

# **Pacific Assets Trust plc**

Interim Report For the six months ended 31 July 2009



# Company Summary

# **Objective**

To achieve long term capital growth through investment in selected companies in the Asia Pacific region and the Indian sub-continent, but excluding Japan and Australasia.

#### **Performance Assessment**

The Company exists in a competitive environment and aims to be a leader in its peer group. Reflecting this, it should consistently be within the top third of that group measured by net asset value total return.

The Company is committed to building a long term investment record and will assess itself by reference to its peers on a rolling three year basis.

# **Investment Manager**

F&C Investment Business Limited

# **Equity Shareholders' Funds**

£122.2 million at 31 July 2009

# **Capital Structure**

The Company's capital structure is composed solely of Ordinary Shares. At 31 July 2009 there were 118,348,386 Ordinary Shares in issue.

#### **ISA Status**

The Company's shares are eligible for Individual Savings Accounts ('ISAs').

# Website

The Company's internet address is www.pacific-assets.co.uk

# Financial Highlights

- Share price total return of 44.2 per cent
- Net asset value total return of 42.4 per cent

	31 July 2009	31 January 2009	% change
<b>Total Returns</b> Net asset value Share price			+42.4 +44.2
Capital Values  Net asset value per share  Share price (mid market)	103.26p 97.00p	74.15p 68.25p	+39.3 +42.1
<b>Discount</b> (difference between share price and net asset value per share)	6.1%	8.0%	
Gearing*	(0.9)%	(4.9)%	
	Six months to 31 July 2009	Six months to 31 July 2008	% change
Revenue			
Revenue return per share	0.45p	0.99p	-54.5
	High	Low	
Half Year's Highs/Lows Net asset value per share Share price (Premium)/Discount†	103.26p 98.00p (0.32)%	68.22p 60.00p 14.98%	

#### Notes

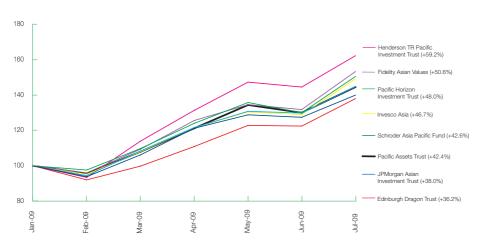
Source F&C Investment Business and Datastream.

<sup>\*</sup>Gearing: Borrowings ÷ shareholders' funds

<sup>†</sup> Discount high – Narrowest discount in period Discount low – Widest discount in period

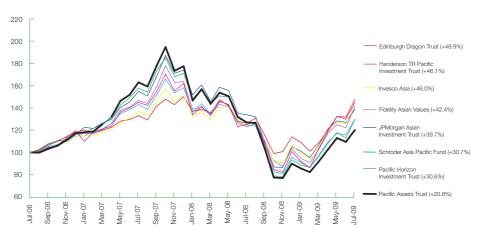
# Performance Graphs

## Net Asset Value Total Return Peer Group Performance for the Six Months to 31 July 2009



Note: Total return from the MSCI All Country Far East ex Japan Index for the six months to 31 July 2009 was 40.1%

#### Net Asset Value Total Return Peer Group Performance for the Three Years to 31 July 2009



Note: Total return from the MSCI All Country Far East ex Japan Index for the three years to 31 July 2009 was 42.6%

# Chairman's Statement

Asian Pacific stockmarkets rebounded strongly over the six months to 31 July 2009. The Company's net asset value total return for the period was 42.4 per cent, outperforming the 40.1 per cent total return from the MSCI All Country Far East ex Japan Index. The share price total return for the period was 44.2 per cent, reflecting a narrowing of the discount which was 6.1 per cent as at 31 July 2009.

Investor confidence has returned in recent months as governments and central banks have stabilised financial systems and introduced packages to stimulate economic growth. These measures, along with quantitative easing, have boosted global liquidity and stockmarkets have become more buoyant. Asia has been a particularly strong beneficiary of this phenomenon, as China is seen as an important driver of economic growth in the future.

Whilst there is evidence of economic recovery, governments have effectively assumed huge debts from the private sector, and it is still too early to determine whether this is the beginning of a sustained period of economic growth. It will take some time for the substantial fiscal deficits to be reduced to more prudent levels. In the meantime, a genuine economic recovery is dependent on the return of a normal functioning global financial system.

As discussed in the last Annual Report, the Company's strategy was reappraised towards the end of 2008 in light of the sharp deterioration in economic conditions at that time and the significant concerns which existed over the health of the global financial system. This led to the Manager adopting a more defensive strategy with a clear bias towards visible growth companies. As a consequence, the Company underperformed its peer group of investment trusts with similar objectives, resulting in it being placed sixth out of eight during the period.

# Gearing

As a result of the Manager's continuing cautious view of markets, the Company did not employ any of its borrowing facilities during the period. The Company has a flexible US dollar denominated facility which will provide it with the ability to increase its gearing when it is considered appropriate to do so.

#### Outlook

At current levels, the region's stockmarkets are anticipating a faultless recovery in economic activity and corporate profits. Whist there are early signs that the worst of the recession may be behind us, there remain significant uncertainties over the timing of a sustainable

economic recovery. As structural deleveraging continues across the western world there is a risk that corporate earnings fail to match recently heightened expectations. However, the Asia Pacific region is underpinned by a stable financial sector and the prospects for a recovery in domestic demand appear good. The Board believes that this area continues to offer significant investor opportunities over the longer term.

# **David Nichol**

Chairman 28 September 2009

# Manager's Report

The Company's net asset value total return for the six month period ended 31 July 2009 was 42.4 per cent, which compares favourably with a return of 40.1 per cent from the MSCI All Country Far East ex Japan Index.

The aggressive coordinated monetary easing of late 2008 adopted by central banks to soften the dramatic impacts stemming from the global financial crisis moved to new heights in the first half of 2009, with quantitative easing strategies being adopted extensively. This unconventional injection of liquidity helped to lower yields, allow international trade to resume and investor sentiment to stabilise. It was, however, not until the end of February that, as companies started to replenish their very low inventories, global equity markets started to recover. accordance with history, as the OECD leading indicators began to improve over the first half of 2009 so the Asian markets started to outperform.

China was the standout recovery story of the period as its fiscal and monetary stimulus programmes led to a dramatic revival in quarterly GDP growth. Recognising the difficulties the western world was going through, the Chinese authorities targeted those sectors which they could directly influence, such as real estate and infrastructure, in order to regenerate domestic demand. Their success was astounding to the extent that within nine months of policy implementation, nationwide real inventories had fallen from 14 months to eight months, GDP growth was back close to 8 per cent, and investor attention had shifted to fears over policy tightening. Insurer Ping An was added to the portfolio in anticipation of rising yields with additional financial exposure achieved through purchases of Bank of China and China Construction Bank.

During the period, we remained circumspect on the sustainability of the recovery in the western world, leading to a greater focus on those markets where the domestic story appeared strongest. Indonesia was one such market. where improving political stability was raising the prospect of higher sustainable growth as the cost of capital contracted. With inflation tumbling, the central bank cut rates meaningfully allowing quarterly GDP growth to surprise on the upside. Cement company PT Indocement Tunggal Prakarsa and noodle producer PT Indofood Sukses Makmur were bought to add to the Indonesian holdings in telecommunications company PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia and gas supplier PT Perusahaan Gas Negara.

Political developments in various countries across Asia created significant equity market reactions over the period. A better than expected election outcome in India raised the prospect of accelerated reform programmes and greater financial prudence. This led to an instantaneous multiple re-rating for the market and consequently Union Bank of India was purchased in anticipation of an improvement in asset quality, in contrast to consensus expectations. In Taiwan, closer political relations with China led to a marked repatriation of offshore savings, driving a recovery in domestic asset prices. Fubon Financial Holding was purchased given its strategy to leverage into the closer Sino-Taiwan relations as well as to gain exposure to the current trend of rising demand in wealth management services.

The Company's overweight exposure to defensive growth sectors weighed on performance as the markets rallied. Telecoms, healthcare and consumer staples offered solid growth prospects with attractive valuations, however their low beta status meant that they underperformed as the markets climbed higher. The defensive exposure was reduced by cutting positions in telecoms and healthcare, rotating proceeds into cyclical industrial and technology sectors via names such as Asia Cement in Taiwan and Samsung Electronics in Korea.

Outlook

With valuations no longer cheap and investor expectations high, the risk of a pull back in the region has increased. Furthermore, as markets contend with the prospect of exit strategies by global central banks, easing risk spreads are unlikely to sustain their recent downward trends, challenging the lofty level of investor risk appetite. Consequently, with tighter liquidity,

softening in re-stocking demand and persistent unemployment, this is all expected to continue to weigh on markets. However, if final demand, specifically in the West, exceeds expectations then leading indicators will remain buoyant, helping to support equity market valuations. As a result, we are adopting a balanced portfolio structure with a bias towards domestic defensive growth stocks coupled with selective cyclical overweights in industrial and technology companies where we believe the valuations are attractive. For the longer term, the structural appeal of Asia remains compelling, suggesting that a retracement might offer an opportunity to re-introduce some leverage into the portfolio.

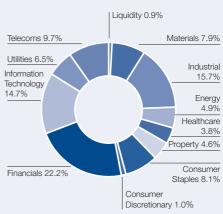
# **Peter Dalgliesh**

Fund Manager F&C Investment Business Limited 28 September 2009

# **Geographical Analysis** % of total assets less current liabilities



# Sector Analysis % of total assets less current liabilities



# Investment Portfolio

Company	Nature of business	Valuation £'000	% of Total assets less current liabilities	Country of incorporation
Perusahaan Gas Negara	Gas	4,849	4.0	Indonesia
Kasikornbank	Banking	4,418	3.6	Thailand
Hon Hai Precision	Electronic Equipment	4,291	3.5	Taiwan
China Mobile	Telecommunications	4,134	3.4	China
Shinhan Financial	Financial	4,119		South Korea
Wistron Corporation	PC Manufacturer	3,672	3.0	Taiwan
Sun Hung Kai Properties	Property Development	3,670	3.0	Hong Kong
Shanghai Industrial	Conglomerate	3,618	3.0	China
DBS Group	Financials	3,492	2.8	Singapore
LG Corp	Conglomerate	3,408	2.8	South Korea
Top ten investments		39,671	32.5	
Bank of China	Banking	3,266	2.7	China
CNOOC	Oil and Gas Provider	2,884	2.4	Hong Kong
China Petroleum and Chemical	Oil and Gas Provider	2,880	2.3	China
China Water Affairs	Water Supply	2,832	2.3	Hong Kong
NHN Corporation	Internet Services	2,824		South Korea
Telekomunikasi Indonesia	Telecommunications	2,741	2.2	Indonesia
Midas Holdings	Retail Manufacturer	2,652	2.2	Singapore
KT&G	Tobacco Production	2,637		South Korea
Sino-Ocean Land	Financial	2,560	2.1	China
Ping An Insurance	Insurance	2,490	2.0	Hong Kong
Top twenty investments		67,437	55.2	
Advanced Semiconductor	Semiconductor Provider	2,478	2.0	Taiwan
LG Household & Health Care	Household Goods and Cosmetics	2,457	2.0	South Korea
Shin Zu Shing	Component Manufacturer	2,204	1.8	Taiwan
NetEase.com	Information Technology	2,198	1.8	China
China South Locomotive and	Leasanti use and Dalling Chaels	0 1 1 5	1.0	Claine
Rolling Stock Daelim Industrial	Locomotives and Rolling Stock	2,145	1.8	China South Korea
Bharti Airtel	Conglomerate Telecommunications	2,082 1,979	1.7	India
Hang Lung Properties	Property Development	1,979	1.6	Hong Kong
IOI Corporation	Palm Oil Producer	1,946	1.6	Malaysia
China Construction Bank	Banking	1,938	1.6	China
Top thirty investments		88,838	72.7	
Other investments (24)		32,331	26.4	
Total investments		121,169	99.1	
Net current assets		1,043	0.9	
Shareholders' funds		122,212	100.0	

# Review of the Five Largest Investments

### PERUSAHAAN GAS NEGARA - Indonesia, Utility, Gas Distribution

Perusahaan Gas Negara operates in the distribution and transmission of natural gas to industrial, commercial and household users.

Final results to 31 December		2008	2007	% change
Revenues	IDR (bn)	12,794	8,802	+45.4
Pre-Tax Profit	IDR (bn)	1,281	1,872	-31.6
EPS	IDR	26.44	48.59	-45.6
DPS	IDR	42.00	13.00	+223.1

# **KASIKORNBANK - Thailand, Financial**

Kasikornbank provides commercial banking services including personal and commercial banking, international trade, as well as investment banking services, to its customers throughout Thailand. The bank also has branches and representative offices in other Asian countries, London, New York and Los Angeles.

Final results to 31 December	er	2008	2007	% change
Revenues	Bt (m)	65,151	56,328	+15.7
Pre-Tax Profit	Bt (m)	22,178	21,412	+3.6
EPS	Bt	6.42	6.28	+2.2
DPS	Bt	2.00	1.75	+14.3

# **HON HAI PRECISION - Taiwan, Information Technology**

Hon Hai Precision manufactures and markets personal computer ('PC') connectors, and cable assemblies used in desktop PCs and PC servers.

Final results to 31 December		2008	2007	% change
Revenues	NT\$ (m)	1,950,481	1,702,663	+14.6
Pre-Tax Profit	NT\$ (m)	72,594	101,137	-28.2
EPS	NT\$	7.35	12.20	-39.8
DPS	NT\$	3.00	3.00	0

## CHINA MOBILE - China, Telecoms, Cellular

China Mobile is the largest provider of cellular telecommunications and related services in the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong SAR.

Final results to 31 December		2008	2007	% change
Revenues	CNY (m)	412,343	356,959	+15.5
Pre-Tax Profit	CNY (m)	149,743	129,238	+15.9
EPS	CNY	5.63	4.35	+29.4
DPS	CNY	2.47	1.90	+30.0

# SHINHAN FINANCIAL - South Korea, Financial

Shinhan Financial provides a full range of consumer and commercial banking-related financial services. The company's main businesses include banking, securities brokerage, trust banking, and wealth management to individuals, businesses, and other financial institutions.

Final results to 31 December		2008	2007	% change
Revenues	KRW (bn)	7,931	8,604	-7.8
Pre-Tax Profit	KRW (bn)	2,994	3,913	-23.5
EPS	KRW	4,401.61	5,094.76	-13.6
DPS	KRW	758.10	0	n/a

# Unaudited Income Statement

# Six months ended 31 July 2009

	Revenue	Capital	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gains/(losses) on investments	_	35,912	35,912
Exchange differences	-	(238)	(238)
Income	1,293	-	1,293
Investment management fee	(121)	(363)	(484)
Other expenses	(425)	-	(425)
Net return before finance costs and taxation	747	35,311	36,058
Interest payable	-	-	-
Return on ordinary activities before tax	747	35,311	36,058
Tax on ordinary activities	(219)	140	(79)
Return attributable to equity shareholders	528	35,451	35,979
Return per Ordinary Share	0.45p	29.95p	30.40p

The total column of this statement is the profit and loss account of the Company. The supplementary revenue and capital columns are both prepared under guidance published by the Association of Investment Companies.

# Six months ended 31 July 2008

Year ended 31 January 2009

Total	Capital	Revenue	Total	Capital	Revenue
£'000	£,000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
(61,943)	(61,943)	_	(20,872)	(20,872)	_
(2,498)	(2,498)	_	(69)	(69)	_
4,026	_	4,026	2,250	-	2,250
(1,256)	(942)	(314)	(792)	(594)	(198)
(673)	-	(673)	(358)	_	(358)
(62,344)	(65,383)	3,039	(19,841)	(21,535)	1,694
(361)	(271)	(90)	(193)	(145)	(48)
(62,705)	(65,654)	2,949	(20,034)	(21,680)	1,646
(314)	532	(846)	(148)	327	(475)
(63,019)	(65,122)	2,103	(20,182)	(21,353)	1,171
(53.25)p	(55.03)p	1.78p	(17.05)p	(18.04)p	0.99p

# **Unaudited Balance Sheet**

Net asset value per Ordinary Share	103.26p	110.35p	74.15p
Equity shareholders' funds	122,212	130,597	87,760
Revenue reserve	3,329	3,396	4,328
Capital reserve	86,403	94,721	50,952
Special reserve	16,222	16,222	16,222
Capital redemption reserve	1,460	1,460	1,460
Share premium account	4	4	4
Called-up share capital	14,794	14,794	14,794
Capital and reserves			
Net assets	122,212	130,597	87,760
Net current assets/(liabilities)	1,043	(9,728)	4,273
Creditors (amounts failing due within one year)	(1,257)	(10,661)	(905)
	2,300	933	5,178
Cash at bank and on deposit	969	_	3,879
Debtors	1,331	933	1,299
Current assets			
Investments	121,169	140,325	83,487
Fixed assets			
	31 July 2009 £'000	31 July 2008 £'000	31 January 2009 £'000
	As at	As at	As at

# Unaudited Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds

	Six months ended 31 July 2009 £'000	Six months ended 31 July 2008 £'000	Year ended 31 January 2009 £'000
Opening shareholders' funds	87,760	152,105	152,105
Return for the period	35,979	(20,182)	(63,019)
Dividends paid	(1,527)	(1,326)	(1,326)
Closing shareholders' funds	122,212	130,597	87,760

# Summarised Unaudited Statement of Cash Flows

	Six months to 31 July 2009 £'000	Six months to 31 July 2008 £'000	Year to 31 January 2009 £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	581	977	1,779
Servicing of finance	-	(175)	(381)
Capital expenditure and financial investment	(1,726)	188	16,376
Equity dividends paid	(1,527)	(1,326)	(1,326)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow before financing	(2,672)	(336)	16,448
Financing	-	(9)	(13,208)
(Decrease)/increase in cash	(2,672)	(345)	3,240
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds/(debt)			
(Decrease)/increase in cash	(2,672)	(345)	3,240
Loans drawn down	-	(2,515)	(10,508)
Loans repaid		2,524	23,716
Changes in net debt resulting from cash flows	(2,672)	(336)	16,448
Exchange differences	(238)	(69)	(2,498)
Movement in net funds/(debt)	(2,910)	(405)	13,950
Net funds/(debt) at 1 February	3,879	(10,071)	(10,071)
Net funds/(debt) at 31 July/31 January	969	(10,476)	3,879
Reconciliation of net return before finance co taxation to net cash flow from operating activ			
Net return before finance costs and taxation	36,058	(19,841)	(62,344)
(Gains)/losses on investments	(35,912)	20,872	61,943
Exchange differences	238	69	2,498
Irrecoverable withholding tax on investment income	e <b>(89)</b>	(148)	(314)
Changes in working capital and other non-cash items	286	25	(4)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	581	977	1,779

# Notes to the Accounts

# for the six months ended 31 July 2009

- 1. The unaudited interim results have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out in the statutory accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 January 2009.
- 2. Earnings for the first six months should not be taken as a guide to the results for the full year.
- **3.** There were 118,348,386 Ordinary Shares in issue at 31 July 2009 (31 January 2009 118,348,386, 31 July 2008 118,348,386). The weighted average number of Ordinary Shares in issue during the period, used in calculating the return per share, was 118,348,386 (year ended 31 January 2009 118,348,386, six months ended 31 July 2008 118,348,386).
- **4.** These accounts have not been audited or reviewed by the Company's auditors pursuant to the Auditing Practices Board guidance on the review of interim financial information.
- 5. These are not statutory accounts in terms of Section 434 of the Companies Act 2006 and are unaudited. Statutory accounts for the year to 31 January 2009, which received an unqualified audit report, have been lodged with the Registrar of Companies. No statutory accounts in respect of any period after 31 January 2009 have been reported on by the Company's auditors or delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

# Statement of Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Company's assets consist principally of listed securities and its main risks are therefore market related. The Company is also exposed to currency risk in respect of the markets in which it invests. Other risks faced by the Company include external, investment and strategic, regulatory, operational, and financial risks. These risks, and the way in which they are managed, are described in more detail under the heading Principal Risks and Risk Management within the Business Review in the Company's Annual Report for the year ended 31 January 2009. The Company's principal risks and uncertainties have not changed materially since the date of that report and are not expected to change materially for the remaining six months of the Company's financial year.

# Statement of Directors' Responsibilities in Respect of the Interim Report

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge:

- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement 'Half Yearly
  Financial Reports' issued by the UK Accounting Standards Board and give a true and fair view of
  the assets, liabilities, financial position and return of the Company;
- the Chairman's Statement and Manager's Report (together constituting the Interim Management Report) include a fair review of the information required by the Disclosure and Transparency Rules ('DTR') 4.2.7R, being an indication of important events that have occurred during the first six months of the financial year and their impact on the financial statements;
- the Statement of Principal Risks and Uncertainties shown above is a fair review of the information required by DTR 4.2.7R; and
- the financial statements include a fair review of the information required by DTR 4.2.8R, being
  related party transactions that have taken place in the first six months of the financial year and
  that have materially affected the financial position or performance of the Company during the
  period, and any changes in the related party transactions described in the last Annual Report that
  could do so.

On behalf of the Board

#### **D B Nichol**

Director

28 September 2009

# How to Invest

As well as investing in Pacific Assets Trust plc directly through a stockbroker, you can enjoy some additional benefits by investing through one of the savings plans run by F&C Asset Management plc ("F&C").

You can enjoy the convenience of making regular savings by Direct Debit, take advantage of our tax-efficient ISA wrapper, receive a simple statement every six months and let us automatically reinvest your dividends for you.

#### F&C Private Investor Plan

A flexible, low cost way to invest with a lump sum from  $\mathfrak{L}500$  or regular savings from  $\mathfrak{L}50$  a month.

### • F&C Investment Trust ISA

Invest up to £7,200 tax efficiently each year with a lump sum from £500 or regular savings from £50 a month. ISA contribution limits are to be increased to £10,200 with effect from 6 April 2010 (or 6 October 2009 for individuals aged over 50). You can also transfer any existing ISAs to F&C.

# • F&C Child Trust Fund ('CTF')

F&C is a leading provider of children's investment plans and one of the few providers to offer an investment trust based CTF. The CTF is suitable for children born after 1 September 2002.

### . F&C Children's Investment Plan

Suitable for older children ineligible for a CTF, or if you need access to the funds before the child is 18. This flexible plan can easily be written under trust to help reduce inheritance tax liability. Investments can be made from a £250 lump sum or £25 a month.

Potential investors are reminded that the value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not receive back the full amount originally invested. Tax rates and reliefs depend on the circumstances of the original investor. Freedom from tax in an ISA applies directly to the investor.

#### **Low Charges**

All the plans are low cost and flexible. When you buy or sell shares in these plans the dealing fee is only 0.2 per cent. Government stamp duty of 0.5 per cent also applies on purchases. There are no initial or exit charges. The only annual management fee is on the ISA, which is £60+VAT (no matter how many tax years' ISAs you take out with F&C, or how many ISAs you transfer).

The F&C Child Trust Fund has no initial charges, dealing charges or annual management fee.

#### How to Invest

For more information on any of these products, please contact F&C's Investor Services Team:

Call us on 0800 136 420

email at info@fandc.com

invest online at www.fandc.co.uk

Existing plan holders' enquiry line

0845 600 3030

Or write to:

F&C

Freepost RLRY-LYSR-KYBU Clandeboye Business Park West Circular Road

Bangor BT19 1AR

Calls may be recorded



The information on the this page has been approved by F&C Management Limited which is a member of the F&C Asset Management Group and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority ('FSA').

# n Colour Printers

# Corporate Information

# **Directors**

D B Nichol, FCA (Chairman)\*
R M A Horlick
S H Leckie, OBE
T F Mahony
N M S Rich, CBE, FCA†

# Secretary

G R Hay Smith, CA

# **Registered Office**

80 George Street Edinburgh EH2 3BU Tel No: 0207 628 8000 Fax No: 0131 225 2375

# **Investment Manager**

F&C Investment Business Limited 80 George Street Edinburgh EH2 3BU

# **Custodian Bankers**

JPMorgan Chase Bank 125 London Wall London EC2Y 5AJ

#### **Auditors**

KPMG Audit plc Saltire Court 20 Castle Terrace Edinburgh EH1 2EG

#### **Brokers**

Collins Stewart Europe Limited 88 Wood Street London EC2V 7QR

#### **Solicitors**

Dickson Minto WS 16 Charlotte Square Edinburgh EH2 4DF

- \* Chairman of the Engagement and Remuneration Committee and Nomination Committee
- † Chairman of the Audit Committee and Senior Independent Director





# **Registered Office**

80 George Street Edinburgh EH2 3BU Tel: 0207 628 8000 Fax: 0131 225 2375

# Registrars

Equiniti Limited
Aspect House
Spencer Road
Lancing
West Sussex BN99 6DA

Registrars' Shareholder Helpline: 0871 384 2466\* Registrars' Broker Helpline: 0871 384 2779\*

<sup>\*</sup>Calls to these numbers are charged at 8p per minute from a BT landline. Other telephony providers' costs may vary.