

This document is issued by Witan Investment Services Limited solely in order to make particular information available to investors in Witan Investment Trust PLC (the "Company") before they invest, in accordance with the requirements of the FCA Rules implementing the AIFM Directive in the United Kingdom. It is made available to investors in the Company by being available at [www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com).

Potential investors in the Company's shares should consult their stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other financial adviser before investing in the Company.



## INVESTOR DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### **Regulatory status of the Company and its Alternative Investment Fund Manager ("AIFM")**

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

The Company's shares are listed on the premium segment of the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and are admitted to trading on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. The Company is subject to its Articles of Association, the Listing Rules, the Disclosure and Transparency Rules, the UK corporate governance code and the Companies Act 2006.

The provisions of the Company's Articles of Association are binding on the Company and its shareholders. The Articles of Association set out the respective rights and restrictions attaching to the Company's shares. These rights and restrictions apply equally to all shareholders. All shareholders are entitled to the benefit of, and are bound by and are deemed to have notice of, the Company's Articles of Association. The Company's articles of association are governed by English law.

#### **Limited purpose of this document**

This document is not being issued for any purpose other than to make certain required regulatory disclosures to investors and, to the fullest extent permitted under applicable law and regulations, the Company and WIS, and their directors will not be responsible to persons other than the Company's shareholders for their use of this document, nor will they be responsible to any person (including the Company's shareholders) for any use which they may make of this document other than to inform a decision to invest in shares in the Company.

This document does not constitute, and may not be used for the purposes of, an offer or solicitation to buy or sell, or otherwise undertake investment activity in relation to, the Company's shares.

**This document is not a prospectus and it is not intended to be an invitation or inducement to any person to engage in any investment activity. This document may not include (and it is not intended to include) all the information which investors and their professional advisers may require for the purpose of making an informed decision in relation to an investment in the Company and its shares.**

#### **No advice**

The Company and WIS, and their Directors are not advising any person in relation to any investment or other transaction involving shares in the Company. Recipients must not treat the contents of this document or any subsequent communications from the Company, or any of its subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, employees or agents, as advice relating to financial, investment, taxation, accounting, legal, regulatory or any other matters. Prospective investors must rely on their own professional advisers, including their own legal advisers and accountants, as to legal, tax, accounting, regulatory, investment or any other related matters concerning the Company and an investment in shares.

**Potential investors in the Company's shares should consult their stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other financial adviser before investing in the Company.**

#### **Overseas investors**

The distribution of this document in certain jurisdictions may be restricted and accordingly persons into whose possession this document comes are required to inform themselves about and to observe such restrictions. The shares of the Company have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 (as amended) or under any of the relevant securities laws of Canada, Australia or Japan. Accordingly, the shares may not (unless an exemption from such Act or such laws is available) be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or Japan. The Company is not registered under the United States Investment Company Act of 1940 (as amended) and investors are not entitled to the benefits of such Act.

Prospective investors must inform themselves as to (a) the legal requirements within their own countries for the purchase, holding, transfer or other disposal of shares; (b) any foreign exchange restrictions applicable to the purchase, holding, transfer or other disposal of shares which they might encounter; and (c) the income and other tax consequences which may apply in their own countries as a result of the purchase, holding, transfer or other disposal of shares.

## THE COMPANY

### Investment Policy and Strategy

- *Overview*

The Company's objective is long-term growth in income and capital through active multi-manager investment in global equities.

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

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

The Company invests its shareholders' funds primarily in individual companies across a broad spread of global equity markets. The objective is to profit from opportunities created by global economic growth and to outperform a representative equity benchmark, thereby generating long-term capital growth for shareholders, together with an income that rises faster than the rate of inflation. Investors should be aware that investments in financial instruments, markets and foreign exchanges, and the income from them can fall as well as rise and investors might not get back the amount originally invested.

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

- *Multi-manager approach*

As the Company's AIFM, WIS has responsibility for portfolio management and risk management of the Company's assets. WIS continues to follow the multi-manager approach which the Company adopted in 2004, in the belief that no single manager is likely to excel in all markets and at all points in the economic cycle. Employing managers to invest in their areas of greatest competence has the potential to improve returns and to reduce risk relative to using a single manager across the investment waterfront.

The approach is to blend different factors (such as quality, value or growth approaches and differing geographical exposure), aiming to profit from asset allocation and from managers' combined ability to outperform markets over time.

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

- Setting the overall investment objective;
- Selecting competent managers, who are expected to outperform a suitable benchmark relating to the investment remit;

- Operating appropriate portfolio, corporate governance and risk management arrangements for effective corporate management and to meet the requirements of the AIFMD;
- Adjusting asset allocation according to opportunities that arise;
- The judicious use of borrowings with the aim of adding to performance;
- Direct investment in funds exposed to specialist asset categories;
- Controlled and selective use of exchange-traded derivatives to adjust asset allocation;
- Clear communication of Witan's objective and its results to shareholders and potential investors; and
- Maintaining an effective system of risk management and corporate governance

The WIS Executive, seeks to add to the third party manager's performance by adjusting the level of gearing employed, by the selective use of exchange-traded derivatives to alter the asset allocation and by the use of specialist funds to gain exposure to areas viewed as offering attractive returns. These activities are overseen by the Board, with the Executive operating within delegated parameters that are periodically reviewed to take account of prevailing investment conditions. In essence, the Company seeks to have sufficient levers to pull to take advantage of investment opportunities that may arise, in addition to the total returns arising from the investment managers' portfolios, which are expected to be the most significant driver of the Company's performance.

#### **Investment restrictions and guidelines**

- *Benchmark*

The Company's benchmark is a combination of global equity markets, which reflect the investment universe from which most of the portfolio holdings are chosen. Since January 2017 the benchmark (based on the FTSE All -World indices) is:

- 30% UK
- 25% North America
- 20% Europe ex-UK
- 20% Asia Pacific (including Japan)
- 5% Emerging Markets

Witan announced changes to its benchmark in December 2016, the UK weighting reduced from 40% to 30%, with the North American component rising from 20% to 25% and a 5% Emerging Markets weighting introduced. The weightings in Asia Pacific and Europe ex-UK remain at 20% each.

This reflects an investment policy that is designed to access a comprehensive range of investment opportunities in the global economy.

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

▪ *Investment Restrictions*

The Company is managed in compliance with the statutory investment restrictions included in sections 1158-59 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 ensuring that the Company continues to qualify as an investment trust.

The Company and WIS apply investment restrictions at the micro level to the individual external portfolio management firms to ensure that the investment portfolio is appropriately diversified and liquid. The restrictions vary for each portfolio manager but impose controls, inter alia, on the following:

- the percentage of the market value of the Investment Portfolio that may be invested in the shares of any one company;
- the percentage of the issued share capital of an issuer that can be held in the Investment Portfolio;
- the short sales of equity securities (which is not permitted).

### **Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive**

#### **Remuneration**

During the year ended 31 December 2016, WIS had 11 members of staff and directors. The total remuneration paid during this period was:

	Senior Management (9) £000	Staff (2) £000
Fixed remuneration	1,014	79
Variable remuneration	284	45
Total	1,298	124

WIS has only one AIF, the Company. Further details of the Company's Remuneration Policy for its directors are set out in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 45 to 55 of the 2016 Annual Report.

#### **Leverage**

▪ *Circumstances when the Company may use leverage*

The purpose of using leverage, through borrowing, known as gearing, is to improve (or "gear") returns for shareholders, by achieving investment returns higher than the interest cost of the borrowings. Accordingly, attention is paid to using a level of gearing appropriate for market conditions (put simply, borrowing more when markets are attractively valued and borrowing less at times when returns are expected to be poorer). In addition, a blend

of long-term and short-term borrowings is used, to balance the certainty of cost associated with locking in fixed rates for longer periods with the flexibility of using short-term facilities which can be readily repaid when they are not required.

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

- *Types and sources of leverage permitted*

As at 31 December 2016 the Company had £140 million of long-term debt, consisting of secured bond, fixed rate loan notes and preference share capital.

With effect from 13 February 2017 the Company also has a £125 million one-year facility (prior to this it was £75m), providing additional flexibility over the level of gearing, as well as enabling the Company to borrow in other currencies than sterling, if deemed appropriate. The Company may either invest its borrowings fully, or neutralise their effect with cash balances (or the sale of equity index futures) according to its assessment of the markets.

- *Restrictions on the use of leverage*

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

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

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

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

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

	Gross method %	Commitment method %
Maximum level	100	100
Actual level at 31 December 2016	10.3	13.3

The current difference between the two methods is that the Commitment Method allows certain exposures to be netted off (for example hedging, although currently this is not applicable) and projects what gearing would be if cash held at the year end were to be invested. The Gross Method produces a level in line with our own calculation, consistent with the actual historical numbers for gearing as defined on page 3 of the 2016 Annual Report.

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

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

The Company communicates leverage levels monthly to the Association of Investment Companies who publish the data via their Monthly Information Statistics reporting.

Additionally semi-annual reporting of gearing levels is provided via the Half Year Report and Accounts or the Annual Report and Accounts

### **Changes to the Company's investment policy**

As a closed-ended investment fund whose shares are admitted to the Official List under Chapter 15 of the Listing Rules, the Company is required to obtain the prior approval of its shareholders to any material change to its published investment policy. Accordingly, the Company will not make any material change to its published investment policy without the approval of its shareholders by ordinary resolution. The Company will announce any such change through a Regulatory Information Service. The Company's published investment policy is set out in the section entitled 'Investment policy' above.

Any change in investment strategy or investment policy which does not amount to a material change to its published investment policy may be made by the Company without shareholder approval.

### **Updates to this document**

The information contained within this document will be reviewed and updated (as necessary) at least annually in accordance with updated information in the Company's Annual Report.

### **Dividend policy**

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

The Company pays quarterly dividends in March, June, September and December.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY**

### **The AIFM**

The AIFM is Witan Investment Services Limited, a private limited company incorporated in England and Wales, having its registered office at 14 Queen Anne's Gate, London,

SW1H 9AA. It is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA Firm Reference No.: 446227).

The Company has appointed WIS as its AIFM with responsibility for, inter alia, portfolio and risk management of the assets of the Company. As part of the operation of a multi-manager approach, WIS does delegate certain portfolio management responsibilities to external portfolio managers.

The names of the third party investment managers are set out in the section on delegated functions later in this document.

### **Ongoing Charges and Costs**

The ongoing charges figure (“OCF”) (which is the recurring operating and investment management costs of the Company, expressed as a percentage of average net assets) was 0.75% excluding performance fees and 0.65% including performance fees for the year ended 2016. The lower figure including performance fees for 2016 arises because accruals for performance fee liabilities at the end of 2015 were reduced owing to some external managers’ underperformance in 2016. Further details and commentary regarding the OCF can be found in the Company’s 2016 annual report that may be accessed at [www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com).

The following fees noted are included within the OCF.

### ***Fees payable to the AIFM***

The AIFM receives an annual management fee in respect of the services it provides.

### **The Depositary**

The Depositary is BNP Paribas Securities Services, London Branch, registered at the Companies Register of Paris under number 552 108 011, whose registered office is at 3, rue d’Antin, 75002 Paris, France and acting through its London branch whose office is at 10 Harewood Avenue, London, NW1 6AA .

### ***Description of the duties of the Depositary***

The Company has appointed the Depositary, under the AIFMD, to undertake various functions including safekeeping of assets and the monitoring of cashflows, changes in issued share capital and the valuation of assets.

### ***Liability of the Depositary***

The Depositary has not entered into any arrangement contractually to discharge itself of liability in accordance with Article 21(13) or 21(14). We will notify shareholders of any changes with respect to the discharge by the Depositary of its liability in accordance with Article 21(13) or 21(14) through a Regulatory Information Service.

The Depositary may delegate its safekeeping function in relation to the Company’s assets to sub-custodians (predominantly within its own custody network).

### ***Fees of the Depositary***



The Depository receives annual fees, payable quarterly in arrears, equal to approximately 0.01% of the assets under management of the Company.

**The Auditor**

Grant Thornton UK LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (OC307742) having its registered office at Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP.

***Description of the duties of the Auditor***

Grant Thornton UK LLP independently reviews and expresses an opinion on the financial statements of the Company

***Fees payable to the Auditor***

The fees charged by the Auditor depends on the services provided, computed, inter alia, on the time spent by the Auditors on the affairs of the Company. The Audit fees amounted to £51,000 (plus VAT) in respect of the year ended 31 December 2016.

Other non-audit fees incurred in respect of tax services provided by Grant Thornton UK LLP amounted to £11,000 (plus VAT) for the year ended 31 December 2016.

**The Registrar**

Computershare Investor Services PLC, a public limited company registered in England and Wales (03498808) having its registered office at The Pavillions, Bridgwater Road, Bristol, BS99 6ZZ

***The duties of the Registrar***

The Registrar maintains the share register of the Company and is responsible for dividend payments. All administrative enquiries concerning shareholdings, dividend payments, change of address or lost certificates should be addressed to the Company's Registrar.

***Fees payable to the Registrar***

The fees payable to the Registrar are calculated as, inter alia, a multiple of the number of shareholders admitted to the register each year plus a number of share transfers made each year. For the year end 31 December 2016 these fee amounted to £72,000 (plus VAT).

**Delegation of functions by the AIFM**

Although WIS manages part of the Company's portfolio internally, in respect of the balance it operates a multi-manager approach and information on each of the delegates is set out below. It is not expected that any conflicts of interest will arise as a result of such delegation. WIS will review and monitor delegates throughout their appointment.

Each of the delegated managers is entitled to a base management fee rate, levied on the assets under management, and in some cases a performance fee, calculated according

to investment performance relative to an appropriate benchmark. Further details can be found in the Company's latest annual report that may be accessed at [www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com).

<b>Name of Delegate</b>	<b>State in which established</b>	<b>Regulatory Status</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Artemis Investment Management LLP	UK	Authorised and regulated by the FCA	UK Equity Portfolio
GQG Partners LLC	USA	Regulated by the SEC	Emerging Markets Portfolio
Heronbridge Investment Management LLP	UK	Authorised and regulated by the FCA	UK Equity Portfolio
Lansdowne Partners (UK) LLP	UK	Authorised and regulated by the FCA	Global Equity Portfolio
Lindsell Train Limited	UK	Authorised and regulated by the FCA	UK Equity Portfolio
Marathon Asset Management LLP	UK	Authorised and regulated by the FCA	Pan-European Equity Portfolio
Matthews International Capital Management LLC	USA	Regulated by the SEC	Asia Pacific
Pzena Investment Management, LLC	USA	Regulated by the SEC	Global Equity Portfolio
Veritas Asset Management LLP	UK	Authorised and regulated by the FCA	Global Equity Portfolio

#### **The Company Secretary**

Frostrow Capital LLP, a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (OC323835) having its registered office at 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2A 1AL.

### **SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION**

#### **Annual Reports and Accounts**

This document is issued by Witan Investment Services Limited of 14 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA, which is registered in England no.5272533. Witan Investment Services Limited provides investment products and services and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

V.July 2017

Copies of the Company's latest annual and interim reports may be accessed at [www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com).

#### **Publication of net asset values**

The latest net asset value of the Company is published through an RNS daily and is also readily accessible on the Company's website [www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com).

#### **Valuation Policy**

The Company's AIFM, WIS, acts as its "own valuer" and valuation is undertaken by the risk committee such that valuation is confirmed independently of the portfolio managers and is conducted with due skill, care and diligence. In so doing, WIS uses information provided by BNP Paribas Securities Services (BNPSS), the administrator to the Company, and other independent sources in order to verify the valuations. At least once each year WIS will undertake a full in-depth review of the value of the underlying assets of Witan.

In addition to the formal valuation noted above and annual check by the auditors, WIS, arranges for regular (generally daily) net asset values to be prepared independently by BNPSS (using independent pricing sources and custodian and transaction records) and regularly checks the releases, in addition to the internal checks made by the service provider.

The net asset value is published through an RNS daily and is also readily accessible on the Company's website [www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com).

#### **Historical performance of the Company**

Details of the Company's historical financial performance are provided in the Company's annual reports and accounts and monthly factsheets, which are available at [www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com).

***Investors should note that past performance of the Company is not a guide to future performance. Investors may not get back the amount invested.***

#### **Purchases and sales of shares by investors**

The Company's shares are admitted to the Official List of the UKLA and to trading on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. Accordingly, the Company's shares may be purchased and sold on the main market of the London Stock Exchange.

The Company's shares can also be held in the investment savings plans which are managed by its AIFM, WIS. More information on the Witan Wisdom and Jump Savings plans can be accessed at [www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com).

The Company has shareholder authority to buy back shares, shareholders do not have the right to have their shares purchased by the Company. As well as the option to cancel shares bought back, the Company also has the authority to buy shares into Treasury, for possible reissuance in the event of the shares moving to premium. Shares will only be resold from Treasury at (or at a premium to) the net asset value per ordinary share. Additionally the Company has shareholder approval to issue shares, up to 10% of the

starting total, provided that such shares are issued at or at a premium to the net asset value per ordinary share.

#### **Fair treatment of investors**

The legal and regulatory regime to which the Company, its AIFM, WIS, and their Directors are subject ensures the fair treatment of investors. The Listing Rules require that the Company treats all shareholders of the same class of shares equally.

In particular, as directors of a company incorporated in the United Kingdom, the Directors have certain statutory duties under the Companies Act 2006 with which they must comply. These include a duty upon each Director to act in the way she or he considers, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole.

No investor has a right to obtain preferential treatment in relation to their investment in the Company and the Company does not give preferential treatment to any investors.

The shares rank *Pari Passu*.

#### **RISK FACTORS**

As investment trusts are publicly traded on any regulated market their price is determined by market factors, such as demand and supply between buyers and sellers. That price will not necessarily accurately reflect the underlying value of the fund's portfolio of investments (its 'net asset value' or 'NAV'). The share price may be higher than NAV, at a 'premium', or lower than NAV, at a 'discount'. Discounts and premiums may vary constantly. Although buying at a discount could be seen as value for money, there is no guarantee that the discount will narrow and there is a risk that it may widen further. Many factors influence the discount or premium and the discount or premium is only one of a number of factors to consider in assessing the merits of a potential investment.

Risks are inherent in investment and corporate management but it is important that their nature and magnitude is understood, in order that risks, particularly those which the AIFM and Company do not wish to take, can be identified and either avoided or controlled. The AIFM and Company have established a detailed framework of the key risks impinging on the business (principally investment, operational, financial and regulatory), with associated policies and processes devised to mitigate or manage those risks. This Risk Map is reviewed regularly by the Audit Committee along with the Risk Committee and updated as necessary.

The AIFM and Company key risks fall broadly under the following categories:

- Market and Investment portfolio risk:

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

The AIFM and Company seek to manage these risks through:

- appropriate asset allocation decisions, with a broadly diversified equity benchmark;
- attention to key economic and political events affecting the global stock market outlook;
- manager diversification and regular reviews of managers' competence;
- delegating authority to the executive management team to manage risk actively, whether to preserve capital or capitalise on opportunities;
- the application of relevant policies on gearing and liquidity;
- the use of share buybacks and issuance to respond to market supply and demand.

- Credit risk and Counterparty risk

The failure of the counterparty to a transaction to discharge its obligations under that transaction could result in the Company suffering a loss. The AIFM and Company manage this risk as follows:

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

- Liquidity risks

This is the risk that the Company will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with its financial liabilities. Liquidity risk is not significant as the majority of the Company's assets are investments in quoted equities and other quoted securities that are readily realisable. Please see the "Liquidity risk management" section below for further details.

- Operational risks

The AIFM and Company delegates to third parties the management of its investments and most of its other operations and employs only a small number of staff. The investment managers and certain other key contractors are subject to external regulation and most have compliance and internal audit functions of their own. The Company's investments are held on its behalf by a global custodian appointed by the depositary. A specialist firm

of investment accountants and administrators is responsible for investment administration, for maintaining accounting records and for preparing financial accounts, management accounts and other management information. Their work is reviewed by an independent accountant who also carries out some of the work that an internal audit function would cover. In addition, the AIFM and Company receives from the investment administrator an annual report on its internal controls, including a report from its auditor on the control policies and procedures in operation. The investment performance of the investment managers, both individually and collectively, is measured for Witan by a company that is independent of all the investment managers. The corporate Company Secretary is a company with well-established experience in servicing investment trusts. The appointment of these and other professional contractors provides a clear separation of duties and a structure of internal controls that is balanced and robust. The AIFM and Board continue to monitor its system of internal control in order to provide assurance that it operates as intended and the directors will review at least annually whether a function equivalent to an internal audit is needed.

As at 31 December 2016 the Company had no investments in securitisations. Any such investments in the future would only be made after proper consideration of the risks, including the nature of the assets securitised, the degree of leverage, liquidity and any counterparty risk.

*Details of the Company's key risks are also set out in the Company's annual report and accounts, which may be accessed at the Company's website ([www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com)).*

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **Risk profile**

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 those highlighted in the section entitled "Risk Factors" above: namely, market risk, currency risk, over-commitment risk, liquidity risk, credit risk and interest rate risk.

The AIFM assesses the sensitivity of the Company's portfolio to the most relevant risks to which the Company is or could be exposed on an ongoing basis.

The Company will periodically disclose the current risk profile of the Company to investors. The Company will make this disclosure on its website at the same time as it makes its annual report and accounts available to investors or more frequently at its discretion.

### **Risk management systems**

The Company's key risks are monitored by the AIFM on an ongoing basis and by the Board on a regular basis. The AIFM'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 risk management systems which the AIFM employs to manage the risks which are most relevant to the Company will be disclosed periodically to investors by disclosure in the Company's annual report and accounts or more frequently at the AIFM's discretion.

### **Liquidity risk management**

The AIFM has a liquidity management policy in relation to the Company which is intended to ensure that the Company's investment portfolio maintains a level of liquidity which is appropriate to the Company's obligations. This policy involves an assessment by the AIFM of the prices or values at which it expects to be able to liquidate its assets over varying hypothetical periods in varying market conditions, taking into account the sensitivity of particular assets to particular market risks and other relevant factors.

Shares in the Company are not redeemable and shareholders do not have the right to require their shares to be purchased by the Company. Accordingly, the liquidity management policy ensures that the Company's investment portfolio is sufficiently liquid to meet the following principal obligations:

- the Company's operating and financing expenses: in practice, these expenses are typically covered by dividends received from the Company's investments; and
- the possible need to repay borrowings at short notice, which would require to be met by the sale of assets.

The liquidity management policy requires the AIFM to identify and monitor its investment in asset classes which are considered to be relatively illiquid. Liquidity risk is not significant as the majority of the Company's assets are investments in quoted equities and other quoted securities that are readily realisable. The value of illiquid assets is typically immaterial in the context of the Company's net assets. This equity portfolio is monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that it is adequately diversified.

The liquidity management policy is reviewed and updated, as required, on at least an annual basis.

Investors will be notified, by way of a disclosure on its website, in the event of any material changes being made to the liquidity management systems and procedures or where any new arrangements for managing the Company's liquidity are introduced.

The Company will periodically disclose to investors the percentage of the Company's assets which are subject to special arrangements arising from their illiquid nature. The Company will make this disclosure on its website at the same time as it makes its annual report and accounts available to investors or more frequently at its discretion.

#### **Professional negligence liability risks**

The Company's AIFM, WIS, meets the AIFMD requirements in relation to potential professional liability risk by the retention of additional own funds. As prescribed by the AIFMD WIS retains additional own funds of 0.01% of the value of the Company's funds under management.