

Equity income using an index-agnostic approach focusing on our best ideas from the full UK market cap spectrum

Performance Data and Analytics to 30 June 2025



#### Investment objective

To provide shareholders with an above average income from their equity investment while also providing real growth in capital and income.

#### Reference Index

FTSE All-Share Index.

#### Cumulative performance (%)

	as at 30/06/25	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years
Share Price	353.0p	1.2	10.2	12.3	23.0	30.9	83.5
NAV	353.0p	2.4	9.8	10.9	15.6	24.5	59.0
FTSE All-Share Index		0.5	4.4	9.1	11.2	35.5	67.3
FTSE 350 Higher Yield	Index	0.4	2.3	9.3	11.4	35.8	90.4

#### Discrete performance (%)

	30/06/25	30/06/24	30/06/23	30/06/22	30/06/21
Share Price	23.0	6.9	(0.5)	(2.4)	43.6
NAV	15.6	13.1	(4.7)	(2.6)	31.1
FTSE All-Share Index	11.2	13.0	7.9	1.6	21.5
FTSE 350 Higher Yield Index	11.4	16.8	4.4	13.8	23.2

Source: Aberdeen, total returns. The percentage growth figures are calculated over periods on a mid to mid basis. NAV total returns are calculated on a cum-income basis.

Past performance is not a guide to future results.

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MethodologyDocuments/AnalystRatingforFundsMethodology.pdf
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#### Morningstar Analyst Rating™



#### <sup>A</sup> Morningstar Analyst Rating™

Morningstar analysts assign the ratings globally on a five-tier scale with three positive ratings of Gold, Silver and Bronze.

#### Morningstar Rating™



#### <sup>A</sup> Morningstar Rating™ for Funds

Morningstar rates funds from one to five stars based on how well they've performed (after adjusting for risk and accounting for all sales charges) in comparison to similar funds.



#### Twenty largest equity holdings (%)

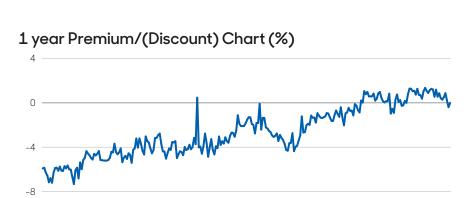
Total	56.0
Ithaca Energy	2.0
Johnson Matthey	2.0
Sabre Insurance	2.0
MONY	2.1
Chesnara	2.1
Barclays	2.2
Berkeley	2.2
Conduit Holdings	2.3
Drax	2.3
Balfour Beatty	2.4
OSB	2.6
TPICAP	2.7
Legal & General	2.8
Petershill Partners	2.8
M&G	3.2
Galliford Try	3.4
Imperial Brands	3.9
BP	3.9
British American Tobacco	4.3
HSBC	4.7

#### Total number of investments

All sources (unless indicated): Aberdeen: 30 June 2025.



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#### Ten largest positions relative to the reference index (%)

Overweight Stocks	Portfolio	Reference Index	Relative
Galliford Try	3.3	0.0	3.3
Imperial Brands	3.9	0.9	3.0
Petershill Partners	3.0	0.0	3.0
M&G	3.2	0.2	3.0
TPICAP	2.7	0.1	2.6
OSB	2.7	0.1	2.6
Balfour Beatty	2.5	0.1	2.4
Conduit Holdings	2.3	-	2.3
Drax	2.4	0.1	2.3
Legal & General	2.8	0.6	2.2

#### Fund managers' report

#### Market review

UK equities ended June largely flat, with large-cap stocks falling back after peaking earlier in the month. Domestic economic data was largely disappointing: inflation fell but remained well above the 2% Bank of England (BoE) target, while there were further signs of weakness in the labour market. There was considerable volatility on global stock markets after Israel and the US attacked Iran in mid-June, but signs of easing tensions in the Middle East helped to restore calm. The FTSE 100 Index rose to a record high of 8,884 points on 12 June after a spike in oil prices boosted the share prices of major energy companies. However, the index ended the month with a total return of just 0.1%. Meanwhile, the FTSE All-Share Index returned 0.5% and the domestically focused FTSE 250 Index returned 3.2% to continue its recent strong run of outperforming the FTSE 100 Index in each of the last three months.

In economic news, the Consumer Prices Index fell back to 3.4% in May from April's 3.5% figure. The BoE left the base rate unchanged at its June meeting but rising unemployment and slowing growth raised the likelihood of a further cut over the summer. The UK economy was confirmed to have expanded by 0.7% in the first three months of the year, but GDP contracted by 0.3% in April due to a combination of higher payroll taxes and concerns over US tariffs.

#### Sector allocation (%)

Total	100.0
Cash	1.0
Consumer Discretionary	1.8
Real Estate	4.5
Utilities	5.0
Basic Materials	5.5
Consumer Staples	9.0
Energy	14.3
Industrials	16.4
Financials	42.4

## Composition of the portfolio by market capitalisation (Ex Cash) (%)

Total	100.0
Other	3.4
FTSE AIM	1.5
FTSE Small Cap	13.0
FTSE 250	36.1
FTSE 100	46.0

#### Key information Calendar

Launch Date	14 Nov 1991
Accounts Published	December
Annual General Meeting	February
Dividends Paid	March, June, September, January

#### **Trust information**

Fund Manager	Thomas Moore
Gross Assets	£192.6 million
Borrowing	(£22.5) million
Yield (Net)	6.5%
Current Annual Dividend Rate (Per Share)	22.9p
Market Capitalisation	£170.1 million
Premium / (Discount) 12 Month High 12 Month Low	(0.0)% 1.3% (7.3)%
Net cash/(gearing) <sup>B</sup>	(12.1)%
Annual Management Fee	0.55% per annum of net assets

#### Fund managers' report continues overleaf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Net gearing is defined as a percentage, with net debt (total debt less cash/cash equivalents) divided by shareholders' funds.





#### Fund managers' report - continued

#### Performance

In June, the Trust's net asset value (NAV) total return was positive and it outperformed its reference index. The holding in M&G benefited performance as the stock advanced on the announcement of a strategic partnership with Dai-Ichi, which is set to provide \$6 billion (£4.4 billion) of inflows. The holding in Sabre Insurance also added to relative returns as the shares responded well to signs that declines in motor premiums across the wider market had stabilised, allowing management to push through price increases in line with claims inflation.

Conversely, the holding in Berkeley Group detracted from performance as it responded negatively to a mild reduction in profit guidance that was caused by tougher trading conditions. The holding in CMC Markets declined after the firm published results that showed higher than expected IT costs, although we believe this investment has the potential to transform the business into a leading provider of technology services.

#### Activity

The Trust started a new holding in Lloyds Banking Group during the month. We expect rapid growth in earnings per share over the next two years as higher bond yields lead to increases in interest income. This is set to drive the company's price/earnings ratio towards a multiple of five, in the absence of share price appreciation. We also see potential for the valuation to re-rate on resolution of the ongoing motor finance issue. We added to the Trust's holding in chemicals group Johnson Matthey, where we see value following the sale of the catalyst technologies business. The remaining business will be highly cash-generative, with some growth optionality. Meanwhile, we reduced our holding in Berkeley. The firm faces a number of growth headwinds due to strained affordability and stringent government policy. We also trimmed our holding in Imperial Brands following very strong share-price performance that has taken its dividend yield back to around 6%.

#### Outlook

UK equities remain cheap relative to other markets, providing the portfolio with a wide range of attractively valued stocks. Our index-agnostic approach is a key advantage, giving us the flexibility to select winning ideas from across the market cap spectrum. This advantage becomes clearer when market leadership broadens out, as currently appears to be the case.

We have carefully constructed the portfolio to deliver a combination of dividend yield, dividend growth and capital growth. We believe that companies generating the cash flow to pay attractive dividends and buy back their own shares can also deliver good capital growth for shareholders. Our focus on valuation points us towards companies with the potential to deliver a valuation re-rating as positive change is recognised. The combination of a rising stream of earnings and an increasing earnings multiple can be very powerful for the share prices of companies undergoing positive change.

Policy uncertainty from the Trump administration will remain a constant in the short to medium term, creating bouts of volatility, but we see the current market environment as conducive to our investment process, generating an unusually large number of attractive opportunities and contributing to the acceleration in performance that we are now seeing.

# <sup>c</sup> Expressed as a percentage of average daily net assets for the year ended 30 September 2024. The Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF) is the overall cost shown as a percentage of the value of the assets of the Company. It is made up of the Annual Management Fee and other charges, It does not include any costs associated with buying shares in the Company or the cost of buying and selling stocks within the Company. The OCF can help you compare the annual operating expenses of different Companies. <sup>a</sup> The 'Active Share' percentage is a measure used to describe what portion of the Trust's holdings differ from the Peference index holdings.

#### Important information overleaf

#### Trust information continued

Ongoing Charges <sup>c</sup>	0.86%
Active Share	75.0%
percentage <sup>D</sup>	

#### **AIFMD Leverage Limits**

Gross Notional	3x
Commitment	2x

#### Capital structure

Ordinary shares	48,176,522	
Treasury shares	1,002,245	

#### Allocation of management fees and finance costs

Capital	70%
Revenue	30%

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Reuters/Epic/ Bloomberg code:	AEI
ISIN code	GB0006039597
Sedol code	0603959
Stockbrokers	J.P. Morgan Cazenove
Market makers	CNKS, INV, JPMS, NUMS, PEEL, PMUR, WINS



#### **Factsheet**

Receive the factsheet by email as soon as it is available by registering at www.aberdeeninvestments.com/ trustupdates

www.aberdeeninvestments.com/aei



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Reference index holdings.

#### Statement of Operating Expenses

Recurring Operating Expenses (£000s)	Year ending 30 Sep 2024	% of NAV	Year ending 30 Sep 2023	% of NAV	% Change (YOY)
Management Fee (inc AIFM)	840	0.56%	1,006	0.63%	-16.5%
Promotional activities	109	0.07%	109	0.07%	0.0%
Directors remuneration	136	0.09%	127	0.08%	7.1%
Depositary fees	19	0.01%	19	0.01%	0.0%
Auditors' remuneration	37	0.02%	65	0.04%	-43.1%
Other administrative expenses	157	0.10%	161	0.10%	-2.5%
Ongoing Operating Expenses (ex indirect fund management expenses)	1,298	0.86%	1,487	0.94%	-12.7%
Expenses relating to investments in other collective investments		0.00%		0.00%	
Ongoing Operating Expenses (inc indirect fund management expenses)	1,298	0.86%	1,487	0.94%	-12.7%
Average Net Asset Value	150,930		158,676		-4.9%
Operating Expense Ratio (ex indirect fund management expenses)	0.86%		0.94%		
Operating Expense Ratio (inc indirect fund management expenses)	0.86%		0.94%		
	Year ending		Year ending		% Change

Transaction costs and other one-off expenses (£000s)	Year ending 30 Sep 2024	% of NAV	Year ending 30 Sep 2023	% of NAV	% Change (YOY)
Transaction costs and other one-on expenses (2000s)	30 3ep 2024	70 OT 14AV	30 3ep 2023	70 UT 14AV	(101)
Transaction costs	456	0.30%	243	0.15%	87.7%
Performance fees		0.00%		0.00%	
Other non-recurring expenses	1	0.00%	27	0.02%	-96.3%
Total	457	0.30%	270	0.17%	69.3%

#### **Current Service Providers**

AIFM	abrdn Fund Managers Limited
Investment Manager	abrdn Investment Management Limited
Company Secretary	abrdn Holdings Limited
Fund Accounting Services	BNP Paribas Fund Services UK Limited
Auditor	Johnston Carmichael LLP
Depositary & Custodian	BNP Paribas S.A. London Branch
Registrar	Computershare Investor Services PLC
Corporate Broker	JPMorgan Cazenove

#### Summary of Current Key Commercial Arrangements

The Company has appointed abrdn Fund Managers Limited ("AFML"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aberdeen plc, as its alternative investment fund manager. AFML has been appointed to provide investment management, risk management, administration and company secretarial services, and promotional activities to the Company.

The Company's portfolio is managed by abrdn Investment Management Limited ("aIML"") by way of a group delegation agreement in place between AFML and aIML. AFML has sub-delegated administrative and secretarial services to abrdn Holdings Limited and fund accounting services to BNP Paribas Fund Services UK Limited.

Further details of the fees payable to the Manager are shown in notes 3 and 4 to the financial statements in the annual report.

The management agreement is terminable on not less than six months' notice. In the event of termination by the Company on less than the agreed notice period, compensation is payable to the Manager in lieu of the unexpired notice period.

No performance fee.

Fee scale			% of NAV	
% of Net Assets				
Directors fee rates (£)	Year ending 30 Sep 2024	Year ending 30 Sep 2023	% Change (YOY)	
Chair	37,500	34,500	8.7%	
Senior Independent Director	28,000	24,500	14.3%	
Chair of Audit & Risk Committee	32,000	30,000	6.7%	
Chair of Remuneration & Management Engagement Committee	28,000	26,000	7.7%	
Director	26,500	24,500	8.2%	
Number of Directors	4	5		

#### Important Information

The Statement of Operating Expenses is designed to help investors understand the impact of operating expenses on financial performance.

 $Operating \ expenses \ are \ NOT \ deducted \ from \ the \ value \ of \ an \ investor's \ shareholding, \ which is \ derived \ from \ the \ share \ price.$ 

The market value (share price) of all publicly traded companies reflects a wide range of factors, including the estimated impact of operating expenses on future financial performance.

The market value of an investment trust may diverge materially, both positively and negatively, from the reported net asset value.

Publication date: 19 December 2024

#### Important information

#### Risk factors you should consider prior to investing:

- The value of investments, and the income from them, can go down as well as up and investors may get back less than the amount invested.
- Past performance is not a guide to future results.
- · Investment in the Company may not be appropriate for investors who plan to withdraw their money within 5 years.
- · There is no guarantee that the market price of the Company's shares will fully reflect their underlying Net Asset Value.
- As with all stock exchange investments the value of the Company's shares purchased will immediately fall by the difference between the buying and selling prices, the bid-offer spread. If trading volumes fall, the bid-offer spread can widen.
- The Company may borrow to finance further investment (gearing). The use of gearing is likely to lead to volatility in the Net Asset Value (NAV) meaning that any movement in the value of the company's assets will result in a magnified movement in the NAV.
- The Company may accumulate investment positions which represent more than normal trading volumes which may make it difficult to realise investments and may lead to volatility in the market price of the Company's shares.
- Yields are estimated figures and may fluctuate, there are no guarantees that future dividends will match or exceed historic dividends and certain investors may be subject to further tax on dividends.
- The Company may charge expenses to capital which may erode the capital value of the investment.
- The Alternative Investment Market (AIM) is a flexible, international market that offers small and growing companies the benefits of trading on a world-class public market within a regulatory environment designed specifically for them. AIM is owned and operated by the London Stock Exchange. Companies that trade on AIM may be harder to buy and sell than larger companies and their share prices may move up and down very sharply because they have lower trading volumes and also because of the nature of the companies themselves. In times of economic difficulty, companies listed on AIM could fail altogether and you could lose all your money.
- The Company invests in the securities of smaller companies which are likely to carry a higher degree of risk than larger companies.

#### Other important information:

An investment trust should be considered only as part of a balanced portfolio. The information contained in this document should not be considered as an offer, solicitation or investment recommendation to deal in the shares of any securities or financial instruments. It is not intended for distribution or use by any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any jurisdiction where such distribution, publication or use would be prohibited. Nothing herein constitutes investment, legal, tax or other advice and is not to be relied upon in making an investment or other decision. No recommendation is made, positive or otherwise, regarding individual securities mentioned. This is not an invitation to subscribe for shares and is by way of information only. Investment should only be following a review of the current Key Information Document (KID) and pre-investment disclosure document (PIDD) both of which are available on www.invtrusts. co.uk. Any data contained herein which is attributed to a third party ("Third Party Data") is the property of (a) third party supplier(s) (the "Owner") and is licensed for use by Aberdeen\*. Third Party Data may not be copied or distributed. Third Party Data is provided "as is" and is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. To the extent permitted by applicable law, none of the Owner, Aberdeen\* or any other third party (including any third party involved in providing and/or compiling Third Party Data) shall have any liability for Third Party Data or for any use made of Third Party Data. Neither the Owner nor any other third party sponsors, endorses or promotes the fund or product to which Third Party Data relates.

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