondary exposure
Secondary exposure acquired equals purchase price plus any unfunded commitment.

Secondary transaction / secondary funds
The purchase or sale of a commitment to a fund or collection of fund interests in the market. Once a private equity fund is raised, new investors are typically not permitted into the fund. However, an existing investor may exit by selling their interest to another investor. The Company can negotiate to acquire such an interest as a secondary buyer. Within this report, the terms “Secondary transaction” and “Secondary investment” are used interchangeably.

Share buy-back transaction
The repurchase by the Company of its own shares in order to reduce the number of shares on the market. This is often used by investment trusts to narrow the discount to NAV.

Vintage year
Refers to the year in which the first influx of investment capital is delivered to a fund.

Information about the Manager

abrdn Capital Partners LLP

The Company's Manager is abrdn Capital Partners LLP which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of abrdn. abrdn assets under management and administration were £532 billion as at 30 June 2021, managed for a range of clients including 23 UK-listed closed end investment companies.

The Investment Team Senior Managers

Alan Gauld
Lead Portfolio Manager

Alan is a Senior Investment Director in the abrdn Private Equity team. He is responsible for sourcing, evaluating and executing private equity investments, including primary fund investments, secondary investments and co-investments. Alan has a strong network and extensive experience with leading private equity funds and sits on a number of LP advisory committees across Europe. He joined ASI, now abrdn, in 2014 as part of the Scottish Widows Investment Partnership ("SWIP") transaction. Prior to joining SWIP in 2013, Alan worked for Lloyds Banking Group in its private equity team. Alan holds a BSc (Hons) in Genetics from the University of Edinburgh and is a qualified chartered accountant.

Mark Nicolson
Head of Primaries

Mark is based in Edinburgh and joined ASI, now abrdn, in 2007. He is responsible for making investments across the private equity spectrum (Primaries, Secondaries and Co-investments) as well as having overall responsibility for abrdn's Primary Investment business. Mark is a member of abrdn's Private Equity Operating Committee and Investment Committee. He also sits on the Advisory Boards of a number of leading private equity funds. Prior to the merger that created ASI in 2017, Mark was a Partner and Head of Primary Investments at SL Capital Partners LLP, now abrdn Capital Partners LLP, where he joined in 2007. Before this, Mark spent seven years working as a lead adviser in the corporate finance teams of EY and KPMG, focusing principally on buyouts. Mark is a Chartered Accountant and has BA (Joint Honours) degrees in Accounting and Economics from the University of Strathclyde. Mark is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.

Patrick Knechtli
Head of Secondaries

Based in Edinburgh, Patrick heads up the secondaries team of abrdn and is involved across the private markets activities of the firm. He joined predecessor firm SL Capital Partners LLP, now abrdn Capital Partners LLP in 2009, which then merged into ASI and more recently abrdn. Prior to joining SL Capital Partners LLP, Patrick spent eight years at Coller Capital in London, where he worked on numerous secondary portfolio transactions. His early career consisted of seven years in investment banking, first at Baring Brothers and then at ABN Amro Corporate Finance. Patrick has a MA (Hons) in Modern Languages from the University of Exeter and is fluent in French and Spanish.

Simon Tysko
Portfolio Director

Simon is a Portfolio Director at abrdn. Simon joined Standard Life Investments in 2014 as an Investment Analyst in Private Equity and has subsequently held positions as an Investment Manager and his current role as Portfolio Director. He is responsible for the investment team's portfolio management function, implementation of new systems and technology and development of processes. He leads abrdn's Private Equity Research function. Prior to joining Standard Life Investments, Simon was employed by the Royal Bank of Scotland. Simon is a CFA Charterholder and has a First Class MEng (Honours) in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Glasgow.

Investor Information

Registered Address

This Annual Report has been mailed to shareholders at the address shown on the Company's share register. Any change of address should be advised to the Registrars at the following address under the signature of the shareholder:

Equiniti Limited
Aspect House
Spencer Road
Lancing
West Sussex
BN99 6DA

Registrars' shareholder helpline: 0371 384 2618
Registrars' broker helpline: 0906 559 6025*

* Calls cost £1.10 per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

If your shares are held via nominees you should contact them with any change of address.

If you hold your shares through the abrdn Investment Plan for Children or Stocks and Shares ISA, or abrdn Investments Trust Share Plan or if you have any general questions about your Company, the Investment Manager or performance, please telephone the abrdn Investments Customer Services Department, send an email to inv.trusts@abrdn.com or write to:

abrdn Investment Trusts
PO Box 11020
Chelmsford
Essex CM99 2DB

Dividends

Ordinary dividends are expected to be paid in January, April, July and October each year. Shareholders who wish to have dividends paid directly into a bank account rather than by cheque to their registered address can complete a mandate form for this purpose. Mandates may be obtained from Equiniti at the address above. The Company operates the BACS system for the payment of dividends. Where dividends are paid directly to shareholders' bank accounts, dividend tax vouchers are sent to shareholders' registered addresses.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

Shareholders who wish to use their dividends to purchase further shares in the Company by participating in the Company's Dividend Reinvestment Plan can complete a mandate form which may be obtained from Equiniti Limited at the above address.

Dividend Tax Allowance

The annual tax-free personal allowance for dividend income for UK investors is £2,000 for the 2021/22 tax year. Above this amount, individuals pay tax on their dividend income at a rate dependent on their income tax bracket and personal circumstances. The Company provides registered shareholders with a confirmation of dividends paid and this should be included with any other dividend income received when calculating and reporting to HMRC total dividend income received. It is the shareholder's responsibility to include all dividend income when calculating any tax liability.

How to Invest

Investors can buy and sell shares in the Company directly through a stockbroker or indirectly through a lawyer, accountant or other professional adviser. Alternatively, for retail clients, shares can be bought directly through the abrdn Investment Plan for Children, abrdn investment trust Share Plan or abrdn Investment Trusts Individual Savings Account ("ISA").

abrdn Investment Plan for Children

abrdn runs an Investment Plan for Children (the "Children's Plan") which covers a number of investment companies under its management including the Company. Anyone can invest in the Children's Plan, including parents, grandparents and family friends (subject to the eligibility criteria as stated within the terms and conditions). All investments are free of dealing charges on the initial purchase of shares, although investors will suffer the bid- offer spread, which can, on some occasions, be a significant amount. Lump sum investments start at £150 per trust, while regular savers may invest from £30 per month. Investors simply pay Government Stamp Duty (currently 0.5%) on all purchases. Selling costs are £10 + VAT. There is no restriction on how long an investor needs to invest in the Children's Plan, and regular savers can stop or suspend participation by instructing abrdn in writing at any time. In common with other schemes of this type, all investments are held in nominee accounts. Investors have full voting and other rights of share ownership.

abrdn Share Plan

abrdn runs an investment trust Share Plan (the "Plan") through which shares in the Company can be purchased. There are no dealing charges on the initial purchase of shares, although investors will suffer the bid-offer spread, which can, on some occasions, be a significant amount. Lump sum investments start at £250, while regular savers may invest from £100 per month. Investors simply pay Government Stamp Duty (currently 0.5%). Selling costs are £10 + VAT. There is no restriction on how long an investor needs to invest in a Plan, and regular savers can stop or suspend participation by instructing abrdn in writing at any time. In common with other schemes of this type, all investments are held in nominee accounts. Investors have full voting and other rights of share ownership.

Stocks and Shares ISA

An investment of up to £20,000 can be made in the tax year 2021/2022. The annual ISA administration charge is £24 + VAT, calculated annually and applied on 31 March (or the last business day in March) and collected soon thereafter either by direct debit or, if there is no valid direct debit mandate in place, from the available cash in the Plan prior to the distribution or reinvestment of any income, or, where there is insufficient cash in the Plan, from the sale of investments held in the Plan. Investors have full voting and other rights of share ownership. Under current legislation, investments in ISAs can grow free of capital gains tax.

abrdn investment trusts ISA Transfer

You can choose to transfer previous tax year investments to us which can be invested in the Company while retaining your ISA wrapper. The minimum lump sum for an ISA transfer is £1,000, subject to a minimum per trust of £250.

Nominee Accounts and Voting Rights

All investments in the abrdn Investment Plan for Children and the abrdn investment trust Share Plan are held in nominee accounts and investors are provided with the equivalent of full voting and other rights of share ownership.

Keeping You Informed

Further information about the Company may be found on its dedicated website: **slpet.co.uk**. This provides access to information on the Company's share price performance, capital structure, London Stock Exchange announcements, current and historic Annual and Half-Yearly Reports, and the latest factsheet on the Company issued by the Manager.

Twitter:
twitter.com/abrdnTrusts

LinkedIn:
linkedin.com/company/abrdn-standard-investment-trusts

Alternatively, please call **0808 500 0040** (Freephone), email **inv.trusts@abrdn.com** or write to the address for abrdn Investment Trusts stated above.

Details are also available at: **invtrusts.co.uk**.

Other Information

The Company is a member of The Association of Investment Companies (AIC). The AIC publishes a Monthly Information Service which contains a wide range of detailed information including statistical and performance data on all its members. A sample copy can be obtained free of charge from The AIC, 9th Floor, 24 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4YY (tel: 020 7282 5555) along with full details of other publications available from The AIC. Alternatively, visit their website: **theaic.co.uk**.

Packaged Retail and Insurance-based Products (PRIIPs) Regulation

The Packaged Retail and Insurance-based Investment Products (PRIIPs) Regulation requires a Key Information Document (KID) to be published for the Company. A copy of the Company's KID is available to view on the Company's website: **slpet.co.uk**.

It should be noted that the form and content of the KID is strictly prescribed and includes specific information on investment risks, performance and costs, which must be provided to all potential investors before they can purchase shares in the Company to enable them to compare the performance of different investment companies.

Literature Service Request

For literature and application forms for abrdn's investment trust products, please contact us through: invtrusts.co.uk. Or telephone: 0808 500 4000. Or write to: abrdn Investment Trust Administration, PO Box 11020, Chelmsford, Essex CM99 2DB.

Terms and Conditions

Terms and conditions for abrdn managed savings products can also be found under the Literature section of our website at: **invtrusts.co.uk**.

Investor Information Continued

Suitable for Retail/NMPI Status

The Company's shares are intended for investors, primarily in the UK, including retail investors, professionally-advised private clients and institutional investors. Investors should consider consulting a financial adviser who specialises in advising on the acquisition of shares and other securities before acquiring shares. Investors should be capable of evaluating the risks and merits of such an investment and should have sufficient resources to bear any loss that may result.

The Company currently conducts its affairs so that the securities issued by the Company can be recommended by a financial adviser to ordinary retail investors in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's rules in relation to non-mainstream pooled investments ("NMPIs") and intends to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The Company's securities are excluded from the Financial Conduct Authority's restrictions which apply to NMPIs because they are securities issued by an investment trust.

Online Dealing

There are a number of online dealing platforms for private investors that offer share dealing, ISAs and other means to invest in the Company. Real-time execution-only stockbroking services allow you to trade online, manage your portfolio and buy UK listed shares. These sites do not give advice. Some comparison websites also look at dealing rates and terms.

Discretionary Private Client Stockbrokers

If you have a large sum to invest, you may wish to contact a discretionary private client stockbroker. They can manage your entire portfolio of shares and will advise you on your investments. To find a private client stockbroker visit The Personal Investment Management & Financial Advice Association at: pimfa.co.uk.

Independent Financial Advisers

To find an adviser who recommends on investment trusts, visit unbiased.co.uk.

Regulation of Stockbrokers

Before approaching a stockbroker, always check that they are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority:

Tel: 0800 111 6768 or at register.fca.org.uk or
email: register@fca.org.uk

Note

Please remember that past performance is not a guide to the future. Stock market and currency movements may cause the value of shares and the income from them to fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount they originally invested.

As with all equity investments, the value of investment trusts purchased will immediately be reduced by the difference between the buying and selling prices of the shares, the market maker's spread.

Investors should further bear in mind that the value of any tax relief will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor and that tax rates and reliefs, as well as the tax treatment of ISAs may be changed by future legislation.

Financial Calendar

Annual General Meeting (Edinburgh)	22 March 2022
Expected payment dates of future interim dividends for the financial year to 30 September 2022	April 2022 July 2022 October 2022 January 2023
Half year end	31March 2022
Expected announcement of results for the six months ending 31 March 2022	June 2022
Financial year end	30 September
Expected announcement of results for year ending 30 September 2022	January 2023

AIFMD Disclosures (Unaudited)

The Manager and the Company are required to make certain disclosures available to investors in accordance with the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive ("AIFMD"). Those disclosures that are required to be made pre-investment are included within a pre-investment disclosure document ("PIDD") which can be found on the Company's website.

There have been no material changes to the disclosures contained within the PIDD since its most recent update in January 2022.

The periodic disclosures as required under the AIFMD to investors are made below:

- information on the investment strategy, geographic and sector investment focus and principal stock exposures is included in the Strategic Report;
- none of the Company's assets are subject to special arrangements arising from their illiquid nature;
- the Strategic Report, note 19 to the financial statements and the PIDD together 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 Manager; and
- all authorised Alternative Investment Fund Managers are required to comply with the AIFMD Remuneration Code. In accordance with the Remuneration Code, the AIFM's remuneration policy is available from the Company Secretary, Aberdeen Asset Management PLC, on request, and the remuneration disclosures in respect of the AIFM's reporting period for the year ended 31 December 2020 are available on the Company's website.

Leverage

The table below sets out the current maximum permitted limit and actual level of leverage for the Company:

	Gross Method	Commitment Method
Maximum level of leverage	250.0%	250.0%
Actual level at 30 September 2021	98.7%	98.7%

There have been no breaches of the maximum level during the period and no changes to the maximum level of leverage employed by the Company. There have been no changes to the circumstances in which the Company may be required to post assets as collateral and no guarantees granted under the leveraging arrangement. Changes to the information contained either within this Annual Report or the PIDD in relation to any special arrangements in place, the maximum level of leverage which the Manager may employ on behalf of the Company, the right of use of collateral or any guarantee granted under any leveraging arrangement, or any change to the position in relation to any discharge of liability by the Depositary will be notified via a regulatory news service without undue delay in accordance with the AIFMD.

The information on this page has been approved for the purposes of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended by the Financial Services Act 2012) by the Manager which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority in the United Kingdom.

General

The twenty-first Annual General Meeting of Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc will be held at the Balmoral Hotel, 1 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2EQ on Tuesday,
22 March 2022 at 12.30 p.m.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the twenty-first Annual General Meeting of Standard Life Private Equity Trust plc (the "Company") will be held at the Balmoral Hotel, 1 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2EQ on Tuesday, 22 March 2022 at 12.30 p.m. for the following purposes:

Ordinary Business

As ordinary business, to consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolutions, in the case of numbers 1 to 12 inclusive, as ordinary resolutions and, in the case of numbers 13 and 14, as special resolutions:

1. That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2021, including the Directors' Report and the Independent Auditor's Report be received.
2. To approve the Directors' Remuneration Policy.
3. That the Directors' Remuneration Report for the year ended 30 September 2021 (excluding the Directors' Remuneration Policy) be approved.
4. That the Company's dividend policy to pay four interim dividends be approved.
5. That Mr Agble be elected as a Director.
6. That Mr Devine be re-elected as a Director.
7. That Ms Seymour-Williams be re-elected as a Director.
8. That Ms Stillhart be elected as a Director.
9. That Mr Thomson be re-elected as a Director.
10. That BDO LLP be re-appointed as Independent Auditor of the Company to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which accounts are laid before the Company.
11. That the Directors be authorised to fix the remuneration of the Independent Auditor for the year to 30 September 2022.
12. That, in substitution for any existing authority, but without prejudice to the exercise of any such authority prior to the date hereof, the Directors of the Company be and they are hereby generally and unconditionally authorised in accordance with Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot shares in the Company and to grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares in the Company ("Securities") provided that such authority shall be limited to the allotment of shares and the grant of rights in respect of shares up to 10% of the nominal value of the issued share capital (excluding treasury shares) of the Company, as at the date of the passing of this resolution, such authority to expire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company after the passing of this resolution or on the expiry of 15 months from the passing of this resolution, whichever is the earlier, unless previously revoked, varied or extended or renewed by the Company in a general meeting, save that the Company may at any time prior to the expiry of this authority make an offer or enter into an agreement which would or might require Securities to be allotted or granted after the expiry of such authority and the Directors shall be entitled to allot or grant Securities in pursuance of such an offer or agreement as if such authority had not expired.
13. That, subject to the passing of resolution 12 set out above, and in substitution for any existing power but without prejudice to the exercise of any such power prior to the date hereof, the Directors of the Company be and they are hereby generally empowered (i), pursuant to Section 570 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Act"), to allot equity securities (as defined in Section 560 of the Act), including the grant of rights to subscribe for, or to convert securities into Ordinary shares for cash pursuant to the authority given by resolution 12 set out above and (ii), pursuant to Section 573 of the Act to sell equity securities for cash out of treasury as if Section 561(1) of the Act did not apply to any such allotment, or sale out of treasury, of equity securities, provided that this power:
    (i) expires at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company after the passing of this resolution or on the expiry of 15 months from the passing of this resolution, whichever is the earlier, unless previously revoked, voted, extended or renewed by the Company in a general meeting save that the Company may, at any time prior to the expiry of this authority, make an offer or enter into an agreement which would or might require equity securities to be allotted or sold out of treasury after such expiry and the Directors may allot or sell out of treasury equity securities in pursuance of any such offer or agreement as if the power conferred hereby had not expired; and

    (ii) shall be limited to the allotment, or sale out of treasury, of equity securities up to an aggregate nominal value of 10% of the nominal value of the issued share capital of the Company (excluding treasury shares), as at the date of the passing of this resolution.

Notice of Annual General Meeting Continued

14. That, in substitution for any existing authority, the Company be generally and unconditionally authorised, in accordance with section 701 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Act"), to make market purchases (within the meaning of section 693(4) of the Act) of Ordinary shares of 0.2 pence each ("Ordinary shares") in the share capital of the Company either for retention as treasury shares for future reissue, resale, transfer or cancellation, provided that:
    (i) the maximum number of Shares hereby authorised to be purchased shall be 14.99% of the Company's issued share capital at the date of the passing of this resolution (excluding treasury shares);
    (ii) the minimum price which may be paid for an Ordinary share shall be 0.2 pence;
    (iii) the maximum price (exclusive of expenses) which may be paid for a Share is the higher of (i) 105% of the average of the middle market quotations (as derived from the Daily Official List of the London Stock Exchange) for the Shares over the five business days immediately preceding the date of purchase and (ii) the higher of the last independent trade and the highest current independent bid on the trading venue which the purchase is carried out; and
    (iv) the authority hereby conferred shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company after the passing of this resolution or on the expiry of 15 months from the passing of this resolution, whichever is earlier, unless previously revoked, varied, extended or renewed by the Company in a general meeting, save that the Company may, at any time prior to the expiry of this authority enter into a contract to purchase shares under such authority which will or might be completed or executed wholly or partly after the expiration of such authority and may make a purchase of Shares pursuant to any such contract.

Special Business

As special business, to consider and, if thought fit, pass resolution 15 and 16 as a special resolutions:

15. That a general meeting other than an Annual General Meeting may be called on not less than 14 clear days' notice.
16. That the name of the Company be changed to abrdn Private Equity Opportunities Trust plc.

By order of the Board
Aberdeen Asset Management PLC
Company Secretary
1 George Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 2LL
26 January 2022

NOTES:

1. Attending the Annual General Meeting in person

Covid-19 restrictions permitting (see note 16 for more information), if you wish to attend the Annual General Meeting in person, you should arrive at the venue for the Annual General Meeting in good time to allow your attendance to be registered. It is advisable to have some form of identification with you as you may be asked to provide evidence of your identity prior to being admitted to the Annual General Meeting.

2. Appointment of proxies

Covid-19 restrictions permitting (see note 16 for more information), members are entitled to appoint one or more proxies to exercise all or any of their rights to attend, speak and vote at the Annual General Meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Company but must attend the Annual General Meeting to represent a member. To be validly appointed, a proxy must be appointed using the procedures set out in these notes and in the notes to the accompanying Form of Proxy. If a member wishes a proxy to speak on their behalf at the meeting, the member will need to appoint their own choice of proxy (not the Chair of the Annual General Meeting) and give their instructions directly to them. Such an appointment can be made using the Form of Proxy accompanying this Notice of Annual General Meeting or through CREST.

Members can only appoint more than one proxy where each proxy is appointed to exercise rights attached to different shares. Members cannot appoint more than one proxy to exercise the rights attached to the same share(s). If a member wishes to appoint more than one proxy, they should contact the Company's registrar Equiniti Limited (the "Registrar") at Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN99 6DA.

A member may instruct their proxy to abstain from voting on a particular resolution to be considered at the meeting by marking the "Vote withheld" option in relation to that particular resolution when appointing their proxy.

It should be noted that an abstention is not a vote in law and will not be counted in the calculation of the proportion of votes "For" or "Against" the resolution.

The appointment of a proxy will not prevent a member from attending the Annual General Meeting and voting in person if he or she wishes.

A person who is not a member of the Company but who has been nominated by a member to enjoy information rights does not have a right to appoint any proxies under the procedures set out in these notes and should read note 8 below.

3. Appointment of a proxy using a Form of Proxy

A Form of Proxy for use in connection with the Annual General Meeting is enclosed. To be valid any Form of Proxy or other instrument appointing a proxy, together with any power of attorney or other authority under which it is signed or a certified copy thereof, must be received by post or (during normal business hours only) by hand by the Registrar at Equiniti Limited, Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN99 6DA at least 48 hours (excluding non-working days) before the time of the Annual General Meeting or any adjournment of that meeting.

If you do not have a Form of Proxy and believe that you should have one, or you require additional Forms of Proxy, please contact the Registrar at Equiniti Limited, Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN99 6DA.

4. Appointment of a proxy through CREST

CREST members who wish to appoint a proxy or proxies through the CREST electronic proxy appointment service may do so by using the procedures described in the CREST Manual and by logging on to the following website: euroclear.com.

CREST personal members or other CREST sponsored members, and those CREST members who have appointed (a) voting service provider(s), should refer to their CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s) who will be able to take the appropriate action on their behalf.

Notice of Annual General Meeting Continued

In order for a proxy appointment or instruction made using the CREST service to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a "CREST Proxy Instruction") must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited's specifications, and must contain the information required for such instruction, as described in the CREST Manual. The message, regardless of whether it constitutes the appointment of a proxy or is an amendment to the instruction given to a previously appointed proxy must, in order to be valid, be transmitted so as to be received by the Registrar (ID RA19) no later than 48 hours (excluding non-working days) before the time of the Annual General Meeting or any adjournment of that meeting. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be the time (as determined by the timestamp applied to the message by the CREST Application Host) from which the Registrar is able to retrieve the message by enquiry to CREST in the manner prescribed by CREST. After this time any change of instructions to proxies appointed through CREST should be communicated to the appointee through other means.

CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors or voting service provider(s) should note that Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited does not make available special procedures in CREST for any particular message. Normal system timings and limitations will, therefore, apply in relation to the input of CREST Proxy Instructions. It is the responsibility of the CREST member concerned to take (or, if the CREST member is a CREST personal member, or sponsored member, or has appointed (a) voting service provider(s), to procure that his CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s) take(s)) such action as shall be necessary to ensure that a message is transmitted by means of the CREST system by any particular time. In this connection, CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors or voting system providers are referred, in particular, to those sections of the CREST Manual concerning practical limitations of the CREST system and timings.

The Company may treat as invalid a CREST Proxy Instruction in the circumstances set out in Regulation 35(5)(a) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001.

5. Appointment of proxy by joint holders
In the case of joint holders, where more than one of the joint holders purports to appoint one or more proxies, only the purported appointment submitted by the most senior holder will be accepted. Seniority is determined by the order in which the names of the joint holders appear in the Company's register of members in respect of the joint holding (the first named being the most senior).

6. Corporate representatives
Any corporation which is a member can appoint one or more corporate representatives. Members can only appoint more than one corporate representative where each corporate representative is appointed to exercise rights attached to different shares. Members cannot appoint more than one corporate representative to exercise the rights attached to the same share(s).

7. Entitlement to attend and vote
To be entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting (and for the purpose of determining the votes they may cast), members must be registered in the Company's register of members at 6.30 p.m. on Friday, 18 March 2022 (or, if the Annual General Meeting is adjourned, at 6.30 p.m. on the day two days (excluding non-working days) prior to the adjourned meeting). Changes to the Company's register of members after the relevant deadline will be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting.

8. Nominated persons
Any person to whom this notice is sent who is a person nominated under section 146 of the Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to enjoy information rights (a "Nominated Person") may, under an agreement between him or her and the member by whom he or she was nominated, have a right to be appointed (or to have someone else appointed) as a proxy for the Annual General Meeting. If a Nominated Person has no such proxy appointment right or does not wish to exercise it, he or she may, under any such agreement, have a right to give instructions to the member as to the exercise of voting rights.

9. Website giving information regarding the Annual General Meeting
Information regarding the Annual General Meeting, including information required by section 311A of the Act, and a copy of this Notice of Annual General Meeting is available from slpet.co.uk.

10. Audit concerns
Members should note that it is possible that, pursuant to requests made by members of the Company under section 527 of the Act, the Company may be required to publish on a website a statement setting out any matter relating to: (a) the audit of the Company's accounts (including the auditor's report and the conduct of the audit) that are to be laid before the Annual General Meeting; or (b) any circumstance connected with an auditor of the Company ceasing to hold office since the previous meeting at which Annual Report and Financial Statements were laid in accordance with section 437 of the Act. The Company may not require the members requesting any such website publication to pay its expenses in complying with sections 527 or 528 of the Act. Where the Company is required to place a statement on a website under section 527 of the Act, it must forward the statement to the Company's auditor not later than the time when it makes the statement available on the website. The business which may be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting includes any statement that the Company has been required under section 527 of the Act to publish on a website.

11. Voting rights
As at 25 January 2022 (being the latest practicable date prior to the publication of this notice) the Company's issued share capital consisted of 153,746,294 Ordinary shares of 0.2 pence each. The Company held no shares in treasury. Only holders of Ordinary shares are entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting. Each Ordinary share carries one vote. Therefore, the total voting rights in the Company as at 25 January 2022 were 153,746,294 votes.

12. Notification of shareholdings
Any person holding 3% or more of the total voting rights of the Company who appoints a person other than the Chair of the Annual General Meeting as his proxy will need to ensure that both he, and his proxy, comply with their respective disclosure obligations under the UK Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules.

13. Further questions and communication
Under section 319A of the Act, the Company must cause to be answered any question relating to the business being dealt with at the Annual General Meeting put by a member attending the meeting unless answering the question would interfere unduly with the preparation for the meeting or involve the disclosure of confidential information, or the answer has already been given on a website in the form of an answer to a question, or it is undesirable in the interests of the Company or the good order of the meeting that the question be answered. Members may not use any electronic address provided in this notice or in any related documents (including the accompanying document, Form of Proxy or Letter of Direction to communicate with the Company for any purpose other than those expressly stated.

Under Sections 338 and 338A of the Companies Act 2006, members meeting the threshold requirements in those sections have the right to require the Company: (i) to give, to members of the Company entitled to receive notice of the Annual General Meeting, notice of a resolution which those members intend to move (and which may properly be moved) at the Annual General Meeting; and/or (ii) to include in the business to be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting any matter (other than a proposed resolution) which may properly be included in the business at the Annual General Meeting. A resolution may properly be moved, or a matter properly included in the business unless: (a) (in the case of a resolution only) it would, if passed, be ineffective (whether by reason of any inconsistency with any enactment or the Company's constitution or otherwise); (b) it is defamatory of any person; or (c) it is frivolous or vexatious. A request made pursuant to this right may be in hard copy or electronic form, must identify the resolution of which notice is to be given or the matter to be included in the business, must be accompanied by a statement setting out the grounds for the request, must be authenticated by the person(s) making it and must be received by the Company not later than the date that is six clear weeks before the Annual General Meeting, and (in the case of a matter to be included in the business only) must be accompanied by a statement setting out the grounds for the request.

14. Directors' letters of appointment
The Directors' letters of appointment will be available for inspection at the registered office of the Company and at the offices of Dickson Minto W.S. at Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London EC2A 2EW during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted) from the date of this notice until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting and on the date of the Annual General Meeting at the Balmoral Hotel, 1 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2EQ from 12.15 p.m. until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

Notice of Annual General Meeting Continued

15. Customers of abrdn Share Plan
Participants in the abrdn Investment Plan for Children, Share Plan or ISA are entitled to vote by completing the enclosed Letter of Direction and returning it in the accompanying envelope no later than 12:30pm on Tuesday, 15 March 2022.

16. Given the risks posed by the spread of the Covid-19 virus and in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association and Government guidance, physical attendance at the Annual General Meeting may not be possible. If the law or Government guidance so requires at the time of the meeting, the Chair will limit, in his/her sole discretion, the number of individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Corporate Information

Directors
Christina McComb, OBE, Chair
Dugald Agble
Alan Devine
Diane Seymour-Williams
Yvonne Stillhart
Calum Thomson

Investment Manager
abrdn Capital Partners LLP
1 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2LL
United Kingdom

Company Secretary
Aberdeen Asset Management PLC
1 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2LL
United Kingdom

Company Administrator
IQ EQ Administration Services (UK) Limited
Two London Bridge
London
SE1 9RA
United Kingdom

Company Depositary
IQ EQ Depositary Company (UK) Limited
Two London Bridge
London
SE1 9RA
United Kingdom

Company Brokers
Winterflood Securities
The Atrium Building
Cannon Bridge
London
EC4R 2GA
United Kingdom

Solicitors
Dickson Minto WS
16 Charlotte Square
Edinburgh
EH2 4DF
United Kingdom

Tax Advisers
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Atria One
144 Morrison Street
Edinburgh
EH3 8EX
United Kingdom

Independent Auditor
BDO LLP
55 Baker Street
London
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Lancing
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BN99 6DA
United Kingdom

MIX
Paper | Supporting responsible forestry
FSC® C005739
FSC www.fsc.org

For more information visit **slpet.co.uk**

abrdn.com