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# SMALL COMPANIES DIVIDEND TRUST PLC

## **Annual Report**

for the year ended 30 April 2016

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## Contents

Strategic Report including:	
– Financial Highlights	1
– Chairman’s Statement	2
– Investment Manager’s Report	4
– Investment Objective and Policy	9
– Other Statutory Information	11
Directors	13
Investment Manager, Secretary and Registrar	14
Directors’ Report	15
Statement on Corporate Governance	19
Audit Committee Report	26
Directors’ Remuneration Report	28
Statement of Directors’ Responsibilities	32
Auditor’s Report	33
Accounts including:	
– Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income	37
– Consolidated and Parent Company Statement of Changes in Net Equity	38
– Consolidated and Parent Company Balance Sheets	39
– Consolidated and Parent Company Statement of Cash Flows	40
– Notes to the Financial Statements	41
Shareholder Information	61
Company Summary	62
Capital Structure	63
Glossary of Terms	64
Directors and Advisers	65
Notice of Annual General Meeting	66
Proxy Form	71

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## Strategic Report

The Strategic Report comprising pages 1 to 12 has been prepared in accordance with Section 414A of the Companies Act 2006 (the 'Act'). Its purpose is to inform shareholders and help them understand how the Directors have performed their duty under Section 172 of the Act to promote the success of the Company.

Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC ('the Company'), incorporated on 3 September 2003 with number 3749536, and its subsidiary Small Companies ZDP PLC ('SCZ'), incorporated on 13 July 2012 with number 8142169, together form the Group. The Group's funds are invested principally in smaller capitalised UK companies. The portfolio comprises companies listed on the Official List and companies admitted to trading on AIM. The Group does not invest in other investment trusts or in unquoted companies. No investment is made in preference shares, loan stock or notes, convertible securities or fixed interest securities.

## Financial Highlights

	<b>30 April</b>	30 April	
<b>Capital</b>	<b>2016</b>	2015	% change
Total net assets (£'000)	<b>35,077</b>	32,349	8.44
Net asset value per Ordinary share	<b>211.95p</b>	195.46p	8.44
Mid-market price per Ordinary share	<b>190.50p</b>	162.25p	17.41
Discount	<b>10.12%</b>	16.99%	
Net asset value per Zero Dividend Preference share	<b>123.87p</b>	116.85p	6.01
Mid-market price per Zero Dividend Preference share	<b>127.50p</b>	126.00p	1.19
Premium	<b>2.93%</b>	7.83%	
	<b>Year ended</b>	Year ended	
	<b>30 April</b>	30 April	
	<b>2016</b>	2015	% change
<b>Revenue</b>			
Return per Ordinary share	<b>11.23p</b>	9.21p	21.96
Dividends declared per Ordinary share	<b>7.50p</b>	7.125p	5.26
Special Dividends declared per Ordinary share	<b>1.60p</b>	0.30p	433.33
<b>Total Return</b>			
Total return on Group's net assets* (prior to deduction for provision of Zero Dividend Preference share entitlement)	<b>10.92%</b>	6.91%	
Total return on Group's net assets*	<b>12.42%</b>	7.18%	
Ongoing charges**	<b>1.88%</b>	1.97%	

\* Adding back dividends paid in the year.

\*\* Calculated in accordance with the Association of Investment Companies ('AIC') guidelines. Based on total expenses, excluding finance costs, for the year and average net asset value.

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# Strategic Report

## Chairman's Statement

### Results

The Company's net asset value per Ordinary share as at 30 April 2016 was 211.95p (2015 – 195.46p), an increase over the year of 8.44% with an ordinary share price of 190.5p per share (2015 – 162.5p). Total assets, including unaudited revenue reserves, were £45.6m (2015 - £42.3m) and the total net assets were £35.1m (2015 - £32.3m).

Since the Company was launched, on 12 May 1999, the net asset value per Ordinary share has risen by 120.8% and a total of 155.85p has been paid in dividends. Since the year end, the net asset value per Ordinary share has fallen to 180.84p as at 30 June 2016; the discount to market NAV at the same date was 1.2%. The major part of this decline since the year end has occurred since the Referendum Vote. I will comment more on this later in my report.

In the year total dividends of 9.1p per Ordinary share were paid and proposed including a special dividend of 1.6p. During the same period the MSCI Total return Index decreased by 7.42% and the MSCI Small Cap Index increased by 1.72%.

This year, the Company has, again, had a steady year with shares prices generally increasing. Recently, the focus of investor's attention has been more on the largest of companies and this is reflected in the Small and Mid Cap Indices largely trading sideways this calendar year until more recently.

The current underlying portfolio dividend growth has again been positive with a prospective portfolio yield of 4.7%. As a result of the underlying dividend growth and a number of special dividends paid by portfolio companies in the year, it has been possible to increase the dividend paid to shareholders including a small special dividend and also retain a revenue surplus which will be added to reserves.

The Company's portfolio is currently invested in 70 companies spread across 26 sectors. This spread creates a well diversified portfolio which should lead to steady revenue growth and, in time, capital growth.

### Zero Dividend Preference Shares ('ZDP')

The ZDP shares are held in a wholly owned subsidiary Small Companies ZDP PLC. The net asset value per ZDP share at 30 April 2016 was 123.87p per share (2015 - 116.85p) with a share price of 127.50p per share (2015 – 126.00p), an increase over the year of 6% and 1.2% respectively.

The ZDP shares have traded throughout the year at a premium and as at 30 June 2016 trade at a 4.3% premium. As at the Company year end the ZDP shares provided capital gearing of 23.1% and are 3.9 times covered to final redemption value of 136.70p on 8 January 2018 with an annual gross coupon of 6%.

### Dividend

The Board has declared a fourth interim dividend of 2.40p per Ordinary share (2015 - 2.40p) which when added to the three quarterly interim dividends of 1.70p per Ordinary share (2015 - 1.575p) brings the total to 7.5p (2015 - 7.125p) in respect of the year ended 30th April 2016, an increase of 5.3% over the previous year. In addition the Board has declared a special dividend of 1.6p per Ordinary share to be paid with the fourth interim dividend. Shareholders will effectively receive a fourth dividend of 4.0p per Ordinary share. This equates to a total dividend for the year of 9.1p per Ordinary share.

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It remains the Board's intention, over time, to move the dividend profile gradually to a position where the four interim dividends paid are equal. This will be achieved by maintaining the fourth interim dividend at the same level and increasing the first, second and third dividends in future years to reflect earnings.

The Company has revenue reserves, which represent 205% of the current annual dividend (excluding the special dividend) or 15.4p per Ordinary share.

### **Change of Company Names**

The Directors have decided to change the names of Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC and Small Companies ZDP PLC to Chelverton Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC and Chelverton Small Companies ZDP PLC respectively. These changes will be effective from 1 August 2016.

This follows Chelverton Asset Management Limited recognition and strong investment performance in the Mid and Small cap arena. Chelverton manage in excess of £500m in this specialised area with four open and closed mandates for income and growth.

There is no change to the investment objectives or dividend policy of the trust. The stock exchange ticker will also remain the same SDV.L and SDVZ.L

### **Outlook**

The Board decided to delay the publication of these results for two weeks in order that the outcome of the Referendum was known and that some of the immediate consequences of the decision had been absorbed by the market. There is no real benefit in me adding here to the acres of column inches and hours of commentary on the “why’s” and “wherefore’s” of the actual Vote. However it is important that we outline our general views as to the impact and prospects, in time, for the shares in which the Company is currently invested.

As time passes it is our belief that our companies, which are in the main UK’centric in their trading relationships, will adapt and prosper. We believe that current share prices largely take into account the general market decline since 24th June and the possibility of a shallow recession. Of course the whole “Brexit” outcome allows any company an easy excuse for a profit warning on underperformance. However the portfolio is invested across a broad spread of companies with strong balance sheets and strong cash flows and which are well positioned to manage the Brexit process.

Any eventual agreement with the European Union is not expected take place for at least two years and given the well documented political and economic tensions in the European Union and more particularly the Eurozone it makes it very difficult to make any precise prediction as to the eventual shape of any agreement.

### **Lord Lamont of Lerwick**

Chairman

20 July 2016

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## Strategic Report

### Investment Manager's Report

The year to 30 April 2016 saw a steady growth in the Company's net asset value per share and a solid increase in the dividend of 5.3%. In addition the Company has announced another small special dividend of 1.6p which has been aggregated with the final dividend. Given the increasing occurrence of companies paying special dividends it is likely that this will become a feature of the dividend payment profile in future years.

During the year we saw the inverse of the monthly performance from the previous year in that we experienced a strong increase in the asset values for the first eight months of the year taking the net asset value per share up from 195.46p as at 30 April 2015 to 219.16p at 31 December 2015. Since January, and in particular since the outcome of the referendum, we have seen a reduction in the net asset value per share from the end of December 2015 level of 219.16p to 180.84p at the end of June 2016, a 17.5% decrease in six months. Of this decrease some 14.1% occurred in the month of June.

During the year, for long periods the shares traded at a large discount to net asset value and have only very recently moved to a small premium. In the year we discovered that the Association of Investment Companies had, in error, placed the fund in the Equity and Bond Sector despite the fact that the Company has never and will never own a bond. Now that this has been corrected, and the fund is in a sector where it can be compared with the correct peer group, it is ranked number 3 over one year and ranked number 1 over five years.

Given the solid dividend growth and at the same time the maximum allocation of surplus revenue to revenue reserves it would be reasonable to see continued dividend growth in the next year. We have seen, in the past year, continued strong dividend growth and also a number of companies paying Special Dividends. It is our objective to continue paying a steadily increasing dividend and to then pay "excess revenue" by way of a Special Dividend. The fourth interim dividend of 2.4p was aggregated with the Special Dividend of 1.6p to make a total payment of 4.0p.

#### Portfolio Review

In the last year we have had two takeovers (2015 – 2), Amlin and Phoenix IT Group and after the year end a recommended offer was received for Premier Farnell. As we have said, for many years, we continue to expect to see a number of takeovers from our portfolio once the future prospects become clearer.

Twelve holdings from the portfolio were sold in their entirety (2015 – 11), Amlin, Flying Brands, Ladbrokes, Majestic Wine, Marshalls, Menzies (John), Phoenix IT Group, Portmeirion Group, Sanne Group, Stadium Group, Trifast and William Sinclair Holdings. Apart from William Sinclair Holdings, Flying Brands and Ladbrokes the companies sold have all made a significant contribution to both the income and the capital performance of the fund. To remind shareholders, companies are generally sold when the dividend yield has declined to a point where the income contribution has fallen below the level acceptable to us for retention in an income fund.

Shareholdings were reduced in eighteen companies: Acal, Alumasc Group, Bioventix, Clarke (T), Curtis Banks Group, Dairy Crest Group, Epwin Group, Go-Ahead Group, Intermediate Capital Group, Kcom Group, Macfarlane Group, Novae Group, NWF Group, Personal Group Holdings, Sanderson Group, Town Centre Securities, St Ives and Wilmington Group after strong share price performances.

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Nine new shareholdings were added to the Company's portfolio in the year: Ashmore Group – a specialist emerging markets investment manager, Fenner – a manufacturer of industrial polymer products, Galliford Try – a house building and construction group, Martin McColl Retail Group – convenience store and newsagent group, Regional REIT – a property company, RPS Group – international consultancy, RWS Holdings – a patent translation and patent research company, StatPro Group – software solutions for asset managers, XP Power – power supply provider.

Holdings were increased in thirty companies, being almost half the portfolio. Interesting situations in which holdings were increased include Belvoir Lettings, Coral Products, Fairpoint Group, GLI Finance, Marstons and Moss Bros Group.

### **Outlook**

Clearly the result in the Referendum has taken many people by surprise and highlights the stark divisions in the country. The result seems to have come as a shock to some and there has been much subsequent contemplation and, of course, robust discussion. As time passes and as a country we move on, and accept that change must and will take place, people and companies will begin to become more objective about the situation.

There is no doubt that companies will use the opportunity of blaming “Brexit” for any problems that emerge in their companies over the next two years. Despite being very vociferous opponents of the Leave proposal, The Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor have put in place a whole range of facilities to protect the economy from the shocks from the Brexit process. However, the need is increasingly recognised by all to work towards a sensible solution that is beneficial and acceptable to all.

The portfolio performance over the past month has been poor and reflects the uncertainty created by the Referendum result. Looking at the portfolio and the strength and trading of the individual companies we feel that this has been an overreaction, albeit understandable in the circumstances.

In time as people become more used to the concept of Brexit, once the “new” Conservative government is installed and members of the European Union, who undoubtedly have their own political and economic issues, start working towards an amicable solution for all parties then a more balanced view will emerge.

**David Horner**

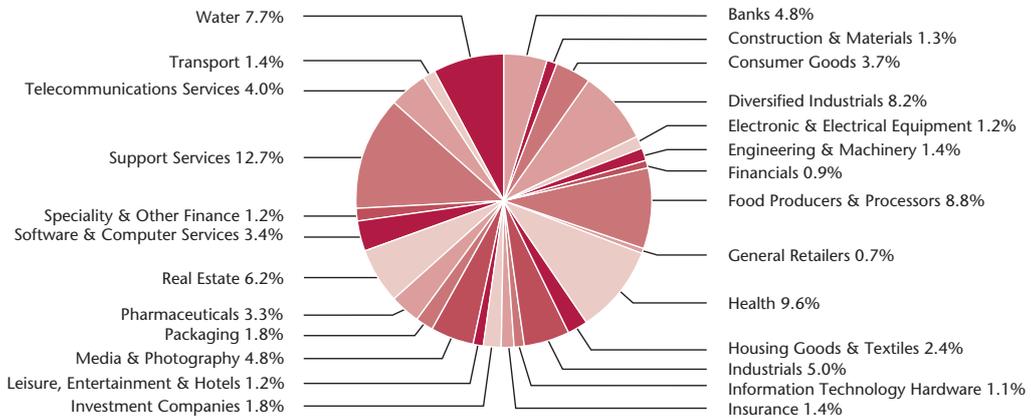
Chelverton Asset Management Limited

20 July 2016

# Strategic Report

## Breakdown of Portfolio by Industry

at 30 April 2016

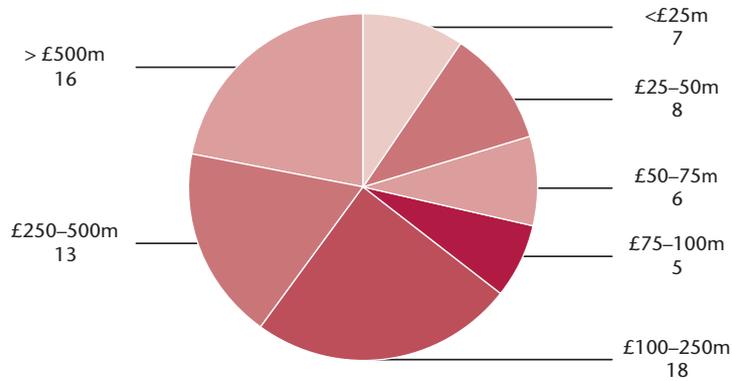


Source: Maitland Administration Services Limited

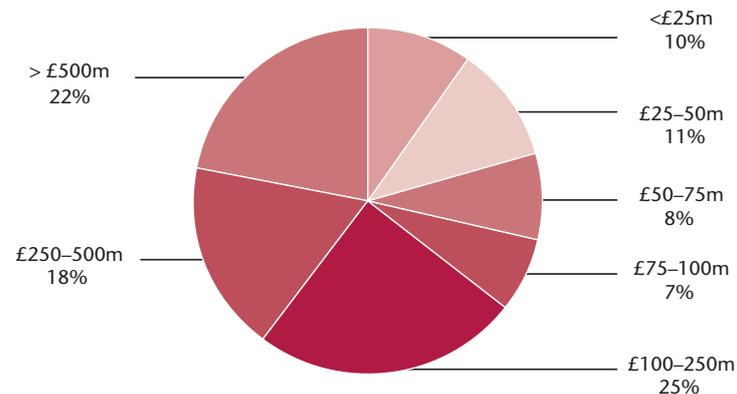
## Breakdown of Portfolio by Market Capitalisation

at 30 April 2016

### Number of Companies



### % of Portfolio



Source: Maitland Administration Services Limited

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## Portfolio Statement

at 30 April 2016

Security	Sector	Market value £'000	% of portfolio
Avesco Group	Media & Photography	1,484	3.3
Coral Products	Construction & Building Materials	1,290	2.8
Belvoir Lettings	Real Estate	1,100	2.4
GVC Holdings	Software & Computer Services	1,084	2.4
Connect Group	Industrials	1,075	2.4
Shoe Zone	General Retailers	1,035	2.3
Moss Bros Group	Housing Goods & Textiles	990	2.2
GLI Finance	Investment Companies	976	2.2
Games Workshop Group	Leisure, Entertainment & Hotels	941	2.1
Brown (N) Group	General Retailers	938	2.1
Mucklow (A&J) Group	Investment Companies	934	2.1
Alumasc Group	Construction & Building Materials	919	2.0
Braemar Shipping Services	Support Services	900	2.0
Marston's	Leisure, Entertainment & Hotels	862	1.9
Jarvis Securities	Speciality & Other Finance	850	1.9
Photo-Me International	Media & Photography	836	1.8
Clarke (T)	Electronic & Electrical Equipment	835	1.8
Kier Group	Construction & Building Materials	833	1.8
KCOM Group	Telecommunications Services	826	1.8
Fairpoint Group	Speciality & Other Finance	810	1.8
Martin McColl Retail Group	General Retailers	800	1.8
Acal	Electronic & Electrical Equipment	780	1.7
Town Centre Securities	Real Estate	760	1.7
Hansard Global	Insurance	742	1.6
Cape	Diversified Industrials	689	1.5
Polar Capital Holdings	Investment Companies	688	1.5
Epwin Group	Construction & Building Materials	664	1.5
Dee Valley Group	Water	650	1.4
Amino Technologies	Information Technology Hardware	642	1.4
Wilmington Group	Support Services	636	1.4
Numis Corporation	Speciality & Other Finance	626	1.4
Ashmore Group	Investment Companies	614	1.4
Intermediate Capital Group	Financials	614	1.4
Bloomsbury Publishing	Media & Photography	612	1.4
Chesnara	Insurance	610	1.3
Park Group	Speciality & Other Finance	604	1.3
Sanderson Group	Software & Computer Services	600	1.3
Curtis Banks Group	Banks	593	1.3
Dairy Crest Group	Consumer Goods	565	1.2
Randall & Quilter Investment	Insurance	555	1.2
Brewin Dolphin Holdings	Speciality & Other Finance	548	1.2
Electrocomponents	Support Services	542	1.2
Personal Group Holdings	Health	540	1.2
Orchard Funding Group	Speciality & Other Finance	535	1.2

## Strategic Report

Security	Sector	Market value £'000	% of portfolio
DX Group	Transport	531	1.2
Low & Bonar	Housing Goods & Textiles	530	1.2
Centaur Media	Media & Photography	528	1.2
St. Ives	Support Services	518	1.1
Morgan Sindall Group	Construction & Building Materials	517	1.1
Galliford Try	Construction & Building Materials	510	1.1
Macfarlane Group	Packaging	506	1.1
National Express Group	Transport	486	1.1
Castings	Construction & Building Materials	475	1.0
Go-Ahead Group	Transport	449	1.0
Bioventix	Pharmaceuticals	425	0.9
Hilton Food Group	Food Producers & Processors	422	0.9
RTC Group	Support Services	412	0.9
Novae Group	Insurance	401	0.9
RPS Group	Support Services	346	0.8
Huntsworth	Support Services	344	0.8
XP Power	Electronic & Electrical Equipment	323	0.7
Titon Holdings	Construction & Building Materials	319	0.7
Charlemagne Capital	Investment Companies	319	0.7
Chamberlin	Engineering & Machinery	315	0.7
Severfield	Construction & Building Materials	312	0.7
Foxtons Group	Real Estate	303	0.7
StatPro Group	Support Services	280	0.6
Premier Farnell	Electronic & Electrical Equipment	278	0.6
Grafenia	Support Services	224	0.5
Regional REIT	Investment Companies	158	0.3
RWS Holdings	Support Services	152	0.3
Fenner	Diversified Industrials	143	0.3
NWF Group	Food Producers & Processors	123	0.3
<b>Total Portfolio</b>		<b>45,376</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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## Investment Objective and Policy

The investment objective of the Company is to provide Ordinary shareholders with a high income and opportunity for capital growth, having provided a capital return sufficient to repay the full final capital entitlement of the Zero Dividend Preference shares issued by the wholly owned subsidiary company SCZ.

The Company's investment policy is that:

- The Company will invest in equities in order to achieve its investment objectives, which are to provide both income and capital growth, predominantly through investment in mid and smaller capitalised UK companies admitted to the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and traded on the London Stock Exchange Main Market or traded on AIM.
- The Company will not invest in preference shares, loan stock or notes, convertible securities or fixed interest securities or any similar securities convertible into shares; nor will it invest in the securities of other investment trusts or in unquoted companies.
- There is no set limit on the Company's gearing.

## Performance analysis using key performance indicators

At each quarterly Board meeting the Directors consider a number of key performance indicators ('KPIs') to assess the Group's success in achieving its objectives, including the net asset value ('NAV'), the dividend per share and the total ongoing charges.

- The Group's Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income is set out on page 36.
- A total dividend for the year to 30 April 2016 of 9.10p (2015: 7.425p) per Ordinary share has been declared to shareholders by way of three payments of 1.70p per Ordinary share and a fourth interim dividend payment of 2.40p per Ordinary share and a special dividend of 1.60p per Ordinary share.
- The NAV per Ordinary share at 30 April 2016 was 211.95p (2015: 195.46p).
- The ongoing charges (including investment management fees and other expenses but excluding performance fees and exceptional items) for the year ended 30 April 2016 were 1.88% (2015: 1.97%).

## Principal risks

The Directors confirm that they have carried out a robust assessment of the principal risks facing the Company, including those that would threaten its objective, business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity. The Board regularly considers the principal risks facing the Company. Mitigation of these risks is sought and achieved in a number of ways as set out below:

### *Market risk*

The Company is exposed to UK market risk due to fluctuations in the market prices of its investments.

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## Strategic Report

The Investment Manager actively monitors economic performance of investee companies and reports regularly to the Board on a formal and informal basis. The Board formally meets with the Investment Manager on a quarterly basis when the portfolio transactions and performance are discussed and reviewed.

The Company is substantially dependent on the services of the Investment Manager's investment team for the implementation of its investment policy.

The Company may hold a proportion of the portfolio in cash or cash equivalent investments from time to time. Whilst during positive stock market movements the portfolio may forego notional gains, during negative market movements this may provide protection.

### *Discount volatility*

As with many investment trust companies, discounts can fluctuate significantly.

The Board recognises that, as a closed ended company, it is in the long-term interests of shareholders to reduce discount volatility and believes that the prime driver of discounts over the longer term is performance. The Board, with its advisers, monitors the Company's discount levels and shares may be bought back should it be thought appropriate to do so by the Board.

### *Regulatory risks*

A breach of Companies Act regulations and Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA') rules may result in the Group's companies being liable to fines or the suspension of either of the Group companies from listing and from trading on the London Stock Exchange. The Board, with its advisers, monitors the Company's and SCZ's regulatory obligations both on an ongoing basis and at quarterly Board meetings.

### *Financial risk*

The financial situation of the Group is reviewed in detail at each Board meeting and monitored by the Audit Committee.

New developments in accounting standards and industry-related issues are actively reported to and monitored by the Board and its advisers, ensuring that appropriate accounting policies are adhered to.

A more detailed explanation of the financial risks facing the Group is given in note 24 to the financial statements on pages 55 to 60.

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## Viability Statement

The Board reviews the performance and progress of the Company over various time periods and uses these assessments, regular investment performance updates from the Investment Manager and a continuing programme of monitoring risk, to assess the future viability of the Company. The Directors consider that a period of three years is the most appropriate time horizon to consider the Company's viability and after careful analysis, the Directors believe that the Company is viable over a three-year period. The following facts support the Directors' view:

- The Company has a liquid investment portfolio invested predominantly in readily realisable smaller capitalised UK-listed and AIM traded securities and has some short-term cash on deposit.
- Expenses of the Company are covered more than three times by investment income.

In order to maintain viability, the Company has a robust risk control framework for the identification and mitigation of risk which is reviewed regularly by the Board. The Directors also seek reassurance from suppliers that their operations are well managed and they are taking appropriate action to monitor and mitigate risk. The Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due over the period of the assessment.

## Other Statutory Information

### *Company status, objective, review and business model*

The Company was incorporated on 6 April 1999 and commenced trading on 12 May 1999. The Company's registered number is 3749536. Its capital structure consists of 16,550,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each. The Company has only one class of share and this figure represents 100% of the Company's issued share capital and voting rights.

The Board has registered itself as the Alternative Investment Fund Manager ('AIFM') with the FCA and all required returns have been completed and filed.

The Group financial statements consolidate the audited annual report and financial statements of the Company and SCZ, its subsidiary undertaking, for the year ended 30 April 2016.

The Company owns 100% of the issued ordinary share capital of SCZ which was incorporated on 13 July 2012. SCZ issued 8,500,000 Zero Dividend Preference shares on 28 August 2012, which have been admitted to the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and to trading on the London Stock Exchange. Further details of the Zero Dividend Preference shares and the loan and contribution agreements entered into by the Company and SCZ can be found in notes 15 and 16 to the financial statements on page 51. SCZ, at its Annual General Meeting on 8 September 2016, will put an Ordinary Resolution to its shareholders to allot shares up to an aggregate value of 2,833,333, being one-third of the issued Zero Dividend Preference share capital as at 30 April 2016.

The principal activity of the Company is to carry on business as an investment trust. The Company has been granted approval from HMRC as an investment trust under Sections 1158/1159 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 ('1158/1159') on an ongoing basis. The Company will be treated as an investment trust company subject to there being no serious breaches of the conditions for approval. The Company is also an investment company as defined in Section 833 of the Companies Act 2006.

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# Strategic Report

## *Employees, environmental, human rights and community issues*

The Board recognises the requirement under Section 414C of the Companies Act to detail information about employees, human rights and community issues, including information about any policies it has in relation to these matters and the effectiveness of these policies. These requirements and the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 do not apply to the Company as it has no employees and no physical assets, all the Directors are non-executive and it has outsourced all its management and administrative functions to third party service providers. The Company has therefore not reported further in respect of these provisions. However, in carrying out its activities and in relationships with suppliers, the Company aims to conduct itself responsibly, ethically and fairly.

## *Current and future developments*

A review of the main features of the year and the outlook for the Company are contained in the Chairman's Statement on pages 2 and 3 and the Investment Manager's Report on pages 4 to 8.

## *Dividends declared/paid*

	<b>Payment date</b>	<b>30 April 2016</b>	30 April 2015
		<b>pence</b>	pence
First interim	5 October 2015	<b>1.70</b>	1.575
Second interim	5 January 2016	<b>1.70</b>	1.575
Third interim	31 March 2016	<b>1.70</b>	1.575
Fourth interim	5 July 2016	<b>2.40</b>	2.40
		<b>7.50</b>	7.125
Special dividend	5 July 2016	<b>1.60</b>	0.30
		<b>9.10</b>	7.425

The Directors have not recommended a final dividend in respect of the year ended 30 April 2016.

## *Diversity*

The Board of Directors of the Company comprised four male Directors in the year to 30 April 2016. The Board recognises the benefits of diversity in future appointments to the Board, however the key criteria for the appointment of new directors will be the appropriate skills and experience in the interests of shareholder value. The Directors are satisfied that the Board currently contains members with an appropriate breadth of skills and experience. No new appointments to the Board have been made or are contemplated at present.

The Strategic Report is signed on behalf of the Board by

### **Lord Lamont of Lerwick**

Chairman

20 July 2016

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## Directors

The Directors are:

**The Rt Hon. Lord Lamont of Lerwick\*** (Chairman) was Chancellor of the Exchequer between 1990 and 1993. Prior to his appointment, Lord Lamont was Chief Secretary to the Treasury between 1989 and 1990. Following his retirement as a Member of Parliament in 1997, he has held numerous positions as a director of various organisations and funds, including NM Rothschild and Sons Limited. He is an adviser to BC Partners and Stanhope Capital.

Lord Lamont was appointed to the Board on 27 February 2006.

**David Harris\*** is chief executive of InvaTrust Consultancy Limited. The company specialises in marketing issues relating to the investment and financial services industry. He writes regular articles for the national and trade press on investment matters. From 1995 to 1999 he was a director of the AIC with specific responsibility for training and education of independent financial advisers. He is a non-executive director of the Character Group PLC, Aseana Properties Limited, F&C Managed Portfolio Trust PLC and Manchester and London Investment Trust PLC.

Mr Harris was appointed to the Board on 30 May 2000 and was Audit Committee Chairman until 15 June 2016.

**William van Heesewijk** began his career with Lloyds Bank International in 1981, working for both the merchant banking and investment management arms. He has been involved in the investment trust industry since 1987 in various capacities. During his tenure with Fidelity Investments International, Gartmore Investment Management PLC and BFS Investments PLC he managed several launches of onshore and offshore investment funds, including a number of roll-overs and reconstructions involving complex capital structures and across several geographic regions. His roles involved business development, project management, sales and marketing. He is Business Development Director with Chelverton Asset Management Limited. He is a member of the Association of Investment Companies Managers forum.

Mr van Heesewijk was appointed to the Board on 1 December 2005.

**Howard Myles\*** was a partner in Ernst & Young from 2001 to 2007 and was responsible for the Investment Funds Corporate Advisory Team. He was previously with UBS Warburg from 1987 to 2001. Mr Myles began his career in stockbroking in 1971 as an equity salesman and in 1975 joined Touche Ross & Co, where he qualified as a chartered accountant. In 1978 he joined W Greenwell & Co in the corporate broking team and in 1987 moved to SG Warburg Securities, where he was involved in a wide range of commercial and industrial transactions in addition to leading Warburg's corporate finance function for investment funds. He is now a non-executive director of Lazard World Trust Fund SICAF S.A., Aberdeen Private Equity Fund Limited, Baker Steel Resources Trust Limited, JPMorgan Brazil Investment Trust plc and BBGI SICAV S.A.

Mr Myles was appointed to the Board on 15 March 2011. He was Chairman of the Management Engagement Committee, Nomination Committee and Remuneration Committee until 15 June 2016. He became Chairman of the Audit Committee on 15 June 2016

\* Independent

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## **Investment Manager, Secretary and Registrar**

### **Investment Manager: Chelverton Asset Management Limited ('Chelverton')**

Chelverton was formed in 1998 by David Horner, who has considerable experience of analysing investments and working with smaller companies. Chelverton is largely owned by its employees.

Chelverton is a specialist fund manager focused on UK mid and small companies and has a successful track record. At 31 May 2016, Chelverton had total funds under management of approximately £520 million including two investment trust companies and two OEICs. The fund management team comprises David Horner, David Taylor and James Baker.

Chelverton is authorised and regulated by the FCA.

### **Administrator and Corporate Secretary: Maitland Administration Services Limited**

Maitland Administration Services Limited (formerly Phoenix Administration Services Limited) provides company secretarial and administrative services for the Group. The Company is part of the Maitland group that provides administration and regulatory oversight solutions for a wide range of investment companies.

### **Registrar: Share Registrars**

Share Registrars Limited is a CREST registrar established in 2004. The Company provides registration services to over 220 client companies.

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## Directors' Report

The Directors present their Annual Report and financial statements for the Group and the Company for the year ended 30 April 2016.

### Directors

The Directors who served during the year ended 30 April 2016 are listed on page 13. None of the Directors nor any persons connected with them had a material interest in any of the Company's transactions, arrangements or agreements during the year, except Mr van Heesewijk who by virtue of his employment with Chelverton is interested in the Investment Management Agreement. None of the Directors has or has had any interest in any transaction which is or was unusual in its nature or conditions or significant to the business of the Company, and which was effected by the Company during the current financial year. There have been no loans or guarantees from the Company or its subsidiary undertakings, to any Director at any time during the year or thereafter.

### Corporate Governance

A formal statement on Corporate Governance and the Company compliance with the UK Corporate Governance Code and the AIC on Corporate Governance can be found on pages 19 to 25.

### Management agreements

The Company's investments are managed by Chelverton Asset Management Limited under an agreement ('the Investment Management Agreement') dated 30 April 2006 (effective from 1 December 2005). A periodic fee is payable quarterly in arrears at an annual rate of 1% of the value of the gross assets under management of the Company.

The Investment Management Agreement may be terminated by 12 months' written notice. There are no additional arrangements in place for compensation beyond the notice period.

Under another agreement ('the Administration Agreement') dated 1 January 2016, company secretarial services and the general administration of the Group are undertaken by Maitland Administration Services Limited. Their fee is subject to review at intervals of not less than three years. The Administration Agreement may be terminated by six months' written notice.

It is the Directors' opinion that the continuing appointment of the Investment Manager and the Administrator/Secretary on the terms agreed is in the best interests of the Group and its shareholders. The Directors are satisfied that Chelverton has the required skill and expertise to continue successfully to manage the Group's assets, and is satisfied with the services provided by Maitland.

### Dividends

Details of the dividends declared and paid by the Board are set out in the Strategic Report on page 12.

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## Directors' Report (continued)

### Substantial shareholdings

The Directors have been informed of the following notifiable interests in the voting shares of the Company at 30 April 2016:

<b>Ordinary shares</b>	Number of shares	% of voting rights
Charles Stanley Group (nominee holding)	1,511,832	9.13
Consistent Unit Trust Management	775,000	4.03
Dartmoor Investment Trust	630,000	3.81
Philip J Milton & Company	622,275	3.76
Jupiter Asset Management Limited	600,000	3.63
Rath Dhu Limited	500,000	3.02

The Company has not been notified of any changes to the above holdings between 30 April 2016 and the date of this report.

### Special business at the Annual General Meeting

The Company's AGM will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday 8 September 2016. The Notice of Meeting is set out on pages 66 to 69.

In addition to the ordinary business of the meeting, there are a number of items of special business, as follows:

#### *Authority to issue shares and disapply pre-emption rights*

An Ordinary Resolution was passed at the last AGM held on 16 September 2015 giving Directors authority, pursuant to Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006, to allot Ordinary shares up to an aggregate nominal value equal to £1,379,167 (which figure represented one-third of the issued share capital of the Company). This authority expires at the conclusion of the next AGM. The Directors are seeking renewal, pursuant to Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006, to allot up to an aggregate nominal value equal to £1,379,167, being one-third of the Ordinary shares in issue at the date of this report, as set out in Resolution 7 in the Notice of Meeting. This authority will expire at the AGM to be held in 2017 or 15 months from the passing of the Resolution, whichever is earlier.

A Special Resolution was also passed on 16 September 2015 giving the Directors power to issue Ordinary shares for cash notwithstanding the pre-emption provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and permitting the Directors to issue shares without being required to offer them to existing shareholders in proportion to their current holdings. This power expires at the conclusion of the next AGM and the Directors are seeking its renewal, pursuant to Sections 570 and 573 of the Companies Act 2006, to enable the Directors to issue up to 10% of the issued Ordinary share capital, representing 1,655,000 Ordinary shares at the date of this report, as set out in the Notice of Meeting as Resolution 8.

This authority will also cover the sale of shares held in Treasury, and will expire at the AGM to be held in 2017 or 15 months from the passing of the Resolution, whichever is earlier. The authorities to issue shares will only be used when it would be in the interests of shareholders as a whole. The Directors do not currently intend to issue or sell shares from treasury other than above the prevailing NAV.

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#### *Purchase of own shares*

At the AGM held on 16 September 2015 the Directors were granted the authority to buy back in the market up to 14.99% of the Company's Ordinary shares in circulation at that date for cancellation or placing into Treasury. No shares have been purchased under this authority which remains in force. Resolution 9 as set out in the Notice of Meeting will renew this authority for up to 14.99% of the current issued Ordinary share capital in circulation, which represents 2,480,845 Ordinary shares at the date of this report. The Directors do not intend to use the authority to purchase the Company's shares unless to do so would result in an increase in the net asset value per share for the remaining shareholders and would be in the interests of all shareholders. The authority, if given, will lapse at the AGM to be held in 2017 or 15 months from the passing of this Resolution, whichever is earlier.

Purchases will be made on the open market. The price paid for Ordinary shares will not be less than 25p and not more than the higher of (i) 5% above the average of the middle market quotations (as derived from the Daily Official List of the London Stock Exchange) of the Ordinary shares for the five business days immediately preceding the date on which the Ordinary share is purchased, and (ii) the higher of the price of the last independent trade and the current highest independent bid on the London Stock Exchange. Shares may be cancelled or placed in Treasury.

Pursuant to the loan agreement between the Company and SCZ, the Company will not purchase any of its Ordinary shares out of capital reserves unless the cover for the final redemption value of the Zero Dividend Preference shares is at least 1.9 times after the purchase.

#### *Notice period for general meetings*

Resolution 10 is a Special Resolution that will give the Directors the ability to convene general meetings, other than Annual General Meetings, on a minimum of 14 clear days' notice. The minimum notice period for annual general meetings will remain at 21 clear days. The approval will be effective until the Company's Annual General Meeting to be held in 2017, at which it is intended that renewal will be sought. The Company will have to offer facilities for all shareholders to vote by electronic means for any general meeting convened on 14 days' notice. The Directors will only call a general meeting on 14 days' notice where they consider it to be in the interests of shareholders to do so and the relevant matter is required to be dealt with expeditiously.

#### *Recommendation*

The Board considers that the Resolutions to be proposed at the AGM are in the best interests of shareholders as a whole and the Company and, accordingly, recommends that shareholders vote in favour of each Resolution, as the Directors intend to do in respect of their own beneficial shareholdings representing c.1% of the issued share capital.

#### **Company information**

The following information is disclosed in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

- The Group's capital structure and voting rights are summarised on page 63.
- Details of the substantial shareholders in the Company are listed on page 16.
- The rules concerning the appointment and replacement of Directors are contained in the Company's Articles of Association.
- The Articles of Association can be amended by the passing of a Special Resolution of the members in a General Meeting.

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## Directors' Report (continued)

- Amendment of the Articles of Association and the giving of powers to issue or buy back the Company's shares require the relevant Resolution to be passed by shareholders. The Board's current powers to issue or buy back shares and proposals for their renewal are detailed on pages 15 and 16.
- There are no restrictions concerning the transfer of securities in the Company; no restrictions on voting rights; no special rights with regard to control attached to securities; no agreements between holders of securities regarding their transfer known to the Company; and no agreements which the Company is party to that might affect its control following a successful takeover bid.
- Consideration of likely future developments is detailed in the Strategic Report on pages 1 to 12.

### ISA status

The Company's Ordinary shares are qualifying investments for Individual Savings Accounts ('ISAs'), as are the Zero Dividend Preference shares of SCZ.

### Going concern

The Group's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position, are described in the Chairman's Statement on pages 2 and 3 and in the Investment Manager's Report on pages 4 to 8. The financial position of the Group, its cash flows, liquidity position and borrowing facilities are described in the financial statements. In addition, note 24 to the financial statements sets out the Group's objectives, policies and processes for managing its capital; its financial risk management objectives; details of its financial instruments; and its exposure to credit risk and liquidity risk. The Group has adequate financial resources and, as a consequence, the Directors believe that the Group is well placed to manage its business risks successfully and it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis.

### Global greenhouse gas emissions

The Company has no greenhouse gas emissions to report from its operations, nor does it have responsibility for any other emission-producing sources under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

### Auditor

The Auditor, Hazlewoods LLP, has indicated their willingness to continue in office, and Resolution 6 proposing their re-appointment and authorising the Directors to determine their remuneration for the ensuing year will be submitted at the AGM.

The Directors who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are each aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the Auditor is unaware. Each of the Directors have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the Auditor.

On behalf of the Board

### Lord Lamont of Lerwick

Chairman

20 July 2016

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## Statement on Corporate Governance

The Company is committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance and the Directors are accountable to shareholders for the governance of the Group's affairs.

### Statement of compliance with the UK Corporate Governance Code ('the Governance Code')

The Directors have reviewed the detailed principles outlined in the Governance Code and confirm that, to the extent that they are relevant to the Company's business, they have complied with the provisions of the Governance Code throughout the year ended 30 April 2016 except as explained in this section as being non-compliant and that the Company's current practice is in all material respects consistent with the principles of the Governance Code.

The Board also confirms that, to the best of its knowledge and understanding, procedures were in place to meet the requirements of the Governance Code relating to internal controls throughout the year under review. This statement describes how the principles of the Governance Code have been applied in the affairs of the Company.

As an investment trust, the Company has also taken into account the Code of Corporate Governance produced by the Association of Investment Companies ('the AIC Code'), which is intended as a framework of best practice specifically for AIC member companies.

The AIC Code, as explained by the AIC Corporate Governance Guide ('the AIC Guide'), addresses all the principles set out in the Governance Code, and there are some areas where the AIC Code is more flexible than the Governance Code for investment companies. The Board has taken steps to adhere to its principles and follow the recommendations in the AIC Code where it believes they are appropriate.

A copy of the AIC Code and the AIC Guide can be obtained via the AIC website, [www.theaic.co.uk](http://www.theaic.co.uk), and a copy of the Governance Code can be obtained at [www.frc.org.uk](http://www.frc.org.uk).

The Company has not complied with the following provisions of the Governance Code:

- Owing to the size of the Board, it is felt inappropriate to appoint a senior independent non-executive Director.
- The Directors do not have service contracts, but all are required to retire and seek re-election at least every three years. The recommendation of the Governance Code is for fixed-term renewable contracts.
- As the Group has no staff, other than Directors, there are no procedures in place in relation to whistle-blowing. The Board has satisfied itself there are appropriate whistle-blowing procedures in place at its service providers.

### Board responsibilities and relationship with Investment Manager

The Board is responsible for the investment policy and strategic and operational decisions of the Group and for ensuring that the Group is run in accordance with all regulatory and statutory requirements. These procedures have been formalised in a schedule of matters reserved for decision by the Board. These matters include:

- the maintenance of clear investment objectives and risk management policies, changes to which require Board approval;
- the monitoring of the business activities of the Group, including investment performance and annual budgeting; and
- review of matters delegated to the Investment Manager, Administrator or Secretary.

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## Statement on Corporate Governance (continued)

The Group's day-to-day functions have been delegated to a number of service providers, each engaged under separate legal agreements. At each Board meeting the Directors follow a formal agenda prepared and circulated in advance of the meeting by the Company Secretary to review the Group's investments and all other important issues, such as asset allocation, gearing policy, corporate strategic issues, cash management, peer group performance, marketing and shareholder relations, investment outlook and revenue forecasts, to ensure that control is maintained over the Group's affairs. The Board regularly considers its overall strategy.

The management of the Group's assets is delegated to Chelverton. At each Board meeting, representatives of Chelverton are in attendance to present verbal and written reports covering its activity, portfolio composition and investment performance over the preceding period. Ongoing communication with the Board is maintained between formal meetings. The Investment Manager ensures that Directors have timely access to all relevant management and financial information to enable informed decisions to be made and contacts the Board as required for specific guidance. The Company Secretary and Investment Manager prepare briefing notes for Board consideration on matters of relevance, for example changes to the Group's economic and financial environment, statutory and regulatory changes and corporate governance best practice.

The Company has arranged a Directors' and Officers' Liability insurance policy which includes cover for legal expenses.

The Articles of Association of both the Company and SCZ provide the Directors, subject to the provisions of UK legislation, with an indemnity in respect of liabilities which they may sustain or incur in connection with their appointment. Save for this, there are no qualifying third party indemnity provisions in force.

### **Board membership**

At the year end the Board consisted of four Directors, all of whom are non-executive. The Group has no employees. The Board seeks to ensure that it has the appropriate balance of skills, experience and length of service amongst its members. The Board's policy on tenure is that Directors can stand for more than nine years. The Board considers that length of service does not necessarily compromise the independence or contribution of directors of investment trust companies where experience and continuity can be a significant strength. The Directors possess a wide range of business and financial expertise relevant to the direction of the Group and Company and consider that they commit sufficient time to the Group and Company's affairs. On appointment to the Board, Directors are fully briefed as to their responsibilities by the Chairman and the Investment Manager. Brief biographical details of the Directors can be found on page 13.

The Directors meet at regular Board meetings, held at least four times a year, and additional meetings and telephone meetings are arranged as necessary. During the year to 30 April 2016 the Board met four times and all Directors were present at all Board meetings.

### **Board effectiveness**

The Board conducts an annual review of the performance of the Board, its Committees and the Directors. The Board is satisfied from the results of its last evaluation that the Board, its Committees and Directors function effectively, collectively and individually and that the Board contains an appropriate balance of skills and experience to effectively manage the Company.

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### **Chairman**

The Chairman, Lord Lamont, is independent. He has shown himself to have sufficient time to commit to the Group's affairs. The Company does not have a chief executive officer, as it has no executive directors. The Chairman has no relationships that may create a conflict of interest between the Chairman's interest and those of the shareholders. The Chairman does not sit on the Board of any other investment company managed by Chelverton.

### **Directors' independence**

In accordance with the Listing Rules for investment entities, the Board has reviewed the status of its individual Directors and the Board as a whole.

The Governance Code requires that this report should identify each non-executive Director the Board considers to be independent in character and judgement and whether there are relationships or circumstances which are likely to affect, or could appear to affect, the Director's judgement, stating its reasons if it determines that a Director is independent notwithstanding the existence of relationships or circumstances which may appear relevant to its determination.

Mr Myles is deemed to be independent of the Investment Manager. Despite being on the Board for over nine years, the Board believes Lord Lamont and Mr Harris are also independent. They all continue to perform their roles effectively. Mr van Heesewijk is not deemed independent by virtue of his employment by Chelverton. In accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules, Mr van Heesewijk is subject to annual re-election due to this connection. The majority of the Board, being three of the four Directors, is therefore independent.

Under the Articles of Association, one-third of Directors will retire by rotation at each AGM and no Director shall serve a term of more than three years before re-election, in accordance with corporate governance principles. The Board has reviewed the appointment of those Directors retiring at the forthcoming AGM. In accordance with the Governance and AIC Codes, Lord Lamont and Mr Harris will offer themselves for re-election (and do so on an annual basis), having served on the Board for over nine years. Mr van Heesewijk as a non-independent Director will also stand for re-election. Mr Myles will not stand for re-election as he was re-elected in 2014. The Board recommends that shareholders vote for the re-election of Lord Lamont, Mr Harris and Mr van Heesewijk as it believes their contributions to the Board to be effective, that they demonstrate commitment to their roles as non-executive Directors of the Company and have actively contributed throughout the year.

### **Senior Independent Director**

No separate Senior Independent Director has been appointed to the Board as, in the view of the Directors, it is inappropriate to do so given the size and composition of the Board. All the Directors make themselves available to shareholders at general meetings of the Company. The Directors can be contacted at other times via the Company Secretary.

### **Committees of the Board**

The Board has appointed a number of Committees, as set out below, to which certain Board functions have been delegated. Each of these Committees has formal written terms of reference, which clearly define their responsibilities and incorporate the best practice recommendations and requirements of the Governance Code. The terms of reference can be inspected at the Registered Office.

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## Statement on Corporate Governance (continued)

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee comprises the independent Directors. The Committee met twice during the year ended 30 April 2016, with Mr Harris as Chairman. All members of the Committee were present at both meetings. The Audit Committee has direct access to the Group's Auditor, Hazlewoods LLP, and representatives of Hazlewoods LLP attend the year end Audit Committee meeting.

The primary responsibilities of the Audit Committee are: to review the effectiveness of the internal control environment of the Group and monitor adherence to best practice in corporate governance; to make recommendations to the Board in relation to the re-appointment of the Auditor and to approve their remuneration and terms of engagement; to review and monitor the Auditor's independence and objectivity and the scope and effectiveness of the audit process and to provide a forum through which the Group's Auditor reports to the Board. The Audit Committee also has responsibility for monitoring the integrity of the financial statements and accounting policies of the Group and for reviewing the Group's financial reporting and internal control policies and procedures. Committee members consider that individually and collectively they are appropriately experienced in accounting and audit processes to fulfil the role required.

At the meeting held on 15 June 2016 it was decided that Mr Myles would assume the role of Audit Committee Chairman for future meetings.

### **Management Engagement Committee**

The Management Engagement Committee met once during the year during the year ended 30 April 2016 and comprised the independent Directors, with Mr Myles as Chairman. The Committee reviewed the performance of the Investment Manager's obligations under the Investment Management Agreement. Based on this performance, it has recommended to the Board that the Investment Manager's appointment continues. It also reviewed the performance of the Company Secretary, the Custodian and the Registrar and matters concerning their respective agreements with the Company.

The Directors met on 15 June 2016 and decided that given the functions performed by the Management Engagement Committee and the size and composition of the Board, the Committee could be dissolved. The functions previously undertaken by the Committee will in future years be performed by the Board of the Company instead.

### **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee met once during the year ended 30 April 2016 and comprised the independent Directors, with Mr Myles as Chairman. The Committee evaluated the performance of Directors and the Chairman for the year ended 30 April 2016. As a result of the evaluation, and subsequent recommendation to the Board, the Board considers that all Directors contribute effectively and have the skills and experience relevant to the leadership and direction of the Company. The Committee also recommended the re-appointment of those Directors standing for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

The Directors met on 15 June 2016 and decided that given the functions performed by the Nomination Committee and the size and composition of the Board, the Committee could be dissolved. The functions previously undertaken by the Committee will in future years be performed by the Board of the Company instead.

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### **Remuneration Committee**

The Remuneration Committee met once during the year ended 30 April 2016 and comprised the entire Board, with Mr Myles as Chairman. The Committee assessed the Directors' fees, following proper consideration of the role that individual Directors fulfil in respect of Board and Committee responsibilities, the time committed to the Group's affairs and remuneration levels generally within the investment trust sector.

Under the Listing Rules, the Governance Code principles relating to directors' remuneration do not apply to an investment trust company other than to the extent that they relate specifically to non-executive directors. Detailed information on the remuneration arrangements can be found in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 28 to 31 and in note 5 to the financial statements.

The Directors met on 15 June 2016 and decided that given the functions performed by the Remuneration Committee and the size and composition of the Board, the Committee could be dissolved. The functions previously undertaken by the Committee will in future years be performed by the Board of the Company instead.

### **Independent professional advice**

The Board has formalised arrangements under which the Directors, in the furtherance of their duties, may take independent professional advice at the Company's expense.

### **Institutional investors – use of voting rights**

The Investment Manager, in the absence of explicit instruction from the Board, is empowered to exercise discretion in the use of the Company's voting rights.

### **Conflicts of interest**

It is the responsibility of each individual Director to avoid an unauthorised conflict arising. He must notify and request authorisation from the Board as soon as he becomes aware of the possibility of a conflict arising.

The Board is responsible for considering Directors' requests for authorisation of conflicts and for deciding whether or not the conflict should be authorised. The factors to be considered will include whether the conflict could prevent the Director from properly performing his duties, whether it has, or could have, any impact on the Group and whether it could be regarded as likely to affect the judgement and/or actions of the Director in question. When the Board is deciding whether to authorise a conflict or potential conflict, only Directors who have no interest in the matter being considered are able to take the relevant decision, and in taking the decision the Directors must act in a way they consider, in good faith, will be most likely to promote the Group's success. The Directors are able to impose limits or conditions when giving authorisation if they think this is appropriate in the circumstances.

A register of conflicts is maintained by the Company Secretary and is reviewed at Board meetings, to ensure that any authorised conflicts remain appropriate. Directors are required to confirm at these meetings whether there has been any change to their position.

### **Internal control review**

The Board is responsible for establishing and maintaining the Group's systems of internal control and for reviewing their effectiveness.

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## Statement on Corporate Governance (continued)

An ongoing process, in accordance with the guidance supplied by the Financial Reporting Council: ‘Guidance on Risk Management, Internal Control and Related Financial and Business Reporting’, is in place for identifying, evaluating and managing risks faced by the Company and the Group. This process ensures that the Board maintains a sound system of internal control to safeguard shareholders investments and the Group’s assets. This process is based on a review by Directors of reports on the internal control systems of the service providers who perform all the Company’s administrative and managerial functions. As described below this, together with key procedures established with a view to providing effective financial control, has been in place for the full financial year and up to the date the financial statements were approved.

The risk management process and systems of internal control are designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the Company’s objectives. It should be recognised that such systems can only provide reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. No significant failings or weaknesses have been identified.

### Internal control assessment process

Risk assessment and the review of internal controls is undertaken by the Board in the context of the Group’s overall investment objective. The review covers the key business, operational, compliance and financial risks facing the Company. In arriving at its judgement of what risks the Company faces, the Board has considered the Company’s operations in the light of the following factors:

- the threat of such risks becoming a reality;
- the Company’s ability to reduce the incidence and impact of risk on its performance;
- the cost to the Company and benefits related to the review of risk and associated controls of the Group; and
- the extent to which third parties operate the relevant controls.

Against this background the Board has split the review into four sections reflecting the nature of the risks being addressed. The sections are as follows:

- corporate strategy;
- published information and compliance with laws and regulations;
- relationship with service providers; and
- investment and business activities.

Given the nature of the Company’s activities and the fact that most functions are subcontracted, the Group does not have an internal audit function. The Directors have obtained information from key third-party suppliers regarding the controls operated by them. To enable the Board to make an appropriate risk and control assessment, the information and assurances sought from third parties include the following:

- details of the control environment;
- identification and evaluation of risks and control objectives;
- assessment of the communication procedures; and
- assessment of the control procedures.

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The key procedures which have been established to provide effective internal financial controls are as follows:

- investment management is provided by Chelverton. The Board is responsible for the implementation of the overall investment policy and monitors the actions of the Investment Manager at regular Board meetings;
- the provision of administration, accounting and company secretarial duties is the responsibility of Maitland Administration Services Limited;
- custody of assets is undertaken by Jarvis Investment Management Limited;
- the duties of investment management, accounting and custody of assets are segregated. The procedures of the individual parties are designed to complement one another;
- the non-executive Directors of the Group clearly define the duties and responsibilities of their agents and advisers in the terms of their contracts. The appointment of agents and advisers is conducted by the Board after consideration of the quality of the parties involved; the Board via the Management Engagement Committee monitors their ongoing performance and contractual arrangements;
- mandates for authorisation of investment transactions and expense payments are set by the Board; and
- the Board reviews detailed financial information provided by the Administrator on a regular basis.

#### **Company Secretary**

The Board has direct access to the advice and services of the Company Secretary, Maitland Administration Service Limited, which is responsible for ensuring that Board and Committee procedures are followed and that applicable regulations are complied with. The Secretary is also responsible to the Board for ensuring timely delivery of information and reports and that the statutory obligations of the Group are met.

#### **Dialogue with shareholders**

Communication with shareholders is given a high priority by both the Board and the Investment Manager and all Directors are available to enter into dialogue with shareholders at any time. Major shareholders of the Group have the opportunity to meet with the independent non-executive Directors of the Board in order to ensure that their views are understood. All shareholders are encouraged to attend the AGM, during which the Board and the Investment Manager are available to discuss issues affecting the Group and shareholders have the opportunity to address questions to the Investment Manager, the Board and the Chairmen of the Board's standing committees.

There are no significant issues raised by major shareholders to bring to all shareholders' attention, topics of interest are covered in the Strategic Report on pages 1 to 12.

Any shareholder who would like to lodge questions in advance of the AGM is invited to do so either on the reverse of the Proxy Form or in writing to the Company Secretary at the address given on page 65. The Company always responds to letters from individual shareholders.

The Annual and Half Yearly Reports of the Group are prepared by the Board and its advisers to present a full and readily understandable review of the Group's performance. Copies are available for downloading from the Investment Manager's website [www.chelvertonam.com](http://www.chelvertonam.com) and on request from the Company Secretary on 01245 398950. Copies of the Annual Report are mailed to shareholders.

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## Audit Committee Report

I am pleased to present the Audit Committee Report for the year ended 30 April 2016.

### Role of the Committee

The Audit Committee (the 'Committee') provides a forum through which the Group's Auditor reports to the Board. The Committee is responsible for monitoring the process of production and ensuring the integrity of the Group's financial statements. The other primary responsibilities of the Committee are:

- to monitor adherence to best practice in corporate governance;
- to review the effectiveness of the internal control and risk management environment of the Group;
- to receive compliance reports from the Investment Manager;
- to consider the accounting policies of the Group;
- to make recommendations to the Board in relation to the re-appointment of the Auditor;
- to approve the Auditors' remuneration and terms of engagement; and
- to review and monitor the Auditor's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process.

### Matters considered in the year

The Committee met twice during the financial year to consider the financial statements and to review the internal control systems. The principal matters considered by the Committee were the valuation of the Group's assets, proof of ownership of its investments and cash, and the maintenance of its approval as an investment trust.

The Manager and Administrator have reported to the Committee to confirm continuing compliance with their individual regulatory requirements and for maintaining the Company's investment trust status. These were also reviewed by the Auditor as part of the audit process.

The Committee liaised with the appointed Investment Manager, Chelverton Investment Management Limited, throughout the year, and received reports on their legal compliance at each meeting. A Risk Assessment and Review of Internal Controls document maintained by the Board was considered in detail and amended as necessary. This document is reviewed by the Committee at each meeting.

### Internal Audit

The Group does not have an internal audit function as most of its day-to-day operations are delegated to third parties, all of whom have their own internal control procedures. The Committee discussed whether it would be appropriate to establish an internal audit function, and agreed that the existing system of monitoring and reporting by third parties remains appropriate and sufficient. The need for an internal audit function is reviewed annually.

### External Audit

The Audit Committee monitors and reviews the effectiveness of the external third party service providers, audit process for the publication of the Annual Report and makes recommendations to the Board on the re-appointment, remuneration and terms of engagement of the Auditors.

Prior to each Annual Report being published, the Committee considers the appropriateness of the scope of the audit plan, the terms under which the audit is to be conducted, as well as the matter of remuneration, with a view to ensuring the best interests of the Group are promoted.

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Audit fees are computed on the basis of the time spent on Group affairs by the Audit partners and staff and on the levels of skill and responsibility of those involved.

Hazlewoods LLP was first appointed as Auditor to the Group on 2 May 2007. As part of its review of the continuing appointment of the Auditor, the Committee considers the length of tenure of the audit firm, its fees and independence, along with any matters raised during each audit. The Committee has discussed with Hazlewoods LLP its objectivity, independence and experience in the investment trust sector.

The Committee has recommended the re-appointment of Hazlewoods LLP on each occasion since their initial appointment, and no tender has been undertaken for the audit of the Group. The Audit Partner for the Group has been rotated once since their initial appointment, most recently in respect of the financial year ended 30 April 2012. 2017 will be Hazlewoods LLP's tenth year as Auditor and in accordance with Auditing Practice Board Ethical Standard 3 (Revised) the audit will be put to tender in 2017 for the 2018 audit. In light of this tender the Audit Committee consider it appropriate to extend the Audit Partner's period of appointment for a further year to safeguard the quality of the audit, and Hazlewoods LLP have confirmed that appropriate safeguards will be implemented to ensure their continued objectivity and independence.

Hazlewoods LLP has indicated its willingness to continue in office as Auditor of the Group. Following its review, the Committee considers that individually and collectively the Auditor is appropriately experienced to fulfil the role required and has recommended their re-appointment to the Board. A Resolution for their re-appointment will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The Committee has considered the independence and objectivity of the Auditor and it is satisfied in these respects that Hazlewoods LLP has fulfilled its obligations to the Group and its shareholders. During the year Hazlewoods provided tax compliance services to the Group. These were not provided by the audit team and the fee is not significant. No other non-audit services were provided in the year. The Committee has advised that based on its assessment of their performance and independence, Hazlewoods LLP has fulfilled its obligations to the Group and its shareholders and on this basis recommends their reappointment as Auditor.

At the Audit Committee meeting held on 15 June 2016 the directors decided that Mr Myles would succeed me as the chair of this Committee. Both Mr Myles and I will be present at the Annual General Meeting to deal with any questions from shareholders relating to the financial statements.

**David Harris**

Audit Committee Chairman

*20 July 2016*

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## Directors' Remuneration Report

The Board has prepared this report, in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 8 to the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) (Amendment) Regulations 2013. The law requires the Group's Auditor, Hazlewoods LLP, to audit certain disclosures provided. Where disclosures have been audited, they are indicated as such. The Auditor's opinion is included in their report on pages 33 to 36.

### Statement from the Chairman of the Remuneration Committee – Howard Myles

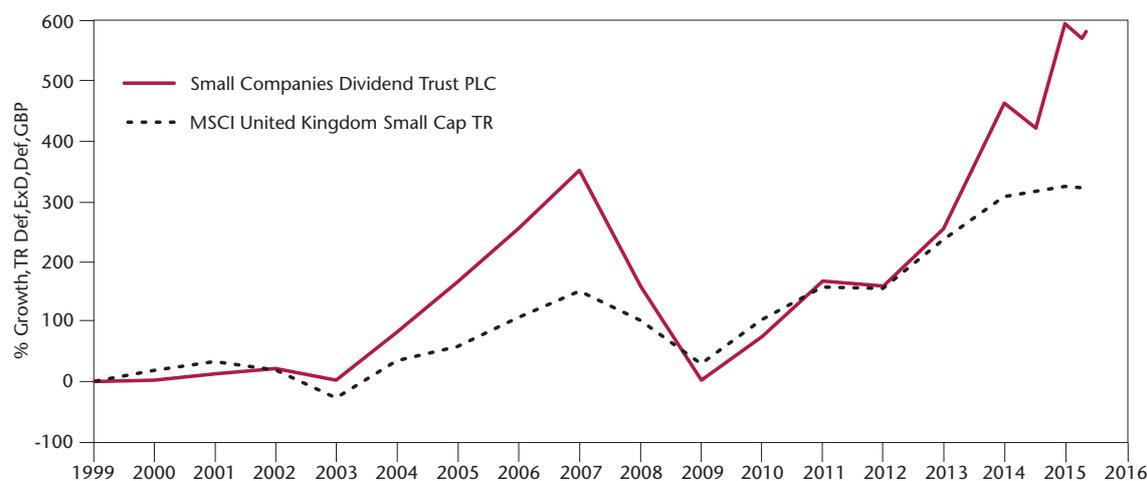
I am pleased to present the Directors' Remuneration Report for the year ended 30 April 2016. Last year shareholders were asked to approve the Directors' Remuneration Report at the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') through an advisory vote, as has been the case in previous years and this will again be the case at the next AGM. At the AGM held in 2014 shareholders were also asked to give a binding vote on the Directors' Remuneration Policy and as there has been no change to the Policy since its adoption, this will not be voted on at the next AGM. The Remuneration Policy must be approved at least every three years, therefore it will be submitted to the 2017 AGM.

An Ordinary Resolution to approve to receive and approve the Remuneration Report will be put to shareholders at the forthcoming AGM on 8 September 2016.

The Company has a Remuneration Committee comprising the whole Board, which considers and approves Directors' remuneration. No major decisions on or changes to Directors' remuneration have been made during the year ended 30 April 2016. During the year ended 30 April 2016, the fees were continued at a rate of £20,000 for the Chairman and £17,500 for other Directors, with an additional payment of £2,500 to the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

### The Company's performance

The graph below compares the total return (assuming all dividends are reinvested) to Ordinary shareholders, compared to the total shareholder return of the MSCI UK Small Cap Index. Although the Company has no formal benchmark, the MSCI UK Small Cap Index has been selected as it is considered to represent a broad equity market index against which the performance of the Company's assets may be adequately assessed.



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### Director's service contracts

None of the Directors has a contract of service with the Company, nor has there been any contract or arrangement between the Company and any Director at any time during the year. The terms of their appointment provide that a Director shall retire and be subject to re-election at the first Annual General Meeting after their appointment, and at least every three years after that. Directors who have served on the Board for more than nine years must offer themselves for re-election on an annual basis.

### Directors' entitlements

Directors are only entitled to fees in accordance with the Directors' Remuneration Policy as approved by shareholders. None of the Directors has any entitlement to pensions or pension-related benefits, medical or life insurance, share options, long-term incentive plans, or any form of performance-related pay. Also, no Director has any right to any payment by way of monetary equivalent, or any assets of the Company except in their capacity as shareholders. There is no notice period and no provision for compensation upon loss of office. The Directors' emoluments table below therefore does not include columns for any of these items or their monetary equivalents.

### Directors' emoluments for the year ended 30 April 2016 (audited)

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

	Fees/Total	
	Year to 30 April 2016	Year to 30 April 2015
Lord Lamont (Chairman)	20,000	20,000
D Harris	20,000	20,000
H Myles	17,500	17,500
W van Heesewijk*	–	–
	<hr/> 57,500	57,500

\*William van Heesewijk has waived his entitlement to fees.

### Directors' interests (audited)

The interests of the Directors and any connected persons in the Ordinary shares and Zero Dividend Preference ('ZDP') shares of the subsidiary Company are set out below:

Director	Number of Ordinary shares held at 30 April 2016	Number of ZDP shares held at 30 April 2016	Number of Ordinary shares held at 1 May 2015	Number of ZDP shares held at 1 May 2015
Lord Lamont (Chairman)	69,048	10,000	63,205	10,000
D Harris	5,802	Nil	5,802	Nil
W van Heesewijk	90,000	Nil	90,000	Nil
H Myles	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

\*Lord Lamont purchased 249 Ordinary Shares on 7 July 2016 under a dividend reinvestment plan.

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## Directors' Remuneration Report (continued)

### Significance of spend on pay

	2016	2015	Change %
Dividends paid to Ordinary shareholders in the year	1,291,000	1,634,000	(20.99)
Total remuneration paid to Directors	57,500	57,500	–

None of the Directors nor any persons connected with them had a material interest in the Company's transactions, arrangements or agreements during the year.

The Directors' Remuneration Report for the year ended 30 April 2015 (Resolution 2) was approved by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting held on 16 September 2015. The votes cast by proxy were as follows:

	Number of votes	% of votes cast
For	1,208,339	100.00
Against	0	0.00
At Chairman's discretion	0	0.00
Total votes cast	1,208,339	
Number of votes abstained	0	

### Remuneration Policy

The Board's policy is that the remuneration of non-executive Directors should be sufficient to attract and retain directors with suitable skills and experience, and is determined in such a way as to reflect the experience of the Board as a whole, in order to be comparable with other organisations and appointments.

The fees of the non-executive Directors are determined within the limits set out in the Company's Articles of Association. The approval of shareholders would be required to increase the limits set out in the Articles of Association. Directors are not eligible for bonuses, pension benefits, share options, long-term incentive schemes or other benefits, as the Board does not consider such arrangements or benefits necessary or appropriate. Fees for any new Director appointed will be made on the same basis.

The Directors' Remuneration Policy (Resolution 3) was approved by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting held on 17 September 2014. The votes cast by proxy were as follows:

	Number of votes	% of votes cast
For	2,034,679	99.65
Against	7,070	0.35
At Chairman's discretion	0	0.00
Total votes cast	2,041,749	
Number of votes abstained	1,200	

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	Expected Fees for Year to 30 April 2017	Fees for Year to 30 April 2016
Chairman basic fee	20,000	20,000
Non-Executive Director basic fee	17,500	17,500
Audit Committee Chairman additional fee	2,500	2,500

The Company intends to continue with the Directors' Remuneration Policy over the next financial year on the above basis. Fees payable in respect of subsequent periods will be determined following an annual review. Any views expressed by shareholders on remuneration being paid to Directors would be taken into consideration by the Board. In accordance with the regulations, an Ordinary Resolution to approve the Directors' remuneration policy will be put to shareholders at least once every three years.

**Approval**

The Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 28 to 31 was approved by the Board on 20 July 2016.

On behalf of the Board

**Howard Myles**

Chairman of the Remuneration Committee

*20 July 2016*

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## Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

in respect of the Annual Report and the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements. The Directors have elected to prepare financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRSs') as adopted by the EU. Company law requires the Directors to prepare such financial statements in accordance with IFRSs and the Companies Act 2006.

Under company law the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they present fairly the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the Group and the Company for that period.

In preparing each of the Group and the Company's financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies in accordance with International Accounting Standard ('IAS') 8: 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors' and then apply them consistently;
- present information, including accounting policies, in a manner that provides relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable information;
- provide additional disclosures when compliance with specific requirements in IFRSs is insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the Group and the Company's financial position and financial performance;
- state that the Group and the Company have complied with IFRSs, as adopted by the EU subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and enable them to ensure that the Group's financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Article 4 of the IAS Regulation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Under applicable law and regulations, the Directors are also responsible for preparing a Strategic Report, a Directors' Report, Directors' Remuneration Report and Statement on Corporate Governance that comply with that law and those regulations, and for ensuring that the Annual Report includes information required by the Listing Rules of the FCA.

The Directors are responsible for the integrity of the information relating to the Company on the Investment Manager's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements differs from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief:

- the financial statements, prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the EU, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of the Group;
- the Annual Report includes a fair review of the development and performance of the Group, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties faced;
- the Annual Report is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's performance, business model and strategy; and
- the Investment Managers' Report includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the Company and its undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole and adequately describes the principal risks and uncertainties they face.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

**Lord Lamont of Lerwick**

Chairman

20 July 2016

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## **Auditor's Report**

to the members of Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC

We have audited the Group financial statements of Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC for the year ended 30 April 2016 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Consolidated and Parent Company Statement of Changes in Net Equity, the Consolidated and Parent Company Balance Sheets, the Consolidated and Parent Company Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and IFRSs as adopted by the EU.

This report is made solely to the Group's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Group's members those matters we are required to state to them in an audit report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Group and the Group's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of Directors and Auditor**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 32, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the Group financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the Group financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards required us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's ('APB's') Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the Group financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the Company's affairs as at 30 April 2016 and of its net return and comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the EU; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and Article 4 of the IAS Regulations.

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## **Auditor's Report** (continued)

to the members of Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC

### **Our assessment of risks of material misstatement**

Without modifying our opinion, we highlight the following matters that are, in our judgement, likely to be most important to users' understanding of our audit. Our audit procedures relating to these matters were designed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and not to express an opinion on individual transactions, balances or disclosures.

#### *Allocation of costs between capital and revenue*

The Group is required to apportion its expenses between revenue and capital. This allocation is important as the company can only pay dividends out of revenue. The split has to be performed on the basis of the Board's expected long-term capital and revenue returns. Our audit work included, but was not restricted to, a detailed review of the actual dividend and capital income received in the past 11 years compared to the Board's expected long-term capital and revenue returns. The Group's accounting policy on this allocation is included in note 1.

#### *Revenue recognition*

Investment income is the Group's main source of revenue and is recognised when the Group's right to the return is established in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice. Our audit work included, but was not restricted to, a detailed review of those sources of income recorded in the financial statements and further consideration of other potential sources of income. The Group's accounting policy on income is included in note 1 and its disclosures about income are included in note 2.

#### *Management override of financial controls*

The Group operates a system of financial controls to mitigate its vulnerability to fraud and its financial statements to material error and is reliant upon the efficacy of these controls to ensure that its financial statements present a true and fair view. The financial statements contain a number of significant accounting estimates that require an element of judgement on behalf of management and that are, therefore, potentially open to manipulation. Our audit work included, but was not restricted to, a review of all significant management estimates and detailed consideration of all material judgements applied during the completion of the financial statements. We also reviewed material journal entries processed by management during the period. The Group's principal accounting policies are included in note 1.

### **Our application of materiality**

We apply the concept of materiality in planning and performing our audit, in evaluating the effect of any identified misstatements and in forming our opinion. For the purpose of determining whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement we define materiality as the magnitude of a misstatement or an omission from the financial statements or related disclosures that would make it probable that the judgement of a reasonable person relying on the information would have been changed or influenced by the misstatement or omission. We also determine a level of performance materiality which we use to determine the extent of testing needed to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole.

We established materiality for the financial statements as a whole to be £457,000, which is 1% of the value of the Group's total assets. For income and expenditure items we determined that misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole would make it probable that the judgement of a reasonable person, relying on the information, would have been changed or influenced by the misstatement or omission. Accordingly, we established materiality for revenue items within the income statement to be £114,000.

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### **An overview of the scope of our audit**

Our audit approach was based on a thorough understanding of the Group's business and is risk-based. The day-to-day management of the Group's investment portfolio, the custody of its investments and the maintenance of the Group's accounting records is outsourced to third-party service providers. Accordingly, our audit work is focused on obtaining an understanding of, and evaluating, internal controls at the Group and the third-party service providers, and inspecting records and documents held by the third-party service providers. We undertook substantive testing on significant transactions, balances and disclosures, the extent of which was based on various factors such as our overall assessment of the control environment, the effectiveness of controls over individual systems and the management of specific risks.

### **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion:

- the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- the information given in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following:

Under the ISAs (UK and Ireland), we are required to report to the Board if, in our opinion, information in the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report is:

- materially inconsistent with the information in the audited financial statements; or
- apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, our knowledge of the Group acquired in the course of performing our audit; or
- is otherwise misleading.

In particular, we are required to consider whether we have identified any inconsistencies between our knowledge acquired during the audit and the Directors' statement that they consider the Annual Report is fair, balanced and understandable and whether the Annual Report appropriately discloses those matters that we communicated to the Audit Committee which we consider should have been disclosed.

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements and the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

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**Auditor's Report** (continued)

to the members of Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC

Under the Listing Rules we are required to review:

- the Directors' statement, set out on page 18, in relation to going concern; and
- the part of the Statement on Corporate Governance relating to the Group's compliance with the nine provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code specified for our review.

**Scott Lawrence (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

For and on behalf of Hazlewoods LLP, Statutory Auditor

Cheltenham

*20 July 2016*

## Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 April 2016

	Note	2016			2015		
		Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Gains on investments at fair value through profit or loss	10	–	3,104	3,104	–	1,638	1,638
Investment income	2	2,180	–	2,180	1,825	–	1,825
Investment management fee	3	(115)	(345)	(460)	(101)	(303)	(404)
Other expenses	4	(206)	(2)	(208)	(200)	(20)	(220)
<b>Net return before finance costs and taxation</b>		<b>1,859</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>4,616</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>2,839</b>
<b>Finance costs</b>	6	–	(597)	(597)	–	(562)	(562)
<b>Net return before taxation</b>		<b>1,859</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>4,019</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>2,277</b>
<b>Taxation</b>	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>1,859</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>4,019</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>2,277</b>
		<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>pence</b>	<b>pence</b>	<b>pence</b>	<b>pence</b>	<b>pence</b>	<b>pence</b>
<b>Net return per:</b>							
Ordinary share	8	11.23	13.05	24.28	9.21	4.55	13.76
Zero Dividend Preference share	8	–	7.02	7.02	–	6.61	6.61

The total column of this statement is the Statement of Comprehensive Income of the Group prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU. All revenue and capital items in the above statement derive from continuing operations. No operations were acquired or discontinued during the year. All of the net return for the period and the total comprehensive income for the period is attributable to the shareholders of the Group. The supplementary revenue and capital return columns are presented for information purposes as recommended by the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the AIC.

The notes on pages 41 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

## Consolidated and Parent Company Statement of Changes in Net Equity

for the year ended 30 April 2016

	Note	Share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Capital reserve £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
<b>Year ended 30 April 2016</b>						
30 April 2015		4,138	12,403	13,832	1,976	32,349
Total comprehensive return for the year		–	–	2,160	1,859	4,019
Dividends paid	9	–	–	–	(1,291)	(1,291)
30 April 2016		<u>4,138</u>	<u>12,403</u>	<u>15,992</u>	<u>2,544</u>	<u>35,077</u>
<b>Year ended 30 April 2015</b>						
30 April 2014		4,138	12,403	13,079	2,086	31,706
Total comprehensive return for the year		–	–	753	1,524	2,277
Dividends paid	9	–	–	–	(1,634)	(1,634)
30 April 2015		<u>4,138</u>	<u>12,403</u>	<u>13,832</u>	<u>1,976</u>	<u>32,349</u>

The notes on pages 41 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

## Consolidated and Parent Company Balance Sheets

as at 30 April 2016

	Note	Group 2016 £'000	Group 2015 £'000	Company 2016 £'000	Company 2015 £'000
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	10	45,376	41,681	45,376	41,681
Investments in subsidiary	12	–	–	13	13
		<u>45,376</u>	<u>41,681</u>	<u>45,389</u>	<u>41,694</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Trade and other receivables	13	333	278	333	278
Cash and cash equivalents		29	489	29	489
		<u>362</u>	<u>767</u>	<u>362</u>	<u>767</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>45,738</u>	<u>42,448</u>	<u>45,751</u>	<u>42,461</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Trade and other payables	14	(132)	(167)	(145)	(180)
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>45,606</u>	<u>42,281</u>	<u>45,606</u>	<u>42,281</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Zero Dividend Preference shares	15	(10,529)	(9,932)	–	–
Loan from subsidiary	16	–	–	(10,529)	(9,932)
		<u>(10,529)</u>	<u>(9,932)</u>	<u>(10,529)</u>	<u>(9,932)</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>(10,661)</u>	<u>(10,099)</u>	<u>(10,674)</u>	<u>(10,112)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>35,077</u>	<u>32,349</u>	<u>35,077</u>	<u>32,349</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Share capital	17	4,138	4,138	4,138	4,138
Share premium account	18	12,403	12,403	12,403	12,403
Capital reserve	18	15,992	13,832	15,992	13,832
Revenue reserve	18	2,544	1,976	2,544	1,976
		<u>35,077</u>	<u>32,349</u>	<u>35,077</u>	<u>32,349</u>
<b>Equity shareholders' funds</b>		<u>35,077</u>	<u>32,349</u>	<u>35,077</u>	<u>32,349</u>

The notes on pages 41 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC and authorised for issue on 20 July 2016.

### Lord Lamont of Lerwick

Chairman

Company Registered Number: 3749536

## Consolidated and Parent Company Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 April 2016

	Note	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Investment income received		2,158	1,839
Refund of loan interest		2	–
Investment management fee paid		(510)	(404)
Administration and secretarial fees paid		(59)	(69)
Other cash payments		(133)	(156)
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	20	<b>1,458</b>	1,210
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Purchases of investments		(14,714)	(8,667)
Sales of investments		14,087	9,444
<b>Net cash inflow from investing activities</b>		<b>831</b>	1,987
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Dividends paid	9	(1,291)	(1,634)
<b>Net cash outflow from financing activities</b>		<b>(1,291)</b>	(1,634)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents for year</b>	21	<b>(460)</b>	353
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at start of year</b>	22	<b>489</b>	136
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	22	<b>29</b>	489
Comprises of:			
Cash and cash equivalents		29	489

The notes on pages 41 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

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## Notes to the Financial Statements

as at 30 April 2016

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC is a company domiciled in the UK. The consolidated financial statements for the Group for the year ended 30 April 2016 comprise the Company and its subsidiary, SCZ (together referred to as the 'Group').

#### **Basis of preparation**

The consolidated financial statements of the Group and the financial statements of the Company have been prepared in conformity with IFRSs issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (as adopted by the EU) and Interpretations issued by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee ('IFRIC'), and applicable requirements of UK company law, and reflect the following policies which have been adopted and applied consistently.

#### **New standards, interpretations and amendments adopted by the Group**

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements are consistent with those of the previous financial year.

There were no IFRS standards or IFRIC interpretations adopted for the first time in these financial statements that had a material impact on the Group's financial statement.

At the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the following Standards which have not been applied in these financial statements were in issue but were not yet effective:

- Amendments to IAS 1: Presentation of financial statements (effective 1 January 2017)
- IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures – Amendments requiring disclosures about the initial application of IFRS 9 (effective 1 January 2016 or otherwise when IFRS 9 is first applied)
- IFRS 9 Financial Instruments – Classification and measurement of financial assets (effective 1 January 2018)
- IFRS 9 Financial Instruments – Classification and measurement of financial liabilities and de-recognition requirements from IAS 39 Financial Instruments Recognition and Measurement (effective 1 January 2018)

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

#### **Basis of consolidation**

The Group financial statements consolidate the financial statements of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary undertaking, SCZ, drawn up to the same accounting date.

The subsidiary is consolidated from the date of its incorporation, being the date on which the Company obtained control, and will continue to be consolidated until the date that such control ceases. Control comprises the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the investee so as to obtain benefit from its activities and is achieved through direct or indirect ownership of voting rights. The financial statements of the subsidiary are prepared for the same reporting year as the Company, using consistent accounting policies. All inter-company balances and transactions, including unrealised profits arising from them, are eliminated.

As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the Company has not presented its own Statement of Comprehensive Income. The amount of the Company's return for the financial period dealt with in the financial statements of the Group is a profit of £4,019,000 (2015: £2,277,000).

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## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Convention

The financial statements are presented in Sterling rounded to the nearest thousand. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, except for the measurement at fair value of investments classified as fair value through profit or loss and interest rate swaps taken out as cash flow hedges. Where presentational guidance set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Financial Statements of Investment Trust Companies and Venture Capital Trusts' ('SORP'), issued by the Association of Investment Companies (dated November 2014) is consistent with the requirements of IFRS, the Directors have sought to prepare the financial statements on a consistent basis compliant with the recommendations of the SORP.

#### Segmental reporting

The Directors are of the opinion that the Group is engaged in a single segment of business, being investment business. The Group only invests in companies listed in the UK.

#### Investments

All investments held by the Group are recorded at 'fair value through profit or loss'. Investments are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration given.

After initial recognition, investments are measured at fair value, with unrealised gains and losses on investments and impairment of investments recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and allocated to capital. Realised gains and losses on investments sold are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and cost.

For investments actively traded in organised financial markets, fair value is generally determined by reference to quoted market bid prices at the close of business on the Balance Sheet date, without adjustment for transaction costs necessary to realise the asset.

#### Trade date accounting

All 'regular way' purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on the 'trade date', i.e. the day that the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Regular way purchases, or sales, are purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of the asset within a time frame generally established by regulation or convention in the market place.

#### Income

Dividends receivable on quoted equity shares are taken into account on the ex-dividend date. Where no ex-dividend date is quoted, they are brought into account when the Group's right to receive payment is established. Other investment income and interest receivable are included in the financial statements on an accruals basis. Dividends received from UK registered companies are accounted for net of imputed tax credits.

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## 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

### Expenses

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

- expenses which are incidental to the acquisition of an investment are included within the costs of the investment;
- expenses which are incidental to the disposal of an investment are deducted from the disposal proceeds of the investment;
- expenses are charged to capital reserve where a connection with the maintenance or enhancement of the value of the investments can be demonstrated; and
- operating expenses of the subsidiary are borne by the Company and taken 100% to capital.

All other expenses are allocated to revenue with the exception of 75% (2015: 75%) of the Investment Manager's fee which is allocated to capital. This is in line with the Board's expected long-term split of returns from the investment portfolio, in the form of income and capital gains respectively.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash in hand and in banks and short-term deposits which are held to maturity are carried at cost. Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash in hand, demand deposits and short-term, highly liquid investments readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

### Loans and borrowings

All loans and borrowings are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration received, less issue costs, where applicable. After initial recognition, all interest-bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between cost and redemption value is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income over the period of the borrowings on an effective interest basis.

### Zero Dividend Preference shares

Shares issued by the subsidiary are treated as a liability of the Group, and are shown in the Balance Sheet at their redemption value at the Balance Sheet date. The appropriations in respect of the Zero Dividend Preference shares necessary to increase the subsidiary's liabilities to the redemption values are allocated to capital in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income. This treatment reflects the Board's long-term expectations that the entitlements of the Zero Dividend Preference shareholders will be satisfied out of gains arising on investments held primarily for capital growth.

### Share issue costs

Costs incurred directly in relation to the issue of shares in the subsidiary are borne by the Company and taken 100% to capital. Share issue costs relating to Ordinary share issues by the Company are taken 100% to share premium account.

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## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Capital Reserve

Capital reserve – other – The following are taken to this reserve:

- gains and losses on the disposal of investments;
- exchange difference of a capital nature; and
- expenses, together with the related taxation effect, allocated to this reserve in accordance with the above policies.

Capital reserve – investment holding gains – The following are taken to this reserve:

- increase and decrease in the valuation of investments held at the year end.

#### Revenue Reserve

The following are taken to this reserve:

- net revenue recognised in the revenue column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

#### Taxation

There is no charge to UK income tax as the Group's allowable expenses exceed its taxable income. Deferred tax assets in respect of unrelieved excess expenses are not recognised as it is unlikely that the Group will generate sufficient taxable income in the future to utilise these expenses. Deferred tax is not provided on capital gains and losses because the Company meets the conditions for approval as an investment trust company.

#### Dividends payable to shareholders

Dividends to shareholders are recognised as a liability in the period in which they are paid or approved in general meetings and are taken to the Statement of Changes in Net Equity. Dividends declared and approved by the Group after the Balance Sheet date have not been recognised as a liability of the Group at the Balance Sheet date.

### 2 INCOME

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
<b>Income from listed investments</b>		
UK dividend income	1,962	1,515
Overseas dividend income	177	250
PID income	39	60
<b>Other income</b>		
Refund of loan interest	2	–
<b>Total income</b>	<u>2,180</u>	<u>1,825</u>
<b>Total income comprises:</b>		
Dividends	2,178	1,825
Interest	2	–
	<u>2,180</u>	<u>1,825</u>

### 3 INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEE

	2016			2015		
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Investment management fee	115	345	460	101	303	404

At 30 April 2016 there were amounts outstanding of £53,000 (2015: £104,000).

### 4 OTHER EXPENSES

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Administration and secretarial fees	64	64
Directors' remuneration (note 5)	58	58
Auditor's remuneration:		
audit services*	20	20
non-audit services*	3	2
Insurance	4	4
Other expenses*	59	72
	<u>208</u>	<u>220</u>
Subsidiary operating costs	(2)	(20)
	<u>206</u>	<u>200</u>

\* The above amounts include irrecoverable VAT where applicable.

During the year there were £12,000 of capital expenses paid by the Company, however after a £10,000 accrued capital expense for stock exchange listing fees being written off, there was a £2,000 net position.

### 5 DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

	2016 £	2015 £
<b>Total fees</b>	<u>57,500</u>	<u>57,500</u>
<b>Remuneration to Directors</b>		
Lord Lamont (Chairman)	20,000	20,000
D Harris	20,000	20,000
H Myles	17,500	17,500
W van Heesewijk*	—	—

\* Mr van Heesewijk has waived his entitlement to fees.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 6 FINANCE COSTS

	2016			2015		
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Appropriations in respect of Zero Dividend Preference shares	–	597	597	–	562	562

### 7 TAXATION

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
<b>Based on the revenue return for the year</b>		
Current tax	–	–

The current tax charge for the year is lower than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 20% to 30 April 2016 and 30 April 2015. The differences are explained below:

	2016			2015		
	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
<b>Return on ordinary activities before taxation</b>	<b>1,859</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>4,019</b>	1,524	753	2,277
Theoretical corporation tax at 20% (2015: 20.93%)	372	432	804	319	157	476
Effects of:						
Capital items not taxable	–	(501)	(501)	–	(225)	(225)
UK and overseas dividends which are not liable to corporation tax	(428)	–	(428)	(371)	–	(371)
Excess expenses in the year	56	69	125	52	68	120
Actual current tax charged to the revenue account	–	–	–	–	–	–

The Group has unrelieved excess expenses of £19,678,000 (2015: £19,053,000). It is unlikely that the Group will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise these expenses and therefore no deferred tax asset has been recognised.

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## 8 RETURN PER SHARE

### Ordinary shares

Revenue return per Ordinary share is based on revenue on ordinary activities after taxation of £1,859,000 (2015: £1,524,000) and on 16,550,000 (2015: 16,550,000) Ordinary shares, being the weighted average number of Ordinary shares in issue during the year.

Capital return per Ordinary share is based on the capital profit of £2,160,000 (2015: £753,000) and on 16,550,000 (2015: 16,550,000) Ordinary shares, being the weighted average number of Ordinary shares in issue during the year.

### Zero Dividend Preference shares

Capital return per Zero Dividend Preference share is based on allocations from the Company of £597,000 (2015: £562,000) and on 8,500,000 (2015: 8,500,000) Zero Dividend Preference shares, being the weighted average number of Zero Dividend Preference shares in issue during the year.

## 9 DIVIDENDS

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
<b>Declared and paid per Ordinary share</b>		
Fourth interim dividend for the year ended 30 April 2015 of 2.40p (2014: 2.40p)	397	397
Special dividend for the year ended 30 April 2015 of 0.30p (2014: 2.75p)	50	455
First interim dividend of 1.70p (2015: 1.575p)	281	260
Second interim dividend of 1.70p (2015: 1.575p)	281	261
Third interim dividend of 1.70p (2015: 1.575p)	282	261
	<u>1,291</u>	<u>1,634</u>
<b>Declared per Ordinary share*</b>		
Fourth interim dividend for the year ended 30 April 2016 of 2.40p (2015: 2.40p)	397	397
Special dividend for the year ended 30 April 2016 of 1.60p (2015: 0.30p)	265	50
	<u>662</u>	<u>447</u>

\* Dividend paid subsequent to the year end.

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## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 10 INVESTMENTS – Group and Company

	Listed	AIM	2016
	£'000	£'000	Total £'000
<b>Year ended 30 April 2016</b>			
Opening book cost	22,561	11,815	34,376
Opening investment holding gains	4,247	3,058	7,305
	<hr/>		
Opening valuation	26,808	14,873	41,681
Movements in the year:			
Purchases at cost	7,969	6,745	14,714
Disposals:			
Proceeds	(8,846)	(5,277)	(14,123)
Net realised gains on disposals	2,016	1,801	3,817
Movement in investment holding gains	(265)	(448)	(713)
	<hr/>		
Closing valuation	27,682	17,694	45,376
	<hr/>		
Closing book cost	23,700	15,084	38,784
Closing investment holding gains	3,982	2,610	6,592
	<hr/>		
	27,682	17,694	45,376
	<hr/>		
Realised gains on disposals	2,016	1,801	3,817
Movement in investment holding gains	(265)	(448)	(713)
	<hr/>		
Gains on investments	1,751	1,353	3,104
	<hr/>		

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## 10 INVESTMENTS – Group and Company (continued)

	Listed £'000	AIM £'000	2015 Total £'000
<b>Year ended 30 April 2015</b>			
Opening book cost	23,193	8,625	31,818
Opening investment holding gains	5,442	3,560	9,002
Opening valuation	28,635	12,185	40,820
Movements in the year:			
Purchases at cost	4,546	4,121	8,667
Disposals:			
Proceeds	(7,453)	(1,991)	(9,444)
Net realised gains on disposals	2,275	1,060	3,335
Movement in investment holding gains	(1,195)	(502)	(1,697)
Closing valuation	26,808	14,873	41,681
Closing book cost	22,561	11,815	34,376
Closing investment holding gains	4,247	3,058	7,305
	26,808	14,873	41,681
Realised gains on disposals	2,275	1,060	3,335
Movement in investment holding gains	(1,195)	(502)	(1,697)
Gains on investments	1,080	558	1,638

### Transaction costs

During the year the Group incurred transaction costs of £64,000 (2015: £34,000) and £35,000 (2015: £26,000) on purchases and sales of investments respectively. These amounts are included in gains on investments, as disclosed in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 11 SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

The Company has a holding of 3% or more in the following investments:

Name of undertaking	Class of share	30 April 2016	
			% held
Coral Products	Ordinary		7.3
Chamberlin	Ordinary		6.3
RTC Group	Ordinary		3.8
Grafenia	Ordinary		3.8
Avesco Group	Ordinary		3.7
Belvoir Lettings	Ordinary		3.3

### 12 INVESTMENT IN SUBSIDIARY

The Company owns the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of SCZ, especially formed for the issuing of Zero Dividend Preference shares, which is incorporated and registered in England and Wales, under company number: 8142169.

### 13 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	Group 2016 £'000	Group 2015 £'000	Company 2016 £'000	Company 2015 £'000
Amounts due from Brokers	36	–	36	–
Dividends receivable	295	271	295	271
Prepayments and accrued income	2	7	2	7
	<u>333</u>	<u>278</u>	<u>333</u>	<u>278</u>

### 14 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	Group 2016 £'000	Group 2015 £'000	Company 2016 £'000	Company 2015 £'000
Trade and other payables	132	167	132	167
Loan from subsidiary undertaking	–	–	13	13
	<u>132</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>180</u>

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## 15 ZERO DIVIDEND PREFERENCE SHARES

On 28 August 2012, SCZ issued 8,500,000 Zero Dividend Preference shares at 100p per share and with net proceeds of £8.3 million. The expenses of the placing were borne by the Company and the Investment Manager. The Zero Dividend Preference shares each have an initial capital entitlement of 100p per share, growing by an annual rate of 6% compounded daily to 136.70p on 8 January 2018, a total of £11,620,000. The accrued entitlement as per the Articles of Association of SCZ at 30 April 2016 was 123.87p (2015: 116.85p) per share, being £10,529,000 (2015: £9,932,000) in total, and the total amount accrued for the year of £597,000 (2015: £562,000) has been charged to capital.

## 16 SECURED LOAN

Pursuant to a loan agreement between SCZ and the Company, SCZ has lent the gross proceeds of £8,500,000, raised from the placing on 28 August 2012 of 8,500,000 Zero Dividend Preference shares at 100p, to the Company. The loan is non-interest bearing and is repayable three business days before the Zero Dividend Preference share redemption date of 8 January 2018 or, if required by SCZ, at any time prior to that date in order to repay the Zero Dividend preference share entitlement. The funds are to be managed in accordance with the investment policy of the Company.

The loan is secured by way of a floating charge on the Company's assets under a debenture entered into between the Company and SCZ dated 1 August 2012.

A contribution agreement between the Company and SCZ has also been made whereby the Company will undertake to contribute such funds as would ensure that SCZ will have in aggregate sufficient assets on 8 January 2018 to satisfy the final capital entitlement of the Zero Dividend Preference shares. At 30 April 2016 the contribution due from the Company to cover the accrued entitlement was £597,000 (2015: £562,000).

	<b>Company 2016 £'000</b>	Company 2015 £'000
Value at 1 May	<b>9,932</b>	9,370
Contribution to accrued capital entitlement of Zero Dividend Preference shares	<u>597</u>	<u>562</u>
Value at 30 April	<u><b>10,529</b></u>	<u>9,932</u>

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## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 17 SHARE CAPITAL

	2016		2015	
	Number	£'000	Number	£'000
<b>Issued, allotted and fully paid Ordinary shares of 25p each</b>	<b>16,550,000</b>	<b>4,138</b>	16,550,000	4,138

The rights attaching to the Ordinary shares are:

#### As to dividends each year

Ordinary shares are entitled to all the revenue profits of the Company available for distribution, including all undistributed income.

#### As to capital on winding up

On a winding up, holders of Zero Dividend Preference shares issued by SCZ are entitled to a payment of an amount equal to 100p per share, increased daily from 28 August 2012 at such a compound rate as will give a final entitlement to 136.70p for each Zero Dividend Preference share at 8 January 2018, £11,620,000 in total.

The holders of Ordinary shares will receive all the remaining Group assets available for distribution to shareholders after payment of all debts and satisfaction of all liabilities of the Company rateably according to the amounts paid or credited as paid up on the Ordinary shares held by them respectively.

#### Voting

Each holder of Ordinary shares on a show of hands will have one vote and on a poll will have one vote for each Ordinary share held. Each holder of Zero Dividend Preference shares on a show of hands will have one vote at meetings where Zero Dividend Preference shareholders are entitled to vote and on a poll will have one vote for every Zero Dividend Preference share held.

#### Duration

Under the Parent Company's Articles of Association, the Directors are required to convene a General Meeting of the Company to be held in October 2017 or on a date which is either four months before or four months after this date so as to align the vote with any timetable for a further issue of Zero Dividend Preference shares or to save costs by proposing the Continuation Resolution (as defined below) at the Annual General Meeting or some other General Meeting of the Company ('the First GM'), at which an Ordinary Resolution will be proposed to the effect that the Company continues in existence ('the Continuation Resolution'). In the event that such Resolution is not passed the Directors shall, subject to the Statutes, put forward further proposals to shareholders regarding the future of the Company (which may include voluntary liquidation, unitisation or other reorganisation of the Company) ('the Restructuring Resolution') at a General Meeting of the Company to be convened not more than four months after the date of the First GM (or such adjournment).

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## 17 SHARE CAPITAL (continued)

The Restructuring Resolution shall be proposed as a Special Resolution. If the Restructuring Resolution is either not proposed or not passed then the Directors shall convene a General Meeting not more than four months after the date of the First GM (or such adjournment). If the Restructuring Resolution is not proposed or four months after the date the Restructuring Resolution is not passed, an Ordinary Resolution pursuant to Section 84 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to voluntarily wind up the Company shall be put to shareholders and the votes taken on such Resolution shall be on a poll.

## 18 RESERVES – Group and Company

	Share premium account £'000	Capital reserve £'000	Revenue reserve £'000
At 1 May 2015	12,403	13,832	1,976
Net return on realisation of investments	–	3,817	–
Movement in investment holding gains	–	(713)	–
Costs charged to capital	–	(347)	–
Appropriations in respect of Zero Dividend Preference shares	–	(597)	–
Net return after dividends for the year retained	–	–	568
At 30 April 2016	12,403	15,992	2,544
At 1 May 2014	12,403	13,079	2,086
Net return on realisation of investments	–	3,335	–
Movement in investment holding gains	–	(1,697)	–
Costs charged to capital	–	(323)	–
Appropriations in respect of Zero Dividend Preference shares	–	(562)	–
Net return after dividends for the year retained	–	–	(110)
At 30 April 2015	12,403	13,832	1,976

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## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 19 NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE

The net asset value per share and the net assets attributable to the Ordinary shareholders and Zero Dividend Preference shareholders are as follows:

	Net assets		Net asset	Net assets
	Net asset	attributable to	value per share	attributable to
	value per share	shareholders	value per share	shareholders
	2016	2016	2015	2015
	pence	£'000	pence	£'000
Ordinary shares	211.95	15,077	195.46	32,349
Zero Dividend Preference shares	123.87	10,529	116.85	9,932

The net asset value per Ordinary share is calculated on 16,550,000 (2015: 16,550,000) Ordinary shares, being the number of Ordinary shares in issue at the year end.

The net asset value per Zero Dividend Preference share is calculated on 8,500,000 (2015: 8,500,000) Zero Dividend Preference shares, being the number of Zero Dividend Preference shares in issue at the year end.

### 20 RECONCILIATION OF NET RETURN BEFORE AND AFTER TAXATION TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES – Group and Company

	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000
Net return before taxation	4,019	2,277
Taxation	–	–
Net return after taxation	4,019	2,277
Net capital return	(2,160)	(753)
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(19)	13
Decrease in payables	(35)	(4)
Interest and expenses charged to the capital reserve	(347)	(323)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	1,458	1,210

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## 21 RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET CASH/(DEBT) – Group and Company

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
(Decrease)/increase in cash in year	(460)	353
Net cash at 1 May	489	136
Net cash at 30 April	29	489

## 22 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET CASH – Group and Company

	At 1 May 2015 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 30 April 2016 £'000
Cash at bank	489	(460)	29

## 23 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Under the terms of an agreement dated 30 April 2006 (effective from 1 December 2005), the Company appointed Chelverton to be Investment Manager. The fee arrangements for these services and fees payable are set out in the Directors' Report on page 15 and in note 3 to the financial statements.

## 24 ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### Objectives, policies and strategies

The Group primarily invests in companies with a market capitalisation of up to £500 million. All of the Group's investments comprise ordinary shares in companies listed on the Official List and companies admitted to AIM.

The Group finances its operations through Zero Dividend Preference shares issued by SCZ and equity.

Cash, liquid resources and short-term debtors and creditors arise from the Group's day-to-day operations.

It is, and has been throughout the year under review, the Group's policy that no trading in financial instruments shall be undertaken.

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## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 24 ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

#### Objectives, policies and strategies (continued)

In pursuing its investment objective, the Group is exposed to a variety of risks that could result in either a reduction in the Group's net assets or a reduction of the profits available for distribution. These risks are market risk (comprising currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Board reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks and they are summarised below.

As required by IFRS 7: Financial Instruments: Disclosures, an analysis of financial assets and liabilities, which identifies the risk to the Group of holding such items, is given below.

#### Market risk

Market risk arises mainly from uncertainty about future prices of financial instruments used in the Group's business. It represents the potential loss the Group might suffer through holding market positions by way of price movements and movements in exchange rates and interest rates. The Investment Manager assesses the exposure to market risk when making each investment decision and these risks are monitored by the Investment Manager on a regular basis and the Board at quarterly meetings with the Investment Manager.

#### Market price risk

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

The Board manages the risks inherent in the investment portfolios by ensuring full and timely reporting of relevant information from the Investment Manager. Investment performance is reviewed at each Board meeting.

The Group's exposure to changes in market prices at 30 April on its investments is as follows:

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Fair value through profit or loss investments	45,376	41,681

#### Sensitivity analysis

A 10% increase in the market value of investments at 30 April 2016 would have increased net assets by £4,538,000 (2015: £4,168,000). An equal change in the opposite direction would have decreased the net assets available to shareholders by an equal but opposite amount.

#### Foreign currency risk

All the Group's assets are denominated in Sterling and accordingly the only currency exposure the Group has is through the trading activities of its investee companies.

#### Interest rate risk

Interest rate movements may affect the level of income receivable on cash deposits. The Group does not currently receive interest on its cash deposits.

The majority of the Group's financial assets are non-interest bearing. As a result the Group's financial assets are not subject to significant amounts of risk due to fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates.

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## 24 ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

### Interest rate risk (continued)

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

The exposure at 30 April 2016 of financial assets and financial liabilities to interest rate risk is limited to cash and cash equivalents of £29,000 (2015: £489,000). Cash and cash equivalents are all due within one year.

### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Group if the contractual party to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations.

The carrying amounts of financial assets best represent the maximum credit risk exposure at the Balance Sheet date.

Listed investments are held by Jarvis Investment Management Limited acting as the Company's custodian. Bankruptcy or insolvency of the custodian may cause the Company's rights with respect to securities held by the custodian to be delayed. The Board monitors the Group's risk by reviewing the custodian's internal controls reports.

Investment transactions are carried out with a number of brokers whose creditworthiness is reviewed by the Investment Manager. Transactions are ordinarily undertaken on a delivery versus payment basis whereby the Company's custodian bank ensures that the counterparty to any transaction entered into by the Group has delivered in its obligations before any transfer of cash or securities away from the Group is completed.

Cash is only held at banks that have been identified by the Board as reputable and of high credit quality.

The maximum exposure to credit risk as at 30 April 2016 was £45,738,000 (2015: £42,448,000). The calculation is based on the Group's credit risk exposure as at 30 April 2016 and this may not be representative of the year as a whole.

None of the Group's assets are past due or impaired.

### Liquidity risk

The majority of the Group's assets are listed securities in small companies, which can under normal conditions be sold to meet funding commitments if necessary. They may however be difficult to realise in adverse market conditions.

Please see notes 15 and 16 for details of liabilities that fall due for payment in more than one year. All other payables are due in less than one year.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 24 ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

#### Financial instruments by category

The financial instruments of the Group fall into the following categories:

#### 30 April 2016

	At cost £'000	Loans and receivables £'000	Assets at fair value through profit or loss £'000	Total £'000
<b>Assets as per Balance Sheet</b>				
Investments	–	–	45,376	45,376
Trade and other receivables	–	333	–	333
Cash and cash equivalents	29	–	–	29
Total	29	333	45,376	45,738
<b>Liabilities as per Balance Sheet</b>				
Trade and other payables	132	–	–	132
Total	132	–	–	132

#### 30 April 2015

	At cost £'000	Loans and receivables £'000	Assets at fair value through profit or loss £'000	Total £'000
<b>Assets as per Balance Sheet</b>				
Investments	–	–	41,681	41,681
Trade and other receivables	–	278	–	278
Cash and cash equivalents	489	–	–	489
Total	489	278	41,681	42,448
<b>Liabilities as per Balance Sheet</b>				
Trade and other payables	167	–	–	167
Total	167	–	–	167

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## 24 ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

### IFRS 7 hierarchy

As required by IFRS 7 the Company is required to classify fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy consists of the following three levels:

Level 1 – Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

An active market is a market in which transactions for the asset or liability occur with sufficient frequency and volume on an ongoing basis such that quoted prices reflect prices at which an orderly transaction would take place between market participants at the measurement date. Quoted prices provided by external pricing services, brokers and vendors are included in Level 1, if they reflect actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices).

Level 2 inputs include the following:

- quoted prices for similar (i.e. not identical) assets in active markets;
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active. Characteristics of an inactive market include a significant decline in the volume and level of trading activity, the available prices vary significantly over time or among market participants or the prices are not current;
- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset (for example, interest rates and yield curves observable at commonly quoted intervals); and
- inputs that are derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or other means (market-corroborated inputs).

Level 3 – Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety is determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. If a fair value measurement uses observable inputs that require significant adjustment based on unobservable inputs, that measurement is a Level 3 measurement. Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgement, considering factors specific to the asset or liability.

The determination of what constitutes 'observable' requires significant judgement by the Company. The Company considers observable data to investments actively traded in organised financial markets. Fair value is generally determined by reference to Stock Exchange quoted market bid prices (or last traded in respect of SETS) at the close of business on the Balance Sheet date, without adjustment for transaction costs necessary to realise the asset.

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## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

as at 30 April 2016

### 24 ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

#### IFRS 7 hierarchy (continued)

Investments whose values are based on quoted market prices in active markets, and therefore classified within Level 1, include active listed equities. The Company does not adjust the quoted price for these investments.

Financial instruments that trade in markets that are not considered to be active but are valued based on quoted market prices, dealer quotations or alternative pricing sources supported by observable inputs are classified within Level 2.

Investments classified within Level 3 have significant unobservable inputs. Level 3 instruments include private equity and corporate debt securities. As observable prices are not available for these securities, the Company has used valuation techniques to derive the fair value. The Company has no Level 2 or Level 3 investments (2015: same).

### 25 CAPITAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Group's capital management objectives are:

- to ensure the Group's ability to continue as a going concern;
- to provide an adequate return to shareholders;
- to support the Group's stability and growth;
- to provide capital for the purpose of further investments.

The Group actively and regularly reviews and manages its capital structure to ensure an optimal capital structure and to maximise equity holder returns, taking into consideration the future capital requirements of the Group and capital efficiency, prevailing and projected profitability, projected operating cash flows and projected strategic investment opportunities. The management regards capital as total equity and reserves, for capital management purposes.

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## Shareholder Information

### Financial calendar

Group's year end	30 April
Quarterly interim dividends paid	July, October, January and April
Special dividend paid	July
Annual results announced	June
Annual General Meeting	September
Group's half year	31 October
Half year results announced	December

### Share prices and performance information

The Company's Ordinary shares and the Zero Dividend Preference shares issued through SCZ are listed on the London Stock Exchange Main Market.

The net asset values are announced weekly to the London Stock Exchange and published monthly via the AIC.

Information about the Group can be obtained on the Chelverton website at [www.chelvertonam.com](http://www.chelvertonam.com). Any enquiries can also be e-mailed to [cam@chelvertonam.com](mailto:cam@chelvertonam.com).

### Share register enquiries

The register for the Ordinary shares and the Zero Dividend Preference shares are maintained by Share Registrars Limited. In the event of queries regarding your holding, please contact the Registrar on 01252 821390. Changes of name and/or address must be notified in writing to the Registrar.

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## Company Summary

### History

The Company was launched on 12 May 1999, raising £21.38 million before expenses, by a placing of 15,000,000 Ordinary shares and, through its former subsidiary company, Small Companies PLC, 6,250,000 Zero Dividend Preference shares and 31,260 Preference shares. A further 750,000 Ordinary shares were issued as a result of a placing for cash on 3 March 2000 and on 26 October 2005 a further 500,000 shares were issued. The subsidiary, Small Companies PLC, was placed into members' voluntary liquidation on 30 April 2007, following which the capital entitlements of the Zero Dividend Preference and Preference shares were repaid.

### Group structure

The Company has in issue one class of Ordinary share. In addition, it has a wholly owned subsidiary, SCZ, through which Zero Dividend Preference shares have been issued. The new subsidiary was incorporated on 13 July 2012 and has a capital structure comprising unlisted Ordinary shares and Zero Dividend Preference shares listed on the Official List and traded on the London Stock Exchange. SCZ was incorporated specifically for the issue of Zero Dividend Preference shares. On 28 August 2012, SCZ issued 8,500,000 Zero Dividend Preference shares at 100p per share and with net proceeds of £8.3 million. The expenses of the placing were borne by the Company. Pursuant to a loan agreement between SCZ and the Company, SCZ has lent the proceeds of the placing to the Company. The loan is non-interest bearing and is repayable three business days before the Zero Dividend Preference share redemption date of 8 January 2018 or, if required by SCZ, at any time prior to that date in order to repay the Zero Dividend Preference share entitlement. The funds are to be managed in accordance with the investment policy of the Company.

A contribution agreement between the Company and SCZ has also been made whereby the Company will undertake to contribute such funds as will ensure that SCZ will have in aggregate sufficient assets on 8 January 2018 to satisfy the final capital entitlement of the Zero Dividend Preference shares.

### Total net assets and market capitalisation at year end

As at 30 April 2016, the Company had a market capitalisation of £31,528,000 (2015: £26,852,000) and total net assets amounted to £35,077,000 (2015: £32,349,000).

### Management fee

The fee payable to the Investment Manager is 1% of the combined gross assets of the Group.

### Capital structure

Details of share structure and entitlements and voting rights of each class can be found on page 63.

### ISA status

The Company's Ordinary shares are qualifying investments for Individual Savings Accounts ('ISAs'), as are the Zero Dividend Preference shares of SCZ.

Registered in England  
No. 3749536

A member of the Association of Investment Companies

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## Capital Structure

### **Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC ('the Company')**

Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC was registered on 3 September 2003 with number 3749536. The Company has in issue one class of Ordinary share. In addition, it has a wholly owned subsidiary, Small Companies ZDP PLC, which was registered on 13 July 2012 with number 8142169, through which Zero Dividend Preference shares have been issued.

### **Ordinary shares of 25p each ('Ordinary shares') – 16,550,000 in issue**

#### *Dividends*

Holders of Ordinary shares are entitled to dividends.

#### *Capital*

On a winding up of the Company, Ordinary shareholders will be entitled to all surplus assets of the Company available after payment of the Company's liabilities, including the full and final capital entitlement of the Zero Dividend Preference shares.

#### *Voting*

Each holder on a show of hands will have one vote and on a poll will have one vote for each Ordinary share held.

### **Small Companies ZDP PLC ('SCZ')**

### **Ordinary shares of 100p each ('ordinary shares') – 50,000 in issue (partly paid up as to 25p each)**

The ordinary shares are owned by the Company. References to Ordinary shares within this Annual Report are to the Ordinary shares of Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC.

#### *Capital*

Following payment of any liabilities and the capital entitlement to the Zero Dividend Preference shareholders, ordinary shareholders are entitled to any surplus assets of SCZ.

#### *Voting*

Each holder on a show of hands will have one vote and on a poll will have one vote for each ordinary share held.

### **Zero Dividend Preference shares of 100p each – 8,500,000 in issue**

#### *Dividends*

Holders of Zero Dividend Preference shares are not entitled to dividends.

#### *Capital*

On a winding up of SCZ, after the satisfaction of prior ranking creditors and subject to sufficient assets being available, Zero Dividend Preference shareholders are entitled to an amount equal to 100p share increased daily from 28 August 2012 at such compound rate as will give an entitlement to 136.7p per share at 8 January 2018.

#### *Voting*

Each holder of Zero Dividend Preference shares on a show of hands will have one vote at meetings where Zero Dividend Preference shareholders are entitled to vote and on a poll will have one vote for every Zero Dividend Preference share held.

Holders of Zero Dividend Preference shares are not entitled to attend, speak or vote at General Meetings unless the business of the meeting includes a resolution to vary, modify or abrogate the rights attached to the Zero Dividend Preference shares.

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## Glossary of Terms

### **Net asset value ('NAV')**

The NAV is shareholders' funds expressed as an amount per individual share. Shareholders' funds are the total value of all the Company's assets, at current market value, having deducted all prior charges at their par value (or at their asset value).

### **Discount**

If the share price of an investment trust is lower than the NAV per share, the shares are said to be trading at a discount. The size of the discount is calculated by subtracting the share price from the NAV per share and is usually expressed as a percentage of the NAV per share. If the share price is higher than the NAV per share, the shares are said to be trading at a premium.

### **Gearing**

Gearing is the process whereby changes in the total assets of a company have an exaggerated effect on the net assets of that company's ordinary shares due to the presence of borrowing or share classes with a prior ranking entitlement to capital.

### **Ongoing charges**

The total expenses incurred by a company, including those charged to capital (excluding performance fee and finance costs and exceptional costs) as a percentage of average quarterly net assets.

### **Total return**

The combined effect of any dividends paid, together with the rise or fall in the share price or NAV. Total return statistics enable the investor to make performance comparisons between trusts with different dividend policies. Any dividends (after tax) received by a shareholder are assumed to have been reinvested in either additional shares of the trust at the time the shares go ex-dividend (the share price total return) or in the assets of the trust at its NAV per share (the NAV total return).

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## Directors and Advisers

<b>Directors</b>	Lord Lamont of Lerwick (Chairman) David Harris William van Heesewijk Howard Myles
<b>Investment Manager</b>	Chelverton Asset Management Limited 12b George Street Bath BA1 2EH Tel: 01225 483030
<b>Secretary and Registered Office</b>	Maitland Administration Services Limited Springfield Lodge Colchester Road, Chelmsford Essex CM2 5PW Tel: 01245 398950
<b>Registrar and Transfer Office</b>	Share Registrars Limited Suite E First Floor 9 Lion and Lamb Yard Farnham Surrey GU9 7LL Tel: 01252 821390 <a href="http://www.shareregistrars.uk.com">www.shareregistrars.uk.com</a>
<b>Auditors</b>	Hazlewoods LLP Windsor House Bayshill Road Cheltenham GL50 3AT
<b>Custodian</b>	Jarvis Investment Management Limited 78 Mount Ephraim Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 8BS

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## Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

**This document is important and requires your immediate attention.** If you are in any doubt as to what action you should take, you are recommended to seek your own financial advice from your stockbroker or other independent adviser authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 immediately.

If you have sold or otherwise transferred all of your shares in Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC, please forward this document as soon as possible to the purchaser or transferee or to the stockbroker, bank or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was effected for transmission to the purchaser or transferee.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday 8 September 2016 at the offices of Chelverton Asset Management, 3rd Floor, 20 Ironmonger Lane, London EC2V 8EP for the following purposes:

#### **Ordinary Business – Resolutions 1 to 6 will be proposed as Ordinary Resolutions**

- 1 To receive the Strategic Report, Directors' Report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2016.
- 2 To receive and approve the Directors' Remuneration Report for the year ended 30 April 2016.
- 3 To re-elect Lord Lamont as a Director.
- 4 To re-elect Mr Harris as a Director.
- 5 To re-elect Mr van Heesewijk as a Director.
- 6 To re-appoint Hazlewoods LLP as Auditor and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.

#### **Special Business**

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following Resolutions of which Resolution 7 will be proposed as an Ordinary Resolution and Resolutions 8 to 10 will be proposed as Special Resolutions.

- 7 THAT the Directors be and are hereby generally and unconditionally authorised pursuant to Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act') (in substitution for any existing allotment authorities, provided that such substitution shall not have retrospective effect) to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot shares and to grant rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares in the Company ('the Rights') up to an aggregate nominal value equal to £1,379,167, being one-third of the issued Ordinary share capital as at 30 April 2016, during the period commencing on the date of the passing of this Resolution and expiring (unless previously renewed, varied or revoked by the Company in general meeting) at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2017, or 15 months from the passing of this Resolution, whichever is earlier (the 'Period of Authority'), but so that the Directors may, at any time prior to the expiry of the Period of Authority, make offers or agreements which would or might require shares to be allotted and/or Rights to be granted after the expiry of the Period of Authority and the Directors may allot shares or grant Rights in pursuance of such offers or agreements as if the authority had not expired.
- 8 THAT, subject to the passing of Resolution 7 above, the Directors of the Company be and they are hereby empowered pursuant to Section 570 and Section 573 of the Act to allot equity securities (within the meaning of Section 560 of the Act) or sell shares held in Treasury (within the meaning of Section 560(3) of the Act) for cash pursuant to the authority conferred by Resolution 7 above as if Section 561(1) of the Act did not apply to any such allotment, provided that this power shall be limited to:

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## Notice of Annual General Meeting (continued)

- a) the allotment of equity securities in connection with a rights issue, open offer or any other offer in favour of Ordinary shareholders where the equity securities respectively attributable to the interests of all Ordinary shareholders are proportionate (as nearly as may be) to the respective number of Ordinary shares held by them subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors may deem fit to deal with fractional entitlements, record dates, legal, regulatory or practical problems arising under the laws of any overseas territory or the requirements of any regulatory authority or any stock exchange; and
- b) to the allotment (otherwise than pursuant to paragraph (a) above) of equity securities up to an aggregate nominal amount of £413,750, being 10% of the issued Ordinary share capital as at 30 April 2016

and shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2017, or 15 months from the passing of this Resolution, whichever is earlier, save that the Company may before such expiry make offers, agreements or arrangements which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after such expiry and so that the Directors of the Company may allot equity securities in pursuance of such offers, agreements or arrangements as if the power conferred hereby had not expired.

- 9 THAT the Company is hereby generally and unconditionally authorised in accordance with Section 701 of the Act to make market purchases (within the meaning of Section 693(4) of the Act) of Ordinary shares of 25p each in the capital of the Company ('Ordinary shares') for cancellation or for placing into Treasury provided that:
  - a) the maximum aggregate number of Ordinary shares authorised to be acquired is 2,480,845, or if less, 14.99% of the Ordinary shares in issue and in circulation immediately following the passing of this Resolution;
  - b) the minimum price which may be paid for each Ordinary share is 25p (exclusive of expenses);
  - c) the maximum price which may be paid for each Ordinary share is, in respect of a share contracted to be purchased on any day, an amount which shall not be more than the higher of (i) 5% above the average of the middle market quotations (as derived from the Daily Official List of the London Stock Exchange) of the Ordinary shares for the five business days immediately preceding the date on which the Ordinary share is purchased, and (ii) the higher of the price of the last independent trade and the highest current independent bid on the London Stock Exchange;
  - d) this authority will (unless renewed) expire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company or, if earlier, 15 months from the date on which this Resolution is passed; and
  - e) any Ordinary shares bought back under the authority hereby granted may, at the discretion of the Directors, be cancelled or held in treasury and if held in treasury may be cancelled at the discretion of the Directors.
- 10 THAT a general meeting other than an annual general meeting may be called on not less than 14 clear days' notice.

By order of the Board  
**Maitland Administration Services Limited**  
Secretary  
20 July 2016

Registered office:  
Springfield Lodge  
Colchester Road  
Chelmsford CM2 5PW

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## Notice of Annual General Meeting (continued)

### Explanatory notes to the notice of meeting

Ordinary shareholders have the right to attend, speak and vote at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting or at any adjournment(s) thereof. In order to exercise all or any of these rights you should read the following explanatory notes to the business of the Annual General Meeting.

### Notes

- A member entitled to attend, vote and speak at this meeting may appoint one or more persons as his/her proxy to attend, speak and vote on his/her behalf at the meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. If multiple proxies are appointed they must not be appointed in respect of the same shares. To be effective, the enclosed form of proxy, together with any power of attorney or other authority under which it is signed or a certified copy thereof, should be lodged at the office of the Company's Registrar, Share Registrars Limited, Suite E, First Floor, 9 Lion and Lamb Yard, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7LL not later than 48 hours before the time of the meeting. The appointment of a proxy will not prevent a member from attending the meeting and voting and speaking in person if he/she so wishes. A member present in person or by proxy shall have one vote on a show of hands and on a poll shall have one vote for every Ordinary share of which he/she is the holder.*

*In the case of joint holders of a share, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the vote or votes of the other joint holder or holders, and seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names of the holders stand in the register.*

*Any question relevant to the business of the Annual General Meeting may be asked at the meeting by anyone permitted to speak at the meeting. You may alternatively submit your question in advance by letter addressed to the Company Secretary at the registered office.*
- A person to whom this notice is sent who is a person nominated under Section 146 of the Companies Act 2006 to enjoy information rights (a 'Nominated Person') may, under an agreement between him/her and the shareholder by whom he/she was nominated, have a right to be appointed (or to have someone else appointed) as a proxy for the Annual General Meeting. If a Nominated Person has no such proxy appointment right or does not wish to exercise it, he/she may, under any such agreement, have a right to give instructions to the shareholder as to the exercise of voting rights.*
- The statements of the rights of members in relation to the appointment of proxies in Note 1 above do not apply to a Nominated Person. The rights described in that Note can only be exercised by registered members of the Company.*
- As at 13 July 2016 (being the last business day prior to the publication of this notice) the Company's issued share capital amounted to 16,550,000 Ordinary shares carrying one vote each.*
- The Company specifies that only those Ordinary shareholders registered on the Register of Members of the Company as at 11.00 am on 6 September 2016 (or in the event that the meeting is adjourned, only those Ordinary shareholders registered on the Register of Members of the Company as at 11.00 am on the day which is 48 hours prior to the adjourned meeting) shall be entitled to attend in person or by proxy and vote at the Annual General Meeting in respect of the number of Ordinary shares registered in their name at that time. Changes to entries on the Register of Members after that time shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the meeting.*
- In accordance with Section 319A of the Companies Act 2006, the Company must cause any question relating to the business being dealt with at the meeting put by a member attending the meeting to be answered. No such answer need be given if:*

  - to do so would:*
    - interfere unduly with the preparation for the meeting, or*
    - involve the disclosure of confidential information;*
  - the answer has already been given on a website in the form of an answer to a question; or*
  - it is undesirable in the interests of the Company or the good order of the meeting that the question be answered.*
- A person authorised by a corporation is entitled to exercise (on behalf of the corporation) the same powers as the corporation could exercise if it were an individual member of the Company (provided, in the case of multiple corporate representatives of the same corporate shareholder, they are appointed in respect of different shares owned by the corporate shareholder or, if they are appointed in respect of those same shares, they vote those shares in the same way). To be able to attend and vote at the meeting, corporate representatives will be required to produce prior to their entry to the meeting evidence satisfactory to the Company of their appointment. Corporate shareholders can also appoint one or more proxies in accordance with Note 1. On a vote on a Resolution on a show of hands, each authorised person has the same voting rights to which the corporation would be entitled.*

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*On a vote on a Resolution on a poll, if more than one authorised person purports to exercise a power in respect of the same shares:*

*a) if they purport to exercise the power in the same way as each other, the power is treated as exercised in that way;*

*b) if they do not purport to exercise the power in the same way as each other, the power is treated as not exercised.*

8. *CREST members who wish to appoint a proxy or proxies by utilising the CREST electronic proxy appointment service may do so for this meeting by following the procedures described in the CREST Manual. CREST personal members or other CREST sponsored members, and those CREST members who have appointed a voting service provider(s), should refer to their CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s), who will be able to take the appropriate action on their behalf.*

*In order for a proxy appointment or instruction made by means of CREST to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a 'CREST Proxy Instruction') must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear's specifications and must contain the information required for such instructions, as described in the CREST Manual. The message, in order to be valid, must be transmitted so as to be received by the Company's agent (ID 7RA36) by the latest time for receipt of proxy appointments specified in Note 1 above. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be the time (as determined by the timestamp applied to the message by the CREST Applications Host) from which the Company's agent is able to retrieve the message by enquiry to CREST in the manner prescribed by CREST. After this time, any change of instructions to proxies appointed through CREST should be communicated to the appointee through other means.*

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

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

9. *Shareholders should note that it is possible that, pursuant to requests made by shareholders of the Company under Section 527 of the Companies Act 2006, the Company may be required to publish on a website a statement setting out any matter relating to: (i) the audit of the Company's accounts (including the auditor's report and the conduct of the audit) that are to be laid before the Annual General Meeting; or (ii) any circumstance connected with an auditor of the Company ceasing to hold office since the previous meeting at which annual accounts and reports were laid in accordance with Section 437 of the Companies Act 2006. The Company may not require the shareholders requesting any such website publication to pay its expenses in complying with Sections 527 or 528 of the Companies Act 2006. Where the Company is required to place a statement on a website under Section 527 of the Companies Act 2006, it must forward the statement to the Company's auditor not later than the time when it makes the statement available on the website. The business which may be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting includes any statement that the Company has been required under Section 527 of the Companies Act 2006 to publish on a website.*
10. *Members satisfying the thresholds in Section 338 of the Companies Act 2006 may require the Company to give, to members of the Company entitled to receive notice of the Annual General Meeting, notice of a Resolution which those members intend to move (and which may properly be moved) at the Annual General Meeting. A Resolution may properly be moved at the Annual General Meeting unless (i) it would, if passed, be ineffective (whether by reason of any inconsistency with any enactment or the Company's constitution or otherwise); (ii) it is defamatory of any person; or (iii) it is frivolous or vexatious. A request made pursuant to this right may be in hard copy or electronic form, must identify the Resolution of which notice is to be given, must be authenticated by the person(s) making it and must be received by the Company not later than six weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting.*
11. *Members satisfying the thresholds in Section 338A of the Companies Act 2006 may request the Company to include in the business to be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting any matter (other than a proposed Resolution) which may properly be included in the business at the Annual General Meeting. A matter may properly be included in the business at the Annual General Meeting unless (i) it is defamatory of any person or (ii) it is frivolous or vexatious. A request made pursuant to this right may be in hard copy or electronic form, must identify grounds for the request, must be authenticated by the person(s) making it and must be received by the Company not later than six weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting.*
12. *The Annual Report incorporating this notice of Annual General Meeting and, if applicable, any members' statements, members' Resolutions or members' matters of business received by the Company after the date of this notice will be available on the Company's website [www.chelvertonam.com](http://www.chelvertonam.com).*
13. *None of the Directors has a contract of service with the Company.*

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## Notes

# Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC

## Proxy Form

I/We (Block Capitals please) .....

.....  
 being a member/members of the above-named Company, hereby appoint the Chairman of the Meeting

.....  
 as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held at 11.00 am at the offices of Chelverton Asset Management, 3rd Floor, 20 Ironmonger Lane, London EC2V 8EP on Thursday 8 September 2016 and at any adjournment thereof.

Signature .....

Date ..... 2016

Please indicate with an X in the spaces below how you wish your votes to be cast.

Please tick here to indicate that this proxy appointment is one of multiple appointments being made.

### ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

		FOR	AGAINST	VOTE WITHHELD
<b>RESOLUTION 1</b>	To receive the Strategic Report, Directors' Report, Auditor's Report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2016.			
<b>RESOLUTION 2</b>	To receive and approve the Directors' Remuneration Report for the year ended 30 April 2016.			
<b>RESOLUTION 3</b>	To re-elect Lord Lamont as a Director.			
<b>RESOLUTION 4</b>	To re-elect Mr Harris as a Director.			
<b>RESOLUTION 5</b>	To re-elect Mr van Heesewijk as a Director.			
<b>RESOLUTION 6</b>	To re-appoint Hazlewoods LLP as Auditor and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.			
<b>RESOLUTION 7</b>	To authorise the allotment of shares.			

### SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

<b>RESOLUTION 8</b>	To authorise the Directors to issue shares having disapplied pre-emption rights.			
<b>RESOLUTION 9</b>	Authority to buy back shares.			
<b>RESOLUTION 10</b>	Authority to hold general meetings on 14 clear days' notice.			

### NOTES

1. A member may appoint a proxy of his/her own choice. If such an appointment is made, delete the words 'the Chairman of the Meeting' and insert the name of the person appointed proxy in the space provided.
2. If the appointor is a corporation, this form must be under its common seal or under the hand of some officer or attorney duly authorised in that behalf.
3. In the case of joint holders, the signature of any one holder will be sufficient but the names of all the joint holders should be stated.
4. If this form is returned without any indication as to how the person appointed proxy shall vote, the proxy will exercise his/her discretion as to how he/she votes or whether he/she abstains from voting.
5. To be valid, this form must be completed and deposited at the office of the Company's Registrars not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting. Only those Ordinary shareholders registered in the register of members 48 hours prior to the meeting shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting in respect of the number of Ordinary shares registered in their name at that time. Changes to the register of members after that time shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend and vote at the meeting.
6. A 'vote withheld' is not a vote in law and will not be counted in the calculation of the proportion of the votes for and against the Resolution. The 'vote withheld' option is provided to enable you to instruct the registered holder to abstain from voting.
7. You are entitled to appoint more than one proxy provided that each proxy is appointed to exercise rights attached to a different share or shares held by you. You may not appoint more than one proxy to exercise rights attached to any one share. To appoint more than one proxy, (an) additional Proxy Form(s) may be obtained by contacting the Registrars' helpline or you may photocopy this form. Please indicate in the box next to the proxy holder's name the number of shares in relation to which they are authorised to act as your proxy. Please also indicate by ticking the box provided, if the proxy instruction is one of multiple instructions being given. All forms must be signed and should be returned together in the same envelope.
8. The termination of the authority of a person to act as proxy must be notified to the Company's Registrar in writing.
9. Please return this proxy form to Share Registrars Limited, Suite E, First Floor, 9 Lion and Lamb Yard, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7LL.



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## Notes

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## Notes

