

*VT Dominion Holdings*  
*Investment Company with Variable Capital*

**ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024**



## CONTENTS

	Page
Shareholder Information	1
About VT Dominion Holdings ICVC	2
Investment Manager's Business Principles	3
Investment Manager's Report	4
Portfolio Statement	8
Financial Statements	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	11
Comparative Tables	17
Authorised Corporate Director's Report	18
Depositary's Report	20
Independent Auditor's Report	21
Additional Information	24

## SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

Net assets attributable to shareholders:	£36,265,333
Shares outstanding:	
Accumulation:	22,714,527
Income:	290,804
Net asset value per share ('NAV'):	
Accumulation:	158.0p
Income:	148.3p
Ongoing charges figure ('OCF'):	0.98%
Redemption charge:	3% for redemptions within 3 years (payable to VT Dominion Holdings ICVC)
Portfolio turnover:	5.2%
Minimum initial investment:	£250,000
Minimum subsequent investment:	£20,000
Year end:	31 <sup>st</sup> May
Ex-dividend date:	31 <sup>st</sup> May
Dividend distribution date:	31 <sup>st</sup> July

*Authorised Corporate Director (ACD),  
Alternative Investment Fund Manager (AIFM)  
and Registrar*

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited  
Orton,  
Moray  
IV32 7QE  
Telephone: 01343 880217  
Email: dominium@valu-trac.com  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct  
Authority

*Investment Manager  
(Investment Adviser prior to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023)*

Inpersca Limited  
43 Melville Street,  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7JF  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct  
Authority

*Depositary*

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited  
House A, Floor 0, 175 Glasgow Road  
Gogarburn  
Edinburgh  
EH12 1HQ  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct  
Authority

*Auditor*

Johnston Carmichael LLP, CA  
Commerce House, South Street,  
Elgin  
IV30 1JE

## ABOUT VT DOMINIUM HOLDINGS ICVC

VT Dominion Holdings ICVC ('the Company') is an Open-Ended Investment Company that is authorised and regulated by the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA') as a non-UCITS retail scheme. It began operations on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 as a vehicle for business ownership and is only intended for like-minded shareholders who recognise the risks and benefits of its investment objective and approach. The Company does not directly own immovable assets, commodities, derivatives or collective investment schemes, and does not 'short-sell' shares or borrow to invest.

### *Investment Objective*

The Company's investment objective is to preserve and grow the purchasing power of shareholders' capital (i.e. for its returns to increase in excess of the UK's Consumer Price Index) over the long-term.

### *Investment Approach*

As investment manager, Inpersca Limited is of the opinion that business ownership offers the best means to protect and grow capital in real terms over time. It provides owners with a claim on the true sources of wealth creation. Participating patiently in the ownership of a limited number of carefully selected businesses, each efficiently providing products and services that effectively satisfy society's needs, is the core of the Company's investment approach. It has no defined time horizon for each but hopes to own them for decades. *Simply put, its goal is to buy well and hold on.*

The Company will seek to partner with competent and honest entrepreneurs or business owners who share with it a community of interest. These individuals will have the privilege and responsibility of overseeing the distribution or reinvestment of the cash flows generated by their businesses, a key determinant of the rate at which the Company's capital will compound over time.

In order that this wealth creation accrues to owners, and is not competed away, each business in which the Company has an ownership participation should have barriers to entry that are scarce and difficult to replicate. They should also operate with capital structures and business models resilient enough to endure life's inevitable vicissitudes.

At Inpersca Limited we believe that neither 'risk' nor 'value' is a number that can be found on a spreadsheet.

Given the sanctity of capital we see 'risk' as the likelihood of permanent capital loss. The careful selection of each business the Company owns is its best protection against this outcome – even then we will make errors of judgement. As long-term business owners we do not view asset price volatility as risk. You should know in advance that the Company will not avoid large drops in the share prices of the companies it owns. By understanding its businesses and management partners we hope to have the resilience to survive these falls and the courage to take advantage of them.

We 'value' scarcity, resilience, adaptability, ingenuity, probity and competence. The Company will look to own as much of this as possible for every portion of a business it acquires. Price volatility may provide it with the opportunity to acquire a greater portion of this value relative to the price it is being asked to pay - a welcome outcome.

Cash represents the residual of the investment approach. Suitable investment opportunities do not arise each and every day, or just because we might want them to. When suitable investment candidates are not available cash will be allowed to accumulate, to a maximum of fifteen percent of net asset value. We have no ability to time asset price movements in capital markets and so do not attempt to do so.

We do not believe making comparisons of investment performance with other assets over short periods of time is helpful. Furthermore, the Company's ownership interests are selected without consideration of benchmark weightings and as such performance may deviate substantially from other investment vehicles. A realistic measure of long-term performance would be progress against the UK's Consumer Price Index ('CPI') over a rolling five-year period.

## INVESTMENT MANAGER'S BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

As investment manager, Inpersca Limited takes seriously its fiduciary responsibility to your savings. To ensure a community of interest between it and the shareholders of the Company, Inpersca Limited is operated on the following broad business principles:

- ❖ We regard the capital entrusted to the Company as irreplaceable. Its long-term preservation, in real terms, is our first priority. A major portion of both the savings of our directors and the capital of Inpersca Limited is invested in the Company. We aim to participate in the progress of the Company alongside its other shareholders, not at their expense.
- ❖ We care about investment returns. Inpersca Limited is dedicated solely to managing the Company and to monitoring the businesses it owns. The Company's size will be limited so as to maximise its opportunity set.
- ❖ As the Company grows it is our intention to share with the Company's shareholders the benefits of scale via a systematic reduction of the ongoing charges figure. In addition, our investment approach seeks to minimise transaction costs, an important and often overlooked expense that impairs long-term investment returns.
- ❖ It is essential that the shareholders of the Company are like-minded investors who share our investment philosophy, perspective of risk, return expectations and time horizon. The longer your investment time horizon the better. If your investment time horizon is less than five years, it is unlikely to be a suitable vehicle for your savings and a redemption fee is payable to the Company for redemptions within three years. Our own time horizon is much longer. We only intend to comment on progress over a minimum of a five-year rolling period.

Inpersca Limited  
Investment manager

## INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Dear fellow owners,

### *Our Company's progress*

Our Company has a long-term orientation, hoping to own its businesses for decades. You will notice some changes to the presentation of this report that have been imposed on us this year. This includes moving the table of historical data previously found on page three of the annual report into the body of this letter. This is the quantitative information I would find useful in assessing progress were our roles reversed.

### Historical data on VT Dominion Holdings ICVC

As at, or for the period ending:	Net assets	OCF <sup>1</sup>	Portfolio turnover <sup>2</sup>	Redemptions <sup>3</sup>	NAV per acc. share	CPI (rebased) <sup>4</sup>	Real NAV per acc. share <sup>5</sup>	Div. per income share
Inception	£5.0m	-	-	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2018 <sup>6</sup>	£18.6m	1.00%	Nil	Nil	105.6	102.4	103.1	0.48p
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019	£21.8m	1.00%	Nil	1.1%	114.0	104.5	109.1	0.67p
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2020	£20.5m	1.00%	Nil	1.8%	107.9	105.0	102.7	0.65p
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021	£24.0m	1.00%	4.1%	0.7%	126.7	107.3	118.1	0.44p
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2022	£30.4m	1.00%	1.2%	0.9%	132.9	116.9	113.6	0.93p
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	£33.6m	0.99%	Nil	Nil	141.7	127.1	111.5	0.87p
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	£36.3m	0.98%	5.2%	3.6%	158.0	129.6	121.9	1.02p
Cumulative change since inception					58.0%	29.6%	21.9%	
Compounded annual total return since inception					6.9%	3.8%	2.9%	

**Source:** Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited. **Notes to table:** 1. For details on the OCF cap see note 5 on page twelve; 2. Portfolio turnover is the lower of total investment purchases or sales over the period as a percentage of the average assets for the period; 3. Redemptions are the gross number of shares redeemed over the period as a percentage of total shares in issue at the start of the period; 4. CPI data is sourced from the UK's Office of National Statistics and rebased from the inception of the Company in July 2017; 5. Real NAV per accumulation share is determined by deflating the net asset value per accumulation share by the rebased CPI; 6. The period ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 was not a full year so the OCF and portfolio turnover figures for that period are annualised.

To summarise,

- ❖ the annual ongoing charges figure has declined gradually as total net assets have increased.
- ❖ a low level of 'portfolio turnover' is consistent with a philosophy of patient business ownership.
- ❖ since inception the advance in the real net asset value per accumulation share, i.e. after taking account of inflation, is an encouraging, if unremarkable, 2.9% per annum. There can be no certainty that this will continue.
- ❖ the low level of gross redemptions is indicative of the conviction and satisfaction of its shareholders. I count myself truly fortunate to have you as fellow owners.

Despite a consistently low level of investment activity, during the last five years new ownership interests in Bossard Holdings, Exor, Remy Cointreau and Robertet Group have been added to our collection of assets. Over this time frame, more than £1 million has also been invested in increasing our participation in each of Fielmann Group, Heineken Holdings, Schindler Holdings and TFF Group. The shareholdings in Diageo, Swatch Group and PriceSmart were sold, and cash was received from the takeover of Jardine Strategic Holdings, during the same period. Some shares in Costco Wholesale and Brown & Brown were sold this year. With the former, this was to comply with the Company's constitution requiring the market value of any single participation not exceed 10% of total net assets. On the latter, time will tell if I have erred.

### *Outsourced capital allocation*

By adopting the attitude of a patient owner, we are effectively outsourcing most of the hard work and difficult decisions to our talented and trusted management partners. In time, the cumulative weight of their decisions on capital allocation, trade-offs and risk tolerance will determine progress in the underlying worth of our Company. I have greater faith in their ability to adapt to developments in their companies, industries and the global economy than in my ability to foretell the future. I would like to illustrate what I mean using TFF Group as an example.

## INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Established in 1911, TFF has since evolved to become a global, decentralised and vertically integrated group producing casks and barrels for the wine and aged spirits industries. The François family founded the firm and continue to own and manage it today. Over generations the skill of its people and the resulting integrity of its products and services have allowed it to come to dominate its niche. Its operational effectiveness has generated economic returns that have enabled its management teams to deploy incremental capital where and when attractive opportunities presented themselves.

The table below shows data from the group's financial statements between 2008 and 2023. Unusually they suffered little from a) the dilution that occurs from paying for acquisitions or management incentives with newly issued shares, b) any significant write-downs from either buying or building white elephants, or c) the distortions of engaging in share buybacks. This may offer an insight into the character of the people involved.

### Select financial data for TFF Group (2008 to 2023)

At and for the year to 30 <sup>th</sup> April	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23
Equity <sup>1</sup> (€m)	120	134	150	160	176	195	211	253	273	301	314	342	361	368	408	442
Net profit (€m)	17	17	15	14	16	23	24	34	29	32	30	31	27	20	36	53
ROE <sup>2</sup> (%)	15	14	11	9	9	12	12	15	11	11	10	9	8	5	9	12
Dividends (€m)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	8	8	8	8	8	9	13
# of shares (m)	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22

Source: TFF Group annual financial statements. Notes to table: 1. Shareholders equity; 2. Return on average equity.

It is worth highlighting that;

- ❖ over the period shown net profits totalled €417 million and dividends €91 million – a payout ratio of 22%.
- ❖ more earnings have been retained and reinvested in just the last five years (€122 million) than all the shareholders equity ('equity') accumulated in the history of the Company up to the end of 2008 (€120 million).
- ❖ while equity may have increased each year, progress in annual net profits was more variable.
- ❖ management were willing to keep dividends flat for years at a time.

At any single year-end TFF's equity reveals little of the risks assumed, the trade-offs made or the qualitative factors that have contributed to its success. However, this figure does offer us a rough, if flawed, proxy of the rate of progress achieved in the underlying economic substance of the group. From the start of 2008 to the end of 2023 TFF's equity has compounded at 9% per annum. This is an outcome of the amount of net profit retained each year and the return subsequently achieved on reinvesting it. Evidently, the group's owners have enjoyed a reasonable advance in wealth over the last sixteen years. To this they can add their annual dividend cheques after deducting withholding taxes and the cost of keeping their ownership claim.

Until 2008 TFF's operational focus had been on securing its position in supplying the global wine industry. That year the opportunity arose to acquire Speyside Cooperage, a firm that sourced and repaired barrels for the whisky industry. This brought new capabilities and technical skills to the business, notably in the bourbon barrels often used to age scotch whisky. Armed with this knowhow and its long-established reputation for quality oak products, management subsequently decided to build a new operation in the United States to supply barrels for American whiskey producers. This required securing a reliable source of quality oak, building stave mills and cooperages, and hiring skilled craftsmen – a capital intensive effort part financed by the reinvestment of net profits.

In a free market, securing economic returns on the capital necessary to operate a business is difficult. Persistent success requires entrepreneurial alertness, the courage to take intelligent risks, and the patience to focus on long-term outcomes. Where our businesses have *enduringly* attractive economics and *capable* people, our preference is that they retain their net profits and *sensibly* recapitalise them into additional productive capacity (very occasionally, the prices of their shares may be so compelling as to make a share buyback sensible). Berkshire Hathaway may be the best-known example of the compounding that occurs when an honest and competent management team successfully reinvesting the net profits of a business each year. As owners in it, we effectively sit alongside Mr. Buffett, participating in unique opportunities we might not otherwise have access to.



## INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

It is in assessing the 'enduringly', 'capable' and 'sensibly' parts of business life where things get difficult as we are often confronted with making decisions about the unknown and unknowable.<sup>1</sup> While not reflected as a number in the table on page three, this is where most of our 'investment activity' takes place.

### *Incentives and competitive position*

Cooperage is a humble, capital intensive and artisanal business that is difficult to scale. These are not the attributes that attract those seeking instant attention or fortune. Yet, as the example of TFF suggests, with the right time preference and capable management partners even seemingly mundane businesses can create tremendous wealth. Over the last sixteen years its shareholders have had to accept the financial burden of significant upfront operational costs and capital expenditures to explore new avenues of business that had no guarantee of being successful. I certainly would not have had any greater insight into the prospect of success than its management.

To date, American whiskey producers have reacted well to the products and services TFF is now able to offer them. Sales to these producers accounted for 37% of its sales in 2023. It is possible that in the future their demand falters. In that scenario we, as owners, face the risk of having to suffer a permanent write-down in the capital invested in this effort. If TFF's competitive position were to remain sound, whiskey demand continue to grow, and the utilisation of recently installed capacity to increase, then returns on equity may improve further. That would mean larger future streams of net profit for management to allocate on our behalf. Compounding at work.

Accurately predicting the future is beyond my ken. That said, two factors are likely to be pivotal in placing the probabilities of a positive outcome in the favour of TFF's owners. First, incentives. The prosperity and reputation of the François family are closely tied to its fate. In effect, they are 'all in'. Of course, commitment does not guarantee enduring success. However, it does increase their motivation to ensure the group continues to flourish. Importantly, their financial wellbeing is highly dependent on how the group conducts its business. The family, now or in the future, will directly bear the consequences of irresponsible actions taken towards customers, staff, suppliers and minority shareholders, as well as the environment and communities in which they operate. They may elect to exploit these constituencies before trying to pass on a 'wooden nickel', but they have little incentive or opportunity to do so. As committed owners their interests are largely aligned with acting responsibly to ensure that their business, and therefore their wealth and reputation, endures.

Second, competitive position. For the time being the oak barrel retains an important role in the production of high-end wines or aged spirits. The type and quality of oak selected and its subsequent maturation and toasting all have significant implications for the liquid it is used to store. As such, the established producer of luxury wines or spirits has little motivation to switch barrel supplier. This is especially true if the cooperage has a deep and long-established understanding of how their products and services contribute to the unique attributes that appeal to the discerning consumer of these liquids. It gives rise to a mutually beneficial relationship built on trust and loyalty. Barrels have a finite life so demand for them is recurring, if lumpy. It is apparent then that TFF benefits from producing a small but critical component for which there is repeated demand from customers that have little interest in switching supplier unless poorly treated.

### *Life's vicissitudes*

To endure and prosper in a complex and uncertain world requires some luck, a philosophical north star and psychological fortitude. Two factors contribute to both 'why' our Company was established and the approach it has adopted. First, global living standards are advanced through the innovations and productivity improvements that arise from entrepreneurs seeking to successfully address a societal need. This is a cause for optimism. Our savings contribute to financing this effort. Second, the accumulation of these savings requires time, effort and sacrifice. We do not get a second lifetime to build them. Consequently, they deserve to at least preserve their worth in real terms. Yet, it is the policy of many governments to reduce the purchasing power of money over time. As financial commentator James Grant puts it, the integrity of money matters because '*money is work and work is heartbeats and heartbeats are finite.*'<sup>2</sup>

## INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Our Company is not suitable for everyone. Its like-minded shareholders have chosen it as a vehicle through which to patiently participate as owners in a small number of carefully chosen businesses engaged in honest and substantive commercial endeavour. It is the human talent and productive capacity within each that anchor the worth of our savings. To meet its objective, what really matters is the adaptability and resilience of these assets through extended periods of time. Global capital markets offer a convenient venue for acquiring our ownership interests. However, short-term volatility in *prices* on these markets do not enhance or destroy the underlying economic substance that is the real source of their *value* to us. This reality provides the foundation stone upon which to build our resolve.

### *Operational update*

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 Inpersca Limited's role in relation to the Company changed from investment adviser to investment manager. Rest assured that its business principles have not changed, and all its financial and intellectual capital remains singularly focused on serving the interests of the shareholders of our Company. In this regard, I too am 'all in'. This is important, particularly in an industry where regulations are increasingly burdensome and commercial considerations are often in conflict with the interests of savers.

My sincere appreciation for your patient ownership,

Evan Green  
Inpersca Limited,  
June 2024

### **Notes:**

1. *Investing in the Unknown and Unknowable* by Richard Zeckhauser (Capitalism and Society, Volume 1, Issue 2, The Berkeley Electronic Press, 2006) is a useful reference on this topic.
2. *The inflation we choose* by James Grant (Grant's Interest Rate Observer, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024).

## PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Holding	Security	Currency	Value (£)	% of Net Assets
2,480	Markel Group	USD	3,162,093	8.71
8,200	Berkshire Hathaway Inc.	USD	2,642,553	7.28
40,500	Heineken Holding NV	EUR	2,596,058	7.16
13,000	Schindler Holding AG	CHF	2,578,287	7.11
3,700	Costco Wholesale Corp.	USD	2,323,009	6.41
60,000	Fielmann Group	EUR	2,242,654	6.18
80,000	Admiral Group PLC	GBP	2,172,000	5.99
58,503	TFF Group	EUR	2,114,392	5.83
15,400	RLI Corp.	USD	1,748,567	4.82
14,500	Pernod Ricard SA	EUR	1,697,611	4.68
12,358	Compagnie Financiere Richemont SA	CHF	1,545,287	4.26
16,000	Exor NV	EUR	1,402,021	3.87
16,500	Brown & Brown Inc.	USD	1,151,156	3.17
3,300	Mastercard Inc.	USD	1,141,015	3.15
13,100	Nestle SA	CHF	1,092,578	3.01
171,950	A.G.Barr PLC	GBP	1,057,493	2.92
1,400	Rational AG	EUR	930,817	2.57
128,660	VP PLC	GBP	829,857	2.29
750	Robertet Group	EUR	557,467	1.54
50,000	Compania Cervecerias Unidas SA (ADR)	USD	484,526	1.34
6,500	Rémy Cointreau SA	EUR	473,165	1.30
1,400	Bossard Group	CHF	266,701	0.74
<b>Total equities (31<sup>st</sup> May 2023: 93.98%)</b>			<b>34,209,307</b>	<b>94.33</b>
Cash and equivalents (31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023: 6.02%)		Various	2,056,026	5.67
<b>Total portfolio</b>			<b><u>36,265,333</u></b>	<b>100.00</b>

During the year there were investment purchases of £1,793,102 and investment sales of £2,668,144 (note 15).

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Statement of total return

For the year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Income					
Net capital gains	2		3,510,232		1,842,590
Revenue	3	719,036		581,655	
Expenses					
Operating expenses	4	(381,066)		(349,792)	
Expense reimbursement by investment manager	5	40,734		34,019	
Finance costs: interest	6	<u>(7,923)</u>		<u>(35)</u>	
Net revenue before taxation		370,781		265,847	
Taxation	7	<u>(121,074)</u>		<u>(51,787)</u>	
Net revenue after taxation			<u>249,707</u>		<u>214,060</u>
Total return before dividends			3,759,939		2,056,650
Finance costs: dividends	6		<u>(249,707)</u>		<u>(214,060)</u>
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			<u>3,510,232</u>		<u>1,842,590</u>

### Statement of changes in net assets attributable to shareholders

For the year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> May	2024 £	2023 £
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders	33,628,347	30,448,129
Amounts receivable on creation of shares	129,647	1,122,166
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(1,246,517)	-
Dividend reinvested	243,624	215,462
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities (see above)	<u>3,510,232</u>	<u>1,842,590</u>
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders	<u>36,265,333</u>	<u>33,628,347</u>

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Balance sheet

At 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
<b>Assets</b>					
Investment assets			34,209,307		31,604,051
Debtors	8	143,822		198,867	
Cash and cash equivalent	9	<u>1,958,845</u>		<u>1,864,305</u>	
Total other assets			<u>2,102,667</u>		<u>2,063,172</u>
Total assets			36,311,974		33,667,223
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors	10	(36,766)		(36,343)	
Dividend payable		(2,953)		(2,533)	
Bank overdraft	9	<u>(6,922)</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total liabilities			<u>(46,641)</u>		<u>(38,876)</u>
<b>Net assets attributable to shareholders</b>			<u>36,265,333</u>		<u>33,628,347</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

### 1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies, which have been applied in both the current and prior year, are set out below:

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds (SORP) issued by the Investment Association (IA) in May 2014 and to the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017. The functional currency of the Company is sterling.
- (b) There are no material events that have been identified that may cast significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for at least the next twelve months from the date these financial statements are authorised for issue. The ACD believes that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.
- (c) All expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis and, other than those relating to the buying and selling of investments, all expenses are charged to the revenue of the Company.
- (d) Dividends on equities are recognised as revenue gross of withholding tax and accrue when the security is quoted ex-dividend. Both interest on deposits and the annual management charge rebates are accounted for on an accruals basis.
- (e) The ordinary element of stocks received in lieu of cash dividends is recognised as revenue of the Company, and where applicable is included in the distribution. In the case of an enhanced stock dividend the value of the enhancement is treated as capital.
- (f) Special dividends are treated as either revenue or a repayment of capital depending on the facts of each particular case. Where the receipt of a special dividend results in a significant reduction in the capital value or where the distribution arises from an underlying capital event such as a merger or disposal these would typically be deemed as capital so as to ensure that the matching principle is applied to gains and losses. Otherwise, the special dividend would typically be recognised as revenue. Where special dividends are treated as revenue, they are included in the amount available for distribution. The tax accounting treatment follows the principal amount.
- (g) The investments of the Company have been valued at bid market prices at 4.30pm UK time on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.
- (h) Foreign currency assets and liabilities at the end of the accounting period are translated into sterling at the exchange rates at the closing valuation point and any gains or losses taken to capital.
- (i) Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.  
  
Deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that the ACD considers that it is more likely than not there will be taxable profits from which underlying timing differences can be deducted.
- (j) Tax is provided using tax rates and laws which have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.
- (k) In certain circumstances the AFM may charge a dilution levy on the sale or repurchase of shares. The levy, which is paid into the Company, is intended to cover dealing spread on assets bought and sold and certain charges such as applicable dealing taxes and brokers commission not included in the mid-market value of the Company used for Net Asset Value (NAV) calculations, which could have a diluting effect on the performance of the Company.
- (l) The Company currently issues Accumulation & Income shares. The Company goes ex dividend annually and pays any income available to the shareholder two months in arrears, as a dividend distribution. Any revenue deficit at the year-end is funded from capital.

For the treatment of expenses revert to policy 'c' and special dividends revert to policy 'f'.

Equalisation applies only to shares purchased during the distribution period (Group 2 shares). It represents the accrued revenue included in the purchase price of the shares. It is returned with the distribution as a capital repayment. This is not liable to income tax but must be deducted from the cost of the shares for capital gains tax purposes.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2	<b>Net capital gains</b>	<b>2024</b> £	<b>2023</b> £
The net capital gains comprise:			
	Currency gains	26,876	10,479
	Realised non-derivative securities gains	1,527,280	-
	Unrealised non-derivative securities gains	1,956,985	1,832,370
	Custodial transaction charges	<u>(909)</u>	<u>(259)</u>
	Total net capital gains	<u>3,510,232</u>	<u>1,842,590</u>
3	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2024</b> £	<b>2023</b> £
	UK dividends	234,635	155,486
	Overseas dividends	391,458	395,494
	Bank interest	<u>92,943</u>	<u>30,675</u>
	Total revenue	<u>719,036</u>	<u>581,655</u>
4	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2024</b> £	<b>2023</b> £
Payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD, and agents of either:			
	Annual management charge	<u>346,246</u>	<u>317,123</u>
Payable to the depositary, its associates, and agents of either:			
	Depositary fee	18,028	18,148
	Safe custody fee	<u>2,591</u>	<u>2,194</u>
		20,619	20,342
Other expenses:			
	Audit fee	10,256	9,600
	Other expenses	<u>3,945</u>	<u>2,727</u>
		14,201	12,327
	Total expenses	<u>381,066</u>	<u>349,792</u>
5	<b>Expense reimbursement by investment manager</b>	<b>2024</b> £	<b>2023</b> £
	Investment manager rebate	40,734	34,019

The investment manager has undertaken to rebate the Company any expenses to the extent necessary to limit the annual ongoing charges figure to 1.0% per annum of the Company's average assets. The investment manager has also voluntarily undertaken to limit the annual ongoing charges figure to 0.85% per annum on incremental assets above £30m and 0.75% per annum on incremental assets above £50m.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6	Finance costs	2024 £	2023 £
	Dividend for the year	246,577	217,994
	Add: Revenue deducted on cancellation of shares	3,483	-
	Deduct: Revenue received on creation of shares	(353)	(3,934)
	<b>Net distribution for the year</b>	249,707	214,060
	Interest payable and similar charges	7,923	35
	Total finance costs	257,630	214,095
	<b>Reconciliation of distributions</b>		
	Net revenue after taxation	249,707	214,060
	<b>Net distribution for the year</b>	249,707	214,060
7	<b>Taxation</b>	<b>2024</b> £	<b>2023</b> £
	<b>(a) Analysis of charge in the year</b>		
	Irrecoverable overseas withholding tax	121,074	51,787
	Total current tax charge for the year (note 7b)	121,074	51,787
	<b>(b) Factors affecting current tax charge for the year</b>		
	The tax assessed for the year is higher (2023: lower) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK for an open-ended investment company of 20.0% (2023: 20.0%). The differences are explained below:		
	Net revenue before taxation	370,781	265,847
	Corporation tax at 20.0% (2023: 20.0%)	74,156	53,169
	Effects of:		
	Revenue not subject to UK corporation tax	(125,219)	(110,196)
	Current year expenses not utilised	51,063	57,027
	Irrecoverable overseas withholding tax	121,074	51,787
	Current tax charge for the year (note 7a)	121,074	51,787
	<b>(c) Provision for deferred taxation</b>		
	At 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024 there is a potential deferred tax asset of £316,145 (31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023: £265,082) in relation to surplus management expenses.		
8	<b>Debtors</b>	<b>2024</b> £	<b>2023</b> £
	Dividends receivable	71,552	59,827
	Overseas withholding tax reclaimable	66,849	131,622
	Annual management charge rebate receivable	4,862	6,655
	Prepayments	559	763
	Total debtors	143,822	198,867



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>9</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalent</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		£	£
	Cash and bank balances	1,958,845	1,864,305
	Bank overdraft	(6,922)	-
<b>10</b>	<b>Creditors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		£	£
	Annual management charge	25,114	25,305
	Depository fee	49	49
	Safe custody and other custodian charges	1,379	1,445
	Audit fee	10,011	9,355
	Other accrued expenses	213	189
	Total creditors	36,766	36,343
<b>11</b>	<b>Share movement</b>	<b>Income shares</b>	<b>Acc. shares</b>
	Shares outstanding at 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	290,804	23,480,882
	Shares created during the year	-	87,633
	Shares cancelled during the year	-	(853,988)
	Shares outstanding at 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	290,804	22,714,527

## 12 Financial instruments

In pursuing its investment objective as stated on page two, the Company holds a number of financial instruments. The Company's financial instruments comprise securities, cash balances, debtors and creditors that arise directly from its operations, for example, in respect of sales and purchases awaiting settlement, amounts receivable for issues and payable for redemptions and debtors for accrued revenue.

The main risks arising from the Company's financial instruments, those of its underlying holdings and the ACD's policies for managing these risks, are summarised below. These policies have been applied throughout the year.

### Market price risk

Market price risk is the risk that the value of the Company's investment holdings will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices caused by factors other than interest rate or foreign currency movement. Market price risk arises mainly from uncertainty about future prices of financial instruments the Company holds. It represents the potential loss the Company might suffer through holding market positions in the face of price movements.

The Company's investment holdings are exposed to market price fluctuations, which are monitored by the ACD in pursuance of the investment objective and policy as set out in the Prospectus. If market prices at the balance sheet date had been 10% higher or lower while all other variables remained the same the return attributable to shareholders for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 would have increased or decreased by £3,420,931 (31<sup>st</sup> May 2023: £3,160,405).

Adherence to investment guidelines and to investment and borrowing powers set out in the Instrument of Incorporation, the Prospectus and in the rules of the FCA's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook mitigates the risk of excessive exposure to any particular type of security or issuer.

### Maturity of financial liabilities

The financial liabilities of the Company at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 are payable either within one year or on demand.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the capital value or income of the Company's investments will fluctuate as a result of changes in interest rates. The Company currently does not invest in floating rate securities. The Company does hold cash balances which are subject to variable interest rates.

At 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024, 5.4% of the Company's assets by value were interest bearing (31<sup>st</sup> May 2023: 5.5%). At 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024, if interest rates increased or decreased by 0.25%, with all other variables remaining constant, then the net assets attributable to shareholders of the Company would increase or decrease by approximately £4,880 (31<sup>st</sup> May 2023: £4,661).

### Liquidity risk

The Company's assets comprise mainly of readily realisable securities. The main liability of the Company is the redemption of any shares that its shareholders wish to sell. Assets of the Company may need to be sold if insufficient cash is available to finance such redemptions.

### Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the value of the Company's investment holdings will fluctuate as a result of changes in foreign currency exchange rates. The Company's investment portfolio is partly invested in securities that are registered overseas and the balance sheet can be affected by movements in foreign exchange rates. Revenue received in other currencies is converted to Sterling on or near the date of receipt.

The currency exposure at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 consists of:

	Net monetary assets and liabilities		Non-monetary assets		Total net assets	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Sterling	1,987,449	1,711,031	4,059,351	3,542,461	6,046,800	5,253,492
Euro	51,884	45,619	12,014,184	10,828,196	12,066,068	10,873,815
Swiss Franc	20,632	215,140	5,482,852	4,901,465	5,503,484	5,116,605
US Dollar	(3,939)	52,506	12,652,920	12,331,929	12,648,981	12,384,435
Total	<u>2,056,026</u>	<u>2,024,296</u>	<u>34,209,307</u>	<u>31,604,051</u>	<u>36,265,333</u>	<u>33,628,347</u>

If foreign currency exchange rates at the balance sheet date had been 10% higher or lower while all other variables remained the same the return attributable to shareholders for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 would have increased or decreased by £3,021,853 (31<sup>st</sup> May 2023: £2,837,486).

### Credit risk

Certain transactions in securities that the Company enters into expose it to the risk that the counterparty will not deliver the investment for a purchase, or cash for a sale after the Company has fulfilled its responsibilities. The Company only buys and sells investments through brokers which have been approved by the ACD as acceptable counterparties. In addition, limits are set to the exposure to any individual broker that may exist at any time and changes in broker's financial ratings are reviewed. Credit risk also arises on cash held within financial institutions. Credit risk on cash balances is mitigated by ensuring that cash is held with financial institutions that are at least investment grade credit related.

### Fair value disclosure

All investments are valued using prices for identical instruments in active markets.

## 13 Related party transactions

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited, as ACD, is a related party due to its ability to act in respect of the operations of the investment company. Amounts paid to the ACD and its associates are disclosed in note 4. Amounts due to the ACD and its associates at the balance sheet date are disclosed in note 10. Amounts paid from the ACD and its associates are disclosed in the statement of total return on page nine and explained in note 5. Amounts due from the ACD and its associates at the balance sheet date are disclosed in note 8.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 14 Contingent assets and liabilities

At 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 the Company had no contingent liabilities or commitments (2023: none).

15 Direct transaction costs	2024 £	% of purchases	2023 £	% of purchases
Analysis of total purchase costs:				
Purchases before transaction costs	1,789,017		1,233,731	
Commissions	757	0.04	616	0.04
Taxes & levies	3,328	0.19	1,271	0.10
Total transaction costs	<u>4,085</u>	<u>0.23</u>	<u>1,887</u>	<u>0.14</u>
Total purchases plus transaction costs	<u>1,793,102</u>		<u>1,235,618</u>	
	£	% of sales	£	% of sales
Analysis of total sale costs:				
Gross sales before transaction costs	2,669,104		-	
Commissions	(939)	(0.04)	-	(0.00)
Taxes & levies	(21)	(0.00)	-	(0.00)
Total transaction costs	<u>(960)</u>	<u>(0.04)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(0.00)</u>
Total sales less transaction costs	<u>2,668,144</u>		<u>-</u>	
	£	% of average net assets	£	% of average net assets
Analysis of total transaction costs:				
Commissions	1,696	0.00	616	0.00
Taxes & levies	3,349	0.01	1,271	0.01
Total transaction costs	<u>5,045</u>	<u>0.01</u>	<u>1,887</u>	<u>0.01</u>

### 16 Portfolio dealing spread

The average portfolio dealing spread at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 is 0.35% (31<sup>st</sup> May 2023: 0.28%).

### 17 Post balance sheet events

As indicated in the accounting policies in Note 1, the investments have been valued at the closing valuation point on 31 May 2024. Since that date, the Company quoted price has moved as follows for each share class:

Share Class	Price at 31 May 2024	Price at 24 July 2024
Income shares	148.3p	144.2p
Accumulation shares	158.0p	153.7p

### 18 Dividend distribution tables

Final distribution per share for the year	Income shares		
	Dividend	Equalisation	Distribution
Group 1: shares purchased prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	1.0155	-	1.0155
Group 2: shares purchased on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	1.0155	-	1.0155
Final distribution per share for the year	Accumulation shares		
	Dividend	Equalisation	Distribution
Group 1: shares purchased prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	1.0725	-	1.0725
Group 2: shares purchased on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	0.6692	0.4033	1.0725

## COMPARATIVE TABLES

	Income shares		
For the year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> May	2024	2023	2022
<b>Change in net assets per share</b>			
Opening net asset value per share	134.0p	126.5p	121.5p
Return before operating charges †	16.7p	9.7p	7.1p
Operating charges	(1.4p)	(1.3p)	(1.2p)
Return after operating charges	15.3p	8.4p	5.9p
Dividend on income shares	(1.0p)	(0.9p)	(0.9p)
Closing net asset value per share	148.3p	134.0p	126.5p
† after direct transaction costs of	0.01p	0.01p	0.02p
<b>Returns</b>			
Total return after charges	11.5%	6.6%	4.9%
<b>Other information</b>			
Closing net asset value	£0.4m	£0.4m	£0.4m
Closing number of shares	0.3m	0.3m	0.3m
Operating charges	0.98%	0.99%	1.00%
Direct transaction costs	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
<b>Share prices</b>			
Highest price	151.5p	140.0p	133.7p
Lowest price	133.0p	120.6p	122.3p
	Accumulation shares		
For the year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> May	2024	2023	2022
<b>Change in net assets per share</b>			
Opening net asset value per share	141.7p	132.9p	126.7p
Return before operating charges †	17.8p	10.2p	7.5p
Operating charges	(1.5p)	(1.4p)	(1.3p)
Return after operating charges	16.3p	8.8p	6.2p
Dividend on accumulation shares	(1.1p)	(0.9p)	(1.0p)
Reinvested dividend on accumulation shares	1.1p	0.9p	1.0p
Closing net asset value per share	158.0p	141.7p	132.9p
† after direct transaction costs of	0.01p	0.01p	0.03p
<b>Returns</b>			
Total return after charges	11.5%	6.6%	4.9%
<b>Other information</b>			
Closing net asset value	£35.9m	£33.3m	£30.1m
Closing number of shares	22.7m	23.5m	22.6m
Operating charges	0.98%	0.99%	1.00%
Direct transaction costs	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
<b>Share prices</b>			
Highest price	160.3p	147.2p	139.5p
Lowest price	140.7p	126.8p	127.5p

## **AUTHORISED CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- ❖ comply with the Prospectus and applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures which are required to be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- ❖ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ❖ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ❖ prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

The Authorised Corporate Director is required to keep proper accounting records and to manage the Company in accordance with the FCA's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook and Investment Funds Sourcebook, the Instrument of Incorporation, and the Prospectus. The Authorised Corporate Director is responsible for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Director's statement**

In accordance with the requirements of the FCA's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook and Investment Funds Sourcebook, we hereby certify the annual report.

Jonathan M. Child CA

Anne A Laing CA

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited  
Authorised Corporate Director

## AUTHORISED CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Remuneration of the Authorised Corporate Director

The ACD is subject to a remuneration policy which meets the requirements of the ESMA published Guidelines on sound remuneration policies under the AIFMD as set out in SYSC 19B of the FCA Handbook.

The policy is designed to ensure practices for employee remuneration are consistent with, and promote, sound and effective risk management. It does not encourage risk-taking which is inconsistent with the risk profiles, rules or instrument of incorporation of the funds managed, and does not impair the ACD compliance with its duty to act in the best interests of the funds it manages.

The ACD has reviewed the Remuneration Policy and its application in the last year which has resulted in no material changes to the policy or irregularities to process.

The ACD is required to disclose the total remuneration it pays to its staff during the financial year, split into fixed and variable remuneration, with separate aggregate disclosure for staff whose actions may have a material impact to the risk profile of a fund or the ACD itself. This includes executives, senior risk and compliance staff and certain senior managers.

<b>28 May 2023</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Fixed Remuneration</b>	<b>Variable Remuneration Paid</b>	<b>Total Remunerations Paid</b>
Total remuneration paid by the ACD during the year	86	£3,462,948	£ nil	£3,462,948
Remuneration paid to employees of the ACD who have a material impact on the risk profile of the AIF	18	£1,043,732	£ nil	£1,043,732
Senior Executive Management	14	£779,584	£ nil	£779,584
Control Functions	4	£264,148	£ nil	£264,148
Employees receiving total remuneration that takes them into the same remuneration brackets as senior management and risk takers	0	£-	£ nil	£-

Further information is available in the ACD's Remuneration Policy document which can be obtained from [www.valu-trac.com](http://www.valu-trac.com). A paper copy of the remuneration policy is available on request from the registered office of the ACD free of charge.

## DEPOSITARY'S REPORT

The Depositary must ensure that the Company is managed in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook, the Investment Funds Sourcebook, the Open-Ended Investment Companies Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/1228) (the OEIC Regulations), as amended, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended, (together "the Regulations"), the Company's Instrument of Incorporation and Prospectus (together "the Scheme documents") as detailed below.

The Depositary must in the context of its role act honestly, fairly, professionally, independently and in the interests of the Company and its investors.

The Depositary is responsible for the safekeeping of all custodial assets and maintaining a record of all other assets of the Company in accordance with the Regulations.

The Depositary must ensure that:

- ❖ the Company's cash flows are properly monitored and that cash of the Company is booked into the cash accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- ❖ the sale, issue, redemption and cancellation of shares are carried out in accordance with the Regulations;
- ❖ the value of shares in the Company is calculated in accordance with the Regulations;
- ❖ any consideration relating to transactions in the Company's assets is remitted to the Company within the usual time limits;
- ❖ the Company's income is applied in accordance with the Regulations; and
- ❖ the instructions of the Alternative Investment Fund Manager ("the AIFM") are carried out (unless they conflict with the Regulations).

The Depositary also has the duty to take reasonable care to ensure that the Company is managed in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents in relation to the investment and borrowing powers applicable to the Company.

Having carried out such procedures as we consider necessary to discharge our responsibilities as Depositary of the Company, it is our opinion, based on the information available to us and the explanations provided, that in all material respects the Company, acting through the AIFM:

- (i) has carried out the issue, sale, redemptions and cancellation, and calculation of the price of the Company's shares and the application of the Company's income in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Company, and;
- (ii) has observed the investment and borrowing powers and restrictions applicable to the Company.

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2024

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of VT Dominion Holdings ICVC (“the Company”) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 which comprise the Statement of Total Return, Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders, Balance Sheet and the related Notes to the Financial Statements including significant accounting policies and Distribution Tables. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- ❖ Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 and of the net revenue and the net capital gains on the scheme property of the Company for the year then ended; and
- ❖ Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ❖ Have been prepared in accordance with the Investment Association Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds, the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook (COLL Rules) of the Financial Conduct Authority and the Instrument of Incorporation.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions Relating to Going Concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Authorised Corporate Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Authorised Corporate Director's with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Authorised Corporate Director is responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the COLL regulations

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- ❖ proper accounting records for the Company have been kept and the accounts are in agreement with those records;
- ❖ we have received all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit; and
- ❖ the information given in the report of the ACD and in the report of the Authorised Corporate Director for the year is consistent with the financial statements.

### Responsibilities of the Authorised Corporate Director

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Authorised Corporate Director's responsibilities set out on page 18, the Authorised Corporate Director is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Authorised Corporate Director determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Authorised Corporate Director is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Authorised Corporate Director either intends to wind up the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### *Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud*

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We assessed whether the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations by considering their experience, past performance and support available.

All engagement team members were briefed on relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks at the planning stage of the audit. Engagement team members were reminded to remain alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Company and the sector in which it operates, focusing on those provisions that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The most relevant frameworks we identified include:

- ❖ UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice including Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the IA Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds;
- ❖ the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook;
- ❖ the Financial Conduct Authority's Investment Funds Sourcebook; and
- ❖ the Company's Prospectus.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### *Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)*

We gained an understanding of how the Company is complying with these laws and regulations by making enquiries of the Authorised Corporate Director. We corroborated these enquiries through our review of submitted returns, external inspections, relevant correspondence with regulatory bodies and the Company's breaches register.

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by meeting with management and those charged with governance to understand where it was considered there was susceptibility to fraud. This evaluation also considered how the Authorised Corporate Director was remunerated and whether this provided an incentive for fraudulent activity. We considered the overall control environment and how the Authorised Corporate Director oversees the implementation and operation of controls. In areas of the financial statements where the risks were considered to be higher, we performed procedures to address each identified risk. We identified a heightened fraud risk in relation to:

- ❖ management override of controls and;
- ❖ the completeness and classification of special dividends between revenue and capital.

In addition to the above, the following procedures were performed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material fraud or error:

- ❖ Reviewing the level of and reasoning behind the Company's procurement of legal and professional services;
- ❖ Performing audit work procedures over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business, review of a pre sign-off Net Asset Valuation (NAV) statement for any unexpected activity and reviewing judgements made by the Authorised Corporate Director in its calculation of accounting estimates for potential management bias;
- ❖ Using a third-party independent data source to assess the completeness of the special dividend population and determining whether special dividends recognised were revenue or capital in nature with reference to the underlying circumstances of the investee companies' dividend payments;
- ❖ Assessing the Company's compliance with the key requirements of the Collective Investment Funds Sourcebook, and its Prospectus;
- ❖ Completion of appropriate checklists and use of our experience to assess the Company's compliance with the IA Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds; and
- ❖ Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to supporting documentation.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Company's shareholders, as a body, in accordance with Rule 4.5.12 of the COLL Rules issued by the Financial Conduct Authority under the Open-Ended Investment Companies Regulations 2001. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's shareholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Johnston Carmichael LLP, Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor, Elgin

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### *Issue and redemption of shares*

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited is the ACD and Registrar and will receive requests for the purchase or sale of shares at any time during normal business hours. Instructions may be given by sending an application form by email to [dominium@valu-trac.com](mailto:dominium@valu-trac.com) or by post. Application forms are only available from the Registrar.

The price of shares purchased or sold will be determined by reference to a valuation of the Company's net assets at 4:30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> (or the next business day) of each month.

The ACD has the right to reject, on reasonable grounds relating to the circumstances of the applicant, any application for shares in whole or part. In this event the ACD will return any money sent, or the balance of such monies, at the risk of the applicant.

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

A contract note giving details of the shares purchased and the price used will be issued by the Registrar by the end of the business day following the valuation point. Settlement is due four business days after the trade date shown on the contract note and should be made to the ACD's dealing account.

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

Where shares are sold, payment will be made not later than the close of business on the fourth business day following the next valuation point. Please note that shares sold within three years of purchase will be subject to a redemption charge. This redemption charge is payable to the Company. It is not paid to the ACD or investment manager.

The most recent prices of shares are published on [www.valu-trac.com/dominium](http://www.valu-trac.com/dominium). Neither the ACD nor the Company can be held responsible for any errors in the publication of the prices.

### *Taxation*

The Company will pay no corporation tax on its profits for the year and capital gains within the Company will not be taxed.

### *Value assessment*

The ACD undertakes an assessment of value for the Company each year. This report is available on the ACD's website.

### *Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ("TCFD") reports*

The AFM is required to prepare and publish a product TCFD report for the Company along with an entity level TCFD report. The latest reports can be obtained from [https://www.valu-trac.com/administration-services/tcfd\\_reports](https://www.valu-trac.com/administration-services/tcfd_reports).

### *Risk Profile*

Based on past data, the Company is ranked a '5' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 ranked '5'). The Company is ranked 5 because monthly historical performance data indicates that it has experienced relatively high rises and falls in market prices historically.

