



# RIT Capital Partners

Investment companies | Initiation | 6 April 2023

## A rare opportunity to buy a unique trust

Last year was a turbulent one for markets and, unusually, there were few places to hide, with nearly all asset classes recording large declines. RIT's NAV also fell in 2022 and this appears to have unnerved some investors who, after 10 years of consecutive NAV uplifts, may have come to believe that RIT's portfolio would never decline in value. This has led to RIT Capital Partners (RIT) coming in for some criticism recently, with some investors claiming that RIT has 'changed its stripes'. As a result, the shares have come under short-term pressure and have been selling at a record discount against recent history of around 23%. We believe this is unjustified and presents a rare opportunity to buy a unique trust with an impressive long-term track record (see page 32).

## Grow and preserve shareholders' capital

RIT aims to deliver long-term capital growth, while preserving shareholders' capital. It invests without the constraints of a formal benchmark, but aims to deliver increases in capital value in excess of relevant indices over time. RIT invests in a widely-diversified, international portfolio across a range of asset classes, both quoted and unquoted. It allocates part of the portfolio to exceptional managers in order to ensure access to the best external talent available.

12 months ended	Share price total return (%)	NAV total return (%)	MSCI ACWI <sup>1</sup> total return (%)	CPI +3% per annum (%)
28/02/2019	6.4	3.7	2.2	4.9
29/02/2020	(5.1)	4.2	6.2	4.6
28/02/2021	12.5	21.2	21.7	3.3
28/02/2022	20.7	19.2	12.5	8.6
28/02/2023	(19.4)	(8.7)	(2.0)	12.1

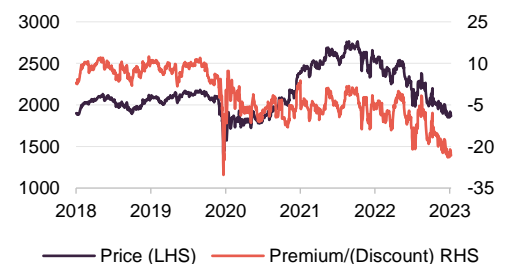
Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note 1) 50% of the ACWI measured in sterling (and exposed to currency risk) and 50% of the sterling hedged ACWI.

Sector	Flexible Investment
Ticker	RCP LN
Base currency	GBP
Price	1,866.0p
NAV	2,432.0p <sup>1</sup>
Premium/(discount)	(23.4%)
Yield	2.0%

Note 1) Last published 2432p as at 28 February 2023.

## Share price and premium/(discount)

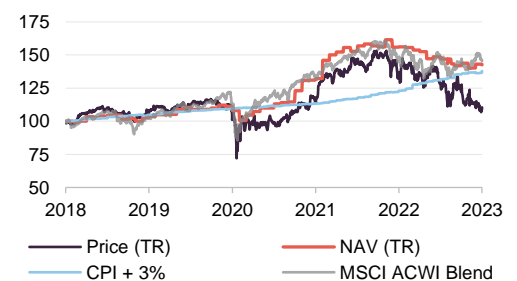
Time period 31/03/2018 to 05/04/2023



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

## Performance over five years

Time period 28/02/2018 to 28/02/2023



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

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<b>Domicile</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>Inception date</b>	<b>1 August 1988</b>
<b>Manager</b>	<b>JRCM (see page 40)</b>
<b>Market cap</b>	<b>2,865.3m</b>
<b>Shares outstanding (exc. treasury shares)</b>	<b>153,453,202</b>
<b>Daily vol. (1-yr. avg.)</b>	<b>197,224 shares</b>
<b>Net gearing</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

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### Analysts

**Matthew Read**  
mr@quoteddata.com

**James Carthew**  
jc@quoteddata.com

**David Johnson**  
dj@quoteddata.com

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## Why is RIT trading at a 23% discount, given its impressive long-term track record?

Over the decade ended 31 December 2022, RIT achieved a return of 140% with considerably less risk than equity markets

In two decades, the trust has never lost money over any rolling three-calendar-year period

RIT Capital Partners (RIT) has an impressive long-term track record of returns. Over the decade ended 31 December 2022, RIT achieved a return of 140% with considerably less risk than equity markets. In recent years it has also outperformed. Over the three years to the end of December 2022, the trust delivered an NAV per share total return of 24.8% compared to 17.7% for its equity performance benchmark (see below). Over five years, the equivalent figures were 40.9% and 35.5%.

The manager's conversations with investors suggest that there are three key factors that have led to the current discount: (i) concerns about a perceived lack of capital protection, (ii) worries about RIT's exposure to private assets and the risk of further NAV declines, and (iii) questions regarding RIT's cost base.

Our conclusion is that much of this fear is misplaced. Each of these issues is addressed in this note, but in summary:

- RIT does not set out to produce absolute returns over the short-term, potentially sacrificing the potential for meaning capital gains in the process. Instead, it has done a good job of meeting its objective of delivering long-term capital growth, while preserving shareholders' capital. As we show on page 10, over the two decades to the end of 2022, the trust has never lost money over any rolling three-calendar-year period, while its average rolling three-calendar-year return over that period was more than 10% per year.
- The managers say that RIT's private holdings are high-quality, established businesses with a strong growth runway. As we explain on page 16, the exposure to private investments is well hedged via the manager's active risk management policy. In addition, exposure to this part of the portfolio has been further de-risked through around £1.1bn of realisations in the last three years.
- As we show on page 36, RIT's ongoing charges figure of 0.89% compares favourably to other vehicles with a similar multi-asset approach. Its annual incentive scheme is subject to a cap of 0.75% of net assets, which has never been reached.

These misperceptions have given rise to some selling pressure, which RIT is now countering with an aggressive share buyback policy (which, in turn, is enhancing the NAV for ongoing shareholders). In time, the discount will narrow, and valuations will recover. If the past is a guide, patient investors will be rewarded.

## Fund profile

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More information is available at the trust's website [www.ritcap.com](http://www.ritcap.com)

74% of monthly market upside but only 41% of market declines

The members of JRCM's executive committee have worked together for over a decade

RIT aims to deliver long-term capital growth, while preserving shareholders' capital. It invests without the constraints of a formal benchmark, and aims to deliver increases in capital value in excess of relevant indices over time.

In practice, RIT aims to deliver healthy participation in up markets with reasonable protection in down markets. Over time this should allow it to compound its asset value ahead of index benchmarks through market cycles.

From RIT's inception to the end of December 2022, it has participated in 74% of monthly market upside but only 41% of market declines. Over that period, a shareholder who invested in RIT at inception has seen a share price total return of 11.2% per annum (NAV return of 10.7% per annum), versus 7.0% for the global equity market.

Whilst the board establishes and oversees risk tolerances for the manager to work within, RIT does not seek to be an absolute return fund and does not perform like one (as we explore further on page 34). There will be periods, such as 2022, where the asset value falls, although over the medium-term, the trust's performance compares favourably to even the top performing absolute return funds in the market.

### Some history

RIT is a self-managed, UK-domiciled, investment trust. It evolved from the Rothschild Investment Trust, which was originally associated with the family bank, NM Rothschild & Sons. Lord Rothschild was appointed chairman of the Rothschild Investment Trust in 1971. It took on its current listed form as RIT Capital Partners Plc in August 1988.

J. Rothschild Capital Management (JRCM), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIT, acts as RIT's manager. It is led by an executive committee who have worked together for over a decade, led by Francesco Goedhuis (chairman and chief executive of JRCM), and including Ron Tabbouche (JRCM's chief investment officer). More information on RIT's management team is given on page 40.

JRCM says that since taking over the helm as chief investment officer over a decade ago, Ron Tabbouche has successfully instilled a highly disciplined investment process that combines optimising the firm's highest conviction ideas within a robust portfolio construction.

The manager's global network also offers an unparalleled source of deal flow across asset classes and geographies. This network traces its origins to the Rothschild family, was cultivated by Lord Rothschild, and has been institutionalised under the leadership of Francesco Goedhuis. He has served as chief executive of the manager since 2014 and is responsible for many of the trust's standout successes in recent years, including its investments in Coupang (see page 12), Acorn, and CSL.

At the end of December 2022, JRCM employed 49 people, comprising a mix of investment professionals and support staff. RIT also has a small wholly-owned subsidiary Spencer House Limited which employs 13 people. It is responsible for the management of the RIT property portfolio as well as the running of the Spencer

House events business in St James's, where Spencer House serves as the company HQ.

## Widely diversified, hard to replicate portfolio

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RIT invests in a widely diversified, international portfolio across a range of asset classes, both quoted and unquoted. RIT is able to invest in less-liquid assets such as unquoted companies thanks to its closed-end structure. It can be patient and ignore the sentiment swings and short-termism often associated with listed equity markets and analysts. Unquoted (private) investments also allow RIT access to a broader range of opportunities. Public markets are shrinking, as companies stay private for longer; some are choosing never to list.

Tapping into outside expertise...

Part of the portfolio is allocated to exceptional managers in order to ensure access to the best external talent available. Many of these managers would be impossible for retail investors to access, and some are closed to new investment by all types of investors.

...helped by an extensive network of connections

The Rothschild 'brand' opens some doors, but chiefly RIT can invest where others cannot thanks to the extensive network of connections that the family and the management team have established over the years. This network is also a valuable source of intellectual capital and co-investment opportunities.

Good risk management is central to RIT's investment approach. JRCM measures both quantitative and qualitative measures of risk and reports on these to the board. It seeks to hedge excessive factor exposures, and manage currency positions and RIT's exposure to significant macroeconomic risk.

RIT measures its investment performance against an absolute comparator (inflation, as measured by UK CPI, plus three percentage points per annum) and an equity comparator calculated as 50% of the MSCI ACWI return in local currencies translated back into sterling and 50% of the sterling-hedged MSCI ACWI.

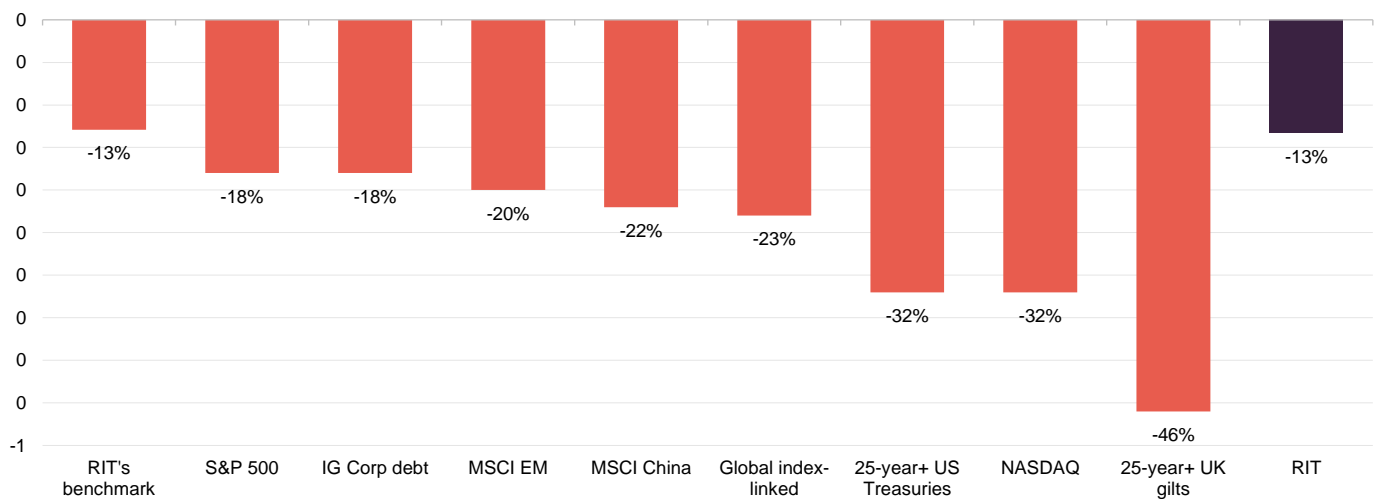
A fuller explanation of RIT's approach to managing its assets is given on page 15.

## 2022 – a turbulent year for almost all asset classes

Over 2022, RIT's NAV per share total return was -13.3%, roughly in line with its equity benchmark which fell by 12.9% over the period. As a result of the discount widening, RIT's share price total return was -21.5%. Inflation was elevated, CPI +3% was 13.5% for the year.

The discount has continued to widen since the year-end, from 11% at the end of 2022 to 23% today. We discuss this and RIT's efforts to tackle it from page 9 onwards.

**Figure 1: Returns for a range of asset classes and geographies over 2022**



Source: RIT Capital Partners, Marten & Co

As Figure 3 shows, 2022 was a very difficult year with poor returns from almost all asset classes and geographies. This was driven by a confluence of factors including the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the soaring energy prices that accompanied it, COVID-related lockdowns leading to a weakening economy in China, rapidly rising inflation, much higher interest rates, and faltering consumer confidence. In his annual report, RIT's chairman noted that it was the first calendar year in 150 years that both US stocks and bonds were down by more than 10% in the same year.

### Drivers of RIT's NAV

As Figure 4 shows, the two main drivers of RIT's NAV fall over 2022 were its allocations to quoted equities and private investments, in both cases following healthy contributions in 2020 and 2021.

**Figure 2: Drivers of RIT's NAV returns over the three years ended 31 December 2022**

	% of end 2022 NAV	2022 contribution (%)	2021 contribution (%)	2020 contribution (%)	Three-year contribution (%)
Quoted equity	35.1	(6.7)	1.2	6.4	(1.8)
Private investments	40.7	(6.2)	22.4	9.8	27.0
Absolute return and credit	20.1	(0.6)	2.1	2.5	4.1
Real assets	1.8	(0.2)	(0.1)	0.5	0.1
Government bonds and rates	0.0	(0.9)	0.3	(0.1)	(1.0)
Currency	1.1	2.1	(0.8)	(0.6)	1.5
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>29.8</b>
Liquidity/gearing <sup>1</sup>	1.2	(0.8)	(1.5)	(2.1)	(5.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(13.3)</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>24.8</b>

Source: RIT Capital Partners. Note 1) This category's contribution includes interest, mark-to-market movements in the fixed interest notes and expenses

## Quoted equity

Within RIT's portfolio, quoted equity took about 6.7% off the NAV over 2022.

The key asset allocation decision in 2022 was a proactive shift away from growth assets to value / reflationary themes. This impacted every part of the portfolio including quoted equities and included selling positions such as Alphabet. The manager also reduced the trust's net quoted equity exposure, which averaged around 38% for the year.

The manager was also active in hedging exposures to high-growth names which experienced the brunt of market declines during the year. This included shorting baskets of highly valued technology stocks, and also shorting listed private equity managers. These efforts helped balance the trust's overall exposure risk and mitigated the impact of broader market declines.

Key performers during the year included Japan-focused managers 3D Investment Partners ([3dipartners.com](http://3dipartners.com)) and Morant Wright ([morantwright.co.uk](http://morantwright.co.uk)) and value-focused strategies, such as Discerene ([discerene.com](http://discerene.com)).

The key detractor from RIT's quoted equity portfolio was its allocation to Chinese managers, which suffered due to the economic headwinds caused by the country's strict zero-COVID policy. As a result, Chinese equities lost ground over 2022, albeit much of this decline has since reversed during the recent rally in Chinese equities, following the country's abandonment of its zero-COVID policy. A substantial portion of this rally occurred in early 2023 and hence is not reflected in the 2022 calendar year returns.

The manager also retains an allocation to biotech, an area the manager believes has long-term potential. A notable example is Pfizer's announced acquisition of Seagen, in which RIT holds a meaningful position via its external equity managers, for \$43bn or a premium of 35% to Seagen's closing price before the announcement.

Quoted equity took about 6.7% off the NAV over 2022

Value and Japanese strategies added to returns

Exposure to China and biotech for their long-term potential despite short-term setbacks

2022's fall in the private investment portfolio needs to be seen in longer-term context

Structural protection within deal structures cushioned the NAV fall

Absolute return and credit were flat despite disappointing result from Eisler Capital

## Private investments

Within RIT's portfolio, its private investments took about 6.2% off the NAV over 2022, with most of the hit coming in H1 2022 during the wider market sell-off.

This figure excludes gains from the manager's hedging activity, meaning the actual reduction in NAV over 2022 attributable to private investments was only about 4%. Moreover, the 2022 performance must be viewed in the context of an exceptional performance in 2020 and 2021. On a three-year view, RIT's private investments added about 27 percentage points to the NAV (without taking into account gains from hedging).

The manager notes the large majority of its private investments benefit from a degree of structural protection, which helped cushion the impact of falling valuations. For example, JRCM will typically invest via a convertible note or a preferred instrument, meaning it is not a pure equity investment as RIT's holding would be treated similarly to a debt instrument in a liquidation scenario. An example is the trust's largest holding, Motive (see page 27), where nearly 80% of the trust's capital was deployed via a convertible debt instrument designed to provide downside protection as well as equity upside.

For the overall book, the decreases in valuations seen over 2022 were largely due to mark-to-market volatility given the de-rating seen in the public markets, as opposed to an actual impairment in the underlying business.

## Other influences on 2022's NAV returns

There was a dispersion of returns within the absolute return and credit portfolio (by design). The overall return from this part of the portfolio was flat. Given the substantial hit to credit markets over 2022 from rising rates and widening credit spreads (with corporate bonds, US Treasuries and UK Gilts all declining by 20-40% or even greater during the year, as shown in Figure 1), this was a decent result. This was achieved by virtue of credit hedges in place within the portfolio and RIT's focus on specialist managers who were not following the herd.

The manager also highlights mixed performance from macro managers, with one manager Eisler Capital in particular lagging during the year which was subsequently redeemed.

From a currency point of view, the manager kept around half of its exposure outside sterling with the largest portion of the non-sterling exposure being to the US dollar. This benefitted the trust during the year due to the strong rally in the dollar during the year. The remainder of the trust's allocation was balanced across a number of currencies, notably the euro and the Japanese yen.



## Why has RIT's discount widened?

As set out above, 2022 was a turbulent year for markets where nearly all asset classes recorded large declines. RIT's NAV also fell in 2022 and this appears to have unnerved some investors who, after 10 years of consecutive NAV uplifts, may have come to believe that RIT's portfolio would never decline in value. This has led to some criticism recently with some investors claiming that RIT has 'changed its stripes'. As a result, the shares have come under short-term pressure and have been selling at a record discount against recent history of around 23%.

We believe that three key factors that have led to the current discount: (i) concerns about a perceived lack of capital protection, (ii) worries about RIT's exposure to private assets and the risk of further NAV declines, and (iii) questions regarding RIT's cost base. Below, we cover each of these concerns in detail and conclude these worries are unjustified, and the current discount represents a rare opportunity to invest in this unique trust at a meaningful discount to the value of its underlying assets.

### Concern #1: Is RIT delivering capital protection?

Recent criticism is undeserved and short-termist

RIT has come in for some criticism lately which we feel is undeserved and short-termist in nature. Impressive returns in past market downturns may have created an impression with some investors that RIT's NAV would never decline even when markets are falling. However, RIT has never aimed to be that sort of vehicle. The trust's objective has always been long-term and therefore its merit should be judged on its long-term returns.

Before 2022, the last calendar year where RIT lost money in NAV terms was 2011

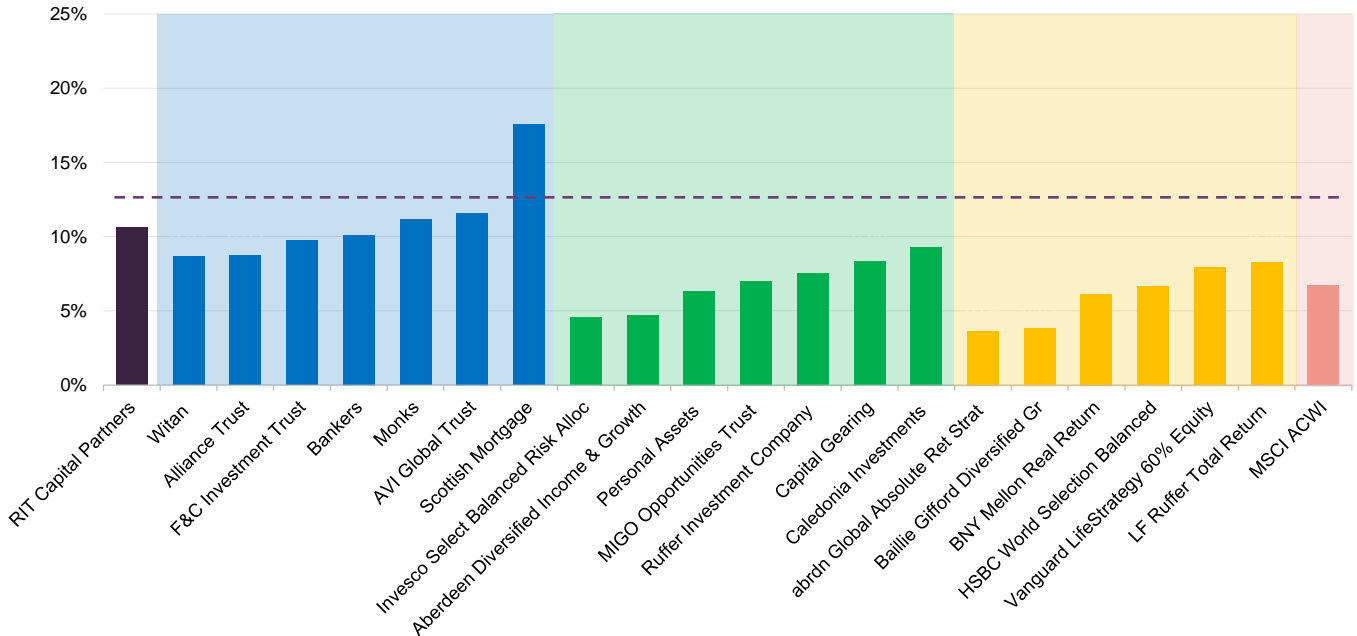
It is easy to see how some investors could have gotten the wrong impression. Before 2022, you have to go back to 2011 to find a year when RIT last lost money in NAV terms over a calendar year, and all the way back to the collapse of the tech bubble over 2001/2002 to find two consecutive years when the NAV fell.

We think it is fairer to judge RIT over longer time periods. To illustrate, we looked at every rolling three-calendar-year period over two decades up to the one ending 31 December 2022. We then compare RIT against other well-known investment vehicles in different categories – both growth-focused and more defensive trusts, as well as broader, diversified, well-known multi-asset funds. The results are shown on Figures 3 and 4.

What stands out, as shown on Figure 4, is that RIT never lost money over any such period over the last 20 years, just one of a handful of funds to do so within this investment company and multi-asset fund universe. Indeed, the worst rolling three-year period was the one that ended on 31 December 2003, which included the tech bubble collapse. Even over this period, RIT's NAV still gained around 6%.

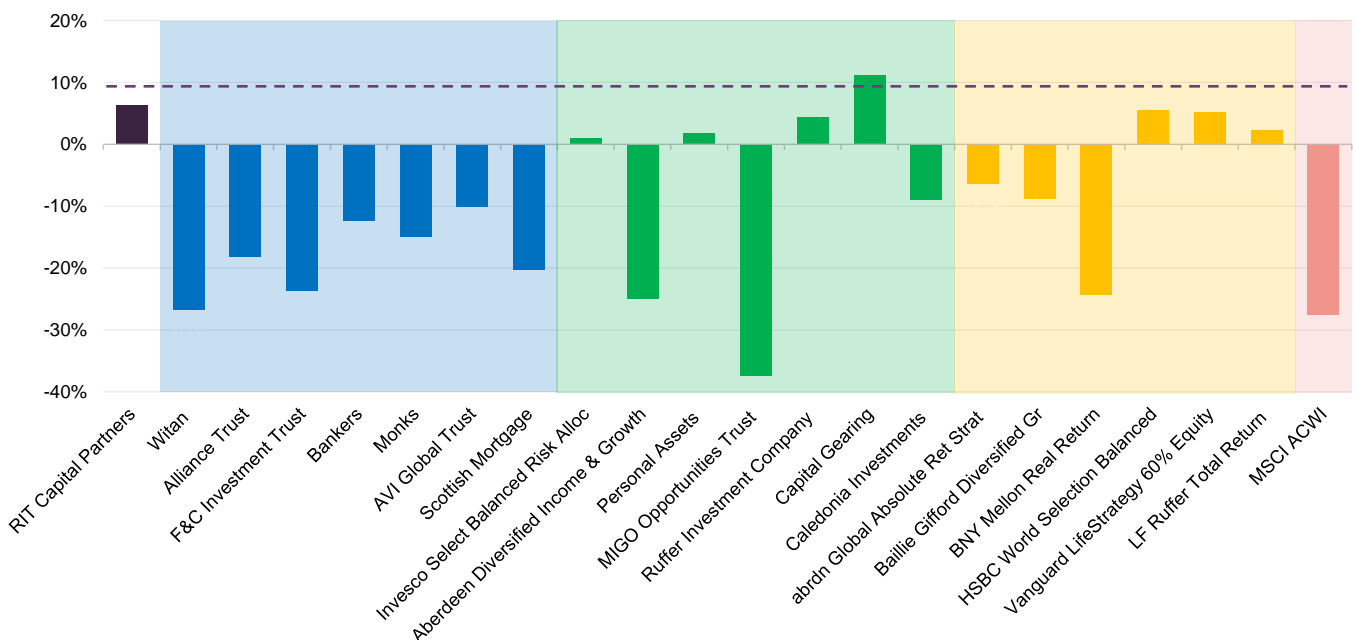
Moreover, as shown on Figure 3, RIT's average returns in this period are also notably superior to both the equity market and to comparators in the flexible and multi-asset categories, and are also at the upper end of comparators in the global growth category. Over this period, RIT's annual compound returns have averaged 10%, matching its long-term annualised returns since inception and over the last 10 years.

**Figure 3: Average discreet annual three-year NAV returns for selected funds using data between end December 2000 and end December 2022**



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note returns are based on daily NAVs with debt at par for rolling three year periods ending from 31 December 2000 to 31 December 2023. Not all of the funds were in existence at the start of the period. Data for Invesco Select Balanced Risk begins in February 2012, MIGO Opportunities in April 2004, Ruffer Investment Companies in July 2004, Baillie Gifford Diversified Growth in January 2010, abrdn Global Absolute Return in January 2008, HSBC World Selection Balanced in January 2009, and Vanguard Life Strategy 60% Equity in June 2011.

**Figure 4: Worst cumulative three-year discreet annual returns over a 20-year period for selected funds, for years ending 31 December**



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

We feel that this unique combination of strong growth, while preserving capital even in challenging markets, delivers on RIT's objective of generating capital growth with an element of capital preservation.

Given the trust's long-term, multi-asset investment approach, it is not surprising there may be individual years where the trust's value declines alongside wider market declines. This was the case during the market sell-off in 2022, as also in 2011 (Eurozone debt crisis), 2008 (global financial crisis) and 2001/2 (dotcom crisis).

Yet even in these periods, the manager's asset selection and top-down risk management overlay (described further on page 16) helped ensure the trust's NAV held up comparatively well and over a medium-term horizon of around three years, the NAV continued to achieve healthy growth.

RIT's investment approach allows it to achieve meaningfully higher returns over the long term

Crucially, in line with the trust's long-term focus, the manager also views these single-year declines as being within an acceptable range of outcomes, in order to achieve the superior long-term growth which is difficult to achieve for vehicles with a more rigid, absolute return mandate. RIT's investment approach allows it to achieve meaningfully higher returns over the long term, as the trust is not forced to sacrifice too much of the upside in its pursuit of capital preservation 'at all costs', while at the same time still achieving a layer of capital protection over any reasonable time period.

The conclusion is that RIT offers an attractive blend of relative preservation of capital in falling markets and access to the upside in rising markets.

## Concern #2: Is RIT's private investments activity 'risky'?

Much of the recent press commentary surrounding RIT has focused on the scale of its exposure to private assets and the potential for further valuation write-downs in this part of the portfolio. We believe much of this concern is misplaced.

New private investments made over the past decade have, on average, generated a 25% IRR

It is worth reiterating that the main reason why the private investments portfolio has increased as a proportion of the portfolio in recent years (see Figure 7 on page 20) is the impressive returns that it has generated. JRCM notes that new private investments made over the past decade have, on average, generated a 25% IRR and a 9.4x multiple of invested capital (direct investments did even better than funds: 32% IRR versus 22% IRR).

Regarding the first point on scale of exposure, RIT is differentiated from other vehicles in terms of its ability to hedge and its disciplined approach to realisations.

In terms of hedging, it is worth highlighting the headline exposure figures for private investments do not reflect the hedges the manager has put in place to offset some of the associated risk. As described on page 16, the manager was active in 2022 in hedging exposures, for example by shorting baskets of listed private equity managers. Thus, the manager is able to proactively adjust exposures to a given theme or asset class, while still holding on to its highest conviction assets to capture their long-term returns generation. Said another way, this implies that even where the manager's exposure to private investments may appear to have increased, the actual market exposure net of the manager's portfolio-level hedging and risk management may be considerably lower.

The manager can also hedge specific individual investments. Coupang offers an important case study of this. RIT initially invested \$50m in Coupang in April 2018 via a convertible debt instrument (similar in structure to RIT's investment in Motive, see page 27). The company IPO'd in March 2021 with shares closing at \$49.25 per share on the first day. Given the strong run-up in price, the manager quickly hedged the position to 'lock in' the gains achieved before IPO, thus mitigating the share price decline post-IPO. Through the end of 2022, the trust has generated \$320m of proceeds from sales of Coupang shares alongside circa \$20m in remaining shares, equating to 7x its original investment of \$50m.

In terms of realisations, the trust has generated around £1.1bn of realisations from private investments in the 3 years ending 31 December 2022. This includes disposals in the direct book, such as the Coupang IPO and the sale of CSL in 2020, and distributions from asset sales within its private fund holdings. This has allowed the manager to meaningfully de-risk the trust's overall exposure to private assets.

Regarding the second point on whether further write-downs are forthcoming, RIT is further differentiated by its use of structured instruments to protect on the downside.

Importantly, the large majority of the trust's private investments benefit from structural protection, which helps cushion the impact of falling valuations. For example, the manager will typically invest via a convertible note or preferred instrument, meaning it is not a pure equity investment as RIT's holding would be treated similarly to debt in a liquidation scenario. An example is the trust's largest holding, Motive (see page 27), where nearly 80% of its capital was deployed via a convertible debt instrument designed to provide downside protection as well as equity upside. Because of this protection feature, declines in public equity markets do not necessarily correspond to the same decline in RIT's private holdings.

From a process standpoint, holding values for RIT's private holdings are set by the trust's independent valuation committee, a sub-committee of the RIT Board consisting entirely of non-executive directors. All holdings are reported at fair value and are subject to audit. The manager regularly back-tests the carrying value of its private holdings and compares these to the proceeds achieved on realisations, as a check for the conservatism of its reported values. Over the last decade, the manager notes the average mark-up achieved from realisations from its direct private investments is 23%, suggesting its holding values are indeed conservative.

Within the funds book, the manager notes the example of Stripe, which raised a new funding round at a valuation around \$50bn in early 2023, compared to \$95bn in its prior funding in 2021. There are two funds in the trust's private funds book which hold Stripe, and in both cases, the funds had already marked down their holding values for Stripe in Q2 of 2022 to a level consistent with where the latest funding round has closed. Notably, this mark-down was done concurrently with the decline seen in public equity markets in the first half of 2022, and was also completed well in advance of the year-end audit cycle for the funds. Other holdings across the private funds book were also proactively adjusted to reflect the de-rating in public markets.

This implies much of the 'pain' is already reflected in the trust's reporting of valuations for its private holdings. More generally, since the rate of increase in US inflation peaked last year, investors are starting to contemplate an end to rate hikes.

There have been false dawns, but it feels to us as though we are closer to an inflexion point in this market cycle.

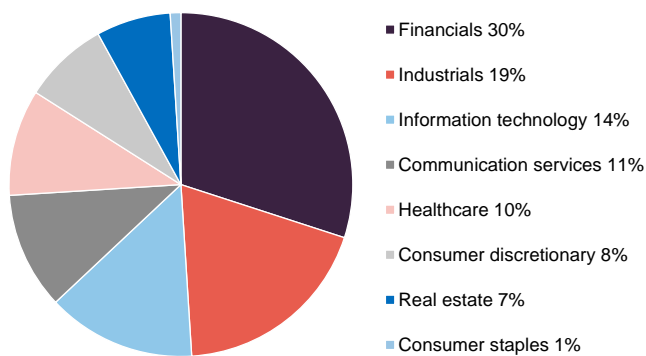
At the end of January 2023, RIT's private direct investments accounted for 11% of its NAV, and the manager has disclosed the majority of the 10-largest direct holdings were profitable. The holdings are concentrated in large, established franchises, often with a strong growth runway ahead. We discuss the five largest positions in more detail on page 27.

The private fund investments accounted for a further 28% at the end of January 2023. We discuss the five largest positions in more detail on page 25.

Figure 5 below shows the composition of RIT's private investments portfolio at the end of December 2022, as disclosed in the trust's annual report and accounts. The direct investments are allocated across a wide range of sectors, with the largest holdings being financials and industrials, followed by information technology, communication services and healthcare.

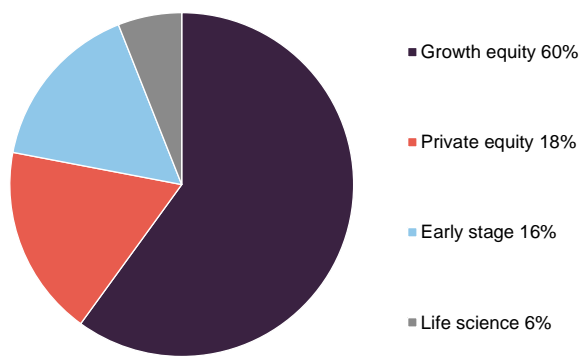
Around 80% of the private fund portfolio consists of later stage growth and traditional private equity strategies. This includes many of RIT's largest fund manager relationships including Thrive, Iconiq, BDT and others. A smaller portion of the book is allocated to early-stage funds, with the balance invested in the life sciences sector.

**Figure 5: Private direct book by sector**



Source: RIT Capital Partners

**Figure 6: Private fund book by strategy**



Source: RIT Capital Partners

### Concern #3: Is RIT's cost base too high?

Amidst a challenging year across asset classes in 2022 and the broader backdrop of market volatility, there has unsurprisingly been a renewed focus on costs across the investment trust sector. In the case of RIT, attention has been focused primarily along two verticals: (i) its ongoing charges, and (ii) the board's approach to remuneration. We cover each of these in turn below.

Regarding RIT's ongoing charges, there has been considerable attention placed on the trust's reported KID figure of 5.4%. The ongoing cost element of the fees paid to the managers of underlying funds was estimated at 0.87%. The bulk of the 5.4% figure consists of performance fees and carried interest paid to third party

managers, such as private equity funds, which are only paid for performance above a hurdle rate.

A notable example is Coupang, where the trust's investment was via a vehicle set up by a third-party manager. Up to the end of December 2022, RIT's investment of \$50m had generated total value of \$340m, a figure which is net of all fees and carried interest paid to the third party manager for introducing the deal.

RIT's own ongoing charges figure was 0.89% in 2022, as reported in the trust's most recent annual report and accounts and calculated in accordance with AIC guidelines. This level of ongoing charges is consistent with that of other multi-asset, capital growth focused investment companies in the sector, and is considerably below the 2% level charged by many alternative investment managers, particularly in the private equity space. As RIT is self-managed via its wholly owned manager subsidiary, JRCM, the trust does not pay a separate investment management fee to its manager.

Remuneration for the manager is designed and implemented by the independent RIT remuneration committee, which is itself advised by independent remuneration consultants. Awards are designed to maximise the links to performance and alignment with shareholders. To reinforce this alignment, there has been a shift away from cash awards to share awards.

Much of the recent commentary has focused on headline cost figures included in RIT's annual report and accounts. However, it is worth noting these are accounting figures and do not necessarily reflect the actual cost incurred by shareholders. For example, the remuneration figures reported for 2022 include awards which did not vest (and therefore no actual cost to the company). Awards are also subject to three-to-five- year deferrals.

Ultimately, all annual incentive awards are also subject to a cap of 0.75% of net assets, a level which has never been reached. This cap is designed to explicitly limit the quantum of any awards to the manager and ensure alignment with shareholders.

## Outlook, positioning and investment process

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In the following pages, we provide an overview of the manager's latest views and its investment process. We also include a summary of the largest holdings within each area of the manager's portfolio.

### Manager's view

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JRCM is cautious and the portfolio reflects this

JRCM is cautious about the macroeconomic outlook, and this is reflected in RIT's asset allocation. It acknowledges that the significant increase in risk free rates has compressed the equity risk premium and feel that this warrants a low net quoted equity exposure. As we show in Figure 7 on page 20, this is at historical lows within RIT's portfolio. JRCM's view on listed equities is corroborated by dividend yields – it says that, absent the expectation of strong earnings growth, yield on equity is too low compared to more predictable assets for it to take on additional risk.

The market selloff and panicky investors are creating opportunities for permanent capital vehicles such as RIT. JRCM says RIT has liquidity available to fund additions to RIT's single stock and credit investments.

The pendulum of investor sentiment has swung too far away from growth. Disruptive, innovative companies can still make headway regardless of listed market valuations. This is especially true if they are backed by private capital, which has liquidity to fund opportunistic bolt-on acquisitions at distressed valuations.

JRCM feels that fundamentals will reassert themselves and indiscriminate selling of growth stocks seen in 2022 without regard to their cash flow potential will cease. It notes that RIT's private investments book are largely established, mature, and well-capitalised companies delivering robust growth. When IPO markets reopen, RIT should see a pick-up in realisations from this part of the portfolio.

JRCM also sees opportunities in areas such as merger arbitrage, structured credit, and equity market-neutral strategies.

## Investment process

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RIT has a truly multi-asset portfolio. The overall aim of the investment approach applied to RIT's portfolio is the generation of asymmetric long-term returns – participating in the upside but incorporating a reasonable degree of capital protection on the downside.

Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the portfolio rests with JRCM but it operates within parameters set by the board and its actions are scrutinised by an internal investment committee.

## Risk management is at the core of the investment approach

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The management of risk is central to the investment approach. RIT does not seek to preserve shareholders' capital by 'hiding' in liquid assets, which offer low or even negative real returns. Instead, it allocates to investment strategies that offer the potential of returns uncorrelated with equity markets, and makes use of other strategies that offer downside protection in the event of market volatility.

A crucial aspect of JRCM's risk management efforts is to reduce the degree to which the portfolio is exposed to overlapping drivers of risk and return. One way of achieving this is to seek to diversify RIT's exposures. JRCM describes this as "fishing in different ponds" for investment returns.

## Six cylinders

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The manager's core aim is to identify unique themes which have the potential for long-term compounding capital growth. This includes areas such as the digital transition, life sciences, emerging markets, clean energy and others. The manager can then deploy its unique, global network to target what it believes are the best assets to capture each theme. These themes are then expressed via investments across six distinctive investment 'cylinders', offering shareholders access to these themes in a diversified manner, and with a prudent risk-management overlay.



These six cylinders are listed below:

- thematic top-down;
- externally managed equities;
- single stocks;
- active currency management
- uncorrelated strategies; and
- private investments.

Each cylinder has different returns drivers which are unlikely to 'fire' at the same time, but if the team get the portfolio construction right, there will always be a part of the portfolio that is creating value for investors.

All new investments are comprehensively analysed by the investment team led by the CIO, in the first instance and then brought to the investment committee for approval.

The committee meets weekly and in addition to scrutinising investment proposals is also responsible for monitoring overall exposures. Close scrutiny of investment performance also serves as a risk management tool in that alarm bells are rung by commonality of strong or poor performance from investments that are not supposed to be correlated.

## Thematic, top-down macro overlay and risk control

The ability to hedge exposures against relatively short-term swings in sentiment is invaluable

The top-down, thematic, macro overlay and risk control element of the investment approach is a key ingredient in RIT's success. Identifying macro themes (and the risk that comes with them) can expose attractive investment opportunities while also protecting the portfolio from potentially extreme market moves. As investment ideas sometimes take years to come to full fruition, the ability to hedge exposures against relatively short-term swings in sentiment is invaluable.

Thematic, top-down matters are a core consideration of the investment committee, which in turn draws on the expertise of both the internal team and JRCM's extensive network. It sets overall risk levels and the asset allocation framework.

When the process identifies potential investment opportunities, the time horizon for these affects how it chooses to express its views. Typically, it would not recruit an external manager to exploit a short-to-medium-term opportunity; instead, it might use derivatives, ETFs or have a basket of stocks curated for RIT.

Tail hedging is used when it is cost-effective to do so

The team does not apply tail hedging consistently to the portfolio and it does not buy such protection when it is expensive. In addition, when opportunities present themselves, it may look to benefit from upside tail scenarios.

Turnover within the core portfolio is low; however, positions are frequently adjusted to accommodate changes in the risk/return outlook for sectors, geographies and currencies.

The turbulence in markets in 2022 illustrated the importance of this 'cylinder' to the management of RIT's portfolio. Part of this approach is to emphasise or de-emphasise parts of the portfolio to compensate for risk in other areas. The private investments part of the portfolio, for example, includes many long-term opportunities which leverage the trends from disruptive technologies. It would not be practical or



productive to trade this part of the portfolio in anticipation of short-term shifts in investor sentiment. To offset this risk, the exposure to this theme within the quoted equity book was kept deliberately smaller, including at times for example being net short the technology sector in the quoted equity book to offset any such exposure in the private investments book. Additionally, JRCM used hedges to manage currency translation risk, and to reduce exposure to particular sectors or companies (such as Coupang, as discussed on page 12).

## Externally managed/advised equity portfolios

This next cylinder has historically been a large part of RIT's portfolio. It can be broken down into long-only funds and hedge funds and RIT publishes the split between the two.

RIT's readiness to commit capital for the long-term and maintain it through market cycles is attractive to the underlying managers. The majority of RIT's external managers are closed to new money, and so a RIT shareholder has access to specialist managers that they would not otherwise be able to reach.

The RIT brand helps open doors. Having RIT as an investor can be perceived as a stamp of approval for a manager, and therefore the best of them are happy to provide capacity to RIT. In addition, the strength of the Rothschild family network and the executive team's connections with the new generation of managers is invaluable. JRCM has close relationships with endowment funds and family offices with a similar long-term approach to investing as JRCM and such relationships provide fertile investment opportunities. RIT is often an early investor in funds and this helps secure favourable terms and build long-term relationships.

An internal funds team helps select potential new managers. It looks for managers with strength of conviction that are targeting excess returns of 7%–10% per annum. As the net equity exposure in RIT is kept within moderate levels, this allows the team to invest in riskier sub-portfolios without compromising its overall risk budget.

The ideal sub-portfolio is low beta and high alpha. The macro/risk overlay is used to limit RIT's participation in market drawdowns and to minimise the impact of tail events.

JRCM does not operate a strict rebalancing policy within the portfolio. It trusts its underlying managers to return excess cash and would terminate the relationship with a manager that it felt was focused on asset gathering rather than investment performance.

## Single stocks

The single stock portfolio is managed internally by a team of two and JRCM highlights that it has become extremely cost effective to manage this cylinder in house. The team also provides a useful function in challenging the stock selection decisions of the external managers.

Single stocks can be used to express themes identified in the asset allocation process. The sorts of stocks in the portfolio tend to be large/mega cap and high-quality businesses. These are also relatively 'safe', easy-to-understand companies. The team does not buy recovery plays, turnaround situations or heavily operationally or financially geared companies. Typically, it is targeting double-digit annualised returns over three-year periods.

The ideal sub-portfolio is low beta and high alpha

## Active currency management

RIT views currency in two ways: first as an asset class in its own right and hence a driver of return, and second as a risk management tool, particularly for a global portfolio at a time of currency fluctuations. This is another set of differentiators between RIT and its competition.

The investment committee keeps the currency exposure under close review and aims to receive a perfect look-through of the underlying currency exposures within RIT's portfolio. Exposures are adjusted with forward contracts.

## Uncorrelated assets, principally absolute return and credit strategies

This cylinder encompasses a diverse range of strategies aimed at exploiting potential sources of alpha uncorrelated with equity markets.

Absolute return and credit are the responsibilities of a dedicated team within JRCM that also draws on the wider Rothschild network.

Uncorrelated asset exposure is a key differentiator for RIT relative to investment company peers.

These funds can have very high levels of liquidity, which could act as a drag on returns, but RIT does not see this as a problem as it leaves the underlying managers free to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

## Private investments

RIT invests in funds as well as direct private investments to gain access to unquoted companies. This part of the portfolio is the responsibility of Francesco Goedhuis who is supported by a team of three.

Funds are selected in a similar manner to quoted equity funds, focusing on managers with good track records and high conviction.

RIT also makes direct co-investments which are typically companies with strong franchises, and with compelling long-term growth potential. RIT is often approached directly with ideas for investments, and the network of relationships that RIT has with likeminded investors globally is also a good source of opportunities.

RIT can act quickly and, given the closed end structure, hold investments longer than most private equity funds. Examples include the Economist, which RIT held for over two decades, and Paypoint, which RIT held for 14 years.

RIT aims to see potential investments early (ideally before anyone else does) and tends not to participate in contested/auction scenarios. It benefits from being able to act quickly and to hold investments for the long-term, whereas most private equity investment outside of RIT is done through fixed term funds.

When an attractive idea presents itself, RIT will seek to partner with an acknowledged team of experts in the field, thereby benefitting from the detailed due diligence that these partners will perform.

RIT is looking for cash-generative, relatively-low-risk private investments

RIT is looking for cash-generative, relatively-low-risk private investments that fall into one of two categories:

- ‘Compounders’ – investments that offer the potential of annualised returns of at least 15% in a base case, and high single digits returns in a worst case scenario. These deals are usually structured using debt instruments with a conversion option, preferred equity with warrants plus a regular cash coupon, and so forth. RIT has a five-to-10-year time horizon when assessing these investments, although it can also hold for much longer periods if it chooses to.
- ‘Multipliers’ offer the potential of about 25% annualised base case returns without leverage. These investments will be free cashflow-positive but possibly not sufficiently so to support structural cash coupons. RIT is looking for return of principal in a worst-case scenario and tends to have a three-to-15-year time horizon for these investments.

## ESG

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JRCM is committed to the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations across its investment analysis, investment management, active ownership and internal operations. It is a signatory to the UN PRI and has created a responsible investment framework and policy to govern its approach to ESG issues.

Analysis of ESG factors helps to deliver enhanced risk-adjusted returns

JRCM believes that carefully integrating the analysis of ESG factors in the investment process helps to deliver enhanced risk-adjusted returns over the long term.

JRCM has identified three central principles of responsible investment:

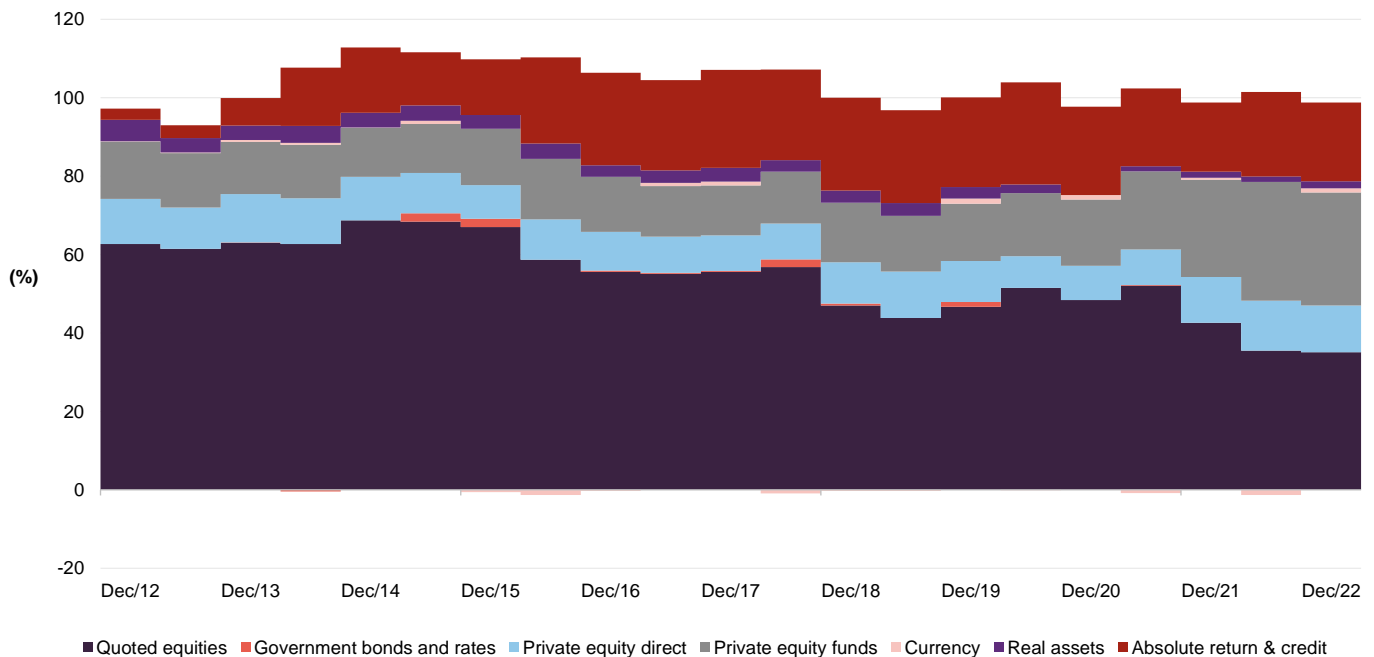
- ESG factors will influence a company’s performance. Therefore, those counterparties who take ESG factors seriously will more often than not produce meaningful long-term returns through the cycles;
- Applying an ESG lens gives JRCM a comprehensive understanding of both financial and non-financial risks, as well as return opportunities; this results in better decision making; and
- Continual engagement with RIT’s counterparties will help protect and enhance shareholders’ capital which is JRCM’s core corporate objective.

The team chooses not to use standardised checklists which invariably become ‘tick box’ exercises and hence do not give sufficient colour or nuance to ESG analysis. Rather, it is committed to a ‘deep dive’ which gives it a comprehensive understanding of relevant ESG factors for that particular investment. Crucially, the depth of JRCM’s relationships with many investee companies gives it leverage and enables it to press for practical improvements. JRCM monitors ESG practices and performance by counterparties, and will raise any issues as part of its general engagement processes with them.

JRCM is working with an external adviser to consider its ability to make additional climate-disclosures in relation to RIT’s investment portfolio, while acknowledging the likely challenges caused by having external funds.

## Asset allocation

**Figure 7: Evolution of RIT's asset allocation over the past five years**



Source: RIT Capital Partners, Marten & Co

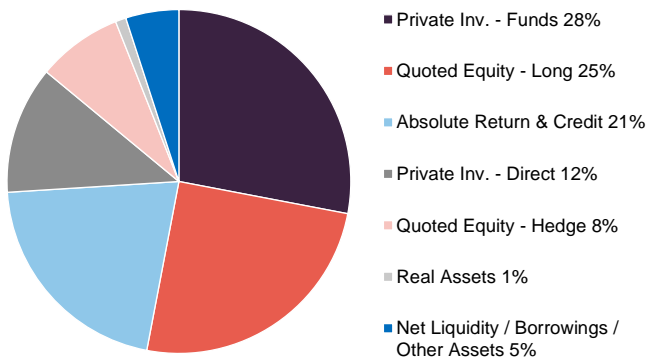
RIT publishes, on a monthly basis, an analysis of the breakdown of the trust's portfolio by type of asset, and Figure 7 below provides an illustration of how this has evolved over the last decade (using data at six-monthly intervals – as at 31 December and 30 June each year). Key takeaways are as follows:

- The allocations are not static. Their evolution reflects both the performance of the different sleeves as well as a conscious decision on the part of the managers to allocate to the areas where they see the best opportunities, while maintaining balance within the portfolio.
- Quoted equities remain RIT's largest allocation, but whilst this previously occupied around two-thirds of the portfolio at the start of the decade, this allocation has roughly halved so that it now accounts for a little over a third.
- The allocation to private equity funds has increased during the last few years. This comes despite RIT achieving around £1.1bn of disposals over the last three years, and is driven primarily by the continued growth in the trust's underlying private holdings. The manager expects its private allocation will rebalance naturally over time, particularly as the IPO window re-opens and many of its larger holdings go public as a result.
- The position in absolute return and credit has increased meaningfully since the beginning of the decade (a sub 2% position is now around 20% today). The bulk of this expansion occurred between 2013 and 2018 and reflects a conscious decision by the manager to increase exposure in these areas, both

as an additional source of diversification and reflecting the manager's increasingly cautious view of broader equity markets.

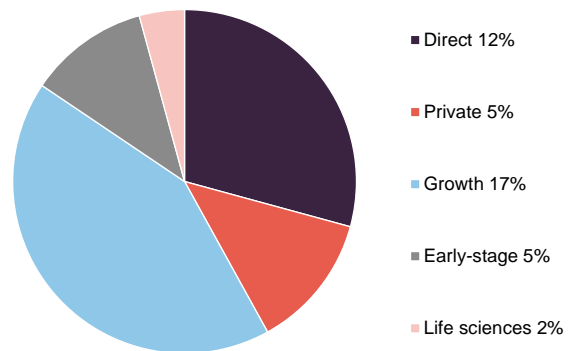
A comparison of Figure 10 (RIT's asset allocation by geography) and Figure 11 (RIT's asset allocation by currency) gives a useful insight to the lengths that the managers go to achieve balance within the portfolio. The portfolio's exposure by geography illustrates that the portfolio is very global in nature, with some 56% allocated to the US (reflecting its growth prospects and very business friendly markets) and just 8% in the UK. Equally, RIT's currency allocation is 24% to the US dollar and 56% to sterling, with smaller allocations to the Euro, the Yen and the Renminbi. This illustrates the manager's flexibility in managing its currency exposure, an important area of risk management particularly at times of heightened volatility in currency markets.

**Figure 8: Asset allocation by asset type as at 28 February 2023**



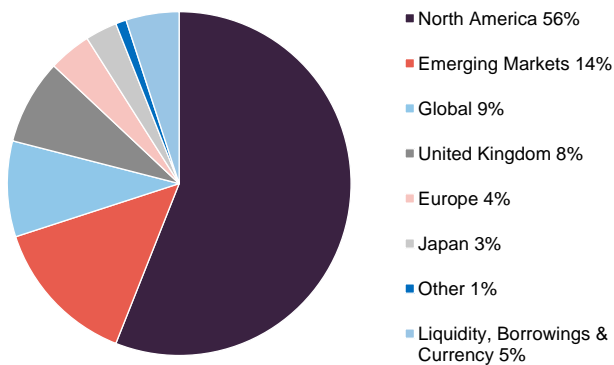
Source: RIT Capital Partners

**Figure 9: Split of private portfolio as at 31 December 2022**



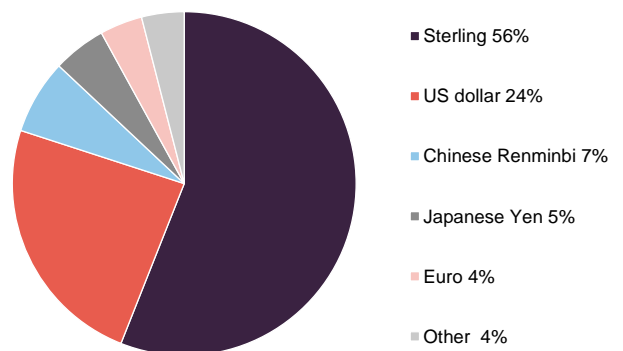
Source: RIT Capital Partners

**Figure 10: Asset allocation by geography as at 28 February 2023**



Source: RIT Capital Partners

**Figure 11: Asset allocation by currency as at 28 February 2023**



Source: RIT Capital Partners

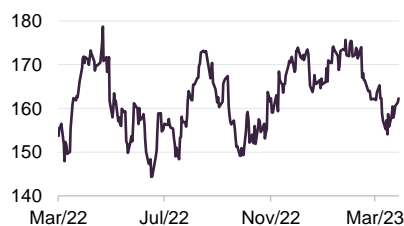
## Largest holdings

Figure 12: Five largest quoted equity positions as at 31 December 2022

	Country	Industry	Value £m	Percentage of NAV (%)
Marsh & McLennan	United States	Insurance brokers	41.0	1.1
Corteva	United States	Fertilisers and agricultural chemicals	39.5	1.1
Builders FirstSource	United States	Building products	35.0	0.9
Helios Towers	Africa	Telecommunication services	33.3	0.9
Thermo Fisher	United States	Life science tools and services	25.9	0.7

Source: RIT Capital Partners

Figure 13: Marsh & McLennan share price (US\$)



Source: Bloomberg

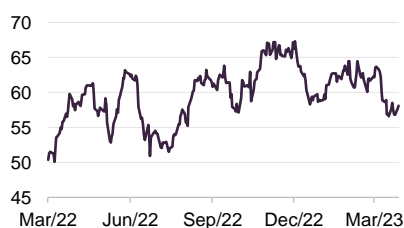
### Marsh & McLennan – global leader in insurance broking

Marsh & McLennan ([www.marshmclennan.com](http://www.marshmclennan.com)) is a professional services firm that offers risk management, insurance brokerage, and consulting services to clients across the global. The company operates through four main segments: Marsh (insurance brokerage and risk management services), Guy Carpenter (reinsurance and capital market services), Mercer (actuarial consulting and investment management services for employers and employees), and Oliver Wyman (management consulting services).

The company has established itself as a leader in the insurance and risk management industry, consistently ranking among the top global firms in its sector. Its investments in technology and data analytics have enabled it to deliver value to its clients through enhanced risk management solutions, while its strategic acquisitions have expanded its global footprint and service offerings. These have collectively contributed to the company's strong financial performance in recent years.

RIT is invested in Marsh & McLennan as a business with strong defensive moats benefitting from mega trends in business risk and complex labour markets, whose variable cost structure provides downside protection.

Figure 14: Corteva share price (US\$)



Source: Bloomberg

### Corteva – major US agriscience company

Corteva ([www.corteva.com](http://www.corteva.com)) is a major American agricultural chemical and seed company that was created in 2019 from the spin-off of DowDuPont's agricultural unit. Its products are designed to maximise yields and increase crop performance, ultimately providing farmers with a greater return on investment.

Corteva has a wide range of seed products that includes corn, soybeans, wheat, canola, and rice, among others, while its crop protection products include herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides, all of which are designed to help farmers protect their crops against pests, diseases, and weeds. Corteva also offers a range of digital solutions to help farmers optimise their operations. These solutions include precision agriculture tools, data analytics, and software platforms that can help farmers make more informed decisions about planting, harvesting, and crop management.

**Figure 15: Builders FirstSource share price (US\$)**



Source: Bloomberg

RIT invested in Corteva as a stable business driven by agricultural (as distinct from economic / cyclical) demand with a strong balance sheet that shows potential in self-help opportunities following a period of mismanagement.

## Builders FirstSource

Builders FirstSource ([www.bldr.com](http://www.bldr.com)) is a leading supplier of building materials, including lumber, roofing, insulation, and other related products, to professional contractors and builders in the US. The company operates in over 40 states and has a network of more than 400 locations, making it one of the largest suppliers of building materials in the country. It has grown both organically and by acquisition in recent years.

Builders FirstSource has a strong focus on customer service and offers a range of value-added services including design and engineering, project management, and installation. It also has made a significant commitment to sustainability and has implemented a number of initiatives to reduce its environmental footprint, including increasing its use of sustainable materials and reducing waste and energy consumption.

RIT purchased shares in Builders FirstSource at less than five times free cash flow. As the largest player in a highly fragmented industry, it has scale advantages and geographic reach, which, combined with innovation, JRCM believes should help the company to grow above its industry peers. JRCM also believes there is a healthy margin of safety from its scale, free cash flow generation, balance sheet strength, and a constructive approach to shareholder returns.

**Figure 16: Helios Towers share price (GBp)**



Source: Bloomberg

## Helios Towers – exposed to high growth markets

London-listed Helios Towers ([www.heliostowers.com](http://www.heliostowers.com)) is a sub-Saharan telecoms tower infrastructure business that builds, owns and operates towers in high-growth countries in Africa and the Middle East (Helios is the leading independent tower company in seven of the nine markets in which it operates). Helios's towers are capable of accommodating and powering the needs of multiple tenants (typically large mobile network operators and other telecommunications providers) and it also offers a range of tower-related operational services (site selection and preparation, maintenance, security and power management).

The markets in which Helios operates share similar growth characteristics: strong GDP growth, a young and urbanising population, and increasing smartphone adoption. As a consequence, these markets are experiencing rapid growth in demand for mobile data, which is driving demand for telecommunications infrastructure. Helios expects that these factors will drive an estimated requirement of 25,000 points of service over the next five years, each of which represents a potential new tenancy for its business. This organic growth opportunity exceeds the size of its portfolio today.

RIT invested in Helios as part of its private investments portfolio, in order to gain exposure to a structurally growing end-market through one of the leading franchises in the region with a strong focus on shareholder capital stewardship. Helios IPO'd in 2019 and RIT remains a shareholder in the company.



**Figure 17: Thermo Fisher share price (US\$)**



Source: Bloomberg

## Thermo Fisher – benefitting from growth in testing

Thermo Fisher Scientific ([www.thermofisher.com](http://www.thermofisher.com)) is a global biotechnology company that provides products for life science research, clinical diagnostics, industrial biotechnology, and laboratory services. Its product portfolio includes laboratory equipment, reagents, consumables, software, and services and it has a large customer base that includes academic and government research institutions, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, hospitals and clinical laboratories, and industrial and environmental testing laboratories. It is benefitting from the growth in clinical testing, which is supported by strong long-term growth drivers.

The company has grown through strategic acquisitions, acquiring several businesses in recent years to expand its product offerings and geographic reach. Some notable acquisitions include the acquisition of Patheon, a contract development and manufacturing organisation, and Qiagen, a provider of molecular diagnostics and sample preparation technologies.

RIT invested in Thermo Fisher as a high quality company geared to attractive end markets whose product and geographic scale drives a competitive advantage. This has fed through to an excellent track record of execution that enables the company to drive a very attractive total shareholder return.

**Figure 18: Five largest long-only fund positions as at 31 December 2022**

	Country	Industry	Value £m	Percentage of NAV (%)
HCIF Offshore	United States	All cap biotechnology	131.0	3.5
Discerene	Global	All cap value bias	118.4	3.2
Morant Wright	Japan	Small/mid cap value bias	108.3	2.9
Springs Opportunities	China	All cap, diversified	92.7	2.5
NE Fund	Global	All cap, clean energy	71.5	1.9

Source: RIT Capital Partners

## HCIF Offshore – global healthcare exposure

Launched in 2012, HCIF Offshore is a hedge fund that invests in healthcare companies globally. The fund's manager is a healthcare-focused investment firm based in the US, with approximately US\$17bn in AUM. HCIF Offshore's strategy involves identifying companies that are developing innovative healthcare products and services, as well as companies that are well-positioned to benefit from demographic trends such as aging populations and increasing healthcare spending. It has a diversified portfolio of investments, with a focus on early-stage biotechnology companies that are developing innovative treatments for diseases such as cancer, rare genetic disorders, and autoimmune diseases.

## Discerene – quality investing in developed markets

Founded in 2017, Discerene is a Connecticut-based long-only investor focused on holistic fundamental research employing value investing principles with a long-term mindset. The team invests in businesses protected either by structural barriers to entry or hard assets, at attractive entry prices when out of favour, offering significant margins of safety. Discerene seeks private equity like structures to make truly long-



term investments in public companies. The firm has built strong relationships with its capital providers with whom it closely shares philosophy, values, and investment horizons.

### Morant Wright – Japanese fund with value focus

Morant Wright is a London-based hedge fund that was founded in 1999 by Stephen Morant and Ian Wright. The fund makes investments in Japanese companies with a disciplined value approach. The team aims to reduce the risk of capital loss by investing in companies with strong balance sheets, attractive business franchises and low valuations. They measure valuations primarily by a company's price to book and enterprise value to operating profit ratios. The fund is well positioned to realise the value in its portfolio as Japanese companies come under increasing pressure to focus on shareholder returns, both due to government policies and increasing private equity and activist shareholder activity.

### Springs Opportunities – RIT's core Chinese holding

Managed by Hong Kong-based Springs Capital, The Springs Opportunities Fund is focused on investment in China. The manager operates a fundamental-driven investment approach, favouring companies with outstanding corporate governance, proven operation and management track record, and exceptional entrepreneurial drive. It also takes a contrarian approach, conducting deep-dive research into out-of-favour areas of the market, with the aim of identifying mispriced assets and key drivers that may change market perceptions.

### NE Fund – leveraging the transition to clean energy

NE fund is managed by Clean Energy Transition LLP, composed of the team formerly managing a similar strategy at London-based manager Lansdowne Partners. The fund targets superior risk adjusted returns in markets serving the transition to a clean energy future. The team brings experience across utilities and energy, engineering, and industrials to form a holistic approach to this new vertical. In addition to strong investor returns, the fund is a strong proposition with an ESG lens as a capital provider to companies lowering carbon emissions.

**Figure 19: Five largest hedge fund positions as at 31 December 2022**

	Country	Industry	Value £m	Percentage of NAV (%)
3D Opportunity	Japan	All cap diversified	130.1	3.5
BlackRock Strategic Equity	Global	All cap diversified	97.1	2.6
HHLR	China	All cap diversified	62.4	1.7
EcoR1 Capital	United States	All cap biotechnology	33.4	0.9
CoreView	China	All cap diversified	28.4	0.8

Source: RIT Capital Partners

### 3D Opportunity

3D Opportunity Fund is a hedge fund managed by 3D Investment partners, a Japan-focused value investor that makes opportunistic investment with a focus on quality.

The manager, which was founded in 2015, engages with the management teams of its investee companies with the aim of releasing the considerable value that is locked up in certain Japanese Corporate entities. Following significant developments including a new corporate governance code, increased focus from the government, shareholder activism and private equity interest, there is renewed optimism in Japanese equity markets. 3D Opportunity is well positioned to capitalise on these changes as the 'Japan discount' unwinds and these companies achieve their potential.

## **BlackRock Strategic Equity**

Launched in 2011, BlackRock Strategic Equity is a circa US\$8bn hedge fund that focuses on long-short equity strategies. The manager seeks to identify companies with attractive valuations and long-term growth prospects, while also seeking to mitigate risk through the use of capital protection strategies (including short selling, options exposure, interest rate and foreign exchange hedges etc.) with the aim of generating consistent returns while minimising volatility through a low net exposure to the market. The fund has a diversified portfolio of investments in sectors such as healthcare, technology, and consumer goods. The fund which is managed by Alistair Hibbert, has a strong reputation for combining rigorous stock-picking with a thorough understanding of the impact of economic cycles on capital markets and the expression of this through factor and risk management.

## **HHLR**

HHLR is managed by Hillhouse, among the leading investors in Chinese equities since their 2005 founding. The team carries out deep primary research in Chinese and related Asian companies with a focus on long-term defendable and monetisable franchises. It leverages its significant firm resources across its public and private equity investing strategies to generate unique insights, gain conviction then invest over the long term with its stable funding base. Hillhouse is renowned for being among the first investors in Tencent Holdings and JD.com, two of China's most successful companies with hundreds of billions of dollars in market capitalisation.

## **EcoR1 Capital**

Founded in 2013 by Oleg Nodelman, a former portfolio manager at BVF Partners, EcoR1 Capital is a fund that specialises in investing in the healthcare industry, particularly in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. Its investment strategy involves identifying companies that are developing therapies for rare or difficult-to-treat diseases. These often have significant potential for growth and can offer high returns for investors, with the benefits that strong intellectual property and the associated competitive advantages that can bring. The fund has invested in companies such as Vertex Pharmaceuticals, CRISPR Therapeutics, and Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, all of which have developed ground-breaking therapies.

## **CoreView**

CoreView is a hedge fund managed by CoreView Capital Management, a Hong Kong based hedge fund manager with approximately US\$2bn in assets. The fund invests in Chinese technology companies that are positioned to benefit from China's rapid economic growth and increasing adoption of technology (a function both of China's growing middle class and increasing demand for technology). These

companies will typically be developing innovative technology solutions for the Chinese market. The fund also invests in other areas such as healthcare and consumer goods. It has a strong track record of successful investments in Chinese technology companies, having invested in such companies as Tencent, Alibaba, and Meituan, all of which have experienced significant growth and success in recent years.

**Figure 20: Five largest direct private positions as at 31 December 2022**

	Country	Industry	Value £m	Percentage of NAV (%)
<b>Motive</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Trucking</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Webull</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Investment banking and brokerage</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Epic Systems</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Health care equipment and services</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Brex</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Diversified financials</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>OneFootball</b>	<b>Global</b>	<b>Media and entertainment</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>

Source: RIT Capital Partners

## Motive

Motive ([gomotive.com](http://gomotive.com)) operates in the transportation logistics sector and provides fleet management services to businesses with the aim of reducing their operating costs, improving their efficiency, and increasing their profitability. Its services include vehicle acquisition, financing, maintenance, fuel management, telematics, and driver safety training. Motive's fleet management software provides real-time data on vehicle performance, driver behaviour, and fuel consumption. This enables businesses to make informed decisions and optimise their operations as well as improving their safety and compliance – the company's telematics data can help to identify and address unsafe driving habits before they lead to accidents. The company also helps businesses stay compliant with regulations and industry standards.

JRCM invested in Motive as a candidate for its multiplier portfolio with a strong management team executing on a growing segment with high margin potential. 80% of the investment is in the form of a convertible note that protects shareholder capital in a downside outcome while retaining equity upside through the conversion feature. The company continues to deliver strong recurring revenue growth and raised \$150m in new equity during 2022 at a 20% premium to its most recent funding round in 2021.

## Webull

Webull ([www.webull.com](http://www.webull.com)) is a stock and fund brokerage platform bringing together traditional investor services on a unified platform with a modern and accessible user experience. The product has seen growing adoption as new and existing market participants seek greater control over their financial affairs.

JRCM sees Webull as an outstanding expression of the growth in self-directed investing made possible by advances in cloud computing and smartphone technology. Webull's strong technical offering supports its leading position among more sophisticated investors in the USA and in expansion markets. RIT's

investment is in preferred shares that rank above prior issues, providing protection in a downside outcome.

## Epic Systems

Epic Systems ([www.epic.com](http://www.epic.com)) is a US software company that specialises in creating electronic health records (EHR) and other healthcare-related software. The company is very well-established, having been founded in 1979, and is now one of the largest providers of EHR software in the world – over 280m patients currently have an electronic record in Epic. Epic's system is able to integrate with a wide range of healthcare systems and providers. This allows Epic's customers to share patient data seamlessly, which can improve the quality of care and patient outcomes. Epic Systems's software can also help healthcare providers manage their operations more efficiently, saving time and reducing costs. The company's software is also designed to be easy to use and accessible to patients, which can help improve patient engagement and satisfaction.

JRCM views Epic's commanding market position and sticky, multi-year contracts as a very strong defensive moat that has supported growth in the business over several decades. This profile places Epic in RIT's 'compounder' portfolio that has the potential to grow shareholder capital ahead of the market with less risk over the long-term.

## Brex

Brex ([www.brex.com](http://www.brex.com)) is a US financial services company serving the needs of modern businesses. It offers expense management, accounting software and financial products, which can help businesses save time and improve their financial management. Brex describes itself as "the number one spend platform for strategic finance teams", aiming to allow its users to control all of their spend in a single unified system.

The company has grown meaningfully under RIT's ownership as maturation of the business has expanded its market position and earned follow-on investment from blue-chip private equity investors.

## OneFootball

OneFootball ([onefootball.com](http://onefootball.com)) is a popular mobile application that provides users with live streaming, highlights, news, and blogs from the world of football. Launched in 2008, OneFootball's app has since become one of the most popular football apps globally, with over 100 million active users in more than 200 countries. The app, which has a user-friendly interface, provides comprehensive coverage with real-time updates on matches, scores, and news from leagues and teams. It also provides users with personalised news feeds based on their favourite teams and players, ensuring that they receive the most relevant and up-to-date information. OneFootball has also become a popular platform for social interaction among football fans, building a vibrant global community and increasing the relevance of the platform to media rights owners and advertisers alike.

The company maintains deep relationships with the clubs, leagues, and federations, as well as media rights owners and advertisers. RIT invested in OneFootball as an emergent 'one-stop-shop' platform for football fans offering many routes to monetisation through advertising, subscription, and pay-per-view, among others.

**Figure 21: Five-largest private fund positions as at 31 December 2022**

	Country	Industry	Value £m	Percentage of NAV (%)
<b>Thrive funds</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Growth equity</b>	<b>168.9</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Iconiq funds</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Growth equity</b>	<b>168.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>BDT Capital funds</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Private equity</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Greenoak Capital funds</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Growth equity</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Ribbit Capital funds</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Growth equity</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>

Source: RIT Capital Partners

## Thrive funds

Thrive Capital ([thrivecap.com](http://thrivecap.com)) is a New York-based venture capital firm founded in 2009 by Joshua Kushner. It specialises in making investments into technology companies – particularly those in the consumer, software, and financial services sectors – focusing on companies that are poised to disrupt traditional industries and create new markets. Thrive seeks out companies with strong leadership teams and a clear vision for the future, and then works closely with them to provide the resources and guidance needed to develop their businesses.

## Iconiq funds

Iconiq Capital ([www.iconiqcapital.com](http://www.iconiqcapital.com)) is a privately-held investment firm, founded in San Francisco in 2011, whose primary focus is on providing investment management services to ultra-high-net-worth individuals, families, and institutions. It manages a range of funds, including private equity, growth equity, and real estate; its investment philosophy is centred around a long-term, fundamental approach to investing. Iconiq Capital seeks to identify high-quality companies with strong growth prospects and to hold these investments for the long term. The firm has a reputation for working closely with its portfolio companies to help them achieve their growth objectives, and has a strong network of industry experts and strategic partners that it can leverage to support its portfolio companies. Reflecting this, it has a diverse portfolio of investments across a range of industries, including technology, healthcare, consumer, and financial services.

Iconiq are investors alongside RIT in Epic Systems, the leading US Electronic Health Records provider, and invested with RIT in the buyout of CSL, a UK-based alarm signalling business which returned 2.6x on RIT's private equity investment in 4 years.

## BDT Capital funds

BDT Capital Partners ([bdtmsd.com](http://bdtmsd.com)) is a Chicago-based investment firm that specializes in providing private equity and advisory services to family-owned and entrepreneurial businesses. The firm was founded in 2009 by Byron Trott, a former vice-chairman of investment banking at Goldman Sachs, and renowned as 'the only banker Warren Buffett has ever trusted', and has since grown into a global investment platform with over US\$20bn in AUM. The firm provides a range of investment solutions, including equity capital, structured debt, and hybrid securities,

and works closely with management teams to drive growth and operational improvements in its investments. BDT understands the unique challenges and opportunities that family-owned businesses face, and has developed a range of tools and resources to support their growth and development – including access to a network of experienced family business leaders, as well as customised solutions for governance, succession planning, and other key areas. Reflecting this, BDT has a diverse portfolio of investments across a range of industries, including consumer and retail, healthcare, industrial and business services, and technology and media.

BDT invested alongside RIT in its Acorn Holdings investment, a packaged coffee and ready-to-drink business holding famous brands such as Keurig, Kenco, Green Mountain, Dr Pepper, and Schweppes that formed part of the 'compounder' portfolio. The investment returned 2x RIT's invested capital for the equivalent of a 20% compounded annual rate of return.

### **Greenoak Capital funds**

Founded in 2010, Greenoak Capital ([greenoak-capital.com](http://greenoak-capital.com)) is a private equity firm that focuses on investing in companies in the technology, healthcare, and consumer sectors. Its latest fund closed in 2021 with US\$1.75bn in commitments and its total AUM is in the region of US\$7bn. The company has a disciplined approach to investing, seeking to identify companies with strong fundamentals and long-term growth potential.

RIT invested alongside Greenoaks in Coupang, the Korean ecommerce company, that went on to generate ~7x return on its original investment or ~\$340m in total value for a \$50m initial investment.

### **Ribbit Capital funds**

Founded in 2012, Ribbit Capital is a venture capital firm that focuses on investing in disruptive financial services companies that have the potential to displace traditional gatekeepers in the space, as well as create entirely new markets. The firm has raised several funds since its launch – its latest fund closed in 2021 with US\$900m in commitments – and has become one of the most prominent investors in private financial services companies. Ribbit Capital has a strong track record of identifying promising businesses and providing them with the support they need to grow and succeed. The firm has a strong network of industry experts and entrepreneurs that it can leverage to support its portfolio companies.

RIT is invested alongside Ribbit in Brex, the corporate expenses management platform, and formerly Credit Karma which returned around 2x RIT's invested capital over a two-year investment until its 2020 acquisition by Intuit.

**Figure 22: Five-largest absolute return and credit positions as at 31 December 2022**

	Country	Industry	Value £m	Percentage of NAV (%)
<b>Attestor Value</b>	<b>Global</b>	<b>Credit, distressed and special situations</b>	<b>148.6</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Tresidor Credit Opportunities</b>	<b>Global</b>	<b>Credit, distressed and special situations</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>ARCM</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Credit, distressed and special situations</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>RIT US Value Partnership</b>	<b>Global</b>	<b>Multi-strategy</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Caxton Dynamis</b>	<b>Global</b>	<b>Macro-strategy</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>

Source: RIT Capital Partners

## Attestor Value

Attestor Value is a circa US\$3bn fund managed by Attestor Capital ([www.attestor.com](http://www.attestor.com)), a private investment firm that was founded in 2012 in London. The firm specialises in distressed debt and special situations investments, focusing on opportunities in the European market. The manager is known for its expertise in complex, illiquid investments, and its ability to create value through active management and operational improvements. The firm's investment philosophy is centred around a disciplined, value-oriented approach. It works closely with management teams of its investee companies to unlock value and generate returns, especially through balance sheet actions.

## Tresidor Credit Opportunities

Tresidor Credit Opportunities is managed by Tresidor Investment Management LLP, a London-based alternative investment manager that uses a disciplined fundamental research process to invest across the full spectrum of tradeable European credit opportunities, including distressed debt, and special situations investments. It focuses on high quality companies' credit which have low probability of impairment driven by collateral, asset value, business quality, liquidity, cashflows, structural, and legal features.

## ARCM

Founded in 2011, Asia Research and Capital Management, or ARCM ([arcmap.com](http://arcmap.com)), is a privately-owned asset management firm, based in Hong Kong, that manages investment vehicles focused on investing in debt and equity securities primarily in Asia. It takes a value-focused approach, focusing on cyclical assets with a cross-capital structure lens. It invests with a strong focus on downside protection, typically in companies with quantifiable, tangible assets.

## Caxton Dynamis

Launched in 2019, Caxton Dynamis is a global macro hedge fund managed by Caxton Associates ([www.caxton.com](http://www.caxton.com)), a privately-held investment firm that focuses on alternative investments in the global markets – principally foreign exchange and credit in developed markets. The firm takes a quantitative approach, using data-



driven analysis combined with proprietary algorithms and models to identify trading opportunities in a strategy typically uncorrelated to other markets. It also employs a risk management framework that is designed to mitigate potential losses and preserve capital.

## The real assets portfolio

The real assets portfolio is made up of a number of properties in St James's, London – principally Spencer House and nearby properties – plus gold bullion, futures and related equities.

Spencer House Limited (SHL) provides premises management for Spencer House (which RIT holds on a long lease) as well as the other investment properties that RIT owns in St. James's. In addition to providing some office accommodation to JRCM, Spencer House is available for hire for events and is open to the public at certain times of the year. These activities are overseen by SHL, which has a staff of 13.

**Figure 23: Gold price (US\$/troy ounce)**



Source: Bloomberg

Gold is seen as a natural inflation hedge, and it has therefore been surprising that it has not performed more, given the marked uplift in inflation seen during the last couple of years. RIT's managers say that, despite this, they continue to see a place for gold in the trust's portfolio. There is ongoing demand from central banks in emerging markets as they seek to diversify away from fiat currencies that recent events have shown can be heavily impacted by sanctions or poor political decisions. The manager also think that gold can serve as a good asymmetric hedge to a potential central bank 'pivot', a reversal of a strong US dollar, or against the growing risk of a broad market dislocation.

## Performance

### Valuation

The valuation of RIT's portfolio is the responsibility of a valuation committee, composed entirely of independent non-executive directors of RIT. It oversees valuations of illiquid holdings. In addition, all year-end valuations are also subject to audit by the company's auditors.

The approach to valuations aims to come up with fair values that are at the most conservative end of the valuation range. Empirical evidence of this is provided by the average 23% mark-up achieved on realisations from the direct private investments book, relative to their undisturbed carrying value.

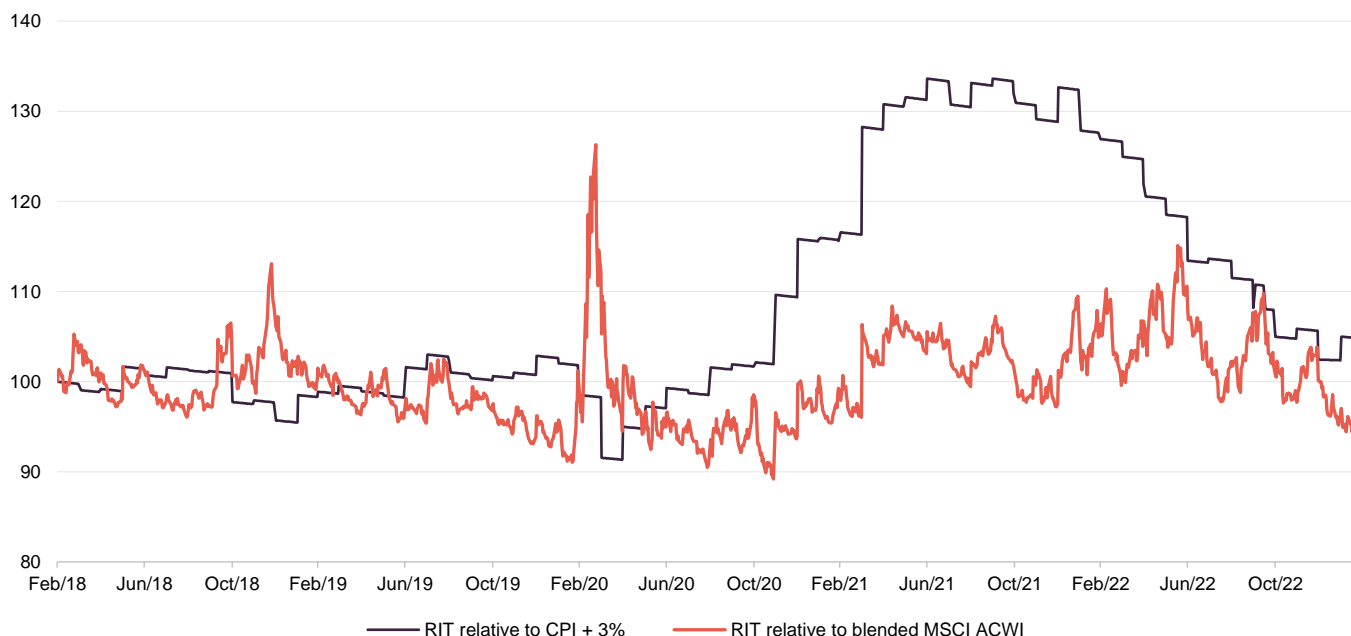
JRCM cites a recent case study of RIT's sale of Infinity (a large direct position), which closed in early 2023. The sale price was at a premium of 30% to Infinity's pre-sale carrying value.

### Five-year track record

As Figure 24 shows, RIT has broadly kept pace with its two performance benchmarks over the past five years.



**Figure 24: RIT versus benchmarks over five years ended 28 February 2023**



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

**Figure 25: Total return cumulative performance over various time periods to 28 February 2023**

	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years
RIT Capital Partners share price	(14.0)	(19.4)	9.5	10.6
RIT Capital Partners NAV	(4.1)	(8.7)	32.0	42.6
CPI + 3%	5.2	12.1	25.7	37.9
Blended MSCI ACWI	(0.4)	(2.0)	34.2	45.5
Peer group <sup>1</sup> median NAV	(0.5)	(2.1)	17.0	21.9

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note 1) peer group is defined below

2022 saw RIT generate a negative NAV return for the first time in many years. However, this was set against the context of a wider global bear market and widespread losses incurred across multiple asset classes and geographies.

We explore the drivers of RIT's returns over 2022 from page 6 onwards.

The diversified multi-asset nature of RIT's portfolio will inevitably lead to deviations between its returns and the 100% equity benchmark of the blended MSCI ACWI index.

Speculation that we have reached 'peak inflation', and by implication the peak interest rates that would follow, is creating equity and bond market volatility.

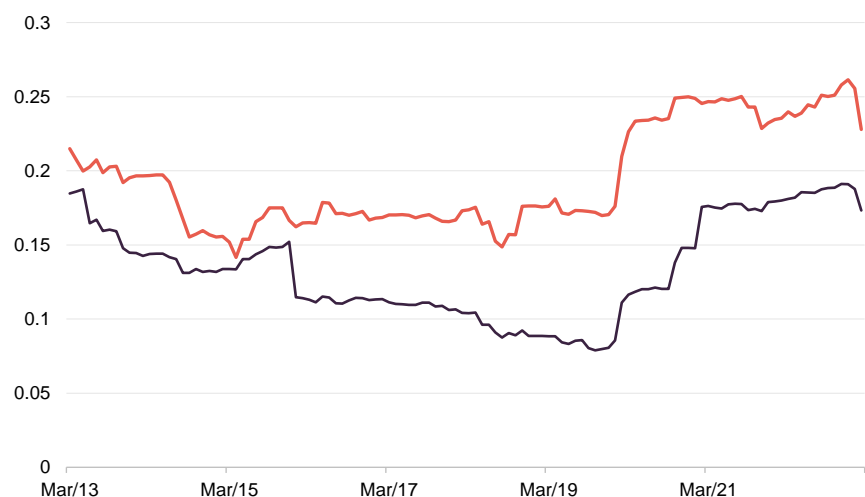
Significant interest rate rises have put upward pressure on discount rates and are calling into question the profitability of heavy indebted companies.

RIT's core aim is to target long-term capital growth, through the cycles, with a degree of capital preservation on the downside. As such, RIT is defined by more than its total returns, as the team also aims to dampen down the degree of risk that RIT's shareholders are exposed to.

There are two straight-forward metrics by which one could judge the RIT team's ability to manage risk. The first is the volatility of the NAV returns (which can be measured by their standard deviation), and the other is RIT's beta, which measures the degree to which RIT's NAV returns are driven by moves in global equity markets (a very useful indicator of how good a job JRCM is doing of diversifying RIT's portfolio).

Figures 26 and 27, which show the respective standard deviation and beta data over a rolling three-year period (sampled monthly), illustrate that RIT has been able to offer investors a historic beta that has remained predominantly between 0.4 and 0.6 relative to global equity markets, with a 10-year average of 0.52.

**Figure 26: Rolling three-year standard deviation**



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

In addition, for the large majority of the last 10 years, RIT has generated a three-year standard deviation less than that of its blended ACWI benchmark, while still generating, on average, a three-year NAV return in excess of the ACWI benchmark and most of its peers. This not only lends to a superior risk-return profile, but it may also make RIT more attractive to more cautious investors.

**Figure 27: Rolling three-year beta**



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

## Peer group

Up-to-date information on RIT and its peer group is available on the [QuotedData website](#)

RIT is a constituent of the AIC's Flexible Investment sector. These funds have investment objectives and/or policies that allow them to invest in a range of different asset types – multi-asset funds, therefore. However, this encompasses a wide variety of funds with very different performance objectives. The full AIC sector would make a poor comparison for RIT.

The list of funds that we have selected for Figures 28 and 29 exclude Hansa Investment Company (a family-controlled trust with a strong bias to Brazil), the tiny Investment Company (which is seeking to reinvent itself as a UK growth trust), JPMorgan Core Real Assets (which has no equity exposure), JZ Capital Partners (a private equity fund that strayed into real estate with disastrous results), Livermore Investments (which has a strong bias to structured finance), New Star Investment Trust (which is run largely for the benefit of ex-employees of New Star), RiverFort Global Opportunities (which provides financing to very small companies), Schroder BSC Social Impact (which aims to make investments that have a positive social impact), Tetragon Financial Group (which invests in a wide variety of alternative investments including an asset management business), and UIL (a split capital company with an eclectic portfolio).

RIT is by far the largest trust within our selected peer group, eclipsing its second-highest peer by £1bn. Thanks in part to its scale RIT also has an OCF in the top third of its peers, made more impressive by the complexity of RIT's investment process, which often comes with a premium cost given the increased resources needed in its execution.

RIT's dividend yield is middle-of-the-pack, while it ranks amongst the most volatile of its peers, which is a combination of the strict risk-targets of some its peers and the recent volatility within RIT's discount. That discount is at the wider end of funds in this peer group, which we feel is unjustified.

**Figure 28: RIT peer group comparison as at 6 April 2023**

	Market cap (£m)	Discount (%)	Dividend yield (%)	Ongoing charge (%)	1 year standard deviation of share price
<b>RIT Capital Partners</b>	<b>2,865</b>	<b>(28.2)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>19.0</b>
Aberdeen Diversified	251	(28.2)	7	1.41	13.2
Caledonia	1,839	(32.6)	2	0.84	25.5
Capital Gearing	1,250	(0.8)	1	0.52	10.6
CT Managed Portfolio Growth	87	(0.0)	0	1.71	14.2
CT Managed Portfolio Income	59	0.9	5.7	2.07	12.0
Global Opportunities	95	(11.3)	1.5	0.9	7.9
Invesco Select Balanced	6	(14.2)	0	1.09	26.5
JPMorgan Multi-Asset Growth & Income	73	(3.2)	4.7	1.07	10.7
Majedie	112	(14.2)	4.9	1.34	28.7
MIGO Opportunities	77	(1.6)	0.1	1.3	12.8
Momentum Multi-Asset Value	42	(2.0)	4.7	2.62	14.8
Personal Assets	1,858	(1.2)	1.2	0.67	6.3
Ruffer	1,173	2.1	0.9	1.07	13.7
<b>Median</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>(2.6)</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>13.4</b>
<b>RIT rank</b>	<b>1/14</b>	<b>12/14</b>	<b>6/14</b>	<b>4/14</b>	<b>11/14</b>

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co.

RIT has the enviable position of having one of the strongest long-term track records amongst these peers. This has been the result of both the trust's flexibility to invest across a range of asset classes, and the unique position RIT is in, given its network of connections within the private equity and debt markets.

RIT has begun to lag in recent months, falling to the bottom of the pack. This is largely due to RIT not adapting the same, aggressive risk mitigation policies of its peers (which can come at the cost of potential upside).

**Figure 29: Cumulative NAV total return performance over periods ending 28 February 2023**

	6 months (%)	1 year (%)	3 years (%)	5 years (%)
<b>RIT Capital Partners</b>	<b>(4.1)</b>	<b>(8.7)</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>42.6</b>
Aberdeen Diversified	(1.0)	1.9	13.8	16.8
Caledonia	1.1	11.6	48.5	68.7
Capital Gearing	(3.9)	(1.2)	17.0	32.7
CT Managed Portfolio Growth	(0.6)	(6.9)	18.0	20.4
CT Managed Portfolio Income	(1.9)	(1.6)	14.4	18.6
Global Opportunities	3.7	12.7	28.7	21.9
Invesco Select Balanced	(5.3)	(12.5)	9.3	10.0
JPMorgan Multi-Asset Growth & Income	6.4	2.8	9.0	(3.9)
Majedie	(0.5)	(3.4)	34.0	23.5
MIGO Opportunities	0.2	(4.2)	14.7	17.4
Momentum Multi-Asset Value	(2.8)	(2.7)	17.0	28.3
Personal Assets	0.6	(5.3)	6.6	n/a
Ruffer	1.7	1.6	40.2	38.0
<b>Median</b>	<b>(0.5)</b>	<b>(2.1)</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>21.9</b>
<b>RIT rank</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>4/14</b>	<b>2/13</b>

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co.

## Premium/(discount)

Over the 12-month period ending 28 February 2023, RIT's shares traded between a 14.1% discount and an 1.8% premium. Over this period, the average discount was 4.8%. At 6 April 2023, the discount (to the end February NAV) was 23.3%.

As set out earlier, RIT's NAV declined in 2022 alongside large declines across nearly all asset classes during the year, including traditionally safe government bonds. In RIT's case, this decline followed a decade long period of positive NAV returns, which may have led some investors to believe RIT's portfolio would never decline in value.

As a result, some investors have begun to question whether RIT has 'changed its stripes'. This change in sentiment, together with wider volatility in the listed investment companies space, has led to a notable widening in the discount at which RIT's shares are trading. As a result, RIT's shares are currently trading at a discount above 12% for only the 4th time in the past two decades, with the previous such episodes occurring in 2003, 2008 and 2013. In each case, the discount had more than halved within a year.

The recent negative commentary in the market has focused particularly on (i) concerns about a perceived lack of capital protection, (ii) worries about RIT's exposure to private assets and the risk of further NAV declines, and (iii) questions regarding RIT's cost base. We covered each of these areas beginning on page 9, which sets out why we view these concerns as unjustified.

It is worth also noting this trend is not unique to RIT, with many listed investment companies also trading at wide discounts, particularly those which are active investors in private markets.

RIT's board views the current discount as an attractive entry point, and not reflective of the fundamentals of the company's portfolio but rather a misunderstanding by the market of the return potential of RIT's unlisted holdings.

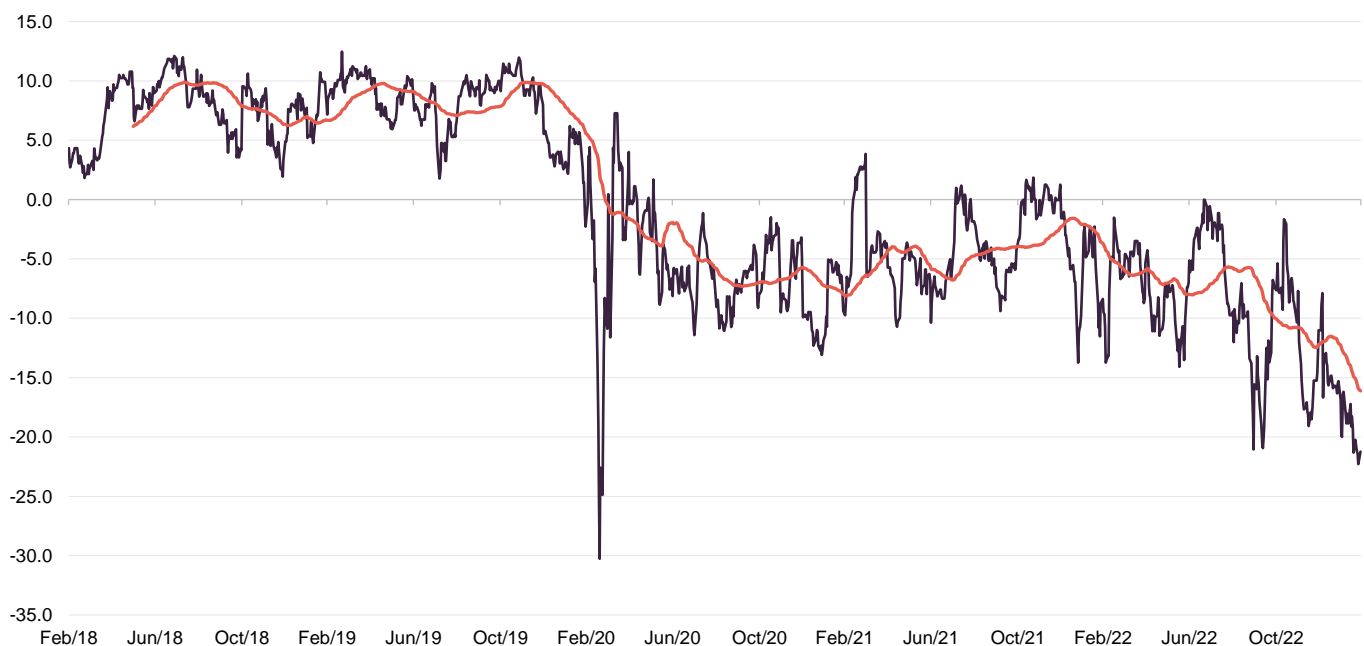
Directors have authorised an aggressive buyback policy, with share repurchases so far in 2023 totalling £51m as of 6 April, 2023.

Directors have also been personally buying RIT shares recently. The chairman, Sir James Leigh-Pemberton, nearly doubled his shareholding in RIT through a share purchase announced to the market on 3 April, 2023. The senior independent director, Philippe Costeletos, also increased his shareholding by around 40% through a share purchase announced to the market on 8 March, 2023.

In addition, the Executive Committee, senior management and staff across the firm have been buying RIT shares, seeing opportunity in what they perceive as a wildly unrealistic discount level. The Rothschild Foundation, one of RIT's largest shareholders, has also seen its shareholding increase to over 10%.

We feel that the market has become overly cautious around any possible write-down in the value of unlisted assets. Even if the predictions of the more bearish analysts were to play out, the trust's current share price would likely still equate to a meaningful discount to NAV, and therefore an attractive entry price given RIT's long-standing track record of success.

**Figure 30: RIT's premium/(discount) over the five years ending 28 February 2023**

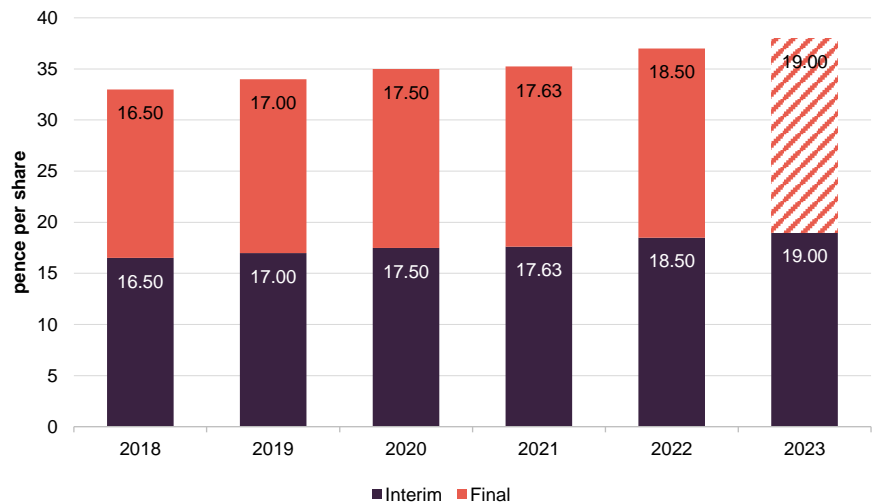


Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

## Dividend

Dividends are paid bi-annually in equal instalments.

**Figure 31: RIT's five-year dividend history**



Source: RIT Capital Partners

RIT declared a most recent full-year dividend of 37 pence per share. The board has also signalled its intention to pay a dividend of 38p per share for the 2023 financial year, a 2.7% increase.

## Fees and costs

See page 13.

## Capital structure

RIT currently has 156,848,065 ordinary shares, of which 3,394,863 are held in treasury. The number of voting rights in the company is 153,453,202. There are no other classes of share.

RIT's year end is 31 December, and its next AGM is scheduled for 26 April 2023. It has an unlimited life.

## Gearing

RIT reported a 6% level of gearing, for both its 2022 and 2021 financial year end. RIT's gearing is achieved via the use of private fixed-rate notes. As of its 31 December 2022 financial year-end, RIT had drawn down £236m, with a further £90m left undrawn.

RIT also makes use of derivatives to protect the portfolio from unwanted exposures. For example, it makes use of currency hedging, as well as using derivatives to

protect unrealised gains (as was the case with Coupang – see page 12) and enhancing returns. As of its 2022 financial year end, RIT had long-position derivatives worth 2.5% of its NAV.

## The management team

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The members of the executive committee have been together for over a decade.

### Francesco Goedhuis

Francesco is JRCM's chairman and chief executive officer, and also leads the manager's private investment strategies.

He joined JRCM as the principal in Lord Rothschild's office in 2010. Previously, he was in New York working for the Economics Nobel Laureate Robert Merton and the former vice chairman of J.P. Morgan, Roberto Mendoza at IFL, commercialising financial academic theory on both the buy and sell sides.

### Andrew Jones

Andrew is JRCM's chief financial & operating officer. He is responsible for the group's financial activities and its operations.

Prior to joining JRCM in 2008, he spent three years in venture capital and four years at Nomura, advising on its private equity investments as well as risk, global corporate development and strategy. A Fellow of the ICAEW, he qualified as a chartered accountant with Deloitte where he spent time in audit before specialising in corporate finance and valuation advice. Andrew is a member of the audit committee of the British Academy.

### Ron Tabbouche

Ron is JRCM's chief investment officer. He joined the company in 2012 having previously been the head of investments for managed portfolios at GAM. At the age of 26, he joined GAM's Investment Committee, and subsequently, he led the overall investment strategy of multi-billion dollar funds across a broad range of asset classes.

Ron is an adviser to the WHAM Investment Advisory Committee, and is also a member of the Investment Committee of the Wolfson Foundation.

### Aron Balas

Aron is head of strategic investments working across the private and public equity investment teams of JRCM.

He previously worked in the Financial Institutions Group within the Investment Banking Division at Morgan Stanley, where he advised major financial institutions across Europe with a focus on banks and asset managers. He started his career at Oliver Wyman in their financial services practice.

Aron has a BA in Economics from Cornell University and an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics.



## Gareth Wilson

Gareth is director of operations, and as such he is responsible for HR, IT, compliance, investor access, investor relations, and Spencer House property & events.

Gareth has wide experience across financial services operations, having spent 13 years with JP Morgan across asset management and investment banking, and previously at Accenture.

Gareth is an Associate of the Institute of Operational Risk Management and gained a degree in Philosophy at the University of Durham.

## Board

**Figure 32: Directors' length of service, fees and shareholding**

	Role	Appointed	Length of service (years)	Fees	Shareholding
<b>Sir James Leigh-Pemberton</b>	Non-executive chairman	April 2019	4.0	150,000	5,855
<b>Philippe Costeletos</b>	Senior independent director	July 2017	5.7	74,500	51,850
<b>Maggie Fanari</b>	Non-executive director	April 2019	4.0	44,667	
<b>Vikas Karlekar</b>	Non-executive director	August 2022	0.7	13,731	993
<b>Cecilia McAnulty</b>	Non-executive director	August 2022	0.7	13,731	
<b>Maxim Parr</b>	Non-executive director	May 2020	2.9	48,000	321
<b>André Perold</b>	Non-executive director	April 2018	5.0	52,228	
<b>Mike Power</b>	Chair of the Valuation and the Audit and Risk Committees	January 2014	9.2	61,167	2,488
<b>Jutta af Rosenberg</b>	Non-executive director	May 2022	0.9	31,962	4,032
<b>Hannah Rothschild CBE</b>	Non-executive director (non-independent)	August 2013	9.7	35,000	15,402,708 <sup>1</sup>

Source: RIT Capital Partners, Marten & Co. Note 1) including 15,390,848 shares held by the Rothschild Foundation

RIT's board is composed of 10 directors, nine of whom are non-executive, independent of the manager and none of whom sit together on other boards, while one member, Hannah Rothschild, is designated as non-independent. One previous board member, Amy Stirling, retired in May 2022. Amy was previously chair of the Audit and Risk committee, and her seat was taken over by Mike Power. Mike is expected to retire as a director at the forthcoming AGM, at which point Jutta af Rosenberg will replace him as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, and Maxim Parr will replace him as Chair of the Valuation Committee. Following Mike Power's retirement at the AGM, the RIT board will be composed of nine directors, of whom eight are non-executive.

## Sir James Leigh-Pemberton

Sir James is Non-Executive Chairman of RIT Capital Partners having joined the Board of the Company as a non-executive Director in April 2019. He is Chairman of the Nominations Committee and a member of the Conflicts Committee, of the

Remuneration Committee and of the Valuation Committee. He previously served as an independent non-executive Director of RIT Capital Partners plc from 2004 to 2013.

Sir James joined UK Financial Investments (UKFI) in October 2013 as Chief Executive and in January 2014 was appointed Executive Chairman. On 1 April 2016 he became Non-Executive Chairman of UKFI. Following the merger of UKFI and UK Government Investments (UKGI), he became Deputy Chairman of UKGI.

Before joining UKFI, Sir James was Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Credit Suisse in the UK, based in London. In this role, he was responsible for developing the Bank's client relationships in Private Banking, Investment Banking and Asset Management in the UK. He was also a member of the Credit Suisse Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) Operating Committee. He joined Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) in 1994. Prior to joining CSFB, he was a Director of S.G. Warburg Securities, where he worked for 15 years.

## **Philippe Costeletos**

Philippe joined the Board as a non-executive Director in July 2017 and became its Senior Independent Director in April 2019. He is Chair of the Conflicts and Remuneration Committees and a member of the Audit and Risk, Nominations, and Valuation Committees.

Philippe has over 30 years' of private investment and board governance experience and is Founder of Stemar Capital Partners, a private investment firm focused on building long-term investment platforms.

Philippe was formerly Chairman of International of Colony Capital, a global real estate and investment management firm. Previously, he was Head of Europe at TPG, a leading global private investment firm and a member of TPG's Global Management and Investment Committees. Prior to that, Philippe was a Member of the Management Committee at Investcorp, a leading manager of alternative investment products. Previously, Philippe held positions at JP Morgan Capital, JP Morgan's Private Equity Group and Morgan Stanley.

Philippe is Chairman of Janus Fertility and a board member of Digital Care, Vangest Group and Generation Home. He is a Senior Advisor to the Blackstone Group. Philippe is a member of the President's Council on International Activities at Yale University and the Yale Centre for Emotional Intelligence Advisory Board. He graduated magna cum laude with a BA with distinction in Mathematics from Yale University and received an MBA from Columbia University.

## **Maggie Fanari**

Maggie is a member of the Conflicts Committee, the Nominations Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

Maggie is the Senior Managing Director, Global Group Head High Conviction Equities at Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, which has a global mandate to invest in public and private companies. She started her career as an auditor at KPMG and previously worked in equity research at Scotia Capital.

Maggie is a Chartered Accountant and a CFA charterholder. She also holds a BBA from the Schulich School of Business at York University and ICD.D certification from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

## Vikas Karlekar

Vikas is a qualified chartered accountant, and a graduate of the London School of Economics specialising in Management Sciences and has held a number of senior finance roles across the financial services industry. He is currently Managing Director of Group Finance at Intermediate Capital Group PLC, a FTSE Asset Manager specialising in private markets, covering all aspects of financial and regulatory reporting, valuation governance, key accounting judgments, financial planning and analysis, and platform and operating model transformation. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Trustees, and Treasurer, of the Pepal Foundation, a charity focused on bringing together NGOs and global corporations to develop leaders and find practical solutions to challenging social issues.

Vikas previously spent 10 years at Barclays in a series of pan finance leadership roles, including Global Finance Controller for Barclays International Division, managing all aspects of financials, key accounting decisions, valuations, driving technology and process improvements, and leading key regulatory relationships. He also spent thirteen years at UBS Investment Bank, in both London and New York in various finance leadership roles. Vikas qualified as a chartered accountant with KPMG.

## Cecilia McAnulty

Cecilia is a qualified accountant and has held senior investment roles for banks and hedge funds. Her investment experience encompasses several asset classes including distressed debt, private equity and credit.

Cecilia is a non-executive director and audit chair of both Northern 2 VCT plc and Polar Capital Global Financials Trust plc and recently resigned as an independent NED of Alcentra Limited, an asset manager wholly owned by Bank Of New York Mellon, specialising in sub investment grade credit. She is also a member of the Industrial Development Advisory Board, part of The Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which advises on grants to UK businesses.

Cecilia has held senior roles at Centaurus Capital, Barclays Capital, Royal Bank of Scotland and PWC. She qualified as a chartered accountant with Peat Marwick (now KPMG) in Glasgow. She has also held a number of charity roles including chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for English National Ballet.

## Maxim Parr

Maxim is a member of the Conflicts Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Valuation Committee.

He started his career at Jardine Matheson and has over 15 years' experience working in cross-border investment between Asia and Europe. Maxim lived in Beijing for well over a decade where, as Founder and CEO of Atlas Capital Group, he worked alongside FTSE 100 and European corporates on their China investment strategy in start-ups, growth capital and buyouts.

Working between Europe and Asia, Maxim is the Executive Chairman of nr2, a cross border technology investment platform.

Maxim graduated with First Class Honours from the School of Oriental and African Studies and was awarded the Stephen K Hassenfeld Fellowship to study at the Hopkins Nanjing Centre of the School of Advanced International Studies.

He is fluent in Mandarin and proficient in Cantonese, Russian, German and French.

## **André Perold**

André is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee. He is Co-Founder, Partner and Chief Investment Officer of HighVista Strategies, a Boston-based investment firm. He is a board member of the Vanguard Group, the global investment company. André was previously the George Gund Professor of Finance and Banking at the Harvard Business School where he also held senior roles including Chair of the Finance Faculty and Senior Associate Dean.

## **Mike Power**

Mike is Chairman of the Valuation Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and Professor of Accounting at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he has written extensively on risk and corporate governance issues. He was a non-executive director of St. James's Place plc from 2005 to 2013 where he chaired the Risk Committee and was a member of the Audit Committee.

Mike has held a number of other advisory positions, including the Financial Reporting Lab Advisory Committee at the Financial Reporting Council, and the Technical Development Committee of the Institute of Risk Management. In 2016 he was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy.

## **Jutta af Rosenborg**

Jutta is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Valuation Committee. She is a qualified accountant and holds a Master's degree in Business Economics and Auditing from Copenhagen Business School. Jutta has held a number of senior roles in group finance, auditing and risk management.

Jutta is a non-executive director of JPMorgan European Growth & Income plc and chair of its audit committee. In addition, she is a non-executive director of Nilfisk Holding A/S and chairs its audit and remuneration committees. She is also a member of the supervisory board of BBGI Global Infrastructure S.A., where she chairs the audit committee.

She was previously a non-executive director at abrdrn plc (formerly Standard Life Aberdeen plc) and NKT A/S, and was also executive vice president, chief financial officer of ALK Abelló A/S and chairman of Det Danske Klasselotteri A/S.

## **Hannah Rothschild CBE**

Hannah Rothschild is a non-executive director of WHAM, a Director of Five Arrows Limited and serves as a Trustee of the Rothschild Foundation.

She is an award-winning writer and filmmaker with a long-standing career in the media. Hannah was the first woman to chair the Trustees of the National Gallery.



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**50 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7AY  
0203 691 9430**

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Registered in England & Wales number 07981621,  
2nd Floor Heathmans House,  
19 Heathmans Road, London SW6 4TJ

[Edward Marten \(em@quoteddata.com\)](mailto:em@quoteddata.com)

[David McFadyen \(dm@quoteddata.com\)](mailto:dm@quoteddata.com)

[Colin Edge \(ce@quoteddata.com\)](mailto:ce@quoteddata.com)

[Nick Potts \(np@quoteddata.com\)](mailto:np@quoteddata.com)

### INVESTMENT COMPANY RESEARCH:

[Matthew Read \(mr@quoteddata.com\)](mailto:mr@quoteddata.com)

[James Carthew \(jc@quoteddata.com\)](mailto:jc@quoteddata.com)

[David Johnson \(dj@quoteddat.com\)](mailto:dj@quoteddat.com)

[Richard Williams \(rw@quoteddata.com\)](mailto:rw@quoteddata.com)