IFSL Marlborough European Special Situations Fund

Interim Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the six month period ended 10 March 2024



CONTACT INFORMATION

Authorised Fund Manager (AFM) and Registrar

Investment Fund Services Limited (IFSL) Marlborough House 59 Chorley New Road Bolton BL1 4QP

Investor Support: (0808) 178 9321 (FREEPHONE)

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Directors of IFSL

Andrew Staley (Non-Executive)
Allan Hamer
Dom Clarke
Helen Derbyshire - resigned, 11 December 2023
Helen Redmond
Sally Helston
Guy Sears (Independent Non-Executive) - resigned, 25 March 2024
Katherine Damsell (Independent Non-Executive) - appointed, 25 March 2024
Sarah Peaston (Independent Non-Executive)

Investment Manager

Marlborough Investment Management Limited PO Box 1852 Lichfield Staffordshire WS13 8XU

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Sub-investment Manager

Canaccord Genuity Asset Management Limited 88 Wood Street London EC2V 7QR

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Depositary (in it's capacity as Trustee)

HSBC Bank plc 8 Canada Square London E14 5HQ

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

Auditor

Ernst & Young LLP Atria One 144 Morrison Street Edinburgh EH3 8EX

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AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the six month period ended 10 March 2024

Performance to 10 March 2024

	Six monus	<u>i year</u>	<u>s years</u>	<u>o years</u>
IFSL Marlborough European Special Situations Fund	9.79%	0.30%	13.53%	80.27%
IA Europe excluding UK Sector	12.28%	10.38%	25.40%	58.18%

External Source of Economic Data: Morningstar (P Income - quoted to quoted, net income reinvested).

The performance figures above are based on quoted prices and will, therefore, differ from the performance in the Comparative Table.

Capital at risk. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance; the value of your investment and any income from it can go down as well as up. Performance returns are based on the net asset value with distributable income reinvested and take account of all ongoing charges, but not entry charges (if applicable). The past performance of this unit class is calculated in sterling.

Investment commentary

Performance statement

In the six months under review the Fund's P class share returned 9.8% compared to the benchmark return of 12.3%. The return was lower than the benchmark because the fund has a high weighting in smaller companies, and smaller companies saw lower share price gains vs large companies.

Market review

Investors remain cautious regarding the prospects of smaller companies in Europe given the economic slowdown in the region. Destocking (customers using up goods from their inventories and reducing purchases) and slower economic growth in China remain headwinds in the industrial sector and the full year impact of higher interest rates is now being felt. Takeover offers continue to be made for smaller companies including some of the Fund's holdings, most recently Spanish chemicals company Ercros which received a takeover offer at a 41% premium to its share price. Recent company meetings indicate to us that the first half of 2024 could be the trough of the business cycle for industrial companies. Destocking is not expected to persist much beyond the first half of this year, inflation is forecast to fall in 2024 by the European Central Bank, and forecasters expect small interest rate reductions by the European Central Bank in the second half of 2024.

Fund performance review

The best performers for the Fund were Norwegian property group Self Storage Group (received takeover offer at a 67% premium to its share price), Danish jewellery retailer Pandora (sales and profit growth ahead of expectations), Swedish truck equipment vendor VBG (good growth in vehicle climate control equipment), Swedish IT storage hardware, software and services vendor Proact IT (services growth remained resilient despite slower economic growth), Norwegian electricity retailer Elmera (reduction in electricity prices from very high levels in 2022 boosted profit margin), French engineering consultant SII (received takeover offer at a 32% premium to its share price), French market research group Ipsos (sales and profit growth improved significantly during 2023), German enterprise software vendor SAP (long term profit guidance was upgraded on strong demand), and Swedish railway transport and maintenance provider Railcare (increasing investment in Swedish rail network driving sales growth).

The worst performers were French specialty chemical group Baikowski (weaker demand from semiconductor sector for wafer polishing chemicals), Norwegian retail technology solutions provider StrongPoint (food retailers cut back capital expenditure during 2023), Danish electrical wholesaler Solar (downgraded 2024 expectations on weaker construction demand), French private healthcare services groups LNA Sante and Bastide (higher wage and cost inflation reduced profit margins), Italian industrial and medical laser equipment vendor El.En (slower industrial activity and higher interest rates weakened demand), French carbon graphite products vendor Mersen (slowdown in sales growth expected in 2024), Danish kitchen manufacturer and retailer TCM (sharp drop in sales as consumers cut back on big ticket purchases), and Finnish telecommunications equipment vendor Nokia (customer demand not expected to recover as quickly as hoped, holding sold).

Portfolio activity

We took new holdings in French employee benefits group Pluxee (newly listed on stock exchange following its spin off from parent company Sodexo and targeting an increased growth rate) and Sodexo itself (lifting its growth rate and profit margin nearer to competitor Compass). We also took a holding in Swiss electricity network transformer manufacturer R&S Group (growth driven by modernisation of electricity networks), German industrial pump vendor KSB (growing service penetration of installed base of pumps), and Spanish diversified insurance company Grupo Catalana (superior profitability and capital generation vs competitors).

Additions were made to a number of holdings including Danish pharmaceutical group H Lundbeck focussed on neurology (promising growth of two key products), Spanish diversified industrial services group Global Dominion (growing sales of renewable energy projects), and Italian industrial and medical laser equipment vendor El.En (growth slowdown not expected to persist in the longer term).

AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the six month period ended 10 March 2024

Investment commentary (continued)

Portfolio activity (continued)

Complete sales were made of French engineering consultant SII (accepted takeover offer), Italian staffing company Openjob (concerns around slower growth vs local competitors), Norwegian property company Self Storage Group (accepted takeover offer), Swiss electromagnetic filter vendor Schaffner (accepted takeover offer), Swedish supply chain services group Elanders (concerns around persistently high financial leverage), and Finnish telecommunication equipment vendor Nokia (customer demand not expected to recover as quickly as hoped).

Reductions were made to a number of holdings where we felt that the share price valuation level was relatively high including French carbon graphite products vendor Mersen, German enterprise software vendor SAP, Danish pharmaceutical group Novo Nordisk, Danish jewellery retailer Pandora and French credit insurer Coface.

Investment outlook

Looking forward we continue to invest in well managed companies capable of growing their earnings at an above average rate and whose share prices undervalue their growth prospects. We continue to find the best investment opportunities in the small company part of the European equity market where valuations and levels of interest from investors remain lower than for large companies.

Companies held by the fund in more cyclical sectors such as industrials or information technology hardware have seen a clear growth slowdown in H2 2023 which is continuing into 2024. Predicting when this slowdown will reverse is difficult, but market expectations and share prices of such companies are at low levels while as discussed above there are some more positive indications of a growth pick up in H2 2024.

For other companies held by the fund not in cyclical sectors we see their good growth rates continuing into 2024 for the most part and the issue can be their share valuation levels. We have taken profits on a few mostly large company holdings for this reason but still see valuation levels of smaller company holdings at attractive levels.

Canaccord Genuity Asset Management Limited 27 March 2024

Distributions

	<u>Year 2023</u>	<u>Year 2022</u>	<u>Year 2021</u>
A Income (pence per unit) Net income paid 10 November	9.9413	8.5012	4.6882
P Income (pence per unit) Net income paid 10 November	15.2568	14.3511	9.9168

AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the six month period ended 10 March 2024

Portfolio changes

Largest purchases	Cost (£)
Pluxee	2,795,142
H Lundbeck	1,668,416
Sodexo	1,612,219
Elekta 'B'	1,449,781
Grupo Catalana Occidente R&S Group Holding	1,305,069 1,094,321
Global Dominion Access	977,361
Vossloh	820,501
FinecoBank	727,331
El.En	513,969
	0.0,000
Other purchases	3,724,268
Total purchases for the period	16,688,378
<u>Largest sales</u>	Proceeds (£)
Self Storage Group	7,031,349
Société Pour L'Informatique Industrielle	6,360,614
Openjobmetis	4,493,085
Coface	3,261,211
Novo Nordisk Schaffner Holding	2,844,516 2,347,152
Pandora	2,121,323
VBG Group 'B'	2,073,860
SAP	1,902,971
Mersen	1,002,011
	1.572.332
	1,572,332
Other sales	1,572,332 10,858,679
Other sales Total sales for the period	

AUTHORISED STATUS

IFSL Marlborough European Special Situations Fund (the Fund) is an authorised unit trust scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and is a UCITS scheme operating under the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook (COLL) as issued by the Financial Conduct Authority.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Investment objective

The investment objective of the Fund is to provide capital growth, that is, to increase the value of your investment, over a minimum of 5 years.

Investment policy

At least 80% of the Fund will be invested in the shares of companies listed on European stock markets (excluding the UK). Of this, up to 90% will be in smaller companies. The Investment Manager defines smaller companies as companies in the bottom 20% of the market cap, meaning the 20% smallest listed companies by size. The remainder will be in Mid and Large cap companies.

The Fund is actively managed, which means the Investment Manager decides which investments to buy or sell and when.

The Fund may also invest in other types of security which are linked to the performance of a company, such as; investment grade bonds, which are loans typically issued by companies and governments, where the issuer has a higher capacity to repay the debt; bonds which may be converted into shares (known as convertible bonds); and preference shares. A small amount may be held in UK companies to allow for changes which may be made to existing investments, for example following a restructure.

In addition, the Fund may invest in other funds (including investment trusts) which offer exposure to European companies and from time to time, may hold a small amount in investment grade bonds.

The Fund will normally hold an amount of cash to enable ready settlement of liabilities and efficient management of the Fund both generally and in relation to strategic objectives however may hold higher cash balances in certain circumstances, such as volatile market conditions.

The Fund may also hold money market instruments, a type of short-term loan, and funds that invest in these instruments as an alternative to holding cash.

Assessing performance

The Investment Association (IA), the trade body for UK investment managers, has created a number of 'sectors', as a way of dividing funds into broad groups with similar characteristics.

The Fund's investment policy puts it in the IA Europe Excluding UK sector. You may want to assess the Fund's performance compared to the performance of this sector.

You should note that whilst the IA Europe Excluding UK sector represents the European focus of the Fund, the sector also contains other funds investing across the market capitalisation spectrum from large companies to small companies. The Fund is expected to have a lower average company size than the average fund in the sector. Therefore, when the shares of larger companies perform better than the shares of smaller companies, the Fund is more likely to underperform the sector. Conversely, the Fund is more likely to outperform the sector when the shares of smaller companies perform better than the shares of larger companies.

Rights and terms attaching to each unit class

A unit of each class represents a proportional entitlement to the assets of the Fund. The allocation of income and taxation and the rights of each unit in the event the Fund is wound up are on the same proportional basis.

Changes in prospectus

No significant changes have been made since the last annual report.

Up to date Key Investor Information Documents, Prospectus and Long Reports and Financial Statements for any fund within the AFM's range, can be requested by the investor at any time.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook as issued and amended by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Allan Hamer Director

Investment Fund Services Limited 3 May 2024

Helen Redmond Director

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COMPARATIVE TABLE

Change in net assets per unit 10.03.2024 pence pen
Return before operating charges* 66.46 (4.40) (116.35) 298.55 Operating charges (5.16) (10.59) (11.64) (10.38) Return after operating charges* 61.30 (14.99) (127.99) 288.17 Distributions on income units - (9.94) (8.50) (4.69) Closing net asset value per unit 709.88 648.58 673.51 810.00 * after direct transaction costs of: 0.19 0.49 0.33 0.63 Performance Return after charges ^A 9.45% (2.23)% (15.80)% 54.73% Other information Closing number of units 2,052,712 2,500,050 4,248,934 4,764,640 Operating charges 1,55% 1,55% 1,54% 1,56% Direct transaction costs 0.06% 0.07% 0.04% 0.10%
Operating charges (5.16) (10.59) (11.64) (10.38) Return after operating charges* 61.30 (14.99) (127.99) 288.17 Distributions on income units - (9.94) (8.50) (4.69) Closing net asset value per unit 709.88 648.58 673.51 810.00 * after direct transaction costs of: 0.19 0.49 0.33 0.63 Performance Return after charges ^A 9.45% (2.23)% (15.80)% 54.73% Other information Closing net asset value (£) 14,571,790 16,214,731 28,616,876 38,593,574 Closing number of units 2,052,712 2,500,050 4,248,934 4,764,640 Operating charges 1,55% 1,55% 1,54% 1,56% Direct transaction costs 0.06% ^C 0.07% 0.04% 0.10%
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Distributions on income units - (9.94) (8.50) (4.69) Closing net asset value per unit 709.88 648.58 673.51 810.00 * after direct transaction costs of: 0.19 0.49 0.33 0.63 Performance Return after charges ^A 9.45% (2.23)% (15.80)% 54.73% Other information Closing net asset value (£) 14,571,790 16,214,731 28,616,876 38,593,574 Closing number of units 2,052,712 2,500,050 4,248,934 4,764,640 Operating charges 1.55% 1.55% 1.54% 1.56% Direct transaction costs 0.06% 0.07% 0.04% 0.10% Prices (pence per unit)
Closing net asset value per unit 709.88 648.58 673.51 810.00 * after direct transaction costs of: 0.19 0.49 0.33 0.63 Performance Return after charges ^A 9.45% (2.23)% (15.80)% 54.73% Other information Closing net asset value (£) 14,571,790 16,214,731 28,616,876 38,593,574 Closing number of units 2,052,712 2,500,050 4,248,934 4,764,640 Operating charges 1.55% ^{B,C} 1.55% 1.54% 1.56% Direct transaction costs 0.06% ^C 0.07% 0.04% 0.10% Prices (pence per unit)
* after direct transaction costs of: 0.19 0.49 0.33 0.63 Performance Return after charges ^A 9.45% (2.23)% (15.80)% 54.73% Other information Closing net asset value (£) 14,571,790 16,214,731 28,616,876 38,593,574 Closing number of units 2,052,712 2,500,050 4,248,934 4,764,640 Operating charges 1.55% Direct transaction costs 1.55% 0.06% 0.07% 0.04% 0.10% Prices (pence per unit)
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Return after charges ^A 9.45% (2.23)% (15.80)% 54.73% Other information Closing net asset value (£) 14,571,790 16,214,731 28,616,876 38,593,574 Closing number of units 2,052,712 2,500,050 4,248,934 4,764,640 Operating charges 1.55% B,C 1.55% 1.54% 1.56% Direct transaction costs 0.06% C 0.07% 0.04% 0.10% Prices (pence per unit)
Other information Closing net asset value (£) 14,571,790 16,214,731 28,616,876 38,593,574 Closing number of units 2,052,712 2,500,050 4,248,934 4,764,640 Operating charges 1.55% B,C 1.55% 1.54% 1.56% Direct transaction costs 0.06% C 0.07% 0.04% 0.10% Prices (pence per unit)
Closing net asset value (£) 14,571,790 16,214,731 28,616,876 38,593,574 Closing number of units 2,052,712 2,500,050 4,248,934 4,764,640 Operating charges 1.55% B,C 1.55% 1.54% 1.56% Direct transaction costs 0.06% C 0.07% 0.04% 0.10% Prices (pence per unit)
Closing number of units 2,052,712 2,500,050 4,248,934 4,764,640 Operating charges 1.55% B,C 1.55% 1.55% 1.54% 1.56% Direct transaction costs 0.06% C 0.07% 0.04% 0.10% Prices (pence per unit)
Operating charges 1.55% 1.55% 1.54% 1.56% Direct transaction costs 1.55% 0.06% 0.07% 0.04% 0.10% Prices (pence per unit)
Direct transaction costs 0.06% ^C 0.07% 0.04% 0.10% Prices (pence per unit)
Prices (pence per unit)
Highest unit price 713.27 740.07 846.92 834.57
5 1
Lowest unit price 622.01 609.22 658.02 501.76
P Income units Period to Year to Year to Year to
Change in net assets per unit 10.03.2024 10.09.2023 10.09.2022 10.09.2021
pence pence pence pence
Opening net asset value per unit 652.65 677.91 816.03 529.77
Return before operating charges* 67.11 (4.48) (117.73) 301.89
Operating charges (2.69) (5.52) (6.04) (5.71)
Return after operating charges* 64.42 (10.00) (123.77) 296.18
Distributions on income units - (15.26) (14.35) (9.92)
Closing net asset value per unit 717.07 652.65 677.91 816.03
* after direct transaction costs of: 0.19 0.49 0.33 0.67
Performance
Return after charges ^A 9.87% (1.48)% (15.17)% 55.91%
Other information
Closing net asset value (£) 241,692,031 207,708,014 334,984,373 465,839,047
Closing number of units 33,705,682 31,825,275 49,414,258 57,085,924
Operating charges 0.80% 0.80% 0.79% 0.81%
Direct transaction costs 0.06% ^C 0.07% 0.04% 0.10%
Prices (pence per unit)
Highest unit price 720.41 747.73 854.19 845.99
Lowest unit price 626.51 613.57 665.35 505.41

^A The return after charges is calculated using the underlying investments bid prices.

Operating charges are normally the same as the Ongoing Charges Figures (OCFs) and are the total expenses paid by each unit class in the period. Where it is considered unsuitable to use the total expenses paid by each unit class in the period to calculate the OCF because of material changes to the Fund's charges an estimate will be calculated instead. The OCFs disclosed in the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) (available on IFSL's website, www.ifslfunds.com) give an estimate of future costs.

Direct transaction costs are the total charges for the period, included in the purchase and sale of investments in the portfolio of the Fund. These amounts are expressed as a percentage of the average net asset value over the period and the average units in issue for the pence per unit figures.

^B On 30 November 2023, The Investment Association amended the disclosure of fund charges and costs originally issued on the 2 July 2020. Consequently, we have excluded, where relevant, charges incurred by closed-ended vehicles such as investment trusts.

^C These figures have been annualised.

SYNTHETIC RISK AND REWARD INDICATOR (all unit classes)

L	ower risk						Higher risk	
+								
Т	ypically lower rew	ards ards				Typic	ally higher rewards	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

This indicator aims to give you a measure of the price movement of the Fund based on past data. It uses historic returns over the last five years. If five years' data is not available, simulated data based on a representative portfolio are used.

The Fund has been measured as 6 because its investments have experienced high volatility in the past. During the period the synthetic risk and reward indicator has remained unchanged.

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 10 March 2024

Holding or nominal value		Bid value	Percentage of total net assets
		£	%
475 707	AUSTRIA (10 September 2023 - 0.32%)	077 505	2.24
1/5,/0/	Zumtobel Group	877,565	0.34
	Total Austria	877,565	0.34
	BELGIUM (10 September 2023 - 0.16%)		
23.113	EVS Broadcast Equipment	649,089	0.25
	Solvay	77,544	0.03
-,	Total Belgium	726,633	0.28
	-		
2 622 742	DENMARK (10 September 2023 - 13.23%)	2 150 649	0.94
	Columbus	2,159,648	0.84
,	Demant	3,578,125	1.40
	H Lundbeck	4,097,816	1.60
	H+H International 'B'	3,655,572	1.43
	Novo Nordisk	4,369,925	1.71
	Pandora	5,317,595	2.08
	Solar 'B'	3,645,723	1.42
210,175	TCM Group	1,220,602	0.48
	Total Denmark	28,045,006	10.96
	FINLAND (10 September 2023 - 1.76%)		
419,112		2,861,247	1.12
•	Total Finland	2,861,247	1.12
	FRANCE (40.0		
00.000	FRANCE (10 September 2023 - 33.10%)	000 475	0.05
,	Baikowski	896,475	0.35
	Bastide Le Confort Médical	1,299,654	0.51
320,181		4,584,560	1.79
	Bureau Veritas	3,669,059	1.43
,	Coface	563,067	0.22
	Delfingen Industry	797,796	0.31
	Delta Plus Group	6,368,040	2.48
	Groupe CRIT	5,473,212	2.14
	Groupe GUILLIN	4,841,944	1.89
1,025,515	Groupe SFPI	1,664,186	0.65
169,400	Ipsos	9,391,901	3.66
317,288	LNA Santé	6,233,290	2.43
170,007	Mersen	5,114,866	2.00
21,400	Sodexo	1,390,559	0.54
56,944		6,552,010	2.56
84,957	Synergie	2,273,640	0.89
	Thermador Groupe	4,812,084	1.88
	Total France	65,926,343	25.73
	GERMANY (10 September 2023 - 3.55%)		
139.360	CeoTronics	596,259	0.23
	Einhell Germany	2,239,480	0.87
	KSB Pref	495,783	0.19
27,500		4,154,667	1.62
	Vossloh	1,366,244	0.53
37,341	Total Germany	8,852,433	3.44
	Total Collinary		J.44_
	GREECE (10 September 2023 - 3.32%)		
1,117,556	SARANTIS GROUP	9,058,214	3.53
	Total Greece	9,058,214	3.53

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 10 March 2024

	Holding or nominal value	Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
250,000 B&C Speakers 3,718,161 1.45 53,740 DHH 668,793 0.26 355,202 ELEn 2,589,931 1.01 305,429 Esprinet 1.294,818 0.51 186,000 FineoBank 2,097,324 0.82 3130,500 FOPE 3,136,551 1.22 149,152 Indel B 2,949,238 1.15 1.52 1.52 1.01 1.01 1.00 1.00 1.299,318 0.50 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.299,318 0.50 1.00 1	ITALY (10 September 2023 - 12.31%)		
355,202 ELEn		3,718,161	1.45
355,202 ELEn	·		0.26
305.429 Esprimet 1.294.818 0.55 186.000 FinecoBank 2.097.324 0.82 130.500 FOPE 3.136.551 1.22 149.152 Indel B 2.949.238 1.15 87.140 Italian Wine Brands 1.288.318 0.50 100.000 Piquedro 179.835 0.07 250.489 Sabaf 3.424.140 1.34 Total Italy 21.348.379 8.33		2,589,931	1.01
186.000 FinecoBank			
130.500 FOPE	·		
149,152 Indel B 2,949,238 1.15 87,140 Italian Wine Brands 1,289,318 0.50 100,000 Piquadro 179,835 0.07 250,489 Sabaf 3,424,410 1.34 1.34 21,348,379 8.33 NETHERLANDS (10 September 2023 - 4.73%)			
87,140 Italian Wine Brands 1,289,318 0,50 100,000 Piquadro 179,835 0,07 250,489 Sabaf 3,424,410 1,34 Total Italy 21,348,379 8,33 NETHERLANDS (10 September 2023 - 4,73%) NETHERLANDS (10 September 2023 - 4,73%) 148,000 Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize 3,525,627 1,38 27,189 Nedap 1,580,412 0,62 187,741 NN Group 6,514,079 2,54 128,900 Pluxee 3,043,714 1,19 Total Netherlands 1,4663,832 5,73 NORWAY (10 September 2023 - 4,20%) 1,834,093 Elmera Group 4,496,550 1,75 1,403,665 StrongPoint 1,386,428 0,54 Total Norway 5,882,978 2,29 PORTUGAL (10 September 2023 - 1,27%) REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1,67%) 227,900 FBD Holdings* 2,632,972 1,03 Total Republic of Ireland 2,466,839 0,96 210,000 TVC Holdings* 1,754,048 0,69 1,598,598 Ercros 4,859,702 1,82 1,399,79	·		
100,000 Piquadro 179,835 0.07 250,489 Sabaf 3.424.410 1.34 1.34 1.34 1.34 1.34 1.34 1.34 1.34 1.34 1.34 1.34 1.35			
	·		
NETHERLANDS (10 September 2023 - 4.73%) NETHERLANDS (10 September 2023 - 4.73%) 1.48.000 Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize 3.525.627 1.38 27.188 Nedap 1.580,412 0.62 187.741 NM Group 6.514.079 2.54 128,900 Pluxee 3.043.714 1.19 1.7541 Netherlands 14,663,832 5.73 NORWAY (10 September 2023 - 4.20%) 1.834,093 Elmera Group 4.496,550 1.75 1.403,665 Strong/Point 1.386.428 0.54 1.75 1.75 1.403,665 Strong/Point 1.386,428 0.54 1.75	·		
148,000 Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize 3,525,627 1.38 27,189 Nedap 1,580,412 0.62 187,741 NN Group 6,514,079 2.54 128,900 Pluxee 3,043,714 1.19 Total Netherlands 14,663,832 5,73			
148,000 Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize 3,525,627 1.38 27,189 Nedap 1,580,412 0.62 187,741 NN Group 6,514,079 2.54 128,900 Pluxee 3,043,714 1.19 Total Netherlands 14,663,832 5,73	NETHERLANDS (10 September 2023 - 4.73%)		
27,189 Nedap		3,525,627	1.38
187,741 NN Group	•	1,580,412	
128,900 Pluxee	•		
NORWAY (10 September 2023 - 4.20%)	·		
1,834,035 Elmera Group 4,496,550 1.75 1,403,665 StrongPoint 1,386,428 0.54 PORTUGAL (10 September 2023 - 1.27%) 481,192 lbersol SGPS 2,632,972 1.03 Total Portugal 2,632,972 1.03 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1.67%) 227,900 FBD Holdings 2,466,839 0.96 210,000 TVC Holdings ^A - - Total Republic of Ireland 2,466,839 0.96 SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%) 221,292 Alquiber Quality 1,754,048 0.69 1,598,598 Ercros 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente 1,297,947 0.51 Total Spain 11,744,193 4.59 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,270,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1,93 40			
1,834,035 Elmera Group 4,496,550 1.75 1,403,665 StrongPoint 1,386,428 0.54 PORTUGAL (10 September 2023 - 1.27%) 481,192 lbersol SGPS 2,632,972 1.03 Total Portugal 2,632,972 1.03 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1.67%) 227,900 FBD Holdings 2,466,839 0.96 210,000 TVC Holdings ^A - - Total Republic of Ireland 2,466,839 0.96 SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%) 221,292 Alquiber Quality 1,754,048 0.69 1,598,598 Ercros 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente 1,297,947 0.51 Total Spain 11,744,193 4.59 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,270,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1,93 40	NORWAY (10 September 2023 - 4.20%)		
1,403,665 StrongPoint 1,386,428 0.54 Total Norway 5,882,978 2.29 PORTUGAL (10 September 2023 - 1.27%) 481,192 Ibersol SGPS 2,632,972 1.03 Total Portugal 2,632,972 1.03 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1.67%) 227,900 FBD Holdings^A 2 2,466,839 0.96 210,000 TVC Holdings^A 2 2 2 2 2 66,839 0.96 SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%) SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%) 1,754,048 0.69 221,292 Alquiber Quality 1,754,048 0.69 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente 1,297,947 0.51 Total Spain 1,136,852 0.44 43,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 33,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,237,990 0.93 <td></td> <td>4,496,550</td> <td>1.75</td>		4,496,550	1.75
PORTUGAL (10 September 2023 - 1.27%) A81,192 Ibersol SGPS			
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1.67%) REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1.67%) 227,900 FBD Holdings			
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1.67%) REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1.67%) 227,900 FBD Holdings	PORTUGAL (10 September 2023 - 1,27%)		
Total Portugal 2,632,972 1.03 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1.67%) 227,900 FBD Holdings 2,466,839 0.96 210,000 TVC Holdings ^A - - Total Republic of Ireland 2,466,839 0.96 SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%) 221,292 Alquiber Quality 1,754,048 0.69 1,598,598 Ercros 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente 1,297,947 0.51 Total Spain 11,744,193 4.59 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11<		2.632.972	1.03
227,900 FBD Holdings 2,466,839 0.96 210,000 TVC Holdings ^A - - Total Republic of Ireland 2,466,839 0.96 SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%) 221,292 Alquiber Quality 1,754,048 0.69 1,598,598 Ercros 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente 1,297,947 0.51 Total Spain 11,744,193 4.59 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2			
227,900 FBD Holdings 2,466,839 0.96 210,000 TVC Holdings ^A - - Total Republic of Ireland 2,466,839 0.96 SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%) 221,292 Alquiber Quality 1,754,048 0.69 1,598,598 Ercros 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente 1,297,947 0.51 Total Spain 11,744,193 4.59 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2	REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (10 September 2023 - 1.67%)		
Total Republic of Ireland 2,466,839 0.96 SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%) 221,292 Alquiber Quality 1,754,048 0.69 1,598,598 Ercros 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente 1,297,947 0.51 Total Spain 11,744,193 4.59 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) SWEDEN (20 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025		2,466,839	0.96
Total Republic of Ireland 2,466,839 0.96 SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%) 221,292 Alquiber Quality 1,754,048 0.69 1,598,598 Ercros 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente 1,297,947 0.51 Total Spain 11,744,193 4.59 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) SWEDEN (20 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025	210,000 TVC Holdings ^A	-	-
221,292 Alquiber Quality 1,754,048 0.69 1,598,598 Ercros 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente Total Spain 1,297,947 0.51 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07		2,466,839	0.96
1,598,598 Ercros 4,659,702 1.82 1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente Total Spain 1,297,947 0.51 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	SPAIN (10 September 2023 - 4.21%)		
1,399,795 Global Dominion Access 4,032,496 1.57 46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente Total Spain 1,297,947 0.51 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	221,292 Alquiber Quality	1,754,048	0.69
46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente Total Spain 1,297,947 0.51 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07		4,659,702	1.82
Total Spain 11,744,193 4.59 SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	1,399,795 Global Dominion Access	4,032,496	1.57
SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%) 143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	46,500 Grupo Catalana Occidente	1,297,947	0.51
143,328 CAG Group 1,136,852 0.44 383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	Total Spain	11,744,193	4.59
383,000 Elekta 'B' 2,246,868 0.88 597,820 Enea 2,370,900 0.93 234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	SWEDEN (10 September 2023 - 11.73%)		
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234,200 Loomis 4,954,877 1.93 402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	383,000 Elekta 'B'	2,246,868	0.88
402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding 5,187,532 2.02 500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	597,820 Enea	2,370,900	0.93
500 Prevas 'B' 4,454 - 975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	234,200 Loomis	4,954,877	1.93
975,241 Proact IT Group 7,973,449 3.11 599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	402,471 Nordic Waterproofing Holding	5,187,532	2.02
599,906 Railcare Group 1,088,929 0.43 258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	500 Prevas 'B'		-
258,802 SinterCast 2,033,033 0.79 72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	975,241 Proact IT Group	7,973,449	3.11
72,466 Synsam 295,684 0.12 245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	599,906 Railcare Group	1,088,929	0.43
245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07	258,802 SinterCast	2,033,033	0.79
245,200 VBG Group 'B' 5,311,025 2.07		295,684	0.12
	245,200 VBG Group 'B'	5,311,025	2.07
		32,603,603	12.72

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 10 March 2024

Holding or nominal value	Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
SWITZERLAND (10 September 2023 - 4.06%)		
115,000 R&S Group Holding	1,053,437	0.41
84,452 u-blox Holding	6,481,777	2.53
Total Switzerland	7,535,214	2.94
Portfolio of investments	215,225,451	83.99
Net other assets	41,038,370	16.01
Total net assets	256,263,821	100.00

^A TVC Holdings has been delisted and is being wound up. It is being valued in line with the accounting policy for suspended investments.

All investments are listed on recognised stock exchanges and are approved securities within the meaning of the FCA rules unless otherwise stated.

PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

for the six month period ended 10 March 2024	£
Total purchases costs, including transaction charges	16,688,378
Total sales proceeds, net of transaction charges	44,867,092

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

for the six month period ended 10 March 2024

	10 Marc	h 2024	10 Marci	h 2023
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Net capital gains		20,137,184		24,599,018
Revenue	569,902		479,081	
Expenses	(933,166)		(1,414,008)	
Net expense before taxation	(363,264)		(934,927)	
Taxation	(7,229)		(61,716)	
Net expense after taxation		(370,493)		(996,643)
Total return before distributions		19,766,691		23,602,375
Distributions		(62,472)		75,705
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		19,704,219		23,678,080

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS

for the six month period ended 10 March 2024

	10 March 2024		10 March 2024 10 March 2		2023
	£	£	£	£	
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders	А	223,922,745		363,601,249	
Amounts receivable on issue of units Amounts payable on cancellation of units Amounts payable on unit class conversions	46,310,461 (33,835,890)	12,474,571	7,782,946 (72,890,414) (27)	(65,107,495)	
Dilution adjustment		162,265		54,252	
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		19,704,219		23,678,080	
Unclaimed distributions		21		13	
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders	- =	256,263,821	A =	322,226,099	

^A These figures are not the same as the comparatives are taken from the preceding interim period and not the last annual accounts.

BALANCE SHEET

as at 10 March 2024

	10 March 2024 £	10 September 2023 £
Assets:		
Fixed Assets:		
Investments	215,225,451	223,079,673
Current Assets:		
Debtors	4,931,568	2,225,822
Cash and bank balances	40,689,593	5,906,778
Total assets	260,846,612	231,212,273
Liabilities:		
Creditors:		
Bank overdrafts	3,127,308	217,305
Distribution payable	-	5,104,069
Other creditors	1,455,483	1,968,154
Total liabilities	4,582,791	7,289,528
Net assets attributable to unitholders	256,263,821	223,922,745

NOTES TO THE INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the six month period ended 10 March 2024

Basis for preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with UK Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102") and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 and amended in June 2017.

The interim financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Fund. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The interim financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments and certain financial instruments at fair value.

Accounting policies

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 10 September 2023 and are described in those annual financial statements.

The investments of the Fund have been valued at their fair value at 12 noon on 8 March 2024.

Investment Fund Services Limited Marlborough House, 59 Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4QP

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Investment Fund Services