# IFSL Marlborough Special Situations Fund

Interim Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the six month period ended 20 June 2024



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

## **Authorised Fund Manager (AFM)**

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 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

# **Sub-Investment Manager**

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

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

# **Depositary** (in its capacity as Trustee)

HSBC Bank plc 8 Canada Square London E14 5HQ Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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

## Administrator and Registrar (from 1 June 2024)

SS&C Financial Services International Limited St. Nicholas Lane Basildon Essex SS15 5FS

#### 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 20 June 2024

#### Performance to 20 June 2024

	Six monus	<u>ı year</u>	<u>s years</u>	<u>o years</u>
IFSL Marlborough Special Situations Fund	11.73%	10.96%	(22.74)%	13.31%
IA UK All Companies sector	8.17%	11.55%	9.31%	24.10%

External Source of Economic Data: Morningstar (P Accumulation - quoted price to quoted price).

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

During the 6-month period from 21 December 2023 to 20 June 2024, the price of the 'P' class units rose 11.73%. This compares to a rise of 8.17% in the IA UK All Companies benchmark\*.

#### Market review

Major equity indices in the USA, Europe and the UK hit record highs towards the end of the reporting period as market participants grew increasingly confident that interest rates have peaked and that inflation, whilst potentially being more resilient than expected, has stabilised and is broadly heading downward.

After a torrid couple of years, several small and mid-cap UK listed stocks showed a marked improvement and positively contributed to the Fund's return. This is a trend we expect to continue as fundamentals continue to progress and the attractive valuation relative to international peers, particularly those in the US, narrows.

Encouragingly, UK consumer confidence hit a two year high in May as wage increases and a stable employment environment provided support, although cost of living pressures remain. Bank of England governor, Andrew Bailey, buoyed markets in the same month stating that the next move in interest rates will be down; such a move should be supportive for equities. Interestingly, both the European Central Bank and the Bank of Canada cut their interest rates during the period.

Political noise was particularly prevalent in the latter half of the reporting period after former Prime Minster, Rishi Sunak, surprised the nation by calling an election on 4th July despite the polls forecasting significant losses for the Conservative party. Indeed, the Conservative party lost seats in dramatic fashion and Sir Kier Starmer's Labour party won a resounding majority. Financial markets were relaxed in the run up to, and post, the election given the almost inevitable result. It is our hope that political stability will now ensue. While it remains very early days under this new government, our assumption is that the Labour party will have to maintain an air of fiscal prudence given the importance of the Government bond market, which demonstrated its power in September 2022 during Liz Truss's short reign.

#### Fund performance and activity

Biggest winners during the period included IG Design, Renold, Trustpilot, Spirent Communications, Zegona Communications, Molten Ventures, 1Spatial, Cohort, Puretech Health and GlobalData.

Largest losers during the period included YouGov, CVS Group, SSP Group, Inspecs, Procook, Focusrite, Enteq Technologies, Agronomics, Genus and Thungela Resources.

IG Design, the designer and manufacturer of gifting products, rose 63%. After a very challenging couple of years and having reset expectations, management demonstrated that efforts to drive operational efficiency and simplify the business model were paying off as the company reported growth, which was ahead of expectations, in earnings and profit margin. Furthermore, the group's balance sheet continued to strengthen, ending its reporting period with a significant net cash balance. Moving forward, IG Design is focusing on growth opportunities whilst ensuring resilience so it can successfully navigate both good and bad economic environments, something the business has struggled to do in the past.

YouGov, the research and data analytics company, fell 62% following a negative trading update in June where the company highlighted slower sales traction, resulting in revenue and profits materially below expectations. Management highlighted that the Data Products division has been the main problem, with weakness seen in the Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) region. Whilst disappointing, we believe the business can still prosper over the medium to long term; a view likely held by the chairman and CEO following their purchases of stock after the announcement.

## **AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT**

for the six month period ended 20 June 2024

#### Investment commentary (continued)

## Investment outlook

The prospects for the UK are improving, with inflation appearing to be under control, unemployment remaining low and projections for growth increasing. Having been an investment pariah for some time, the UK is looking more stable than it has in political and economic terms, particularly relative to other leading nations, which could bode well for investors.

Irrespective of the geopolitical and macroeconomic environment, many portfolio companies are either trading well or showing tangible signs of recovery. We are encouraged to see solid fundamentals being rewarded with increasing share prices. It must be reiterated that the long-term fundamentals of many of our holdings remain compelling and we continue to see this value highlighted by continuing interest in our assets from both trade and financial acquirers.

Canaccord Genuity Asset Management Limited 11 July 2024

## \* Explanation of terms used

Total sales for the period

Benchmark - Comparator for performance purposes

Distributions	<u>Year 2024</u>	<u>Year 2023</u>	<u>Year 2022</u>	<u>Year 2021</u>
A Accumulation (pence per unit)				
Net accumulation paid 20 February	6.0461	0.1820	-	-
Net accumulation paid 20 August	3.3093	4.3648	-	-
P Accumulation (pence per unit)				
Net accumulation paid 20 February	12.7856	7.2258	4.1988	3.2360
Net accumulation paid 20 August	10.4051	11.3653	6.0825	4.0853
Portfolio changes				
<u>Largest purchases</u>				Cost (£)
The City Pub Group				4,863,252
Liontrust Asset Management				3,652,678
Inchcape				3,045,803
BT Group				2,899,034
Hecla Mining Company				2,857,084
Halma				2,719,225
Baytex Energy				2,715,532
discoverIE Group				2,555,900
Chord Energy				2,528,048
Trustpilot Group				2,524,249
Other purchases				65,045,201
Total purchases for the period				95,406,006
<u>Largest sales</u>				Proceeds (£)
DX (Group)				19,000,000
Lok'nStore Group				11,036,631
The City Pub Group				8,179,430
Smart Metering Systems				7,342,363
FD Technologies				7,188,581
Reach				5,800,583
Cerillion				5,083,026
TP ICAP Group				4,936,211
MP Evans Group				4,809,798
Kin and Carta				4,583,420
Other sales				113,532,408

191,492,451

#### **AUTHORISED STATUS**

IFSL Marlborough 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, however, there is no certainty this will be achieved.

#### Investment policy

At least 80% of the Fund will be invested in the shares of companies listed in the UK, incorporated or domiciled in the UK or with significant business operations in the UK. This will include a range of small, medium and large companies. In any event, at least 60% of the Fund shall be invested in smaller companies, defined as companies with a market capitalisation of less than £2.5bn at the time of purchase.

The aim of the investment team is to identify companies which they believe show good long-term growth potential, or which appear to be under-valued given their future prospects.

The team consider economic and market conditions, but the main focus is on individual company analysis and selection.

Following the same investment philosophy, the Fund may also invest in companies which are listed on overseas stock exchanges, other securities which offer returns linked to the company performance, such as, preference shares, convertible bonds and warrants.

The Fund may, from time to time, hold shares in companies that become unquoted following investment, due to a delisting or other corporate event, for example. The Fund will not make new investment into the shares of companies that are unquoted.

The Fund is actively managed, which means the investment manager decides which investments to buy or sell and when. The Fund invests in a diverse portfolio of investments and is not constrained by any industry or sector.

The Fund may hold cash to enable ready settlement of liabilities (including the redemption of units), for the efficient management of the Fund and in order to meet its objective.

#### 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 UK All Companies sector. You may want to assess the Fund's performance compared to the performance of this sector.

Investors should note that whilst the IA UK All Companies sector is representative of the general nature of the Fund, the sector also contains other funds investing across the market capitalisation spectrum from large companies to small companies. Due to the Fund investing at least 60% in smaller companies, the Fund is likely to have a greater weighting to smaller companies than the average fund in the sector. When shares of larger companies are performing better than shares of smaller companies the Fund is more likely to underperform the sector. Conversely, the Fund is more likely to outperform when shares of smaller companies perform better than 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.

## Taskforce on climate related financial disclosures

A statement of the climate-related financial disclosures is published on the website https://www.ifslfunds.com/tcfd-reporting.

# Changes in prospectus

There have been no significant changes 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 26 July 2024

Helen Redmond Director

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## **COMPARATIVE TABLE**

A Accumulation units	Period to	Year to	Year to	Year to
Change in net assets per unit	20.06.2024	20.12.2023	20.12.2022	20.12.2021
0	pence	pence	pence	pence
Opening net asset value per unit	1,588.37	1,625.84	2,337.84	1,976.27
Return before operating charges*	192.31	(12.05) (25.42)	(681.99)	397.48
Operating charges Return after operating charges*	(12.72) 179.59	(37.47)	(30.01) (712.00)	(35.91)
Distributions on accumulation units				361.57
Retained distributions on accumulation units	(3.31)	(10.41)	(0.18)	-
	3.31 1,767.96	10.41 1,588.37	0.18 1,625.84	2,337.84
Closing net asset value per unit	1,707.90	1,300.37	1,023.04	2,337.04
* after direct transaction costs of:	1.54	2.48	2.17	3.05
Performance				
Return after charges <sup>A</sup>	11.31%	(2.30)%	(30.46)%	18.30%
		,	,	
Other information				
Closing net asset value (£)	24,429,131	26,611,366	207,534,554	345,541,276
Closing number of units	1,381,771	1,675,383	12,764,762	14,780,396
Operating charges	1.52% <sup>B,C</sup>	1.55% <sup>B</sup>	1.54%	1.54%
Direct transaction costs	0.18% <sup>C</sup>	0.15%	0.11%	0.13%
Prices (pence per unit)				
Highest unit price	1,839.01	1,737.97	2,469.98	2,606.72
Lowest unit price	1,589.26	1,419.17	1,535.33	1,928.70
D. A communication comits	Davied to	Vacuta	Vaanta	V
P Accumulation units Change in not assets per unit	Period to	Year to	Year to	Year to
<u>P Accumulation units</u> Change in net assets per unit	20.06.2024	20.12.2023	20.12.2022	20.12.2021
Change in net assets per unit	20.06.2024 pence	20.12.2023 pence	20.12.2022 pence	20.12.2021 pence
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit	<b>20.06.2024</b> <b>pence</b> 1,725.59	<b>20.12.2023</b> <b>pence</b> 1,752.90	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21	<b>20.12.2021 pence</b> 2,098.11
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit  Return before operating charges*	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges*  Operating charges	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03)	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67)
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges*	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41)	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28)
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41)	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28)
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41 1,927.55	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15 1,725.59	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41 1,927.55	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15 1,725.59	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21
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Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup>	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41 1,927.55	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15 1,725.59	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance Return after charges  Other information	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41 1,927.55  1.67	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15 1,725.59  2.61 (1.56)%	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90 2.33	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21  3.26
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value (£)	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41 1,927.55  1.67  11.70%	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15 1,725.59  2.61 (1.56)%	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90 2.33 (29.89)%	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21  3.26  19.16%
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Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value (£) Closing number of units Operating charges	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41 1,927.55  1.67  11.70%  654,850,163 33,973,157 0.77% <sup>B,C</sup>	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15 1,725.59  2.61  (1.56)%  699,375,116 40,529,580 0.80% B	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90 2.33 (29.89)% 791,907,850 45,176,888 0.79%	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21  3.26  19.16%  1,315,287,778 52,607,037 0.79%
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Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value (£) Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41 1,927.55  1.67  11.70%  654,850,163 33,973,157 0.77% <sup>B,C</sup>	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15 1,725.59  2.61  (1.56)%  699,375,116 40,529,580 0.80% B	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90 2.33 (29.89)% 791,907,850 45,176,888 0.79%	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21  3.26  19.16%  1,315,287,778 52,607,037 0.79%
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup> Other information Closing net asset value (£) Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs  Prices (pence per unit)	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41 1,927.55  1.67  11.70%  654,850,163 33,973,157 0.77% <sup>B,C</sup> 0.18% <sup>C</sup>	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15 1,725.59  2.61  (1.56)%  699,375,116 40,529,580 0.80% 0.15%	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90 2.33 (29.89)% 791,907,850 45,176,888 0.79% 0.11%	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21  3.26  19.16%  1,315,287,778 52,607,037 0.79% 0.13%
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value (£) Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs	20.06.2024 pence 1,725.59 208.99 (7.03) 201.96 (10.41) 10.41 1,927.55  1.67  11.70%  654,850,163 33,973,157 0.77% <sup>B,C</sup>	20.12.2023 pence 1,752.90 (13.51) (13.80) (27.31) (24.15) 24.15 1,725.59  2.61  (1.56)%  699,375,116 40,529,580 0.80% B	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90 2.33 (29.89)% 791,907,850 45,176,888 0.79%	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21  3.26  19.16%  1,315,287,778 52,607,037 0.79%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>B</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> These figures have been annualised.

# SYNTHETIC RISK AND REWARD INDICATOR (all unit classes)

Lower risk						Higher risk
<del></del>						
Typically lower rew	vards				Typic	cally 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

Holding or nominal value		Bid value	Percentage of total net assets
		£	%
	AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE (20 December 2023 - 1.67%)		
	Chemring Group	2,492,750	0.37
838,500		6,406,140	0.94
395,000	Melrose Industries	2,292,580	0.34
	Total Aerospace and Defense	11,191,470	1.65
	AUTOMOBILES AND PARTS (20 December 2023 - 0.15%)		
	<b>BEVERAGES</b> (20 December 2023 - 0.81%)		
450,000	Fevertree Drinks	4,567,500	0.67
	Total Beverages	4,567,500	0.67
	<b>CHEMICALS</b> (20 December 2023 - 0.72%)	.=	
4,169,540		458,649	0.07
1,075,000		4,875,125	0.72
	Total Chemicals	5,333,774	0.79
	CLOSED END INVESTMENTS (20 December 2023 - 0.88%)		
4,352,651	Augmentum Fintech	4,787,916	0.70
	Total Closed End Investments	4,787,916	0.70
	CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS (20 December 2023 - 4.70%)		
	Breedon Group	5,835,000	0.86
	Genuit Group	1,555,750	0.23
	Kier Group	699,000	0.10
1,250,000		3,818,750	0.56
3,500,000		7,455,000	1.10
	Renew Holdings	540,000	0.08
18,500,000	SigmaRoc	12,358,000	1.82
2,325,581	Stelrad Group	2,534,883	0.37
125,000	Volution Group	560,625	0.08
	Total Construction and Materials	35,357,008	5.20
	CONSUMER SERVICES (20 December 2023 - Nil)		
50,000	CVS Group	517,000	0.08
	Total Consumer Services	517,000	0.08
	ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (20 December 2023 - 3		
	discoverIE Group	2,298,400	0.34
115,000		3,037,150	0.45
	Judges Scientific	3,960,000	0.58
•	Oxford Instruments	2,743,737	0.40
270,000		1,744,200	0.26
2,275,055		7,939,942	1.17
220,000	XP Power	3,084,400	0.45
	Total Electronic and Electrical Equipment	24,807,829	3.65
	FINANCE AND CREDIT SERVICES (20 December 2023 - 0.32%)		
200,000	Mortgage Advice Bureau (Holdings)	1,604,000	0.24
	Total Finance and Credit Services	1,604,000	0.24
	FOOD PRODUCERS (20 December 2023 - 3.21%)		
185,000	Cranswick	8,158,500	1.20
975,000	Hilton Food Group	8,745,750	1.29
538,315	MP Evans Group	4,661,808	0.69
700,000	Premier Foods	1,159,200	0.17
	Total Food Producers	22,725,258	3.35
	GENERAL INDUSTRIALS (20 December 2023 - 1.01%)		
8.500.000	Coats Group	6,936,000	1.02
2,000,000	Total General Industrials	6,936,000	1.02
	<u> </u>	-,000,000	32_

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets
	HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS (20 December 2023 - 1.07%)	L	70
430.000	Craneware	9,847,000	1.45
.00,000	Total Health Care Providers	9,847,000	1.45
	HOUSEHOLD COORS AND HOME CONSTRUCTION (20 December	2022 0.240/)	
E0 000	<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND HOME CONSTRUCTION</b> (20 December Bellway	1,270,000	0.19
	ProCook Group	347,353	0.19
2,100,172	Total Household Goods and Home Construction	1,617,353	0.24
475.000	INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING (20 December 2023 - 2.58%) AB Dynamics	9,832,500	1.45
9,000,000		5,076,000	0.75
	Somero Enterprises	5,100,000	0.75
1,000,000	Total Industrial Engineering	20,008,500	2.95
			_
/15 912	INDUSTRIAL METALS AND MINING (20 December 2023 - 0.87%) Adriatic Metals	858,652	0.13
2,000,000		1,520,000	0.13
	Yellow Cake	3,958,500	0.58
000,000	Total Industrial Metals and Mining	6,337,152	0.93
	-		
	INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES (20 December 2023 - 9.88%)		
	Alpha Financial Markets Consulting	2,475,000	0.36
	Boku 'Reg S'	8,970,000	1.32
	Diploma	82,960	0.01
2,850,000	FDM Group (Holdings)	4,748,100 4,856,250	0.70 0.71
	Franchise Brands	4,366,790	0.64
1,100,000		4,730,000	0.70
	Mind Gym	649,766	0.10
2,100,000		5,040,000	0.74
	Robert Walters	2,947,000	0.43
	Science Group	7,636,800	1.12
1,400,000	SThree	5,957,000	0.88
2,750,000	Trifast	1,941,500	0.29
	Total Industrial Support Services	54,401,166	8.00
	INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION (20 December 2023 - 4.35%)		
175,000	Clarkson	7,350,000	1.08
1,250,000		8,187,500	1.21
	Total Industrial Transportation	15,537,500	2.29
	INVESTMENT BANKING AND BROKERAGE SERVICES (20 December 1)	per 2023 - 7 43%)	
5.000	3i Group	155,850	0.02
150,000		582,000	0.09
	Alpha Group International	20,377,500	3.00
	Brooks Macdonald Group	5,293,750	0.78
600,000	Burford Capital	6,402,000	0.94
	IG Group Holdings	1,640,000	0.24
650,000		6,227,000	0.92
	Liontrust Asset Management	3,840,000	0.56
	Molten Ventures	4,738,000	0.70
	Peel Hunt	5,240,000	0.77
•	Pollen Street Group	3,104,200	0.46
3,500,000	TP ICAP Group	7,280,000	1.07
	Total Investment Banking and Brokerage Services	64,880,300	9.55
	LEISURE GOODS (20 December 2023 - 1.62%)		
1,675,000		6,365,000	0.94
1,000	Games Workshop Group	104,000	0.02
	Total Leisure Goods	6,469,000	0.96

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
	<b>MEDIA</b> (20 December 2023 - 7.71%)	L	/0
2 000 000	Everyman Media Group	1,000,000	0.15
577,500		5,907,825	0.13
	GlobalData	15,470,000	2.28
	LBG Media	5,350,000	0.79
	Next 15 Group	7,507,500	1.10
1,144,515	·	5,859,917	0.86
1,144,010	Total Media	41,095,242	6.05
		71,000,272	0.00
	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES (20 December 2023 - 1.93%)		
2.850.000	Advanced Medical Solutions Group	6,013,500	0.89
	Creo Medical Group	5,593,500	0.82
, ,	Total Medical Equipment and Services	11,607,000	1.71
	_	,,	
	NON-LIFE INSURANCE (20 December 2023 - Nil)		
250,000	Conduit Holdings	1,287,500	0.19
	Total Non-life Insurance	1,287,500	0.19
	<b>OIL, GAS AND COAL</b> (20 December 2023 - 1.86%)		
	Energean	2,536,800	0.37
7,465,000	Enteq Upstream	522,550	0.08
1,200,000	Harbour Energy	3,756,000	0.55
520,000	Hunting	2,142,400	0.32
1,300,000	Kistos Holdings	1,794,000	0.26
153,091	Thungela Resources	755,963	0.11
	Total Oil, Gas and Coal	11,507,713	1.69
	OPEN END AND MISCELLANEOUS INVESTMENT VEHICLES (20 Dec PERSONAL CARE, DRUG AND GROCERY STORES (20 December 20		)
7 005 000	IG Design Group	15,411,000	2.27
	Marks & Spencer Group	4,325,350	0.64
1,400,000	Total Personal Care, Drug and Grocery Stores	19,736,350	2.91
		.0,.00,000	
	PERSONAL GOODS (20 December 2023 - 1.32%)		
8,260,082	Inspecs Group	4,543,045	0.67
	Total Personal Goods	4,543,045	0.67
			_
	PHARMACEUTICALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (20 December 2023 - 2.		
	Agronomics	560,000	0.08
	Alliance Pharma	2,463,000	0.36
	Benchmark Holdings	8,148,750	1.20
210,000		3,498,600	0.52
1,970,927	PureTech Health	4,188,220	0.62
	Total Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology	18,858,570	2.78
	DECIQUE METAL C AND MINING (20 December 2022 - 2.250/)		
2 500 000	PRECIOUS METALS AND MINING (20 December 2023 - 2.35%)	0.077.500	0.40
2,500,000		2,877,500	0.42
	Endeavour Mining	3,689,400	0.54
13,301,010	Jubilee Metals Group  Total Presidue Metals and Mining	5,063,346	0.75
	Total Precious Metals and Mining	11,630,246	1.71
	REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT AND SERVICES (20 December 2023 - 2.3	83%)	
1 500 000	Lok'nStore Group	16,425,000	2.42
1,500,000	Total Real Estate Investment and Services	16,425,000	2.42
		10,423,000	2.42
	REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (20 December 2023 - 1.11%)		
925,000	Safestore Holdings	7,427,750	1.09
	Shaftesbury Capital	3,801,600	0.56
_,, 00,000	Total Real Estate Investment Trusts	11,229,350	1.65
		11,223,000	1.00

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets
	<b>RETAILERS</b> (20 December 2023 - 1.20%)	L	70
1,500,000		1,163,250	0.17
	Inchcape	3,022,000	0.17
	Moonpig Group	4,776,000	0.70
	WHSmith	1,521,000	0.22
100,000	Total Retailers	10,482,250	1.53
	SOFTWARE AND COMPUTER SERVICES (20 December 2023 - 15.57	20%)	
7,598,859		5,167,224	0.76
	accesso Technology Group	10,666,850	1.57
	AdvancedADVT	3,906,000	0.57
	Aptitude Software Group	6,046,750	0.89
	Auction Technology Group	2,598,050	0.38
	Big Technologies	3,524,738	0.52
	Cerillion	7,595,000	1.12
3,300,000		4,266,900	0.63
	Eagle Eye Solutions Group	7,577,682	1.12
	GB Group	10,332,000	1.52
7,500,000	•	4,635,000	0.68
	K3 Business Technology Group	2,350,000	0.35
	Kainos Group	2,536,380	0.37
	NCC Group	15,120,000	2.23
	Trustpilot Group	17,758,125	2.61
,,,,,,,,,	Total Software and Computer Services	104,080,699	15.32
	TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE AND EQUIPMENT (20 December 2023 -	1 37%)	_
47,500,000		14,701,250	2.16
	Raspberry Pi Holdings	2,015,000	0.30
000,000	Total Technology Hardware and Equipment	16,716,250	2.46
F 000 707	TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT (20 December 2023 - 0.90%)	0.754.050	4 4 4
5,298,727	Spirent Communications	9,754,956	1.44
	Total Telecommunications Equipment	9,754,956	1.44
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS (20 December 2023		
2,400,000		3,451,200	0.51
	Zegona Communications	6,380,374	0.94
250,000	Gamma Communications	3,695,000	0.54
	Total Telecommunications Service Providers	13,526,574	1.99
	TOBACCO (20 December 2023 - Nil)		
100,000	Imperial Brands	2,017,000	0.30
	Total Tobacco	2,017,000	0.30
	TRAVEL AND LEISURE (20 December 2023 - 5.46%)		
320,000		4,185,600	0.62
1,150,000	Loungers	3,059,000	0.45
1,000,000	<u> </u>	4,595,000	0.68
500,000	PPHE Hotel Group	6,425,000	0.95
750,000	SSP Group	1,130,250	0.17
	Various Eateries	2,843,836	0.42
10,583,333		1,587,500	0.23
	Young & Co's Brewery 'A'	6,733,708	0.99
	Young & Co's Brewery 'NV'	1,185,600	0.17
•	Total Travel and Leisure	31,745,494	4.68
	<del>-</del>		

# **PORTFOLIO STATEMENT**

as at 20 June 2024

Holding or nominal value	Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
OVERSEAS SECURITIES (20 December 2023 - 0.90%)		
105,000 Agnico Eagle Mines	5,341,337	0.79
1,200,000 Baytex Energy	3,100,188	0.46
23,500 Chord Energy	3,080,733	0.45
30,955 CoTec Holdings	7,997	-
625,000 Hecla Mining Company	2,528,930	0.37
115,000 Marathon Oil	2,473,274	0.36
1,300,000 Var Energi	3,545,909	0.52
115,000 Wheaton Precious Metals	4,747,019	0.70
Total Overseas Securities	24,825,387	3.65
UNQUOTED SECURITIES (20 December 2023 - 2.43%)		
4,800,000 Genagro <sup>A</sup>	20,931	-
3,215,000 Goals Soccer Centres <sup>B</sup>	-	-
1,000,000 Lamaune Iron <sup>C</sup>	-	-
7,500,000 Moxico Resources <sup>A</sup>	4,125,000	0.61
1,641,000 New Finsaga <sup>C</sup>	-	-
4,694,056 Patisserie Holdings <sup>B</sup>	-	-
37,734 Phoenix Industrial Minerals Pty <sup>C</sup>	-	-
420,018 Red Lambda <sup>C</sup>	-	-
267,604 SCA Investments <sup>A</sup>	8,547,272	1.26
47,532 SCA Investments 'M' <sup>A</sup>	2,662,743	0.39
1,000,000 Tottenham Hotspur <sup>D</sup>	2,190,000	0.32
4,353,545 Tricorn Group <sup>E</sup>	-	-
11 Walter Energy <sup>E</sup>		<u>-</u>
Total Unquoted Securities	17,545,946	2.58
Portfolio of investments	675,540,298	99.45
Net other assets	3,738,996	0.55
Total net assets	679,279,294	100.00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> These shares are unlisted and are being valued using the latest information received.

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 20 June 2024

£

Total purchases costs, including transaction charges

95,406,006

Total sales proceeds, net of transaction charges

191,492,451

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>B</sup> These shares are valued at zero, as the company is in administration with no expected return.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> These shares are unlisted and are valued at zero, based on the latest information received.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>D</sup> These shares are delisted and are being valued using the latest information received.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>E</sup> These shares are delisted and are valued at zero, based on the latest information received.

# STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

for the six month period ended 20 June 2024

	20 June	e 2024	20 June	2023
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Net capital gains/(losses)		71,630,031		(13,613,545)
Revenue	6,603,965		9,955,580	
Expenses	(2,792,314)		(4,434,132)	
Net revenue before taxation	3,811,651		5,521,448	
Taxation	(102,923)		(106,122)	
Net revenue after taxation		3,708,728		5,415,326
T. ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )		75 000 750		(0.400.040)
Total return before distributions		75,338,759		(8,198,219)
Distributions		(3,708,728)		(5,415,326)
Distributions		(3,700,720)		(5,415,320)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from				
investment activities		71,630,031		(13,613,545)
invocation douvidos		7 1,000,001		(10,010,040)

# STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS

for the six month period ended 20 June 2024

	20 June 2024		20 June	2023
	£	£	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders	А	725,986,482		999,442,404
Amounts receivable on issue of units Amounts payable on cancellation of units Amounts payable on unit class conversions	477,423 (122,628,067)	(122.150.644)	1,151,836 (117,312,044) (500,205)	(116,660,413)
		(122,130,044)		(110,000,413)
Dilution adjustment		232,749		306,102
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		71,630,031		(13,613,545)
Retained distribution on accumulation units		3,580,676		5,601,127
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders	- -	679,279,294	A	875,075,675

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> These figures are not the same as the comparatives are taken from the preceding interim period and not the last final accounts.

## **BALANCE SHEET**

as at 20 June 2024

	20 June 2024 £	20 December 2023 £
Assets:	<b>~</b>	2
Fixed Assets:		
Investments	675,540,298	701,824,808
Current Assets:		
Debtors	3,403,251	3,105,915
Cash and bank balances	3,433,271	25,305,648
Total assets	682,376,820	730,236,371
Liabilities:		
Creditors:		
Bank overdrafts	653,779	43,328
Other creditors	2,443,747	4,206,561
Total liabilities	3,097,526	4,249,889
Net assets attributable to unitholders	679,279,294	725,986,482

## NOTES TO THE INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the six month period ended 20 June 2024

## Basis for preparation

The interim 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 20 December 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 20 June 2024.

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

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Investment Fund Services