# **VT DOWNING INVESTOR FUNDS ICVC**

(Sub-funds VT Downing Global Investors Fund, VT Downing Unique Opportunities Fund, VT Downing European Unconstrained Income Fund and VT Downing Listed Infrastructure Income Fund)

Interim Report and Financial Statements (Unaudited)
For the period ended 31 December 2023

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### **COMPANY OVERVIEW**

## Type of Company

VT Downing Investor Funds ICVC (the Company) is an investment company with variable capital incorporated in England and Wales under the OEIC Regulations with registered number IC024590 and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (PRN: 921279) pursuant to an authorisation order dated 17 February 2020. The Company has an unlimited duration.

The Company is a UCITS scheme and is an umbrella company (as defined in the OEIC Regulations). Each Sub-fund would be a UCITS scheme if it had a separate authorisation order.

Shareholders are not liable for the debts of the Company.

### STATEMENT OF THE AUTHORISED FUND MANAGER'S (AFM's) RESPONSIBILITIES

The rules of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook require the Authorised Fund Manager to prepare financial statements for each accounting period which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company at the end of the financial period and its net revenue/(expenses) and net capital gains/(losses) for the period. In preparing these financial statements the Authorised Fund Manager is required to:

- > comply with the Prospectus, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014, the Instrument of Incorporation, generally accepted accounting principles and applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures which are required to be disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- > select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- > make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- > prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

The Authorised Fund Manager is required to keep proper accounting records and to manage the Company in accordance with the COLL regulations, the Instrument of Incorporation, and the Prospectus. The Authorised Fund Manager is responsible for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### Going Concern

The Authorised Fund Manager has considered a detailed assessment of the Company and its Sub-funds' ability to meet their liabilities as they fall due, including liquidity, declines in global capital markets and investor redemption levels. Based on this assessment the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis with the exception of VT Downing Listed Infrastructure Income Fund. The Authorised Fund Manager intends to terminate the VT Downing Listed Infrastructure Income Fund, following FCA approval to commence the termination of this Sub-fund on 01 February 2024, and therefore does not consider it to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements for this Sub-fund. This Sub-fund is in the process of terminating and the financial statements have been prepared on a basis other than going concern. Under this basis the Authorised Fund Manager is required to consider whether any investments should be adjusted to net realisable value, where the change in status of the Sub-fund will result in restrictions to the realisable value. The Authorised Fund Manager is also required to make provision for any contractual commitments that have become onerous at the balance sheet date. In the application of this policy there has been no impact on the valuation and recognition of the Sub-fund's assets and liabilities. Furthermore the financial statements do not include any provision for the future costs of winding up the business of the Sub-fund except to the extent that such costs were committed at the balance sheet date.

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Scheme's Sourcebook, we hereby certify the interim report.

David E. Smith CA

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited Authorised Fund Manager

Date

### SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Name of Sub-fund VT Downing Global Investors Fund

**Size of Sub-fund** £30,961,870

Launch date 24 March 2020

income over the long term (5 + years).

The Sub-fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing at least 70% in equities across global markets (with up to 20% invested in higher risk

emerging markets).

The Sub-fund may also invest in government securities, fixed income, collective investment schemes (which may include those managed and/or operated by the AFM and which will provide exposure to various asset classes including equities and fixed income), money market instruments,

deposits, cash and near cash.

The Sub-fund will be actively managed.

Save as noted above, the Sub-fund will not have any particular geographic, industry or economic sector focus and as such weightings in these may vary

as required.

**Derivatives**The Sub-fund may hold derivatives for Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM)

purposes (including hedging). It is not intended that the use of derivatives for

EPM purposes will increase the risk profile of the Sub-fund.

Performance Comparator: The Sub-fund is not managed to or constrained by a benchmark, and nor

does the AFM use a benchmark in order to assess performance.

However, many funds sold in the UK are grouped into sectors by the Investment Association (the "IA") (the trade body that represents UK investment managers), to help investors to compare funds with broadly

similar characteristics.

In order to assess the Sub-fund's performance, investors may find it useful to compare the Sub-fund against the performance of the IA Global Sector, which serves as a method of comparing the Sub-fund's performance with

other funds which have broadly similar characteristics.

Annual accounting date 30 June Interim accounting date 31 December

Annual income allocation date By 31 August

Interim income allocation dates By last day of February

Share classes: Class A (Accumulation)

Class A (Income)

Class F (Accumulation)<sup>1</sup>
Class F (Income)<sup>1</sup>

1 Class F shares are only available to those who invest at launch of the Sub-fund (or otherwise at the AFM's discretion)

## **SUB-FUND OVERVIEW (continued)**

Minimum investment\*

Lump sum subscription: Class A: £1,000

Class F: £1,000,000

**Top-up:** Class A: £100

Class F: £1,000

Holding: Class A: £1,000

Class F: £1,000,000

Regular saving: £100 per month

**Redemption/switching:** N/A (provided minimum holding is maintained)

Initial, redemption and switching charges\*: Nil

\*The AFM may waive the minimum levels (and initial charge and redemption charge) at its discretion.

### Annual management charges

The annual management charges are £30,000^ per annum plus

Class A - 0.75% per annum Class F - 0.60% per annum

The above percentages being percentages of the net asset value of the Sub-fund attributable to the relevant class (plus VAT if applicable).

^The fixed element of the fee shall rise annually in line with the rate of inflation (calculated in accordance with the Consumer Prices Index) on 1 January each year (from 1 January 2021)). In the event of negative inflation, this fee will remain unchanged.

### **INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REVIEW**

Good riddance to 2023 - it was a ghastly year for top-down thematic investors. We apologise to our investors for a disappointing return over much of the year, saved only by a useful recovery in November and December. For the six months under review, the fund returned 0.6% (Class F (Accumulation)), some way behind the IA Global sector return of 5.8%. Over this period, the 30-year US treasury rate (a major indicator of the cost of global money) rose from around 3.8% in the beginning of July, to just over 5% by the end of October. As inflationary pressures have subsided, so that rate has dropped back to around 4.0% currently. Such is the relevance of interest rates at times of their changing (as opposed to when they are more stable) that global stock markets were broadly weak over the period of rising rates and have been much better since. The significant rise in interest rates during the year caused a substantial relative rerating of many sectors, triggering messy patterns and creating few enduring investment themes to engage with. Many sectors of activity and many regions of the world had brief periods in which they were wanted by investors before attention switched elsewhere. The good simply neutralised the bad and each became the other. In our view, as interest rates may now have normalised, conditions for thematic investment may well improve markedly now.

The fund currently has meaningful exposures to energy transition and electrification, the healthcare industry (one of the worst performers in 2023), across the technology sector, and media and consumer brands (another lemon last year). More recently, on the view that the interest rate cycle may be stabilising, we have increased exposure to infrastructure (air and seaports), property (mostly goods and data warehouses), and related logistics. Geographically the fund is invested by listing, approximately 20% India, 35% USA, 35% Europe, and 10% Japan and other regions.

So where next? Anecdotally, we are seeing a subtle change in market dynamics from one where any slight miss in reported results against expectations causes a massive sell-off, to one in which sell-offs are less dramatic. In some cases, reports of a slowdown or a fall in sales can be rewarded with a sharp rise in share prices if there is any hint of better conditions to come. The result of those two behaviours reflects a modestly improved market mindset in our view and implies that the rerating of asset prices to higher interest rates is a mature process. At the same time, we are aware of a number of businesses in mostly consumer-facing areas reporting flagging demand growth, or outright sales declines. That, together with falling inflation figures, implies that short-term interest rate hikes by central bankers have tempered levels of demand and that possibly a mild recession in the major Western economies is already under way. That tallies with falling longer-term rates. We are also aware of some capex businesses, particularly in technology areas, noting or anticipating higher levels of spend (recovery).

All of these signals taken together, if we are interpreting them correctly, imply markets are beginning to get back to pricing future returns after a prolonged period derating against higher, or perhaps normalising, interest rates.

Downing LLP Investment Manager to the Fund 14 February 2024

Class F (Acc	umulation)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
Changes in ne	et assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
Grianiges in the	Opening net asset value per share	146.8320	142.7194	160.5036
	Return before operating charges	1.7695	5.3142	(16.6016)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.8983)	(1.2016)	(1.1826)
	Return after operating charges *	0.8712	4.1126	(17.7842)
	Closing net asset value per share	147.7032	146.8320	142.7194
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	0.9093	3.6145	3.1276
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.5596	0.8976	0.7581
Performance				
	Return after charges	0.59%	2.88%	(11.08%)
Other informa	tion			
	Closing net asset value	£29,869,051	£34,053,902	£31,379,059
	Closing number of shares	20,222,341	23,192,429	21,986,538
	Operating charges (note 2)	1.22%	0.83%	0.78%
	Direct transaction costs	0.38%	0.62%	0.50%
Prices				
	Highest share price	148.7827	157.4504	182.2584
	Lowest share price	136.4570	139.8672	141.6382
Class F (Inco	ome)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
Changes in ne	et assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
_	Opening net asset value per share	123.2627	122.7998	141.0638
	Return before operating charges	1.3696	4.5757	(14.4944)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.6593)	(1.0212)	(1.0291)
	Return after operating charges *	0.7103	3.5545	(15.5235)
	Distribution on income shares	(0.7647)	(3.0916)	(2.7405)
	Closing net asset value per share	123.2083	123.2627	122.7998
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.4683	0.7628	0.6597
Performance				
	Return after charges	0.58%	2.89%	(11.00%)
Other informa				<u>.</u>
	Closing net asset value	£1,060,736	£1,063,275	£1,100,257

860,929

1.07%

0.38%

124.9008

114.5335

862,609

0.83%

0.62%

135.4838

118.8253

Closing number of shares

Direct transaction costs

Highest share price

Lowest share price

Prices

Operating charges (note 2)

895,976

0.78%

0.50%

160.1871

122.7998

Class A (Accu	umulation)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
Changes in ne	t assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	99.0525	96.4261	108.6036
	Return before operating charges	1.1233	3.5842	(11.2241)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.6058)	(0.9578)	(0.9534)
	Return after operating charges *	0.5175	2.6264	(12.1775)
	Closing net asset value per share	99.5700	99.0525	96.4261
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	0.6148	2.4396	2.1140
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.3774	0.6060	0.5126
Performance				
	Return after charges	0.52%	2.72%	(11.21%)
Other informat	ion			
	Closing net asset value	£61,747	£63,366	£59,534
	Closing number of shares	62,014	63,972	61,740
	Operating charges (note 2)	1.22%	0.98%	0.93%
	Direct transaction costs	0.38%	0.62%	0.50%
Prices				
	Highest share price	100.3610	106.3506	123.2542
	Lowest share price	92.0078	94.3935	95.6980

### **Risk Profile**

Based on past data, the Sub-fund is ranked a '6' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (30 June 2023: ranked 6). The Sub-fund is ranked 6 because historical performance data indicates that significant rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

<sup>1.</sup> The operating charges per share figure is calculated by applying the operating charges percentage to the average net asset valuation per share throughout the period.

<sup>2.</sup> The ongoing charges figure is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund.

as at 51 Dec	ember 2023		
Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Communications (30.06.2023: 2.08%)		
1.848	Alphabet Inc	203,325	0.66%
	Meta Platforms Inc	231,932	0.75%
6,000	Nintendo Co Ltd	244,418	0.79%
37,500	Vivendi SE	316,247	1.02%
		995,922	3.22%
4 000	Consumer Discretionary (30.06.2023: 10.48%)	040 507	0.700/
,	Amazon.com Inc	216,587	0.70%
	Arcos Dorados Holdings Inc	210,900	0.68%
	Booking Holdings Inc	178,285	0.58%
	EssilorLuxottica SA Exide Industries Ltd	134,102	0.43%
,		164,547 242,078	0.53% 0.78%
	Frasers Group PLC InterContinental Hotels Group PLC	142,280	0.46%
-	Jubilant Foodworks Ltd	132,901	0.43%
•	Lululemon Athletica Inc	255,636	0.43%
	Lupin Ltd	249,559	0.81%
	Mercadolibre Inc	186,134	0.60%
	Pandora A/S	261,500	0.84%
•	Restaurant Brands International Inc	199,705	0.65%
	Sony Corp	222,251	0.72%
	Stride Inc	121,112	0.39%
	Titan Company Ltd	277,684	0.90%
	TJX Companies Inc	218,391	0.71%
	Wesfarmers Ltd	136,230	0.44%
		3,549,882	11.48%
	O		
0.000	Consumer Staples (30.06.2023: 17.68%)	450.450	0.540/
	AAK AB (publ)	159,156	0.51%
•	Associated British Foods PLC	281,792	0.91%
•	Beiersdorf AG	235,165	0.76%
	Britannia Industries Ltd	144,360	0.47%
	Colgate-Palmolive Co Hindustan Foods Ltd	248,718	0.80% 0.42%
	ITC Ltd	131,379 156,800	0.42%
	Jyothy Labs Ltd	315,390	1.02%
•	LOreal SA	363,733	1.17%
	Patanjali Foods Ltd	118,199	0.38%
	Unilever PLC	136,908	0.44%
-	Varun Beverages Ltd	338,180	1.09%
•	Wilmar International Ltd	137,642	0.44%
00,000	William McMatorial Eta	2,767,422	8.92%
		, ,	
	Commodity & Energy (30.06.2023: 2.30%)		
		-	-
	Energy (30.06.2023: 0.00%)		
14.768	Aegis Logistics Ltd	49,010	0.16%
,	Avance Gas Holding Ltd	199,466	0.64%
	Cameco Corp (CAD)	471,604	1.52%
	Cheniere Energy Inc	218,525	0.71%
	Reliance Industries Ltd	158,466	0.51%
5,127	TotalEnergies SE	274,912	0.89%
		1,371,983	4.43%

Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Financials (30.06.2023: 0.84%)		
12 000	Central Depository Services (India) Ltd	206,621	0.67%
	Exor NV	133,319	0.43%
,	Intermediate Capital Group PLC	296,918	0.96%
	Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd	128,794	0.42%
	Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd	285,741	0.92%
	Partners Group Holding AG	301,426	0.97%
	Punjab & Sind Bank	121,567	0.39%
	Talanx AG	184,117	0.59%
0,000	Talah NG	1,658,503	5.35%
	Health Care (30.06.2023: 10.23%)		
16 000	Bonesupport Holding AB	237,041	0.77%
	Demant A/S	137,923	0.45%
	Eli Lilly and Co	305,882	0.43%
	Laboratorios Farmaceuticos ROVI SA	158,645	0.51%
	Mckesson Corp	215,505	0.70%
	Novo Nordisk A/S	515,395	1.66%
,	RaySearch Laboratories AB (publ)	125,717	0.41%
	Stryker Corp	194,153	0.63%
	Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc	130,598	0.42%
_	Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc	273,241	0.42%
	Ypsomed Holding AG	144,977	0.47%
	Zealand Pharma A/S	211,685	0.68%
	Zoetis Inc	128,156	0.41%
020	20013 1110	2,778,918	8.98%
	Industrials (30.06.2023: 24.53%)		
27 000	Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd	260,852	0.84%
•	AP Moeller - Maersk A/S	185,015	0.60%
	BAE Systems PLC	166,500	0.54%
	Cintas Corp	207,507	0.67%
	Container Corporation of India Ltd	176,430	0.57%
	Copart Inc	203,386	0.66%
	Diploma PLC	143,680	0.46%
	Eaton Corporation PLC	151,208	0.49%
	Fastenal Co	188,203	0.49%
	Fluence Energy Inc	202,333	0.65%
	Fraport AG Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide	202,333 142,715	0.65%
	Godrej Industries Ltd	237,379	0.46%
	Ingersoll Rand Inc	140,396	0.45%
	International Container Terminal Services Inc	170,889	0.45%
	Itochu Corp	255,161	0.82%
	Jungfraubahn Holding AG	167,342	0.54%
	KEI Industries Ltd	241,492	0.78%
	Mota Engil SGPS SA	120,907	0.78%
	Nkt A/S	162,808	0.53%
,	Parker-Hannifin Corp	251,289	0.81%
	Polycab India Ltd	233,517	0.75%
	Quanta Services Inc	315,077	
	Relx PLC	172,527	1.02% 0.56%
	Schneider Electric SE	·	
•		205,730	0.66%
,	Thales SA Toyota Toyota Corp	149,510 275,382	0.48%
	Toyota Tsusho Corp	275,382	0.89%
	Trane Technologies PLC	133,971	0.43%
	VAT Group AG	142,191	0.46%
	Vertiv Holdings Co	130,581	0.42%
	Vinci SA	307,338	0.99%
03,000	Volex PLC	266,015 6 107 331	0.86%
		6,107,331	19.71%

Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Information Technology (30.06.2023: 20.00%)		
304	Adobe Systems Inc	142,097	0.46%
	Advanced Micro Devices Inc	151,722	0.49%
•	Akamai Technologies Inc	186,750	0.60%
	Amphenol Corp	140,451	0.45%
	Apple Inc	129,094	0.42%
	Applied Materials Inc	168,939	0.55%
	Arista Networks Inc	196,524	0.63%
,	ASML Holding NV	160,942	0.52%
	BE Semiconductor Industries NV	262,123	0.85%
•	Broadcom Inc	216,522	0.70%
	Cadence Design Systems Inc	175,581	0.70%
	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·	0.65%
	CrowdStrike Holdings Inc	200,889	
	Dassault Systemes SE	134,822	0.44%
	Fabrinet	208,453	0.67%
	Fair Isaac Corp	244,127	0.79%
	Hitachi Ltd	224,829	0.73%
	KLA Corp	137,942	0.45%
	Lam Research Corp	184,552	0.60%
	Lasertec Corp	205,705	0.66%
•	Logitech International SA	224,657	0.73%
	Mastercard Inc	228,926	0.74%
	Microsoft Corp	447,226	1.44%
286	Monolithic Power Systems Inc	141,746	0.46%
2,870	Nemetschek SE	195,493	0.63%
405	NVIDIA Corp	157,344	0.51%
1,080	Palo Alto Networks Inc	250,448	0.81%
1,250	Qualcomm Inc	143,052	0.46%
1,400	Qualys Inc	217,634	0.70%
24,250	Sage Group PLC	286,150	0.92%
3,000	Screen Holdings Co Ltd	198,055	0.64%
	Shopify Inc	155,135	0.50%
737	Super Micro Computer Inc	168,508	0.54%
	Zscaler Inc	149,661	0.48%
		6,436,099	20.79%
		-,,	
	Materials (30.06.2023: 7.42%)		
211.000	Alphamin Resources Corp	109,922	0.36%
	Cornish Metals Inc	97,375	0.31%
	Croda International PLC	131,924	0.43%
•	Fortescue Ltd	293,424	0.95%
	Givaudan SA	217,992	0.70%
	Glencore PLC	280,132	0.90%
•	Grasim Industries Ltd	130,962	0.42%
	Ivanhoe Mines Ltd	·	1.18%
-,	Sherwin-Williams Co	366,757 322,968	1.04%
		•	
	Sika AG	135,696 166,508	0.44%
	SOL SpA	•	0.54%
	TCPL Packaging Ltd	245,727	0.79%
	Vulcan Materials Co	230,536	0.74%
90,000	PCBL Ltd	213,386	0.69%
		2,943,309	9.49%

# **PORTFOLIO STATEMENT (Continued)**

As at 31 De	cember 2023		
Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Real Estate (30.06.2023: 3.11%)		
1,500	American Tower Corp	255,694	0.84%
9,500	Americold Realty Trust	227,934	0.74%
2,500	Digital Realty Trust Inc	266,999	0.86%
393	Equinix Inc	251,023	0.81%
17,000	Oberoi Realty Ltd	228,878	0.74%
6,500	Phoenix Mills Ltd	137,576	0.44%
33,500	SEGRO PLC	297,882	0.97%
		1,665,986	5.40%
	Utilities (30.06.2023: 0.67%)		
124.000	Gail (India) Ltd	189,526	0.61%
	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	200,946	0.65%
,		390,472	1.26%
	Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 99.34%)	30,665,827	99.03%
	Net other assets (30.06.2023: 0.66%)	296,043	0.97%
		30,961,870	100.00%

## **SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES**

Purchases	£
SEGRO PLC	665,796
Wacker Chemie AG	598,034
ASML Holding NV	597,438
Crocs Inc	582,858
Eramet SA	562,157
Fluence Energy Inc	550,307
Wilmar International Ltd	522,304
Parkway Life Real Estate Investment Trust	502,182
Reliance Industries Ltd	487,920
Vivendi SE	477,826
Other purchases	43,160,215
Total purchases for the period	48,707,037
Sales	£
Marubeni Corp	680,064
ASML Holding NV	650.023
•	650,023 640,952
Crocs Inc	640,952
Crocs Inc HALEON PLC	640,952 589,487
Crocs Inc HALEON PLC Fluence Energy Inc	640,952
Crocs Inc HALEON PLC Fluence Energy Inc Wacker Chemie AG	640,952 589,487 572,250 560,016
Crocs Inc HALEON PLC Fluence Energy Inc Wacker Chemie AG KRBL Ltd	640,952 589,487 572,250 560,016 550,614
ASML Holding NV Crocs Inc HALEON PLC Fluence Energy Inc Wacker Chemie AG KRBL Ltd Eramet SA Accenture PLC	640,952 589,487 572,250 560,016 550,614 527,490
Crocs Inc HALEON PLC Fluence Energy Inc Wacker Chemie AG KRBL Ltd Eramet SA Accenture PLC	640,952 589,487 572,250 560,016 550,614
Crocs Inc HALEON PLC Fluence Energy Inc Wacker Chemie AG KRBL Ltd Eramet SA	640,952 589,487 572,250 560,016 550,614 527,490 505,196

The above transactions represent the top 10 largest purchases and sales during the period.

### STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the six	month period ended 31 December	202	-	2022	
Income		£	£	£	£
	Net capital gains		217,010		637,376
	Revenue	241,330		447,619	
Expenses		(132,334)		(145,682)	
Interest pay	able and similar charges	366	_	(541)	
Net revenue	e before taxation	109,362		301,396	
Taxation		(213,998)	_	(54,594)	
Net (expens	ses)/revenue after taxation	-	(104,636)	_	246,802
Total return	before distributions		112,374		884,178
Finance cos	sts: distributions	-	(203,563)		(434,260)
_	n net assets attributable to ers from investment activities		(91,189)	_	449,918
STATEMEN	NT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATT	RIBUTABLE TO SH	AREHOLDERS		
For the six	month period ended 31 December				
			2023 £		2022 £
Opening ne	et assets attributable to shareholders		35,135,942		32,587,190
Amounts re	ceivable on creation of shares		224,689		5,517,802
Amounts pa	ayable on cancellation of shares		(4,494,520)		(1,694,473)
Dividend rei	invested		184,271		460,778
Dilution levi	es		2,677		5,898
	net assets attributable to shareholders fro activities (see above)	om	(91,189)		449,918
	t assets attributable to shareholders	<del>-</del>	30,961,870		37,327,113
Sideling file	t assets attributable to silal ciloidels	-	30,301,070		31,321,113

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives should be for the comparable interim period the net asset value at the end of the period will not agree to the net asset value at the start of the period. The Sub-funds net asset value as at 30 June 2023 was £35,135,942.

### **BALANCE SHEET**

As at	31.12.	2023	30.06.20	023
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Investment assets		30,665,827		34,902,795
Current assets				
Debtors	286,953		722,633	
Cash and bank balances	634,863		1,229,849	
Total current assets	-	921,816		1,952,482
Total assets		31,587,643		36,855,277
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Distribution payable on income shares	(196,941)		(12,950)	
Creditors	(428,832)		(1,706,385)	
Total current liabilities	-	(625,773)		(1,719,335)
Net assets attributable to shareholders	_	30,961,870		35,135,942

## **Accounting policies**

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 and are described in those financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 and the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017.

## **DISTRIBUTION TABLES**

## For the period ended 31 December 2023

## Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 July 2023

Group 2: Shares purchased on or after 01 July 2023 and on or before 31 December 2023

Class F (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.9093p	-	0.9093p	1.8728p
Group 2	0.1048p	0.8045p	0.9093p	1.8728p

Class F (Income)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.7647p	-	0.7647p	1.6119p
Group 2	0.3455p	0.4192p	0.7647p	1.6119p

Class A (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.6148p	-	0.6148p	1.2642p
Group 2	0.6148p	-	0.6148p	1.2642p

### SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Name of Sub-fund

VT Downing Unique Opportunities Fund

Size of Sub-fund

£38,324,438

Launch date

17 March 2020

Investment objective and policy

The investment objective of the Sub-fund is to achieve capital growth and income over the long term (5 + years).

The Sub-fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing at least 80% in equities listed on UK markets (including the London Stock Exchange, AIM and the ICAP Securities and Derivatives Exchange (ISDX)). The Investment Manager will be seeking to invest in equities which it considers to have a unique outlook and opportunity for growth. The Investment Manager will be looking for the Sub-fund to invest in companies which have clearly identifiable characteristics to protect them against the entry of competitors (which are expected to enable such companies to produce an above average return on equity). The unique characteristics sought include:

- having intangible assets e.g. brands, patents or regulatory licences;
- having cost advantages stemming from process, location, scale or access to a unique asset;
- being the leading network in a business segment; and/or
- there being high switching costs which generate high customer retention rates

Such businesses are highly likely to be the only UK listed company in their industry or one of very few and possessing a distinctive corporate strategy and so are considered 'unique opportunities'.

The Sub-fund may also invest in other equities, fixed income, money market instruments, deposits, warrants, cash and near cash.

The Sub-fund will aim to hold a portfolio of between 25-40 investments.

The Sub-fund will be actively managed.

Save as noted above (with a focus on UK listed investments), the Subfund will not have any particular, industry or economic sector focus and as such weightings in these may vary as required.

The Sub-fund may hold derivatives for Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM) purposes (including hedging). It is not intended that the use of derivatives for EPM purposes will increase the risk profile of the Sub-fund

The Sub-fund is not managed to or constrained by a benchmark, and nor does the AFM use a benchmark in order to assess performance.

However, many funds sold in the UK are grouped into sectors by the Investment Association (the "IA") (the trade body that represents UK investment managers), to help investors to compare funds with broadly similar characteristics.

In order to assess the Sub-fund's performance, investors may find it useful to compare the Sub-fund against the performance of the IA UK All Companies Sector Index, which serves as a method of comparing the Sub-fund's performance with other funds which have broadly similar characteristics.

### **Derivatives**

### **Performance Comparator:**

## **SUB-FUND OVERVIEW (continued)**

Annual accounting date 30 June Interim accounting date 31 December

Annual income allocation date By 31 August

Interim income allocation dates By last day of February

Share Classes Class A (Accumulation)

Class A (Income)

Minimum investment\*

Lump sum subscription: Class A: £1,000

Top-up: Class A: £100

Holding: Class A: £1,000

Regular saving: £100 per month

Redemption/switching: N/A (provided minimum holding is maintained)

Initial, redemption and switching charges\*: Nil

\*The AFM may waive the minimum levels (and initial charge and redemption charge) at its discretion.

### **Annual management charges**

The annual management charges are £30,000^ per annum plus

Class A - 0.75% per annum

The above percentages being percentages of the net asset value of the Sub-fund attributable to the relevant class (plus VAT if applicable).

^The fixed element of the fee shall rise annually in line with the rate of inflation (calculated in accordance with the Consumer Prices Index) on 1 January each year (from 1 January 2021)). In the event of negative inflation, this fee will remain unchanged.

### **Performance Overview**

The VT Downing Unique Opportunities Fund (DUO) launched in March 2020, the income units on 17 March and the accumulation units on 25 March. Over the period from launch to 31 December 2023, the income units rose in price by 42.5%, and generated a total return of 54.0%. The later launching accumulation units rose by 50.5%, compared with a 52.8% increase for the peer group, the IA UK All Companies Sector, placing DUO 123 out of 213 peer funds since launch.

In the six months to 31 December 2023, the income units rose by 4.8% in capital terms, delivering a total return of 6.1%. The accumulation units rose by 6.1% compared to an average return of 5.4% by the peer group (IA UK All Companies Sector), placing DUO in the second quartile for performance. There was a sharp contrast between the four months to 31 October 2023, when the accumulation units fell by 8.5%, and the final two months of 2023 when these units bounced by almost 25%. In late October 2023, the unit price tested the lows of a year earlier but did not quite breach them. The principal factor in this sharp reversal was, in our view, the perception that interest rates had peaked as inflation had started to fall. The other factor affecting performance in the first four months of this period was the persistent and widespread net selling of UK small and mid-cap equities, notwithstanding over 12 months of previous underperformance against large caps and a steady stream of takeover bids. This general selling pressure started to ease in the closing weeks of 2023. The fund ended 2023 with 30 holdings. Cash balances during the six months averaged 5.3%.

#### **Key Contributors and Detractors**

In the six months to 31 December 2023, there were 22 risers and 13 fallers in the portfolio. Of the risers, 15 were by double-digit percentages, but only six of the fallers were over 10%. The largest individual contribution came from Tristel, a manufacturer of chlorine dioxide-based disinfectants for use on hospital outpatient equipment. Tristel had been pursuing product approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States for many years through the tough De Novo process for new medical devices. It received product approval in June 2023 for application on ultrasound devices. This approval significantly increases the group's total addressable market. Other strong contributions came from two companies likely to benefit from falling UK interest rates and a consequent recovery in the housing market, namely Mortgage Advice Bureau and MJ Gleeson. There were takeover bids for two holdings, EMIS, a provider of software to run GP surgeries and pharmacies, and Ergomed, a provider of clinical trial services pre- and post the launch of medicines. The former was taken over by a large US company, the latter by private equity. The principal detractors included two businesses facing downturns in demand in combination with significant borrowings. Videndum, a leading supplier of broadcast equipment, was severely affected by the Hollywood actors and writers strike, while Strix suffered from weak domestic demand in China for its kettle controls. The sharp rise in interest rates coincident with weak demand led the former to raise additional equity at a heavy discount and the latter to reduce its dividend. A negative contribution from Alfa Financial Software is, we believe, attributable to a large institutional seller whose overhang has subsequently cleared.

### **Purchases and Sales**

There were three new investments in the period. Bloomsbury Publishing is a publisher best known for the Harry Potter series of children's fantasy fiction. This is one of the most significant backlists in modern publishing, and its American author Sarah J Maas could be following a similar path. Rights-based intellectual property creates an enduring barrier to entry in both its fiction and extensive academic publishing roster. Intertek is a leading provider of assurance, testing, inspection and certification services to businesses through a global network of accredited facilities and a technically skilled employee base. It undertakes safety, quality and performance testing, auditing of suppliers and supply chains, sustainability analysis, regulatory compliance and verification of plant and equipment for more than 400,000 clients in over one hundred countries, and is a potential beneficiary of rising regulation and deglobalisation. GlobalData provides business information, analytics and insights on companies in 20 sectors, bringing together data on macro-economic indicators, job listings, patent intelligence, consumer intelligence, M&A flows and much else into a single platform for corporate clients. The majority of its databases are proprietary and it operates an annual subscription model with over 80% renewal rates.

There were three complete exits in the period. Two, EMIS and Ergomed, mentioned earlier, were the subject of takeovers. The third, Videndum, was forced by its debt levels, in combination with a downturn in business due to the Hollywood writers and actors strike, to seek an equity injection. This will dilute future returns on equity, and the episode led us to question the prudence of the company's previous acquisition-led strategy, so we decided to exit. Other transactions reflected investment flows and some rebalancing of weightings during the period.

### **INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REVIEW (continued)**

### Outlook

The manager does not attempt to forecast macro-economic trends, preferring to focus on allocating investors' capital into excellent businesses with sustainably high barriers to competition, and allowing the compounding effect of high returns on equity to generate positive value creation over the long-term.

At the start of 2024, we revisited some vital statistics of the portfolio as a whole. Based on our own analysis of their recent accounts, only eight out of 30 holdings carried any net debt. This gives optionality to management teams who can expand capacity, make acquisitions, pay special dividends or buy back shares. We expect to see elements of all four. The weighted average return on equity was over 35%, which is high, considering it is not in the main flattered by debt (indeed it is actually dampened by cash which earns a much lower return). Average operating margins exceeded 24%, which evidences pricing power and strong barriers to competition. Finally, and reassuringly, the average stake held by directors was 9%, indicating significant skin in the game and a higher likelihood that capital will be allocated to shareholders' advantage.

Downing LLP Investment Manager to the Fund 14 February 2024

Class A (Accu	mulation)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
Changes in net	assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
_	Opening net asset value per share	141.8103	134.7112	170.6292
	Return before operating charges	9.3814	8.3573	(34.5287)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.7015)	(1.2582)	(1.3893)
	Return after operating charges *	8.6799	7.0991	(35.9180)
	Closing net asset value per share	150.4902	141.8103	134.7112
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	1.8575	3.8440	3.4948
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.1023	0.0830	0.3206
Performance				
	Return after charges	6.12%	5.27%	(21.05%)
Other information	on			
	Closing net asset value	£33,099,541	£42,399,242	£39,432,116
	Closing number of shares	21,994,484	29,898,570	29,271,591
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.96%	0.91%	0.91%
	Direct transaction costs	0.07%	0.06%	0.21%
Prices				
	Highest share price	151.0744	153.5051	186.5843
	Lowest share price	128.3308	127.6713	132.0908

		Six months ended	Year ended 30 June	Year ended 30 June
Class A (Incom	e)	31 December 2023	2023	2022
Changes in net	assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
_	Opening net asset value per share	135.9973	132.7266	172.0171
	Return before operating charges	8.9942	8.2574	(34.3970)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.6685)	(1.2227)	(1.3866)
	Return after operating charges *	8.3257	7.0347	(35.7836)
	Distribution on income shares	(1.7814)	(3.7640)	(3.5069)
	Closing net asset value per share	142.5416	135.9973	132.7266
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.0975	0.0806	0.3200
Performance				
	Return after charges	6.12%	5.30%	(20.80%)
Other information	on .			
	Closing net asset value	£5,451,876	£4,922,790	£5,062,574
	Closing number of shares	3,824,762	3,619,770	3,814,288
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.96%	0.91%	0.91%
	Direct transaction costs	0.07%	0.06%	0.21%
Prices				
	Highest share price	144.8833	150.5607	188.1010
	Lowest share price	123.0709	125.7931	132.0359

## **PERFORMANCE RECORD (Continued)**

- 1. The operating charges per share figure is calculated by applying the operating charges percentage to the average net asset valuation per share throughout the period.
- 2. The operating charges percentage is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund.

### **Risk Profile**

Based on past data, the Sub-fund is ranked a '6' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (30 June 2023: ranked 6). The Sub-fund is ranked 6 because historical performance data indicates that significant rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

## PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Name	As at 31 De	cember 2023		
205,000	Holding		Value £	% of net assets
235,000   Bloomsbury Publishing PLC		Communications (30.06.2023: 15.12%)		
31,000   Aimprint Group PLC	205,000	Auto Trader Group PLC	1,474,360	3.85%
205.000   Rightmove PLC	235,000	Bloomsbury Publishing PLC	1,104,500	2.88%
205.000   Rightmove PLC			1,422,900	3.71%
Consumer Discretionary (30.06.2023: 13.26%)   17.65%     125,000				3.09%
Consumer Discretionary (30.06.2023: 13.26%)   17.65%     125,000   Dunelm Group PLC				
125,000   Dunelm Group PLC	·			
15,000 Games Workshop Group PLC 1,480,500 3,88% 245,000 MJ Gleeson PLC 1,176,000 3,07% (2013,1500 10,52%) 10,52% (2013,1500 A,G.Barr PLC 1,379,700 3,60% 1,379,700 3,60% (2013,179,700 3,60% 1,379,700 3,60% (2013,179,179,179,179,179,179,179,179,179,179		Consumer Discretionary (30.06.2023: 13.26%)		
245,000 MJ Gleeson PLC	125,000	Dunelm Group PLC	1,375,000	3.59%
Consumer Staples (30.06.2023: 3.22%)   270,000   A.G. Barr PLC	15,000	Games Workshop Group PLC	1,480,500	3.86%
Consumer Staples (30.06.2023: 3.22%)   270,000   A.G. Barr PLC	245,000	MJ Gleeson PLC	1,176,000	3.07%
270,000   A.G.Barr PLC	,			
Financials (30.06.2023: 11.35%)   295,000   AJ Bell PLC   331.610   2.43%   240,000   Impax Asset Management Group PLC   1.327,200   3.46%   160,000   Mortgage Advice Bureau (Holdings) PLC   1.251,200   3.26%   280,000   Tatton Asset Management Ltd.   4.949,210   12.91%   4.949,210   3.26%   4.949,21		Consumer Staples (30.06.2023: 3.22%)		
Financials (30.06.2023: 11.35%)   295,000   AJ Bell PLC   331,610   2.43%     240,000   Impax Asset Management Group PLC   1.251,200   3.26%     280,000   Tatton Asset Management Ltd.   4,949,210   12.91%     Healthcare (30.06.2023: 12.38%)     570,493   Advanced Medical Solutions Group PLC   1.200,888   3.13%     4,000,000   EKF Diagnostics Holdings PLC   1.248,000   3.26%     390,000   Tristel PLC   1.200,888   3.13%     4,000,000   EKF Diagnostics Holdings PLC   1.248,000   3.26%     390,000   Tristel PLC   1.402,000   3.66%     48,000   Diploma PLC   1.402,000   3.66%     49,000   Chemring Group PLC   1.402,000   3.66%     45,000   GlobalData PLC   731,250   1.91%     425,000   Rotork PLC   404,795   1.06%     425,000   Rotork PLC   1.382,100   3.61%     880,000   Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC   1.109,132   2.89%     1,375,000   GlobalData Group PLC   1.348,875   3.52%     600,000   Strik Group PLC   1.348,875   3.52%     600,000   Strik Group PLC   1.995,130   2.26%     1,375,000   Spirent Communications plc   437,400   1.14%     97,000   Spirent Communications plc   888,200   2.24%     135,000   Tracsis PLC   1.467,400   3.83%     Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)   37,112,870   96.84%     Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)   1.211,568   3.16%	270,000	A.G.Barr PLC	1,379,700	3.60%
295,000   AJ Bell PLC   931,610   2.43%     240,000   Impax Asset Management Group PLC   1,327,200   3.26%     280,000   Tatton Asset Management Ltd.   1,439,200   3.76%     280,000   Tatton Asset Management Ltd.   1,439,200   3.76%     370,403   Advanced Medical Solutions Group PLC   1,200,888   3.13%     4,000,000   EKF Diagnostics Holdings PLC   1,248,000   3.26%     390,000   Tristel PLC   1,755,000   4.58%     10,000   Chemring Group PLC   1,402,000   3.66%     48,000   Diploma PLC   1,724,160   4.50%     375,000   Global Data PLC   1,724,160   4.50%     425,000   Rotork PLC   1,382,100   3.61%     425,000   Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC   1,382,100   3.61%     880,000   Aptitude Software Group PLC   1,109,132   2.89%     1,375,000   Gold Group PLC   1,348,875   3.52%     600,000   Softcat PLC   1,348,875   3.52%     600,000   Softcat PLC   1,348,875   3.52%     600,000   Softcat PLC   1,348,875   3.52%     700,000   Spirent Communications plc   858,200   2.24%     135,000   Tracsis PLC   1,467,400   3.83%     Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)   37,112,870   96.84%     Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)   1,211,568   3.16%			1,379,700	
1,327,200   1,327,200   3,46%   160,000   16		Financials (30.06.2023: 11.35%)		
160,000       Mortgage Advice Bureau (Holdings) PLC       1,251,200       3.26%         280,000       Tatton Asset Management Ltd.       1,439,200       3.76%         Healthcare (30.06.2023: 12.38%)         570,493       Advanced Medical Solutions Group PLC       1,200,888       3.13%         4,000,000       EKF Diagnostics Holdings PLC       1,248,000       3.26%         390,000       Tristel PLC       1,755,000       4.58%         400,000       Chemring Group PLC       1,402,000       3.66%         45,000       Diploma PLC       1,724,160       4.50%         375,000       GlobalData PLC       731,250       1.91%         425,000       Rotork PLC       404,795       1.06%         425,000       Rotork PLC       1,382,100       3.61%         880,000       Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC       1,223,200       3.19%         394,709       Aptitude Software Group PLC       1,109,132       2.89%         1,375,000       GlobalDigital Group PLC       1,348,875       3.52%         600,000       Strix Group PLC       1,348,875       3.52%         600,000       Strix Group PLC       1,348,875       3.52%         600,000       Softcat PLC       1,358,000	295,000	AJ Bell PLC	931,610	2.43%
Tatton Asset Management Ltd.	240,000	Impax Asset Management Group PLC	1,327,200	3.46%
Healthcare (30.06.2023: 12.38%)	160,000	Mortgage Advice Bureau (Holdings) PLC	1,251,200	3.26%
Healthcare (30.06.2023: 12.38%)	280,000	Tatton Asset Management Ltd.	1,439,200	3.76%
STOLAMS   Advanced Medical Solutions Group PLC   1,200,888   3.13%   4,000,000   EKF Diagnostics Holdings PLC   1,248,000   3.26%   390,000   Tristel PLC   1,755,000   4,58%   10,97%   Industrials (30.06.2023: 10.61%)			4,949,210	12.91%
A,000,000   EKF Diagnostics Holdings PLC   1,248,000   3.26%   390,000   Tristel PLC   1,755,000   4.58%   4.203,888   10.97%		Healthcare (30.06.2023: 12.38%)		
Industrials (30.06.2023: 10.61%)   Industrials (30.06.2023: 10.61%)   Very	570,493	Advanced Medical Solutions Group PLC	1,200,888	3.13%
Industrials (30.06.2023: 10.61%)   Industrials (30.06.2023: 10.61%)   Very	4,000,000	EKF Diagnostics Holdings PLC	1,248,000	3.26%
Industrials (30.06.2023: 10.61%)   Houstrials (30.06.2023: 10.61%)   Houstrials (30.06.2023: 10.61%)     400,000   Cheming Group PLC   1,402,000   3.66%     48,000   Diploma PLC   1,724,160   4.50%     375,000   Global Data PLC   731,250   1.91%     9,500   Intertek Group PLC   404,795   1.06%     425,000   Rotork PLC   1,382,100   3.61%     Information Technology (30.06.2023: 23.64%)     880,000   Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC   1,223,200   3.19%     394,709   Aptitude Software Group PLC   1,109,132   2.89%     1,375,000   dotDigital Group PLC   1,348,875   3.52%     600,000   Strix Group PLC   437,400   1.14%     97,000   Softcat PLC   1,095,130   2.86%     100,000   Softcat PLC   1,358,000   3.54%     700,000   Spirent Communications plc   888,200   2.24%     135,000   Tracsis PLC   1,242,000   3.24%     8,671,937   22.62%     Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)     1,150,000   Elementis PLC   1,467,400   3.83%     Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)   37,112,870   96.84%     Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)   1,211,568   3.16%				4.58%
A00,000   Chemring Group PLC   1,402,000   3.66%   48,000   Diploma PLC   1,724,160   4.50%   375,000   GlobalData PLC   731,250   1.91%   9,500   Intertek Group PLC   404,795   1.06%   425,000   Rotork PLC   1,382,100   3.61%   5,644,305   14.74%   Information Technology (30.06.2023: 23.64%)	,			
A8,000   Diploma PLC   1,724,160   4.50%   375,000   GlobalData PLC   731,250   1.91%   9,500   Intertek Group PLC   404,795   1.06%   425,000   Rotork PLC   1,382,100   3.61%   5,644,305   14.74%   Information Technology (30.06.2023: 23.64%)   880,000   Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC   1,223,200   3.19%   394,709   Aptitude Software Group PLC   1,109,132   2.89%   1,375,000   dotDigital Group PLC   1,348,875   3.52%   600,000   Strix Group PLC   437,400   1.14%   97,000   Kainos Group PLC   1,995,130   2.86%   100,000   Softcat PLC   1,358,000   3.54%   700,000   Spirent Communications plc   858,200   2.24%   135,000   Tracsis PLC   1,242,000   3.24%   8,671,937   22.62%   Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)   1,150,000   Elementis PLC   1,467,400   3.83%   Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)   37,112,870   96.84%   Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)   1,211,568   3.16%   Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)   1,211,568   3.16%   3.16%   Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)   1,211,568   3.16%   Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)   1,211,568   3.16%   3.16%   Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)   1,211,568   3.16%   Net other		Industrials (30.06.2023: 10.61%)		
375,000         GlobalData PLC         731,250         1.91%           9,500         Intertek Group PLC         404,795         1.06%           425,000         Rotork PLC         1,382,100         3.61%           Information Technology (30.06.2023: 23.64%)           880,000         Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC         1,223,200         3.19%           394,709         Aptitude Software Group PLC         1,109,132         2.89%           1,375,000         dotDigital Group PLC         1,348,875         3.52%           600,000         Strix Group PLC         437,400         1.14%           97,000         Kainos Group PLC         1,095,130         2.86%           100,000         Softcat PLC         1,358,000         3.54%           700,000         Spirent Communications plc         858,200         2.24%           135,000         Tracsis PLC         1,242,000         3.24%           Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)           1,150,000         Elementis PLC         1,467,400         3.83%           Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)         37,112,870         96.84%           Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)         1,211,568         3.16%	400,000	Chemring Group PLC	1,402,000	3.66%
9,500   Intertek Group PLC   404,795   1.06%   425,000   Rotork PLC   1,382,100   3.61%   5,644,305   14.74%	48,000	Diploma PLC	1,724,160	4.50%
1,382,100   3.61%   5,644,305   14,74%   14,74%   14,74%   1	375,000	GlobalData PLC	731,250	1.91%
Information Technology (30.06.2023: 23.64%)   880,000   Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC   1,223,200   3.19%   394,709   Aptitude Software Group PLC   1,109,132   2.89%   1,375,000   dotDigital Group PLC   1,348,875   3.52%   600,000   Strix Group PLC   437,400   1.14%   97,000   Kainos Group PLC   1,095,130   2.86%   100,000   Softcat PLC   1,358,000   3.54%   700,000   Spirent Communications plc   858,200   2.24%   135,000   Tracsis PLC   1,242,000   3.24%   8,671,937   22.62%   Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)	9,500	Intertek Group PLC	404,795	1.06%
Information Technology (30.06.2023: 23.64%)   880,000   Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC   1,223,200   3.19%   394,709   Aptitude Software Group PLC   1,109,132   2.89%   1,375,000   dotDigital Group PLC   1,348,875   3.52%   600,000   Strix Group PLC   437,400   1.14%   97,000   Kainos Group PLC   1,095,130   2.86%   100,000   Softcat PLC   1,358,000   3.54%   700,000   Spirent Communications plc   858,200   2.24%   135,000   Tracsis PLC   1,242,000   3.24%   8,671,937   22.62%   Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)	425,000	Rotork PLC	1,382,100	3.61%
880,000       Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC       1,223,200       3.19%         394,709       Aptitude Software Group PLC       1,109,132       2.89%         1,375,000       dotDigital Group PLC       1,348,875       3.52%         600,000       Strix Group PLC       437,400       1.14%         97,000       Kainos Group PLC       1,095,130       2.86%         100,000       Softcat PLC       1,358,000       3.54%         700,000       Spirent Communications plc       858,200       2.24%         135,000       Tracsis PLC       1,242,000       3.24%         Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)         Interval Application of Investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)       37,112,870       96.84%         Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 7.34%)       1,211,568       3.16%				
394,709       Aptitude Software Group PLC       1,109,132       2.89%         1,375,000       dotDigital Group PLC       1,348,875       3.52%         600,000       Strix Group PLC       437,400       1.14%         97,000       Kainos Group PLC       1,095,130       2.86%         100,000       Softcat PLC       1,358,000       3.54%         700,000       Spirent Communications plc       858,200       2.24%         135,000       Tracsis PLC       1,242,000       3.24%         Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)         1,150,000       Elementis PLC       1,467,400       3.83%         Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)       37,112,870       96.84%         Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)       1,211,568       3.16%		Information Technology (30.06.2023: 23.64%)		
1,375,000       dotDigital Group PLC       1,348,875       3.52%         600,000       Strix Group PLC       437,400       1.14%         97,000       Kainos Group PLC       1,095,130       2.86%         100,000       Softcat PLC       1,358,000       3.54%         700,000       Spirent Communications plc       858,200       2.24%         135,000       Tracsis PLC       1,242,000       3.24%         Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)         I,150,000       Elementis PLC       1,467,400       3.83%         Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)       37,112,870       96.84%         Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)       1,211,568       3.16%	880,000	Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC	1,223,200	3.19%
1,375,000       dotDigital Group PLC       1,348,875       3.52%         600,000       Strix Group PLC       437,400       1.14%         97,000       Kainos Group PLC       1,095,130       2.86%         100,000       Softcat PLC       1,358,000       3.54%         700,000       Spirent Communications plc       858,200       2.24%         135,000       Tracsis PLC       1,242,000       3.24%         Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)         I,150,000       Elementis PLC       1,467,400       3.83%         Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)       37,112,870       96.84%         Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)       1,211,568       3.16%	394,709	Aptitude Software Group PLC	1,109,132	2.89%
600,000       Strix Group PLC       437,400       1.14%         97,000       Kainos Group PLC       1,095,130       2.86%         100,000       Softcat PLC       1,358,000       3.54%         700,000       Spirent Communications plc       858,200       2.24%         135,000       Tracsis PLC       1,242,000       3.24%         Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)         1,150,000       Elementis PLC       1,467,400       3.83%         Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)       37,112,870       96.84%         Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)       1,211,568       3.16%			1,348,875	3.52%
97,000 Kainos Group PLC 1,095,130 2.86% 100,000 Softcat PLC 700,000 Spirent Communications plc 135,000 Tracsis PLC  Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)  1,150,000 Elementis PLC  Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)  Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)  1,095,130 1,358,000 1,358,000 2.86% 858,200 1,242,000 3.24% 8,671,937 22.62%  1,467,400 3.83%  3.83%  Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)  Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)  1,211,568 3.16%				
100,000       Softcat PLC       1,358,000       3.54%         700,000       Spirent Communications plc       858,200       2.24%         135,000       Tracsis PLC       1,242,000       3.24%         Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)         1,150,000       Elementis PLC       1,467,400       3.83%         Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)       37,112,870       96.84%         Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)       1,211,568       3.16%			-	
700,000 Spirent Communications plc       858,200 1,242,000 3.24%         135,000 Tracsis PLC       1,242,000 8,671,937       22.62%         Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)         1,150,000 Elementis PLC       1,467,400 3.83%         Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)       37,112,870 96.84%         Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)       1,211,568 3.16%				
135,000 Tracsis PLC       1,242,000				
Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%) 1,150,000   Elementis PLC   1,467,400   3.83%				
1,150,000       Elementis PLC       1,467,400       3.83%         1,467,400       3.83%         Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)       37,112,870       96.84%         Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)       1,211,568       3.16%	,			
1,150,000       Elementis PLC       1,467,400       3.83%         1,467,400       3.83%         Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)       37,112,870       96.84%         Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)       1,211,568       3.16%		Materials (30.06.2023: 3.08%)		
1,467,400 3.83%  Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%) 37,112,870 96.84%  Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%) 1,211,568 3.16%	1.150.000	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1.467.400	3.83%
Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%) 1,211,568 3.16%	, -,			
Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%) 1,211,568 3.16%				
<u> </u>		Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 92.66%)	37,112,870	96.84%
38,324,438 100.00%		Net other assets (30.06.2023: 7.34%)	1,211,568	3.16%
			38,324,438	100.00%

# SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

Purchases	£
Bloomsbury Publishing PLC	1,036,655
GlobalData PLC	589,077
Intertek Group PLC	390,343
Spirent Communications plc	327,410
EMIS Group PLC	198,570
Tristel PLC	107,075
dotDigital Group PLC	99,660
MJ Gleeson PLC	57,029
Kainos Group PLC	48,853
YouGov PLC	42,281
Alfa Financial Software Holdings PLC	40,543
Strix Group PLC	24,520
Other various purchases	1,625,731
Total purchases for the period	2,962,015
	_
Sales	£
Ergomed PLC	1,437,841
4imprint Group PLC	679,081
EMIS Group PLC	668,381
Videndum PLC	589,455
AJ Bell PLC	544,278
Strix Group PLC	532,269
Chemring Group PLC	515,111
Games Workshop Group PLC	501,419
Diploma PLC	495,874
Tristel PLC	455,429
Other various sales	4,349,723
Total sales for the period	10,768,861

The above transactions represents the top 10 purchases and sales during the period.

## STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

Dividend reinvested

investment activities (see above)

Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from

Closing net assets attributable to shareholders

For the six month period ended 31 December	2023 £ £	202 £	2 £
Income Net capital gains	1,287,001	£	3,329,096
Revenue	573,349	480,247	
Expenses	(195,074)	(215,835)	
Interest payable and similar charges	<u>-</u>		
Net revenue before taxation	378,275	264,412	
Taxation	<u>-</u>		
Net revenue after taxation	378,275		264,412
Total return before distributions	1,665,276		3,593,508
Finance costs: distributions	(561,427)		(479,122)
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities	1,103,849		3,114,386
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUT	ABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS		
For the six month period ended 31 December	2023 £		2022 £
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders	47,086,595		44,215,840
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	2,549,201		4,757,454
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(12,875,742)		(3,832,617)
Dilution Levy	51,978		-

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives should be for the comparable interim period the net asset value at the end of the period will not agree to the net asset value at the start of the period. The Sub-funds net asset value as at 30 June 2023 was £47,086,595.

408,557

1,103,849

38,324,438

429,680

3,114,386

48,684,743

# **BALANCE SHEET**

As at	31.12.2023		30.06.2023	
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Investment assets		37,112,870		43,630,076
Current assets				
Debtors	491,987		361,032	
Cash and bank balances	1,498,619		3,345,375	
Total current assets	_	1,990,606	_	3,706,407
Total assets		39,103,476		47,336,483
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Distributions payable on income shares	(476,691)		(84,986)	
Creditors	(302,347)		(164,902)	
Total current liabilities		(779,038)		(249,888)
Net assets attributable to shareholders	_	38,324,438		47,086,595

### **Accounting policies**

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 and are described in those financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 and the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017.

### **DISTRIBUTION TABLES**

## For the period ended 31 December 2023

## Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 July 2023

Group 2: Shares purchased on or after 01 July 2023 and on or before 31 December 2023

Class A (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	1.8575p	-	1.8575p	1.4374p
Group 2	1.0401p	0.8174p	1.8575p	1.4374p

Class A (Income)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	1.7814p	-	1.7814p	1.4162p
Group 2	0.4312p	1.3502p	1.7814p	1.4162p

### SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Name of Sub-fund

VT Downing European Unconstrained Income Fund

Size of Sub-fund

£43,671,897

Launch date

5 November 2020

Investment objective and policy

The investment objective of the Sub-fund is to generate income with the potential for long term (5 years) capital growth.

The Sub-fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing at least 75% in equities issued by companies based in developed European markets (being member states of the European Union, Norway, Switzerland or the United Kingdom). The Sub-fund may also invest in emerging and frontier European markets including Turkey, Russia and Iceland.

The Sub-fund may also invest in government securities, fixed income, closed ended collective investment schemes/vehicles (which may include those managed and/or operated by the AFM and which will provide exposure to various asset classes including equities and bonds), real estate investment trusts, money market instruments, deposits, cash and near cash.

The Sub-fund will be actively managed.

Save as noted above, the Sub-fund will not have any particular industry or economic sector focus and as such weightings in these may vary as required.

Derivatives

The Sub-fund may hold derivatives for Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM) purposes (including hedging). It is not intended that the use of derivatives for EPM purposes will increase the risk profile of the Sub-fund.

**Performance Comparator:** 

The Sub-fund is not managed to or constrained by a benchmark, and nor does the AFM use a benchmark in order to assess performance.

However, many funds sold in the UK are grouped into sectors by the Investment Association (the "IA") (the trade body that represents UK investment managers), to help investors to compare funds with broadly similar characteristics.

In order to assess the Sub-fund's performance, investors may find it useful to compare the Sub-fund against the performance of the IA Europe (ex UK) Sector, which serves as a method of comparing the Sub-fund's performance with other funds which have broadly similar characteristics. The IA Europe (excluding UK) has been chosen as a comparator rather than the IA Europe (including UK), as it is not the intention of the Sub-fund to have a large exposure to UK equities that generate their revenue in the UK.

Annual accounting date Interim accounting date

30 June 31 December

Annual income allocation date Interim income allocation dates By 31 August

By 30 November; By last day of February; By 31 May

Share classes:

Class A (Accumulation)
Class A (Income)
Class F (Accumulation)<sup>1</sup>
Class F (Income)<sup>1</sup>

 $1\,Class\,F\,shares\,are\,only\,\,available\,to\,\,those\,\,who\,\,invest\,\,at\,\,launch\,\,of\,\,the\,\,Sub-fund\,\,(or\,\,otherwise\,\,at\,\,the\,\,AFM's\,\,discretion)$ 

## **SUB-FUND OVERVIEW (continued)**

Minimum investment\*

**Lump sum subscription:** Class A: £1,000

Class F: £1,000,000

Top-up: Class A: £100

Class F: £1,000

Holding: Class A: £1,000

Class F: £1,000,000

Regular saving: £100 per month

**Redemption/Switching:** N/A (provided minimum holding is maintained)

Initial, redemption and switching charges\*: Nil

\*The AFM may waive the minimum levels (and initial charge and redemption charge) at its discretion.

### **Annual management charges**

The annual management charges are £30,000^ per annum plus

Class A - 0.75% per annum Class F - 0.55% per annum

The above percentages being percentages of the net asset value of the Sub-fund attributable to the relevant class (plus VAT if applicable).

^The fixed element of the fee shall rise annually in line with the rate of inflation (calculated in accordance with the Consumer Prices Index) on 1 January each year (from 1 January 2021)). In the event of negative inflation, this fee will remain unchanged.

### Performance overview

The European market was quite volatile in the second half of 2023 as markets grappled with the easing of inflation pressures and the consequent moderation of interest rate expectations. The IA Europe ex UK sector fell by 5.51% between the end of June and the end of October before rallying strongly ending at 5.70% for the period.

During the six month period, the fund's A Accumulation shares rose by 3.76% compared to the IA Europe ex-UK sector which rose by 5.70%. The fund suffered from its sizable exposure to small and mid-cap stocks which lagged their larger peers materially over the period.

#### **Key Contributors and Detractors**

Key contributors during the period included Friedrich Vorwerk Group, Munters and Aumann.

Friedrich Vorwerk is a German industrial company involved in the design and installation of energy infrastructure such as gas and electricity networks. The company's order book is growing steadily as the installation of offshore wind turbines in the North Sea means that the electrical distribution grid in Germany needs to be upgraded in order to transmit the power to the country's industrial heartland. Vorwerk has won a number of orders in both the electricity and gas segments including a major €600m contract in August for the A-Nord underground cable network.

Munters is a Swedish company that provides climate control solutions. Sales are benefiting from two powerful trends. The growing computing power needed by the world means more data centres are being built, all of which need to be cooled to operate efficiently. Secondly, growing the production of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles is driving sales of dehumidification equipment to battery gigafactories whose production lines need to protect the very reactive lithium against reacting with the moisture in the air.

Aumann is a small-cap German company that is similarly benefitting from the shift in European automotive production from diesel-powered cars to electric vehicles. Orders of the equipment needed to make the electric motors and battery systems are driving revenue and profitability higher.

The main detractors over the period were Talga Group, a developer of a high-quality graphite mine in Northern Sweden whose shares fell substantially over the period despite positive operational progress. Sentiment towards the business is being impacted by the downturn in the price of critical metals such as lithium and graphite due to oversupply as China increased its production and demand for electric vehicles has slowed.

There was also a weak share price performance from payments processor Worldline who announced a profit warning in October. They have seen a marked shift by customers from discretionary to non-discretionary spending, probably as a response to tighter household budgets as interest rates rose.

### Purchase and sales during the period

We added one new position to the fund during the period, Orsted, and exited both Eifffage and Ence.

Orsted is a leading offshore wind developer that we have followed for some time. Since they peaked in mid-2020 around DKK1300, the shares have suffered from a souring investor sentiment towards the sector as capex and financing costs rose, combined with some operational missteps. After a profit warning in August 2023, the shares reached a low in early November of around DKK250 after the group walked away from two large US wind farm developments, which is when we decided to initiate a position in the fund. We view the shares as derisked and an attractive way to play the growth in offshore wind. After our purchase, the shares started to recover as governments showed signs of willing to pay more in the form of long-term contracts for renewable energy, and the company has announced a well-received revised strategy.

We funded the purchase of Orsted by exiting Eiffage and Ence in the portfolio. In both cases, we felt there were better risk-reward characteristics elsewhere.

Downing LLP Investment Manager to the Fund 14 February 2024

Class A (Accu	umulation)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
•	·			
Changes in ne	t assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	108.6342	98.1280	112.9041
	Return before operating charges	4.6088	11.4056	(13.8898)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.5257)	(0.8994)	(0.8863)
	Return after operating charges *	4.0831	10.5062	(14.7761)
	Closing net asset value per share	112.7173	108.6342	98.1280
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	0.6439	4.2893	3.8257
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.0443	0.1137	0.1266
Performance				
i enomiance	Return after charges	3.76%	10.71%	(13.09%)
Other informati	ion			
	Closing net asset value	£407,642	£426,651	£397,356
	Closing number of shares	361,650	392,741	404,936
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.95%	0.87%	0.84%
	Direct transaction costs	0.04%	0.11%	0.12%
Prices				
	Highest share price	112.7173	116.3062	120.4776
	Lowest share price	95.7494	93.6773	96.5366
Class A (Inco	me)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
-		31 December 2023	2023	2022
-	t assets per share	31 December 2023 GBp	<b>2023</b> GBp	<b>2022</b> GBp
-	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share	31 December 2023	2023	2022
-	t assets per share	<b>31 December 2023</b> GBp 95.7184	<b>2023</b> GBp 90.2587	<b>2022</b> GBp 107.8130
-	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges *	31 December 2023 GBp 95.7184 4.1754	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883)
-	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719)	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810)	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341)
-	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges *	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202)
-	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719)	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810)	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341)
-	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587
Changes in ne	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587
Changes in ne	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587
Changes in ne	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587
Changes in ne	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges ion	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598 0.0389	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184 0.1023 10.35%	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587  0.1188
Changes in ne	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges ion Closing net asset value Closing number of shares Operating charges (note 2)	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598 0.0389 3.88%	2023 GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184 0.1023 10.35%	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587  0.1188  (12.91%)
Changes in ne	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges ion Closing net asset value Closing number of shares	GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598  0.0389  3.88% £53,357 53,973	2023  GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184  0.1023  10.35% £52,607 54,960	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587  0.1188  (12.91%)
Changes in ne	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges ion Closing net asset value Closing number of shares Operating charges (note 2)	31 December 2023  GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598  0.0389  3.88% £53,357 53,973 0.95%	2023  GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184  0.1023  10.35% £52,607 54,960 0.87%	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587  0.1188  (12.91%)  £33,450 37,060 0.84%
Changes in ne	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges ion Closing net asset value Closing number of shares Operating charges (note 2) Direct transaction costs	31 December 2023  GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598  0.0389  3.88% £53,357 53,973 0.95%	2023  GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184  0.1023  10.35% £52,607 54,960 0.87%	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587  0.1188  (12.91%)  £33,450 37,060 0.84%
Changes in ne	t assets per share Opening net asset value per share Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges ion Closing net asset value Closing number of shares Operating charges (note 2)	31 December 2023  GBp 95.7184 4.1754 (0.4621) 3.7133 (0.5719) 98.8598  0.0389  3.88%  £53,357 53,973 0.95% 0.04%	2023  GBp 90.2587 10.1497 (0.8090) 9.3407 (3.8810) 95.7184  0.1023  10.35% £52,607 54,960 0.87% 0.11%	GBp 107.8130 (13.0883) (0.8319) (13.9202) (3.6341) 90.2587  0.1188  (12.91%)  £33,450 37,060 0.84% 0.12%

Class F (Accumulation)	Period from 01 July 2022 to 27 February 2023^^	Year ended 30 June 2022
Changes in net assets per share	GBp	GBp
Opening net asset value per share	95.0759	109.1734
Return before operating charges	13.2682	(13.4439)
Operating charges (note 1)	(0.4508)	(0.6536)
Return after operating charges *	12.8174	(14.0975)
Closing net asset value per share	107.8933	95.0759
Retained distributions on accumulated shares	1.3087	3.7219
*after direct transactions costs of:	0.1116	0.1225
Performance Return after charges	13.48%	(12.91%)
Other information		
Closing net asset value	-	£25,078,754
Closing number of shares	-	26,377,615
Operating charges (note 2)	0.67%	0.64%
Direct transaction costs	0.11%	0.12%
Prices		
Highest share price	111.5108	116.5370
Lowest share price	90.8170	93.4753

 $<sup>{\</sup>ensuremath{^{\wedge}}}$  Share class fully redeemed on 27 February 2023

Class F (Incon	ne)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
Changes in net	assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
•	Opening net asset value per share	102.9110	96.8466	115.4496
	Return before operating charges	4.4912	10.9130	(14.0269)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.3924)	(0.6692)	(0.6793)
	Return after operating charges *	4.0988	10.2438	(14.7062)
	Distribution on income shares	(0.6151)	(4.1794)	(3.8968)
	Closing net asset value per share	106.3947	102.9110	96.8466
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.0419	0.1099	0.1274
Performance				
	Return after charges	3.98%	10.58%	(12.74%)
Other information	on			
	Closing net asset value	£43,256,677	£42,708,546	£45,497,755
	Closing number of shares	40,656,799	41,500,453	46,979,175
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.75%	0.67%	0.64%
	Direct transaction costs	0.04%	0.11%	0.12%
Prices				
	Highest share price	106.3947	112.6749	123.2365
	Lowest share price	90.4526	91.6034	96.8466

### **PERFORMANCE RECORD (Continued)**

- 1. The operating charges per share figure is calculated by applying the operating charges percentage to the average net asset valuation per share throughout the period.
- 2. The operating charges percentage is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund.

### **Risk Profile**

Based on past data, the Sub-fund is ranked a '5' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (30 June 2023: ranked 5). The Sub-fund is ranked 5 because monthly historical performance data indicates that relatively high rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

	0	Value £	% of net assets
E20 0E2	Communications (30.06.2023: 1.65%)	F17 101	1 100/
539,952	Stillfront Group AB (publ)	517,424 517,424	1.18% 1.18%
	Consumer Discretionary (30.06.2023: 7.04%)		
1,005,844	Cairn Homes PLC	1,162,591	2.66%
2,033	Kering SA	706,181	1.62%
6,961	Volkswagen AG	675,966	1.55%
		2,544,738	5.83%
	Consumer Staples (30.06.2023: 2.68%)		
92,524	Mowi ASA	1,298,748	2.97%
		1,298,748	2.97%
	Energy (30.06.2023: 4.83%)		
•	Friedrich Vorwerk Group SE	1,531,472	3.51%
327,834	Snam SpA	1,326,229	3.04%
		2,857,701	6.55%
	Financials (30.06.2023: 18.96%)		
	AIB Group plc	1,247,697	2.86%
	Allfunds Group PLC	1,232,929	2.82%
•	Banca Farmafactoring SpA	697,987	1.60%
•	Deutsche Boerse AG	1,538,691	3.52%
	doValue SpA	761,187	1.74%
	Flow Traders NV	1,188,904	2.72%
13,143	KBC Ancora CVA	474,310 7,141,705	1.09% 16.35%
	Health Care (30.06.2023: 8.17%)		
14 701	Bayer AG	430,229	0.99%
	Fagron NV	1,476,968	3.38%
	Sanofi SA	1,442,196	3.30%
,		3,349,393	7.67%
	Industrials (30.06.2023: 27.79%)		
102,901	Aumann AG	1,677,634	3.84%
376,439	Cadeler A/S	1,365,029	3.13%
130,315	InPost SA	1,428,086	3.27%
	Munters Group AB	1,750,390	4.01%
	Prysmian SpA	1,535,080	3.52%
•	Relx PLC	1,317,266	3.02%
	Schneider Electric SE	1,727,976	3.96%
	Siemens Energy AG	989,468	2.27%
3,867	Teleperformance SE	450,155 12,241,084	1.03% 28.05%
	Information Technology (30.06.2023: 10.19%)		
652 926	ams Osram AG	1,321,297	3.03%
	BE Semiconductor Industries NV	662,814	1.51%
•	Infineon Technologies AG	1,090,567	2.50%
	SAP SE	1,194,389	2.73%
9,143	Soitec SA	1,293,961	2.96%
88,193	Worldline SA	1,207,528	2.77%
		6,770,556	15.50%

# **PORTFOLIO STATEMENT (Continued)**

As at 31 Decemb	per 2023		
Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Materials (30.06.2023: 7.33%)		
3,270	Eramet SA	204,893	0.47%
1,761,136	Talga Group Ltd	732,792	1.68%
		937,685	2.15%
	Real Estate (30.06.2023: 7.55%)		
57,477	Aedas Homes SA	914,092	2.09%
143,267	Cibus Nordic Real Estate AB (publ)	1,507,097	3.45%
133,955	Infrastrutture Wireless Italiane SpA	1,336,428	3.06%
		3,757,617	8.60%
	Utilities (30.06.2023: 0.00%)		
15,833	Oersted A/S	690,681	1.58%
		690,681	1.58%
	Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 96.19%)	42,107,332	96.43%
	Net other assets (30.06.2023: 3.81%)	1,564,565	3.57%
		43,671,897	100.00%

# **SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES**

Purchases	£
Siemens Energy AG	1,191,589
InPost SA	887,090
Worldline SA	790,757
Soitec SA	738,819
Sanofi SA	674,458
ams Osram AG	647,495
Oersted A/S	512,418
Infineon Technologies AG	472,270
Deutsche Boerse AG	471,199
Cibus Nordic Real Estate AB (publ)	436,305
Other purchases	1,736,621
Total purchases for the period	8,559,021
Sales	£
	~
Ence Energia y Celulosa SA InPost SA	1,194,922
	1,172,911
BE Semiconductor Industries NV	858,931 770,346
Eiffage SA	779,316 694.207
Banca Farmafactoring SpA KBC Ancora CVA	616,074
	585.732
Teleperformance SE Eramet SA	,
	442,848
Cairn Homes PLC	424,154
Siemens Energy AG	422,255
Other sales	2,490,405
Total sales for the period	9,681,755

The above transactions represent the top 10 largest purchases and sales during the period.

#### STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the six	month period ended 31 December	20	22	2022	
	month period ended 31 December	£	£	£	£
Income	Net capital Gains		1,682,550		3,800,553
	Revenue	287,633		1,042,784	
Expenses		(154,889)		(239,450)	
Interest pay	able and similar charges		-	(582)	
Net revenue	e before taxation	132,744		802,752	
Taxation		(11,474)	-	(63,378)	
Net revenue	e after taxation		121,270	_	739,374
Total return	before distributions		1,803,820		4,539,927
Finance cos	sts: distributions		(258,390)	_	(1,016,662)
	net assets attributable to ers from investment activities		1,545,430	_	3,523,265
STATEMEN	NT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRI	BUTABLE TO SHA	REHOLDERS		
For the six	month period ended 31 December		2023 £		2022 £
Opening ne	et assets attributable to shareholders		43,154,911		70,914,793
Amounts re	ceivable on creation of shares		1,567,444		1,549,776
Amounts pa	yable on cancellation of shares		(2,598,478)		(2,576,024)
Dividend rei	invested		2,590		365,356
•	net assets attributable to shareholders from activities (see above)		1,545,430	_	3,523,265
Closing ne	t assets attributable to shareholders		43,671,897	_	73,777,166

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives should be for the comparable interim period the net asset value at the end of the period will not agree to the net asset value at the start of the period. The Sub-funds net asset value as at 30 June 2023 was £43,154,911.

#### **BALANCE SHEET**

As at	31.12.: £	2023 £	30.06.20 £	)23 £
ASSETS				
Investment assets		42,107,332		41,509,544
Current assets				
Debtors	655,396		896,150	
Cash and bank balances	1,624,866	_	1,903,998	
Total current assets		2,280,262		2,800,148
Total assets		44,387,594		44,309,692
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Distribution payable on income shares	(51,117)		(921,995)	
Bank overdraft	(603,754)		-	
Creditors	(60,826)	-	(232,785)	
Total current liabilities	-	(715,697)	_	(1,154,781)
Net assets attributable to shareholders	=	43,671,897	_	43,154,911

# **Accounting policies**

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 and are described in those financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 and the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017.

# For the period ended 31 December 2023

# Q1 Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 July 2023

Group 2: Shares purchased on or after 01 July 2023 on or before 30 September 2023

Class A (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	0.5122p	-	0.5122p	0.8776p
Group 2	0.3259p	0.1863p	0.5122p	0.8776p

Class A (Income)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	0.4563p	-	0.4563p	0.7976p
Group 2	0.4563p	-	0.4563p	0.7976p

Class F (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	-	-	-	0.8505p
Group 2	-	-	-	0.8505p

Class F (Income)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	0.4907p	-	0.4907p	0.8661p
Group 2	0.1935p	0.2972p	0.4907p	0.8661p

# Q2 Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 October 2022

Group 2: Shares purchased on or after 01 October 2022 and on or before 31 December 2022

Class A (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.1317p	-	0.1317p	0.4725p
Group 2	0.0796p	0.0521p	0.1317p	0.4725p

Class A (Income)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.1156p	-	0.1156p	0.4304p
Group 2	0.1156p	-	0.1156p	0.4304p

Class F (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	-	-	-	0.4582p
Group 2	-	-	-	0.4582p

Class F (Income)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.1244p	-	0.1244p	0.4621p
Group 2	0.1035p	0.0209p	0.1244p	0.4621p

#### SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Name of Sub-fund

VT Downing Listed Infrastructure Income Fund

Size of Sub-fund

£4,102,939

Launch date

01 March 2022

Investment objective and policy

The investment objective of the Sub-fund is to generate income and preserve capital with potential for capital growth, all over the long term (5 years).

The Sub-fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing at least 80% in a concentrated portfolio of infrastructure and infrastructure related companies (including, but not limited to, those whose primary activity or exposure is in the UK transport, healthcare, utilities, communication, and renewable energy infrastructure sector which are listed in the United Kingdom (including REITS). The Sub-fund will have a specific focus on investments denominated in Sterling, which are themselves invested in Sterling assets and which have most or all of their activities within the UK.

It is expected that the market capitalisation (i.e. value) of companies within the Sub-fund's portfolio will vary with the Investment Manager trying to ensure there is a spread between larger and smaller companies at all times. In addition to investing in equities, the Sub-fund may also invest in other transferable securities (i.e. including those which do not have an infrastructure focus), bonds, collective investment schemes, money market instruments, deposits, cash and near cash.

The Sub-fund may hold derivatives for Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM) purposes (including hedging). It is not intended that the use of derivatives for EPM purposes will increase the risk profile of the Sub-

The Sub-fund does not integrate any kind of sustainability into the investment process.

**Performance Assessment** 

**Derivatives** 

The Sub-fund is not managed to or constrained by a benchmark, and nor does the AFM use a benchmark in order to assess performance, however, the performance of the Sub-fund can be compared to that of the MSCI UK Index. This benchmark has been selected as it is considered that this index most closely reflects the investments which the Sub-fund will make (and its risk/return objectives) at the current time. For the avoidance of doubt, the Investment Manager is not bound or influenced by the index when making its decisions and can make investments that are not included in the index.

Annual accounting date Interim accounting date 30 June 31 December

Annual income allocation date Interim income allocation dates By 31 August

By 30 November; By last day of February; By 31 May

Share Classes

Class A (Accumulation) Class A (Income) Class B (Accumulation) Class B (Income) Class SI (Accumulation)

Class SI (Income)

#### **SUB-FUND OVERVIEW (continued)**

Minimum investment\*

Lump sum subscription: Class A: £1,000

Class B: £20,000,000 Class SI: £30,000,000

Top-up: Class A: £100

Class B: £1,000 Class SI: £10,000

Holding: Class A: £1,000

Class B: £1,000,000 Class SI: £10,000,000

Regular saving: £100 per month

Redemption/Switching: N/A (provided minimum holding is maintained)

Initial, redemption and switching charges\*: Nil

\*The AFM may waive the minimum levels (and initial charge and redemption charge) at its discretion.

#### Annual management charges

The annual management charges are:

Class A - 0.40% per annum Class B - 0.30% per annum Class SI - 0.20% per annum

The above percentages being percentages of the net asset value of the Sub-fund attributable to the relevant class (plus VAT if applicable).

# **Ongoing Charges**

The Investment Manager aims to ensure that, during the initial stages of the Sub-fund's growth, ongoing charges are maintained at a low level relative to the industry average. The Investment Manager has, with the agreement of the AFM, undertaken that if the total OCF of the Sub-fund in respect of the Sub-fund (as calculated at the end of the relevant accounting period but excluding underlying fund holding charges) exceeds 0.40% in the case of Class A shares, 0.30% in the case of Class B shares and 0.20% in the case of Class SI shares, the Investment Manager shall reimburse the Subfund for an amount which, when deducted from the operating costs incurred by the Sub-fund during the relevant accounting period, would result in the Sub-fund having a total OCF (excluding underlying fund holding charges) equal to the stated AMC for each share class i.e. 0.40% in the case of Class A shares, 0.30% in the case of Class B shares and 0.20% in the case of Class SI shares in the relevant accounting period.

#### Changes to the Sub-fund

On 01 February 2024, VT Downing Listed Infrastructure Income Fund was suspended following commencement of termination of the Sub-fund.

#### **INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REVIEW**

Over the six month period to 31 December 2023, the fund delivered a total return of +2.57% (Class A (Accumulation)), compared to +1.94% for the IA Infrastructure sector. This was a period of two halves, with the first continuing the trend seen over the last 12 months as the higher interest rate environment dampened investor appetite for the infrastructure asset class. Weaker inflation prints from most major economies towards the tail end of 2023 saw appetite for the asset class increase, as investors took more confidence in evidence suggesting the interest rate hiking cycle could be potentially coming to an end.

Over the period, the top contributors were Tritax Big Box REIT and Sequoia Economic Infrastructure Income Fund.

Tritax Big Box REIT reported results for the six months to 30 June 2023, which evidenced a 1.5% increase in EPRA net tangible assets per share, aided by ongoing occupier demand, like-for-like rental growth, and disposals that reduced overall loan to value.

Sequoia Economic Infrastructure Income announced results for the six months ended September 2023 during the period. Net asset value per share was broadly flat, aided by the investment manager's ongoing share buyback programme.

Over the period under review, the top detractors were Digital 9 Infrastructure Plc and Gresham House Energy Storage Fund Plc.

Digital 9 Infrastructure reported results over the six month period to 30 June 2023 which saw net asset value per share decline 8% to 100.13p. Following the results, the company suspended dividend payments to focus on reducing debt levels. Towards the end of calendar year 2023, the company announced the initiation of a strategic review. In January 2024 the result of the strategic review was for the company to enter a managed wind-down.

Gresham House Energy Storage reported interim results to the end of June 2023, which saw net asset value per share fall by 5.7%. This was largely driven by lower revenue forecasts due to lower energy price volatility and low utilisation of battery storage assets by the National Grid ESO.

Downing LLP Investment Manager to the Fund 14 February 2024

Class A (Acc	umulation)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Period from 01 March 2022 to 30 June 2022^
Changes in ne	et assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
3	Opening net asset value per share	81.8004	99.1534	100.0000
	Return before operating charges	2.2651	(16.0954)	(0.3514)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.1657)	(1.2576)	(0.4952)
	Return after operating charges *	2.0994	(17.3530)	(0.8466)
	Closing net asset value per share	83.8998	81.8004	99.1534
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	1.7066	4.8628	1.4827
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.3065	0.1538	0.4780
Performance				
	Return after charges	2.57%	(17.50%)	(0.85%)
Other informa	tion			
	Closing net asset value	£870,906	£903,450	£8,628,820
	Closing number of shares	1,038,031	1,104,457	8,702,495
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.40%	1.39%	1.50%
	Direct transaction costs	0.37%	0.17%	0.48%
Prices				
	Highest share price	84.3310	103.4915	103.1855
	Lowest share price	73.4868	78.1775	95.7618
^Share class I	aunched 01 March 2022			Period from 04
Class A (Inco	ome)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	March 2022 to 30 June 2022^
Changes in ne	et assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	78.9446	101.2227	100.0000
	Return before operating charges	0.0000	(16.1620)	0.0470
		2.0939		3.24/2
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.1582)	(1.2522)	
	Operating charges (note 1)		(1.2522)	(0.4879)
	, ,	(0.1582)	` ,	(0.4879) 2.7593
	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges *	(0.1582) 1.9357	(1.2522) (17.4142)	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366)
	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481)	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639)	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227
Performance	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481) 79.2322	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639) 78.9446	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227
Performance	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481) 79.2322	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639) 78.9446	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227 0.4829
Performance Other informa	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481) 79.2322 0.2926	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639) 78.9446	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227 0.4829
	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481) 79.2322 0.2926	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639) 78.9446	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227 0.4829 2.76%
	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges tion	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481) 79.2322 0.2926	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639) 78.9446 0.1531 (17.20%)	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227 0.4829 2.76%
	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges tion Closing net asset value	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481) 79.2322 0.2926 2.45%	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639) 78.9446 0.1531 (17.20%)	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227 0.4829 2.76% £415,432 410,414
	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges  tion Closing net asset value Closing number of shares	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481) 79.2322 0.2926 2.45% £368,321 464,863	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639) 78.9446 0.1531 (17.20%) £305,736 387,279	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227 0.4829 2.76%
	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges  tion Closing net asset value Closing number of shares Operating charges (note 2)	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481) 79.2322 0.2926 2.45% £368,321 464,863 0.40%	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639) 78.9446 0.1531 (17.20%) £305,736 387,279 1.39%	(0.4879) 2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227 0.4829 2.76% £415,432 410,414 1.50%
Other informa	Operating charges (note 1) Return after operating charges * Distribution on income shares Closing net asset value per share *after direct transactions costs of:  Return after charges  tion Closing net asset value Closing number of shares Operating charges (note 2)	(0.1582) 1.9357 (1.6481) 79.2322 0.2926 2.45% £368,321 464,863 0.40%	(1.2522) (17.4142) (4.8639) 78.9446 0.1531 (17.20%) £305,736 387,279 1.39%	2.7593 (1.5366) 101.2227 0.4829 2.76% £415,432 410,414 1.50%

Lowest share price

69.7510

76.6628

99.2460

Class B (Accu	imulation)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Period from 17 March 2022 to 30 June 2022^
Changes in net	t assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
•	Opening net asset value per share	82.2830	99.6345	100.0000
	Return before operating charges	2.2764	(16.1781)	0.0365
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.1250)	(1.1734)	(0.4020)
	Return after operating charges *	2.1514	(17.3515)	(0.3655)
	Closing net asset value per share	84.4344	82.2830	99.6345
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	1.7254	4.8886	1.3128
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.3084	0.1546	0.4791
Performance				
	Return after charges	2.61%	(17.42%)	(0.37%)
Other informati	on			
	Closing net asset value	£18,141	£681,587	£170,952
	Closing number of shares	21,485	828,345	171,579
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.30%	1.29%	1.40%
	Direct transaction costs	0.37%	0.17%	0.48%
Prices				
	Highest share price	84.8330	104.0023	103.6684
	Lowest share price	73.9440	78.6378	99.3297
Class B (Incor	me)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Period from 11 April to 30 June 2022^
Changes in net	t assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
0ag00	Opening net asset value per share	74.6977	95.6668	100.0000
	Return before operating charges	1.9787	(15.2703)	(2.9985)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.1124)	(1.0989)	(0.3002)
	Return after operating charges *	1.8663	(16.3692)	(3.2987)
	Distribution on income shares	(1.4311)	(4.5999)	(1.0345)
	Closing net asset value per share	75.1329	74.6977	95.6668
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.2772	0.1448	0.4696
Performance	Return after charges	2.50%	(17.11%)	(3.30%)
		2.0070	(111170)	(0.0070)
Other informati		000 77.1	04 40 4 000	04 400 740
	Closing net asset value	£69,771	£1,164,996	£1,420,740
	Closing number of shares	92,864	1,559,613	1,485,091
	Operating charges (note 2) Direct transaction costs	0.30% 0.37%	1.29% 0.17%	1.40% 0.48%
Drices		3.3.7	5111,0	3.13,0
Prices	Highest share price	77.0129	99.8665	100.6152
	Lowest share price	66.0196	72.5378	95.6668
^Share class la	nunched 11 April 2022			

Class SI (Acc	umulation)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Period from 01 March 2022 to 30 June 2022^
Changes in ne	t assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
	Opening net asset value per share	82.0192	99.2090	100.0000
	Return before operating charges Operating charges (note 1)	2.2715 (0.0831)	(16.1115) (1.0783)	(0.3617) (0.4293)
	Return after operating charges *	2.1884	(17.1898)	(0.7910)
	rtotalli altor operating onlarges		(655)	(00.0)
	Closing net asset value per share	84.2076	82.0192	99.2090
	Retained distributions on accumulated shares	1.7204	4.8706	1.4831
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.3075	0.1540	0.4781
Performance				
	Return after charges	2.67%	(17.33%)	(0.79%)
Other informat	ion			
	Closing net asset value	£2,514,793	£14,867,673	£19,910,864
	Closing number of shares	2,986,421	18,127,064	20,069,617
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.20%	1.19%	1.30%
	Direct transaction costs	0.37%	0.17%	0.48%
Prices				
	Highest share price	84.5655	103.5795	103.2064
	Lowest share price	73.7307	78.3849	95.7632
Class SI (Inco	ome)	Six months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 30 June 2023	Period from 01 March to 30 June 2022^
Changes in no	t assets per share	GBp	GBp	GBp
Changes in he	Opening net asset value per share	76.3821	97.7244	100.0000
	Return before operating charges	2.0260	(15.6050)	(0.3664)
	Operating charges (note 1)	(0.0766)	(1.0359)	(0.4261)
	Return after operating charges *	1.9494	(16.6409)	(0.7925)
	Distribution on income shares	(1.5952)	(4.7014)	(1.4831)
	Closing net asset value per share	76.7363	76.3821	97.7244
	*after direct transactions costs of:	0.2833	0.1480	0.4745
Performance	Return after charges	2.55%	(17.03%)	(0.79%)
Other informat	ion			
Cor mioniat	Closing net asset value	£273,183	£500,135	£634,064
	Closing number of shares	356,003	654,781	648,828
	Operating charges (note 2)	0.20%	1.19%	1.30%
	Direct transaction costs	0.37%	0.17%	0.48%
Prices				
	Highest share price	78.7534	102.0287	103.2049
			7.4.700	05 7000
	Lowest share price	67.5301	74.1726	95.7630

#### **PERFORMANCE RECORD (Continued)**

- 1. The operating charges per share figure is calculated by applying the operating charges percentage to the average net asset valuation per share throughout the period.
- 2. The operating charges percentage is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund plus the costs of the open-end funds the Sub-fund holds. Note, the 2022 and 2021 operating charges percentage also includes the underlying costs of investment trusts as per regulatory and Industry guidance issued in 2020, this was later changed to exclude underlying costs of investment trusts in December 2023.

#### **Risk Profile**

Based on past data, the Sub-fund is ranked a '4' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (30 June 2023: ranked 4). The Sub-fund is ranked 4 because simulated monthly historical performance data indicates that average rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

# As at 31 December 2023

Holding		Value £	% of net assets
	Commodity & Energy (30.06.2023: 34.08%)		
134,000	Gresham House Energy Storage Fund PLC	143,380	3.49%
313,000	Renewables Infrastructure Group Ltd	354,942	8.65%
50,000	Harmony Energy Inc	39,501	0.96%
·	, 0,	537,823	13.10%
	Europe ex UK Equities (30.06.2023: 0.98%)		
	4(,	-	0.00%
	Global Emerging Market Equities (30.06.2023: 1.21%)		
		<del></del>	0.00%
	Infrastructure (30.06.2023: 34.30%)		
108 666	3i Infrastructure PLC	350,991	8.55%
/	BBGI SICAV SA	355,619	8.67%
	Digital 9 Infrastructure	345,417	8.42%
	Ecofin Global Utilities and Infrastructure Plc Ord	82,800	2.02%
255,376	HICL Infrastructure Company Ltd	353,440	8.61%
256,341	International Public Partnerships Ltd	349,649	8.52%
		1,837,916	44.79%
	International Fixed Interest (30.06.2023: 4.06%)		
		-	0.00%
	Property (30.06.2023: 19.61%)		
	Primary Health Properties PLC	345,848	8.43%
	Tritax Big Box REIT PLC	348,773	8.50%
	Urban Logistics Reit PLC	351,015	8.56%
733,000	Home REIT plc	106,138	2.59%
		1,151,774	28.08%
	UK Fixed Interest (30.06.2023: 1.17%)		
		<del>-</del>	0.00%
	Portfolio of investments (30.06.2023: 95.41%)	3,527,513	85.97%
	Net other assets (30.06.2023: 4.59%)	575,426	14.03%
		4,102,939	100.00%

# **SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES**

Purchases	£
HICL Infrastructure Company Ltd	353,553
Tritax Big Box REIT PLC	353,086
Urban Logistics Reit PLC	352,962
Primary Health Properties PLC	352,611
International Public Partnerships Ltd	352,580
BBGI SICAV SA	352,031
3i Infrastructure PLC	351,200
Renewables Infrastructure Group Ltd	350,752
Digital 9 Infrastructure	349,340
Other purchases	-
Total purchases for the period	3,168,115
Sales	£
	£ 1,330,904
Greencoat UK Wind PLC	
Sales Greencoat UK Wind PLC International Public Partnerships Ltd 3i Infrastructure PLC	1,330,904
Greencoat UK Wind PLC International Public Partnerships Ltd 3i Infrastructure PLC	1,330,904 1,194,939
Greencoat UK Wind PLC International Public Partnerships Ltd 3i Infrastructure PLC HICL Infrastructure Company Ltd	1,330,904 1,194,939 1,188,249
Greencoat UK Wind PLC International Public Partnerships Ltd 3i Infrastructure PLC HICL Infrastructure Company Ltd	1,330,904 1,194,939 1,188,249 1,116,937
Greencoat UK Wind PLC International Public Partnerships Ltd 3i Infrastructure PLC HICL Infrastructure Company Ltd Renewables Infrastructure Group Ltd Tritax Big Box REIT PLC	1,330,904 1,194,939 1,188,249 1,116,937 1,091,614
Greencoat UK Wind PLC International Public Partnerships Ltd 3i Infrastructure PLC HICL Infrastructure Company Ltd Renewables Infrastructure Group Ltd Tritax Big Box REIT PLC Sequoia Economic Infrastructure Income Fund Ltd	1,330,904 1,194,939 1,188,249 1,116,937 1,091,614 857,155
Greencoat UK Wind PLC International Public Partnerships Ltd 3i Infrastructure PLC HICL Infrastructure Company Ltd Renewables Infrastructure Group Ltd Tritax Big Box REIT PLC Sequoia Economic Infrastructure Income Fund Ltd Primary Health Properties PLC	1,330,904 1,194,939 1,188,249 1,116,937 1,091,614 857,155 788,747
Greencoat UK Wind PLC International Public Partnerships Ltd 3i Infrastructure PLC HICL Infrastructure Company Ltd Renewables Infrastructure Group Ltd	1,330,904 1,194,939 1,188,249 1,116,937 1,091,614 857,155 788,747 767,323
Greencoat UK Wind PLC International Public Partnerships Ltd 3i Infrastructure PLC HICL Infrastructure Company Ltd Renewables Infrastructure Group Ltd Tritax Big Box REIT PLC Sequoia Economic Infrastructure Income Fund Ltd Primary Health Properties PLC Assura PLC	1,330,904 1,194,939 1,188,249 1,116,937 1,091,614 857,155 788,747 767,323 750,990

The above transactions represent all the purchases and the top 10 largest sales during the period.

For the six month period ended 31 December	202 £	23 £	2022 £	t £	
Income Net capital (losses)		(244,593)		(3,374,399)	
Revenue	407,676		832,773		
Expenses	(37,897)		(59,286)		
Interest payable and similar charges	(3)	_	(974)		
Net revenue before taxation	369,776		772,513		
Taxation	(41,973)	_	(7,723)		
Net revenue after taxation	-	327,803	_	764,790	
Total return before distributions		83,210		(2,609,609)	
Finance costs: distributions	-	(262,605)	_	(798,150)	
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities	-	(179,395)	_	(3,407,759)	
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS					
For the six month period ended 31 December		2023 £		2022 £	
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		18,285,044		31,091,120	
Amounts receivable on creation of shares		793,933		4,614,998	
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares		(15,083,489)		(612,220)	
Dividend reinvested		184,738		754,939	
Dilution Levy		102,108		-	
Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see above)	-	(179,395)	_	(3,407,759)	
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders	-	4,102,939	_	32,441,078	

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives should be for the comparable interim period the net asset value at the end of the period will not agree to the net asset value at the start of the period. The Sub-funds net asset value as at 30 June 2023 was £18,285,044.

#### **BALANCE SHEET**

As at	31.12.2	2023	30.06.20	023
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Investment assets		3,527,513		17,443,679
Current assets				
Debtors	180,493		344,633	
Cash and bank balances	8,002,147		641,897	
Total current assets		8,182,640		986,530
Total assets		11,710,153		18,430,209
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Distribution payable on income shares	(20,622)		(31,727)	
Creditors	(7,586,592)		(113,438)	
Total current liabilities	_	(7,607,214)	_	(145,165)
Net assets attributable to shareholders	_	4,102,939		18,285,044

# **Accounting policies**

As noted in the Statement of the Authorised Fund Manager's (AFM's) Responsibilities, this Sub-fund is in the process of terminating and the financial statements for the six months ending 31 December 2023 have been prepared on a basis other than going concern. This differs to the year ended 30 June 2023 where the financial statements were prepared on a going concern basis.

All other accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 and are described in those financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 and the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017.

# **DISTRIBUTION TABLES**

# For the period ended 31 December 2023

# Q1 Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 July 2023

Group 2: Shares purchased on or after 01 July 2023 and on or before 30 September 2023

Class A (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	1.2907p	-	1.2907p	1.2001p
Group 2	0.8043p	0.4864p	1.2907p	1.2001p
Class A (Income)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	1.2457p	-	1.2457p	1.2250p
Group 2	1.1465p	0.0992p	1.2457p	1.2250p
Class B (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	1.2985p	-	1.2985p	1.2061p
Group 2	1.2985p	-	1.2985p	1.2061p
Class B (Income)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	1.1788p	-	1.1788p	1.1581p
Group 2	1.0773p	0.1015p	1.1788p	1.1581p
Class SI (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	1.2945p	-	1.2945p	1.2012p
Group 2	0.7684p	0.5261p	1.2945p	1.2012p
Class SI (Income)	Net Revenue 30.11.2023	Equalisation	Distribution 30.11.2023	Distribution 30.11.2022
Group 1	1.2055p	-	1.2055p	1.1832p
Group 2	1.2055p	-	1.2055p	1.1832p

# **DISTRIBUTION TABLES (Continued)**

# Q2 Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 October 2023

Group 2: Shares purchased on or after 01 October 2023 and on or before 31 December 2023

Class A (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.4159p	-	0.4159p	1.1991p
Group 2	0.1390p	0.2769p	0.4159p	1.1991p
Class A (Income)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.4024p	-	0.4024p	1.2077p
Group 2	0.2446p	0.1578p	0.4024p	1.2077p
Class B (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.4269p	-	0.4269p	1.2053p
Group 2	0.4269p	-	0.4269p	1.2053p
Class B (Income)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.2523p	-	0.2523p	1.1420p
Group 2	0.2523p	-	0.2523p	1.1420p
Class SI (Accumulation)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.4259p	-	0.4259p	1.2007p
Group 2	0.2778p	0.1481p	0.4259p	1.2007p
Class SI (Income)	Net Revenue 29.02.2024	Equalisation	Distribution 29.02.2024	Distribution 28.02.2023
Group 1	0.3897p	-	0.3897p	1.1670p
Group 2	0.3897p	-	0.3897p	1.1670p

#### INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

#### **Taxation**

The Company will pay no corporation tax on its profits for the period ended 31 December 2023 and capital gains within the Company will not be taxed.

#### **Individual Shareholders**

**Income Tax:** Tax-free annual dividend allowance now standing at £1,000 (2023/24). UK resident shareholders are now subject to new, higher rates of tax on dividend income in excess of the annual allowance. UK resident shareholders are subject to tax on dividend income in excess of the annual allowance.

Capital Gains Tax: Individual shareholders resident in the UK for tax purposes may be liable to capital gains tax on realisation of their shares as with other chargeable assets. However, the first £6,000 (2023/24) of gains each year are presently tax free for individuals. Gains in excess of that amount are charged at the rate of tax applicable to the individual tax payer.

#### Corporate shareholders

Companies resident for tax purposes in the UK which hold shares should note that OEIC distributions are streamed into both franked and unfranked income. The unfranked income element will be treated as an annual payment which has been subject to income tax at a rate of 20% and will be liable to tax accordingly. On realisation of their shares, UK resident companies may be liable to pay corporation tax on any capital gains.

The above information on taxation is only a general summary, and shareholders should consult their own tax advisors in relation to their own circumstances. Shareholders should also note that the position as outlined may change to reflect future changes in tax legislation.

#### Issue and redemption of shares

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited is the AFM and Registrar. Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited will receive requests for the purchase or sale of shares at any time during 8.30am to 5.30pm. Instructions may be given by email to the below email address or by sending an application form to the Registrar. Application forms are available from the Registrar. (E-mail:downing@valu-trac.com).

The price of shares will be determined by reference to a valuation of the Company's net assets at 12 noon on each dealing day.

The AFM has the right to reject, on reasonable grounds relating to the circumstances of the applicant, any application for shares in whole or part, and in this event the AFM will return any money sent, or the balance of such monies, at the risk of the applicant. In addition the AFM may reject any application previously accepted in circumstances where the applicant has paid by cheque and that cheque subsequently fails to be cleared.

Any subscription monies remaining after a whole number of shares has been issued will not be returned to the applicant. Instead, smaller denomination shares will be issued in such circumstances.

A contract note giving details of the shares purchased and the price used will be issued by the Registrar by the end of the business day following the valuation point by reference to which the purchase price is determined.

Ownership of shares will be evidenced by an entry on the Company's Register of Shareholders. Certificates will not be issued. Statements in respect of periodic distributions of revenue will show the number of shares held by the recipient in respect of which the distribution is made. Individual statements of a shareholder's shares will also be issued at any time on request by the registered holder.

Where shares are redeemed, payment will be made not later than the close of business on the fourth business day following the next valuation point after receipt by the AFM of a request for redemption.

The most recent issue and redemption prices are available from the AFM.

# CORPORATE DIRECTORY

Authorised Fund	Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited
Manager &	Orton
Registrar	Fochabers
	Moray
	IV32 7QE
	Telephone: 01343 880344
	Fax: 01343 880267
	Email: Downing@valu-trac.com
	Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
	Registered in England No 2428648
	1 toglotorou in England no 2420040
Investment	Downing LLP
Manager	St Magnus House
	3 Lower Thames Street
	London
	EC3R 6HD
	Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Depositary	NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited
Dopositary	House A
	Floor 0, 175 Glasgow Road
	Gogarburn
	Edinburgh
	EH12 1HQ
	Authorised regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Auditor	Johnston Carmichael LLP
Auditor	Chartered Accountants
	Commerce House
	South Street
	Elgin
	IV30 1JE