# **Aberdeen UK Equity Fund**

Interim short report for the six month period to 31 January 2014

# Investment objective and policy

The objective of the Fund is to provide capital growth through investment in companies registered in the United Kingdom, or companies which derive a significant proportion of their revenues or profits from the United Kingdom or have a significant proportion of their assets there.

# Cumulative performance (%)

	Period of report 31/07/2013 to 31/01/2014	5 Years 31/01/2009 to 31/01/2014	Since launch 12/08/1985 to 31/01/2014 <sup>8</sup>
Fund - A Accumulation	(4.02)	105.22	624.01
Benchmark <sup>A</sup>	1.09	100.91	N/A

# Annual discrete performance to 31 January

	31/01/2013 to	31/01/2012 to	31/01/2011 to	31/01/2010 to	31/01/2009 to
	31/01/2014	31/01/2013	31/01/2012	31/01/2011	31/01/2010
% change	6.66	16.52	2.28	21.19	33.24

Source: Lipper, Total Return, NAV to NAV, UK Net income reinvested, £.

Figures are as at valuation point.

Please remember that past performance is not a guide to future returns. The price of shares and the revenue from them may fall as well as rise. Investors may not get back the amount originally invested.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> FTSE All Share Index.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>B</sup> Figures for Aberdeen UK Growth Unit Trust prior to 16 December 2005.

#### Market review

UK equities rose amid increasing volatility in the six months under review, despite improvements in the domestic economy. Initially, sentiment was buoyant, boosted by better global macroeconomic conditions and loose monetary policy. Even the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) decision to taper quantitative easing was met with hope that America was recovering, which foreshadowed better earnings growth. Towards the period end, local equities were buffeted by familiar fears over a possible slowdown in China and its impact on emerging markets, while the Fed's move to cut asset purchases by US\$10 billion added further pressure. On the home front, economic growth continued to strengthen in tandem with healthier employment data, which appears set to fall below 7%, well ahead of the Bank of England's expectations. However, the central bank's pledge to keep policy accommodative helped underpin investor sentiment.

#### Portfolio review

At the stock level, our holdings in Wood Group and Pearson proved costly. Wood Group detracted from performance following a muted trading update, particularly in its engineering division, due to project delays and weakness in Canada. Meanwhile, Pearson was hampered by continuously falling enrolments at US colleges on the back of cuts in public budgets, combined with internal restructuring towards more digital and integrated education services that require initial investment but with no immediate returns. Conversely, we benefited from our holdings in Associated British Foods and The Sage Group. Associated British Foods reported better-than-expected results in its sugar business and Primark continued to grow strongly. In addition, The Sage Group's full-year numbers showed evidence that management's long-term growth strategy had gained traction, while good progress was also made in rolling out a subscription-based pricing model.

In portfolio activity, we initiated and continued adding to the position in Inmarsat since July. The company is the leading global mobile satellite services provider, which enjoys strong barriers to entry and benefits from growing demand for data and connectivity. We also added to some core holdings, including Standard Chartered, Unilever and Rolls-Royce, following relative price weakness. Against this, we sold National Grid in light of better opportunities given its low growth prospects. We also trimmed Cobham, GKN and Schroder, along with Amec, after its good share price performance and are cognisant of its aspiration to acquire complementary businesses.

#### **Outlook**

We believe that earnings have the potential to recover and this should be supportive of UK equities, given the accommodative monetary policies of major central banks that have underpinned the macroeconomic environment. In the UK, the reliance on the housing market and higher consumer borrowings to boost GDP growth has to give way to rising wages and a rebalancing of the economy in order for the recovery to be more sustainable. Although valuations are now less appealing on an absolute basis, they remain attractive relative to other asset classes. Britain is home to many good quality companies with strong competitive positions, robust balance sheets and attractive long-term growth prospects. Despite the difficulty in predicting the vagaries of economic activity, we are nevertheless confident that our holdings can deliver attractive earnings growth over the longer term, based on our in-depth company analysis.

#### Portfolio breakdown

Portfolio of investments	As at 31 January 2014%	As at 31 July 2013%
Oil & Gas	13.89	14.99
Basic Materials	8.33	8.23
Industrials	15.26	15.22
Consumer Goods	13.99	13.99
Health Care	5.41	5.14
Consumer Services	11.62	12.20
Telecommunications	4.35	3.32
Utilities	3.19	3.58
Financials	16.24	17.19
Technology	3.84	2.72
Investment assets	96.12	96.58
Net other assets	3.88	3.42
Net assets	100.00	100.00

#### **Fund facts**

	Interim/annual accounting dates	Income payment dates
	31 January, 31 July	30 April, 31 October
	Ongoing charges figure %	Ongoing charges figure %
	as at 31/01/2014	as at 31/07/2013
Share class A	1.62	1.60

The ongoing charges figure is calculated in accordance with the guidelines issued by the European Securities and Markets Authority. It is the ratio of the total ongoing charges to the average net asset value over twelve months and includes the annual management charge, the other operating expenses and any synthetic element to incorporate the ongoing charges of any underlying collective investments.

# **Distribution summary**

	Total distribution (p) for the period to 31/01/2014	Total distribution (p) for the period to 31/01/2013
Share class A - Income	0.4700	0.5400
Share class I - Income	1.0100	0.9600
Share class A - Accumulation	0.5499	0.6225
Share class I - Accumulation	1.2347	1.1484

Distributions in respect of the Fund come with a tax credit of 1/9th of the amount stated. UK higher and additional rate taxpayers not holding through an ISA may have additional income to pay. Non taxpayers are not entitled to a refund of the 1/9th tax credit. Distributons received by corporate investors are subject to the corporate streaming rules.

# **Performance summary**

	Net asset value as at 31/01/2014 pence per share	Net asset value as at 31/07/2013 pence per share	Net asset value % change
Share class A - Income	136.44	141.79	(3.78)
Share class I - Income	136.29	141.65	(3.78)
Share class A - Accumulation	160.20	165.90	(3.44)
Share class I - Accumulation	167.85	173.17	(3.07)

Net of tax and expenses.

#### Performance record

Calendar year		Highest share price (p)	Lowest share price (p)
2009	Income A	97.90	61.30
2009	Income I	97.96	61.22
2009	Accumulation A	107.01	65.76
2009	Accumulation I	109.48	67.01
2010 <sup>AB</sup>	Income A	115.78	91.68
2010 <sup>B</sup>	Income I	115.84	91.76
2010 <sup>AB</sup>	Accumulation A	129.01	100.82
2010 <sup>AB</sup>	Accumulation I	132.64	103.41
2011	Income A	120.65	98.12
2011	Income I	120.76	98.08
2011	Accumulation A	134.89	111.08
2011	Accumulation I	139.06	114.65

Calendar year		Highest share price (p)	Lowest share price (p)
2012	Income A	122.97	108.09
2012	Income I	123.13	108.14
2012	Accumulation A	141.75	123.06
2012	Accumulation I	147.29	127.44
2013	Income A	145.71	124.15
2013	Income I	145.88	124.34
2013	Accumulation A	169.36	143.11
2013	Accumulation I	177.11	148.74
2014 <sup>c</sup>	Income A	144.72	136.02
2014 <sup>c</sup>	Income I	145.10	136.41
2014 <sup>c</sup>	Accumulation A	169.33	159.16
2014 <sup>c</sup>	Accumulation I	177.39	166.77

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>^</sup> Aberdeen UK Opportunities Fund, a sub-fund of Aberdeen Investment Funds ICVC amalgamated into the Fund on 12 March 2010.

# Risk and reward profile

The Risk and Reward Indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the Risk and Reward Indicator.

Typically lower rewards, lower risk			Typically higher rewards, higher risk				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Risk and reward indicator table as at 31 January 2014.

- This Fund is ranked at 6 because funds of this type have experienced high rises and falls in value in the past.
- Please note that even the lowest risk class can lose you money and that extreme market circumstances can mean you suffer severe losses in all cases.
- A full list of risks applicable to this Fund can be found in the Prospectus.
- The latest risk and reward profile can be found on the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) for this Fund which is available on our website at www.aberdeen-asset.co.uk

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>B</sup> The Fund changed its name on 12 March 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> to 31 January 2014.

#### Other information

#### **Initial Charge**

On 17 February 2014 the initial charge was removed from Aberdeen UK Equity Fund. This change reflects a movement in the UK funds' industry towards increased transparency of fund charges and associated costs.

#### Literature and Fund information

Our website contains a wealth of information on our funds and investment approach, including Key Investor Information Documents (KIIDs) for all of the funds available for investment. We also publish Supplementary Information Documents (SIDs) which contain Application forms and additional information, such as Terms and Conditions.

You can invest online and access fund performance and pricing information.

Please visit:

www.aberdeen-asset.co.uk www.aberdeenukprices.com

Alternatively please contact our Customer Services Team on:

Tel: 0845 300 2890

Email: customer.services@aberdeen-asset.com

### Report and accounts

Copies of the annual and half-yearly long form report and accounts for this Fund are available free of charge on request to Aberdeen Fund Managers Limited.

Aberdeen UK Equity Fund is a sub-fund of Aberdeen Investment Funds ICVC, an open-ended investment company ('OEIC') authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Aberdeen Fund Managers Limited only provides information about its own products and will not give individual financial advice. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of a product to meet your financial needs, then you should seek the advice of a financial intermediary.

The information in this report is designed to enable shareholders to make an informed judgement on the activities of the Fund during the period it covers, and the results of those activities at the end of the period. The naming of specific shares or bonds is not a recommendation to deal in them. The views expressed are those of Aberdeen Fund Managers Limited and should not be construed as advice either to buy, retain, or sell a particular investment. Investment in the Fund should generally be viewed as a long-term investment.

### **Appointments**

### **Authorised Corporate Director**

Aberdeen Fund Managers Limited

#### **Head Office**

10 Queens Terrace

Aberdeen

AB10 1YG

#### **Registered Office**

**Bow Bells House** 

1 Bread Street

London

EC4M 9HH

### Depositary

National Westminster Bank Plc Trustee & Depositary Services

Younger Building

3 Redheughs Avenue

Edinburgh

EH12 9RH

#### Auditors

KPMG Audit PLC

Saltire Court

20 Castle Terrace

Edinburgh

EH12EG

### Registrar

International Financial Data Services (UK) Limited

IFDS House

St. Nicholas Lane

Basildon

Essex

SS16 5FS

(the register of shareholders can be inspected at

this address)

#### Contact us

#### Phone

(Lines are open 9:00am to 5:00pm, Mondays

to Fridays, excluding bank holidays)

Dealing 0800 833 580 Customer Services 0845 300 2890 Broker Desk 0800 592 487

#### Post

All enquiries Aberdeen Fund Managers Limited, PO Box 9029, Chelmsford, CM99 2WI

For more information on Aberdeen Asset Management PLC and our product range please visit www.aberdeen-asset.com



