

# LIONTRUST UK GROWTH FUND

Interim Report &  
Financial Statements (unaudited)

For the period:  
**1 January 2024**  
to  
**30 June 2024**

**Managed in accordance with**  
The Liontrust Economic Advantage

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Liontrust Fund Partners LLP

**LIONTRUST** 

## Contents

Management and Administration*	1
Manager's Investment Report*	3
Authorised Status*	11
Certification of Financial Statements by Partners of the Manager	11
Performance Tables	12
Portfolio Statement*	13
Financial Statements:	
Statement of Total Return	17
Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders	17
Balance Sheet	18
Securities Financing Transactions	19
Additional information	22

\* Collectively, these comprise the Authorised Fund Manager's Report (from herein referred to as the Manager's Report).

## Management and Administration

### **Authorised Fund Manager ("Manager")**

Liontrust Fund Partners LLP  
2 Savoy Court  
London WC2R 0EZ

Administration and Dealing enquiries 0344 892 0349  
Administration and Dealing facsimile 0207 964 2562  
Email [Liontrustadmin@bnymellon.com](mailto:Liontrustadmin@bnymellon.com)  
Website [www.liontrust.co.uk](http://www.liontrust.co.uk)

The Manager of Liontrust UK Growth Fund (the "Fund") is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") and is a member of the Investment Association. The ultimate holding company of the Manager is Liontrust Asset Management PLC ("LAM", "Liontrust" or the "Group") which is incorporated in England.

### **Investment Adviser**

Liontrust Investment Partners LLP  
2 Savoy Court  
London WC2R 0EZ

Authorised and regulated by the FCA.

### **Trustee**

The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited  
160 Queen Victoria Street  
London EC4V 4LA

Authorised by Prudential Regulation Authority ("PRA") and regulated by the FCA and the PRA.

### **Independent Auditor**

KPMG LLP  
15 Canada Square  
Canary Wharf  
London  
E14 5GL

### **Administrator and Registrar**

The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited  
160 Queen Victoria Street  
London  
EC4V 4LA

Authorised by PRA and regulated by the FCA and the PRA.

# Liontrust UK Growth Fund

### **Liontrust Asset Management PLC**

Liontrust Asset Management PLC (Company) is a specialist fund management company with £27.0 billion in assets under management as at 30 June 2024 and that takes pride in having a distinct culture and approach to managing money. What makes Liontrust distinct?

- The Company launched in 1995 and was listed on the London Stock Exchange in 1999.
- We are an independent business with no corporate parent, our head office is on the Strand in London and we have offices in Edinburgh and Luxembourg.
- We believe in the benefits of active fund management over the long term and all our fund managers are truly active.
- We focus only on those areas of investment in which we have particular expertise. We have eight fund management teams investing in Global Equities, Global Fixed Income, Sustainable Investment and Multi-Asset portfolios and funds.
- Our fund managers are independent thinkers and have the courage of their convictions in making investment decisions.
- Our fund managers have the freedom to manage their portfolios according to their own investment processes and market views without being distracted by other day-to-day aspects of running a fund management company.
- Each fund management team applies distinct and rigorous investment processes to the management of funds and portfolios that ensure the way we manage money is predictable and repeatable.
- Staying true to their documented investment processes helps to create an in-built risk control for our fund managers, especially in more challenging environments, by preventing them from investing in companies and funds for the wrong reasons.
- We aim to treat investors, clients, members, employees, suppliers and other stakeholders fairly and with respect. We are committed to the Consumer Duty outcomes and rules as well as the Principles of Treating Customers Fairly (TCF), and they are central to how we conduct business across all our functions.

Liontrust Asset Management PLC is the parent company of Liontrust Investment Partners LLP, Liontrust Fund Partners LLP and Liontrust Portfolio Management Limited which are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Liontrust Asset Management PLC is also the parent company of Liontrust Europe S.A. which is regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier in Luxembourg. All members of the Liontrust Group sell only Liontrust Group products.

### **Conflict in Ukraine**

The ongoing war in Ukraine and the resultant geopolitical tensions including sanctions imposed on Russia and retaliatory action taken by Russia against foreign investors, continue to impact global financial markets (including stock, currency and commodities markets). Economic sanctions and the fallout from the conflict are affecting companies operating in a wide variety of sectors worldwide, including energy, financial services and defence, amongst others. As a result, the performance of the Fund may be negatively impacted even if they have no direct exposure to the regions involved in the conflict.

## Manager's Investment Report

### Investment Objective

The Fund aims to deliver capital growth over the long term (5 years or more).

### Investment Policy

The Fund will invest at least 90% in companies which are incorporated, domiciled or conduct significant business in the United Kingdom (UK).

The Fund will typically invest 90% (minimum 80%) in equities or equity related derivatives but may also invest in collective investment schemes (up to 10% of Fund assets), corporate debt securities, other transferable securities, money market instruments, warrants, cash and deposits.

The Fund is permitted to use derivatives for the purposes of efficient portfolio management and for investment purposes. Please refer to the Derivatives sections of the Prospectus.

### The Team

The award-winning Economic Advantage team have an average industry experience of 21 years. Anthony Cross joined Liontrust from Schroders in 1997 and was joined by Julian Fosh in 2008. Julian had previously managed funds at Scottish Amicable Investment Managers, Brittanica Investment Managers, Scottish Friendly Assurance Society and Saracen Fund Managers. Victoria Stevens and Matt Tonge joined the team in 2015. Victoria was previously Deputy Head of Corporate Broking at FinnCap, while Matt had spent nine years on the Liontrust dealing desk, latterly winning an industry award for his work in mid and small cap stocks. Alex Wedge joined the team in March 2020 from N+1 Singer, where he had spent over seven years, latterly as a senior member of the equity sales team. Natalie Bell joined the team in August 2022, having previously been a member of the Liontrust Responsible Capitalism team where she led engagement with investee companies. Alex Game joined the team in May 2024 from Unicorn Asset Management, where he had spent nearly 10 years and where he co-managed a range of funds including two UK equity funds and an AIM portfolio service.

### The Process

The process seeks to identify companies that possess intangible assets which produce barriers to competition and provide a durable competitive advantage that allows the companies to defy industry competition and sustain a higher than average level of profitability for longer than expected.

In the fund managers' experience, the hardest characteristics for competitors to replicate are three classes of intangible asset: intellectual property, strong distribution channels and significant recurring business.

Other less powerful but nonetheless important intangible strengths include franchises and licences; good customer databases and relationships; effective procedures and formats; strong brands and company culture.

These intangible assets produce barriers to competition, protect margins and are capable, in the opinion of the fund managers' of reaping a financial advantage in the form of cash flow returns in excess of the cost of capital. A company that consistently generates excess cash flow returns will benefit from compounding as it reinvests this excess return into the business.

Every smaller company held in the Economic Advantage funds has at least 3% of its equity held by senior management and main board directors. Companies are also assessed for employee ownership below the senior management and board and changes in equity ownership are monitored.

### Manager's Investment Report (continued)

#### Performance of the Fund

In the six months to 30 June 2024 an investment in the Fund returned 6.3% (retail class) and 6.7% (institutional class). This compares with a return of 7.4% from the FTSE All-Share Index comparator benchmark index and a return of 6.8% in the IA UK All Companies sector, also a comparator benchmark.

Since Anthony Cross and Julian Fosh took over management of the Fund on 25 March 2009, the Fund has risen 364% (retail class) and 416% (institutional class). This compares with a rise of 290% in the Fund's comparator benchmark, the FTSE All-Share Index and a return of 273% in the IA UK All Companies sector, also a comparator benchmark.

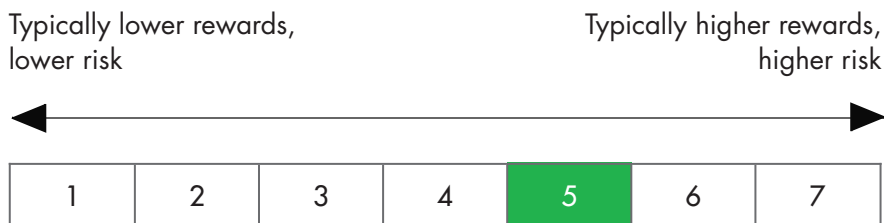
*Source: Financial Express, bid-to-bid basis, total return net of fees, income reinvested, figures for performance up to 30 June 2024. The primary class post-Retail Distribution Review is the institutional class, whereas pre-Retail Distribution Review the bundled Retail class performance history is used, unadjusted for the lower fees of the post Retail Distribution Review classes. Please note that total return has been calculated at midday whereas the financial statements are at close of business.*

**Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income generated from it can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. You may get back less than you originally invested.**

## Manager's Investment Report (continued)

### Risk and Reward profile

The Risk and Reward Indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the risk and reward indicator.



- The Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator ("SRRI") is based upon historical data and may not be relied upon to gauge the future risk profile of the Fund.
- The SRRI shown is not guaranteed to remain the same and may shift over time.
- The lowest category (1) does not mean 'risk free'.
- The Fund's risk and reward category has been calculated using the methodology adopted by the Financial Conduct Authority. It is based upon the rate by which the Fund or a representative fund or Index's value has moved up and down in the past.
- The Fund invests in UK & Irish equities. The Fund may also invest in other eligible asset classes as detailed within the prospectus.
- The Fund is categorised 5 primarily for its exposure to UK equities.
- The SRRI may not fully take into account the following risks:
  - That a company may fail thus reducing its value within the Fund;
  - overseas investments may carry a higher currency risk. They are valued by reference to their local currency which may move up or down when compared to the currency of the Fund.
- The Fund may, under certain circumstances, invest in derivatives, but it is not intended that their use will materially affect volatility. Derivatives are used to protect against currencies, credit and interest rate moves or for investment purposes. There is a risk that losses could be made on derivative positions or that the counterparties could fail to complete on transactions. The use of derivatives may create leverage or gearing resulting in potentially greater volatility or fluctuations in the net asset value of the Fund. A relatively small movement in the value of a derivative's underlying investment may have a larger impact, positive or negative, on the value of a fund than if the underlying investment was held instead. The use of derivative contracts may help us to control Fund volatility in both up and down markets by hedging against the general market.
- The Fund is expected to invest in companies predominantly in a single country which maybe subject to greater political, social and economic risks which could result in greater volatility than investments in more broadly diversified funds.
- The Fund may encounter liquidity constraints from time to time. The spread between the price you buy and sell shares will reflect the less liquid nature of the underlying holdings.
- The Fund may invest in companies listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) which is primarily for emerging or smaller companies. The rules are less demanding than those of the official List of the London Stock Exchange and therefore companies listed on AIM may carry a greater risk than a company with a full listing.
- Outside of normal conditions, the Fund may hold higher levels of cash which may be deposited with several credit counterparties (e.g. international banks). A credit risk arises should one or more of these counterparties be unable to return the deposited cash.
- Counterparty Risk: any derivative contract, including FX hedging, may be at risk if the counterparty fails.

### Manager's Investment Report (continued)

#### **Risk and Reward profile (continued)**

- The fund's investment objective is to target capital growth for investors. Growth stocks tend to pay out lower levels of dividend resulting in lower income yields and may produce more volatile returns than the market as a whole.
- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Risk: there may be limitations to the availability, completeness or accuracy of ESG information from third-party providers, or inconsistencies in the consideration of ESG factors across different third party data providers, given the evolving nature of ESG.

For full details of the Fund's risks, please see the prospectus which may be obtained from Liontrust (at the address on page 1) or online [www.liontrust.co.uk](http://www.liontrust.co.uk).



## Manager's Investment Report (continued)

### The Market

The FTSE All-Share Index returned 7.4% in the six months to 30 June 2024.

Although expectations for interest rate cuts in 2024 moderated on both sides of the Atlantic, investors took heart from a building picture of economic and corporate resilience. While there had previously been fears that inflation-fighting measures would tip economies into recession – a ‘hard landing’ scenario – this year has seen greater confidence in their economic resilience.

In the UK, inflation has taken longer than expected to normalise, with several data points over the six months coming in higher than forecast. However, data for May – released in June – finally showed inflation easing to an annual pace of 2.0%, in line with the Bank of England's target. Meanwhile, economic growth, while muted, has turned positive, with the 0.6% expansion registered during the first quarter of 2024 the fastest growth in two years.

Sentiment towards UK equities appears to be on an improving trajectory – one which was bolstered by the prospect of a general election on July 4. With polls pointing towards a strong Labour majority, investors were ready to price more political certainty into share prices. The prospect of a stable majority government provided a supportive market backdrop and allowed investors to look towards the likelihood of upcoming policy catalysts for the UK stock market.

After the significant underperformance of UK small caps in recent years, there were some signs of an improving trend: the FTSE Small Cap (exlTs) index return of 8.2% outstripped the FTSE 100's 7.9% rise, though the FTSE AIM All-Share still lagged with a 1.1% return.

### Fund Review

The Fund returned 6.7% (Institutional class) in the six months to 30 June 2024, compared with the 7.4% return of the FTSE All-Share Index.\*

Despite signs of an improvement in sentiment towards UK equities, valuations of UK-listed companies remain substantially lower than their long run average and their global peers. As the fund managers have previously highlighted, these low valuations mean many UK companies have proven susceptible to takeover approaches from private equity or corporate acquirers keen to exploit the opportunity. During the first half of 2024, three fund holdings were targeted by potential acquirers

Investment platform operator **Hargreaves Lansdown** announced it had rejected two takeover proposals from a private equity consortium, but later received an improved proposal of 1140p a share, leading it to engage with the bidder and provide due diligence access.

**Keywords Studios**, a support services provider to the video gaming industry, was added to the portfolio during the period, but only a few months later became the subject of an opportunistic takeover bid. Shares in the provider of services to the video gaming sector had been under some pressure due to investor concerns over the threat of Artificial Intelligence (AI) – which we think are largely misplaced – and a broader backdrop of low appetite for new game launches from major developers. Swedish private equity group EQT took advantage of this weakness to make five successive offers for the business, the last of which – at 2550p a share – was a premium of 70% to the shares' prior close, a level at which Keywords Studios' board of directors stated it would be “minded to recommend” an offer.

The third confirmed takeover target in the portfolio was engineer **Wood Group**. It disclosed that it had rejected three successive takeover proposals from Dubai-based group Sidara at 205p, 212p and 220p a share, before receiving a fourth and final offer at 230p which it has agreed to enter discussions over. In 2023, Wood Group received five takeover proposals from private equity group Apollo, rejecting the first four but agreeing to enter discussions following the final cash proposal of 240p before Apollo dropped its interest.

Away from corporate activity, updates on trading coming through from many of the Fund's companies were solid, which is testament to the resilience these businesses display in the face of more challenging economic conditions.

The Fund's large-cap pharma stocks **AstraZeneca** and **GSK** were prominent among the top contributors. AstraZeneca's first quarter results beat expectations and, although the company maintained full-year guidance for “low double-digit to low teens percentage” growth in revenues and earnings, the strong start to the year led some analysts to expect upgrades down the line.

## Manager's Investment Report (continued)

### Fund Review (continued)

Meanwhile, GSK's 2023 full-year results included an upgrade to its 2021 – 2026 targets from 5% annual sales growth to more than 7%. This upbeat outlook is underpinned by the recent strength of its vaccines division; vaccine sales rose 25% in 2023, including 29% in the final quarter, bolstered by the launch of GSK's Arexvy vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The positive six-month return for GSK came in spite of share price weakness later in the period, as the company was dealt dual unexpected blows. A judge in Delaware ruled that evidence in multiple legal cases against the company surrounding side effects of Zantac (ranitidine) treatment would be allowed to be presented at trial, a decision against which GSK has appealed. Separately, the Advisory Committee on Immunisation Practices (ACIP) in the US released recommendations on RSV vaccination which were notably more cautious than expectations, potentially curtailing peak sales expectations for Arexvy in the medium term.

Elsewhere among the Fund's major risers, specialist media group Future saw its shares rebound strongly following the release of interim results. Future shares had previously sold off heavily over the course of 2022 and 2023, hit by broader weakness in the advertising market, the announcement of increased investment costs to stimulate medium-term growth and also lingering concerns over the potential impact of generative AI on its business model. Future noted that Q2 saw a return to organic growth, with revenues rising 3%. This stabilisation in revenues gives Future confidence in maintaining its prior full-year guidance. Longer term, the group expects its recent investments to accelerate organic revenue growth into the mid-single digit range.

**RELX** shares continued their steady march higher as a full-year 2023 results release showed more evidence of strong growth. In recent years, RELX has executed a transformative business shift from publishing to information and analytics. This led it to state last year that its long-term growth trajectory for revenue and profits had seen a step-change to exceed historical averages. RELX shares have also been boosted by investor enthusiasm about its ability to tap into the AI opportunity, both via ownership of valuable proprietary datasets and via product innovation.

Most of the fund commentaries see a spread of short-term 'winners' and 'losers' as portfolio holdings experience the inevitable short-term successes or headwinds in their pursuit of the longer-term capital growth potential for which they are held in the portfolio. This half-year period was no exception, with **YouGov** one of a handful of portfolio disappointments to consider alongside the areas of strength already mentioned.

Shares in YouGov were punished after the company issued an unscheduled profit warning. When reporting interim results in March, the research data and analytics group had noted Q1 was slower than expected with sales cycles remaining long, but that momentum had accelerated in Q2, giving it confidence in meeting its prior full-year sales guidance. Since then, YouGov has experienced weaker performance than anticipated, with a slowdown in the Data Products division affecting revenue and having an outsized impact on profits given the higher margin profile of the business. Fast turnaround research services also declined, while – although the recently-acquired Consumer Panel Services business is said to be performing well – some revenues have shifted into next year due to alignment of revenue recognition policies. Notwithstanding the broader attractions of YouGov's business (an extensive and high-quality global panel and proprietary datasets), it will take time to rebuild market confidence.

**Reckitt Benckiser** shares also suffered a setback as it reported a surprise decline in Q4 2023 sales. The consumer goods group's nutrition unit experienced a 15% decline in the final quarter, partly due to the voluntary recall of its Nutramigen baby formula, while health division sales slid 2%, which the company cited on the timing of the cold and flu season. Several weeks later, investors then looked to price in the litigation risks relating to its Mead Johnson Nutrition subsidiary after a court in Illinois awarded \$60 million in damages to the mother of a premature baby that developed a fatal bowel condition following use of its formula. Reckitt plans to appeal the decision and has emphasised it believes there is no link between its products and necrotising enterocolitis.

Lastly on the detractors, a trading update from precision measurement specialist **Spectris** downgraded guidance. Its Q2 update noted that rollout of its enterprise and resource planning system has completed but caused more operational disruption than anticipated – shifting around £15 million of sales into the second half of the year. The company has also seen demand weakness in China and in the pharmaceuticals and electric vehicles markets. Spectris now expects full-year operating profit to be at or marginally below the lower end of the analyst consensus forecast range.

### Portfolio changes

The portfolio position in Reckitt Benckiser was sold following the unexpected litigation blow referenced above. The company has made too many missteps in recent years and the acquisition of Mead Johnson, the infant milk business, has destroyed value. The litigation ruling was the fund managers' catalyst to sell as the financial risks could potentially be quite meaningful but are unlikely to crystallise for some time. In the meantime, the team can reallocate the capital to plenty of other Fund holdings which are at attractive valuations and do not suffer from such an uncertain outlook.

## Manager's Investment Report (continued)

### Fund Review (continued)

The Fund added a position in Keywords Studios, a provider of outsourced services to the video gaming sector. The company helps its customers with all aspects of the video game creation and publishing chain, from content creation, functional testing and localisation to player engagement. The fund managers believe it to have a compelling intangible asset advantage in its distribution capability: Keywords is the clear leader in its market with around three times the share of its next biggest competitor, and it enjoys key strategic relationships, counting 24 of the top 25 gaming businesses globally as customers. The shares have slid heavily over the course of the previous few years, thanks to investor concerns over both the cyclical nature of end market demand and the potential impact of AI on the company's business model. With the shares trading at well under half their long run average valuation (closer to 1/3 of long run average on some metrics), the team believed this presented a compelling opportunity. As referenced above, this thesis received external validation when, just a few months after the Fund's first purchase, Keywords Studios was subject to an inbound takeover approach at a 70% premium to the prevailing price.

The Fund also added a new position in **Auction Technology Group** (ATG). ATG is a leading operator of online auction marketplaces and services across two key sectors: Industrial & Commercial and Art & Antiques. It is a business which truly exploits the power of network effects, with an increasing audience of bidders participating in auctions driving higher prices for auctioneers and greater volumes of items listed on the company's marketplaces. While ATG, like its peers, has seen some softness in activity due to prevailing economic conditions, this has provided the Fund with the opportunity to take a small starting position, taking a longer term view of the business' potential.

### Outlook

For some time now, the fund managers have been highlighting the significant investment opportunity in UK equities as a result of their extremely low valuations. They feel that the clear valuation gap presents a compelling opportunity for investors in UK shares with the market poised to benefit from more imminent catalysts.

The team were delighted to see in the Labour Party manifesto an explicit commitment to increase investment by UK pension funds in the domestic stock market. Reform such as this would be transformative to the capital flow dynamic in the UK market following ten years of net outflows from the IA UK All Companies sector.

When capital inflows and share prices dwindle, opportunistic takeover activity often surfaces. Merger & acquisition (M&A) activity has picked up recently across the UK market, and the impact of this has been felt on the Economic Advantage funds. Across the fund range, 26 companies have experienced bid interest over the last two years, equivalent to approximately 18% of our universe of holdings.

This M&A activity is very much a double-edged sword: while money coming back into the hands of fund managers to reinvest in the market is a potential catalyst to highlight depressed valuations and latent value, this needs to be balanced against the opportunity cost of forgone long-term compounding when a company is taken off the market.

Looking forward, the fund managers believe that a number of stars should align for the UK stock market – a stable government, interest rates falling, inflation stabilising and growth returning. This, coupled with likely policy intervention, should help turn the tide following decades of outflows and provides a supportive backdrop for the portfolio looking ahead to the second half of the year.

*\*Source: Financial Express, bid to bid basis, total return, net of fees, income reinvested, 30 Jun 2024. Please note that total return has been calculated at midday whereas the financial statements are at close of business.*

### Anthony Cross, Julian Fosh, Victoria Stevens & Matthew Tonge

Fund Managers

July 2024

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## Manager's Investment Report (continued)

### Material portfolio changes by value

#### Purchases

Keywords Studios  
Auction Technology  
Moonpig  
WH Smith  
Haleon  
TI Fluid Systems  
Compass  
Renishaw  
Domino's Pizza  
Future

#### Sales

Reckitt Benckiser  
BAE Systems  
John Wood  
Shell  
British American Tobacco  
Hargreaves Lansdown  
GSK  
Diageo  
BP  
Spirax-Sarco Engineering

## Authorised Status

The Fund is an authorised unit trust scheme ("the Scheme") under Section 243 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (authorisation orders) and the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook and is categorised as a UCITS scheme.

## Certification of Financial Statements by Partners of the Manager

We certify that this Manager's Report has been prepared in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook.



**Martin Kearney**

Partner, Chief Risk Officer



**Antony Morrison**

Partner, Head of Finance

Liontrust Fund Partners LLP  
27 August 2024

## Performance Tables (unaudited)

as at 30 June 2024

### Net asset value

Period end	Units in Issue	Net Asset Value (£'000)	Net Asset Value per unit (p)
<b>30 June 2024</b>			
B Income	3,487,751	18,036	517.11
Institutional Accumulation†	6,886,491	7,346	106.67
Institutional Income	89,989,614	464,189	515.83
Mandate Accumulation	158,244,339	216,649	136.91
Mandate Income	220,809,268	250,218	113.32
Retail Income	11,251,469	57,219	508.54
S Accumulation	5,000	7	131.89
S Income	5,000	6	124.01
<b>31 December 2023</b>			
B Income	3,612,851	17,630	487.99
Institutional Income	97,272,421	472,898	486.16
Mandate Accumulation	169,510,049	218,489	128.89
Mandate Income	225,985,374	241,032	106.66
Retail Income	12,270,344	59,028	481.07
S Accumulation	5,000	6	124.23
S Income	5,000	6	116.82
<b>31 December 2022</b>			
B Income	3,925,259	18,664	475.49
Institutional Income	122,733,701	581,281	473.61
Mandate Accumulation	104,240,733	127,853	122.65
Mandate Income	118,777,244	123,444	103.93
Retail Income	14,215,861	66,636	468.74
S Accumulation	5,000	6	118.33
S Income	5,000	6	113.82
<b>31 December 2021</b>			
B Income+	4,159,112	20,458	491.88
Institutional Income	95,910,637	469,920	489.96
Mandate Accumulation	19,680,716	24,437	124.17
Mandate Income	124,561,691	133,930	107.52
Retail Income	15,484,309	75,081	484.89
S Accumulation	5,000	6	119.88
S Income	5,000	6	117.74

+ previously Advised Income until 5 May 2021.

† Launched 10 January 2024.

## Portfolio Statement (unaudited)

as at 30 June 2024

Holding/ Nominal value	Stock description	Market value (£'000)	Percentage of total net assets (%)
	<b>EQUITIES (99.17%)</b>	<b>1,007,398</b>	<b>99.38</b>
	<b>UNITED KINGDOM (99.17%)</b>	<b>995,154</b>	<b>98.17</b>
	<b>Advertising (1.57%)</b>	<b>13,913</b>	<b>1.37</b>
1,745,706	Next Fifteen Communications	13,913	1.37
	<b>Aerospace &amp; Defence (4.00%)</b>	<b>38,699</b>	<b>3.82</b>
2,931,748	BAE Systems	38,699	3.82
	<b>Agriculture (2.48%)</b>	<b>21,349</b>	<b>2.11</b>
878,559	British American Tobacco	21,349	2.11
	<b>Auto Parts &amp; Equipment (1.48%)</b>	<b>13,835</b>	<b>1.36</b>
10,625,942	TI Fluid Systems	13,835	1.36
	<b>Beverages (3.81%)</b>	<b>30,773</b>	<b>3.04</b>
1,236,342	Diageo	30,773	3.04
	<b>Chemicals (0.52%)</b>	<b>7,076</b>	<b>0.70</b>
2,747,809	Synthomer	7,076	0.70
	<b>Commercial Services (9.76%)</b>	<b>94,986</b>	<b>9.37</b>
233,140	Intertek	11,177	1.10
3,336,245	Pagegroup	14,192	1.40
1,164,677	RELX	42,371	4.18
4,405,196	RWVS	8,273	0.82
1,295,588	Savills	14,407	1.42
1,124,650	YouGov	4,566	0.45
	<b>Cosmetics &amp; Personal Care (6.03%)</b>	<b>69,656</b>	<b>6.87</b>
4,989,610	Haleon	16,096	1.59
1,232,955	Unilever	53,560	5.28
	<b>Distribution &amp; Wholesale (2.12%)</b>	<b>20,214</b>	<b>1.99</b>
672,005	Bunzl	20,214	1.99
	<b>Diversified Financial Services (5.10%)</b>	<b>58,599</b>	<b>5.78</b>
320,687	Brooks Macdonald	6,253	0.62

Portfolio Statement (unaudited) (continued)

as at 30 June 2024

Holding/ Nominal value	Stock description	Market value (£'000)	Percentage of total net assets (%)
	<b>EQUITIES (continued)</b>		
	<b>UNITED KINGDOM (continued)</b>		
	<b>Diversified Financial Services (continued)</b>		
2,150,370	Hargreaves Lansdown	24,342	2.40
1,403,371	Tatton Asset Management	9,431	0.93
9,295,739	TP ICAP	18,573	1.83
	<b>Electronics (6.68%)</b>	<b>66,478</b>	<b>6.55</b>
847,748	Halma	22,932	2.26
294,103	Renishaw	10,882	1.07
5,224,399	Rotork	17,585	1.73
542,808	Spectris	15,079	1.49
	<b>Engineering &amp; Construction (2.24%)</b>	<b>22,543</b>	<b>2.22</b>
1,277,957	IMI	22,543	2.22
	<b>Food Services (2.44%)</b>	<b>25,798</b>	<b>2.55</b>
1,194,347	Compass	25,798	2.55
	<b>Household Products (2.12%)</b>		
	<b>Internet (2.58%)</b>	<b>38,203</b>	<b>3.77</b>
1,204,690	Auction Technology	6,035	0.60
10,713,413	Moonpig	20,420	2.01
2,187,772	Rightmove	11,748	1.16
	<b>Machinery Construction &amp; Mining (1.59%)</b>	<b>16,908</b>	<b>1.67</b>
852,244	Weir	16,908	1.67
	<b>Machinery Diversified (2.17%)</b>	<b>15,954</b>	<b>1.57</b>
188,244	Spirax-Sarco Engineering	15,954	1.57
	<b>Media (2.64%)</b>	<b>29,886</b>	<b>2.95</b>
1,069,771	Future	11,211	1.11
1,885,225	Pearson	18,675	1.84
	<b>Miscellaneous Manufacturing (1.78%)</b>	<b>17,367</b>	<b>1.71</b>
1,019,191	Smiths	17,367	1.71



## Portfolio Statement (unaudited) (continued)

as at 30 June 2024

Holding/ Nominal value	Stock description	Market value (£'000)	Percentage of total net assets (%)
	<b>EQUITIES (continued)</b>		
	<b>UNITED KINGDOM (continued)</b>		
	<b>Oil &amp; Gas Producers (14.31%)</b>	<b>147,222</b>	<b>14.53</b>
11,876,165	BP	56,436	5.57
3,204,010	Shell	90,786	8.96
	<b>Oil &amp; Gas Services (1.58%)</b>	<b>10,486</b>	<b>1.03</b>
5,085,131	John Wood	10,486	1.03
	<b>Pharmaceuticals (13.34%)</b>	<b>146,246</b>	<b>14.43</b>
754,168	AstraZeneca	93,170	9.19
2,690,967	GSK	41,158	4.06
961,143	Indivior	11,918	1.18
	<b>Retail (3.08%)</b>	<b>29,438</b>	<b>2.90</b>
5,261,516	Domino's Pizza	16,142	1.59
1,174,530	WH Smith	13,296	1.31
	<b>Software (2.35%)</b>	<b>21,078</b>	<b>2.08</b>
1,937,350	Sage	21,078	2.08
	<b>Telecommunications (1.44%)</b>	<b>18,220</b>	<b>1.80</b>
1,292,178	Gamma Communications	18,220	1.80
	<b>Textiles (1.96%)</b>	<b>20,227</b>	<b>2.00</b>
25,571,678	Coats	20,227	2.00
	<b>IRELAND (0.00%)</b>	<b>12,244</b>	<b>1.21</b>
	<b>Computers (0.00%)</b>	<b>12,244</b>	<b>1.21</b>
530,060	Keywords Studios	12,244	1.21
	<b>Portfolio of investments</b>	<b>1,007,398</b>	<b>99.38</b>
	<b>Net other assets</b>	<b>6,272</b>	<b>0.62</b>
	<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>1,013,670</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## Portfolio Statement (unaudited) (continued)

as at 30 June 2024

All securities are approved securities traded on eligible securities markets, as defined by the Collective Investment Scheme Sourcebook, unless otherwise stated.

All equity investments are in ordinary shares unless otherwise stated.

Comparative figures shown in brackets relate to 31 December 2023.

## Financial Statements (unaudited)

### Statement of Total Return (unaudited)

for the period ended 30 June 2024

	(£'000)	1.1.2024 to 30.6.2024 (£'000)	(£'000)	1.1.2023 to 30.6.2023 (£'000)
Income				
Net capital gains/(losses)		47,390		(12,104)
Revenue	16,794		15,006	
Expenses	(3,942)		(3,893)	
Interest payable and similar charges	–		–	
Net revenue before taxation	12,852		11,113	
Taxation	–		–	
Net revenue after taxation		12,852		11,113
<b>Total return before distributions</b>		<b>60,242</b>		<b>(991)</b>
Distributions		–		–
<b>Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities</b>		<b>60,242</b>		<b>(991)</b>

### Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders (unaudited)

for the period ended 30 June 2024

	(£'000)	1.1.2024 to 30.6.2024 (£'000)	(£'000)	1.1.2023 to 30.6.2023 (£'000)
<b>Opening net assets attributable to unitholders</b>		<b>1,009,089</b>		<b>917,890</b>
Amounts received on issue of units	98,519		307,975	
In-specie transfer	–		(11,189)	
Amounts paid on cancellation of units	(154,180)		(214,683)	
		(55,661)		82,103
Dilution adjustment		–		53
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		60,242		(991)
<b>Closing net assets attributable to unitholders</b>		<b>1,013,670</b>		<b>999,055</b>

The opening net assets attributable to unitholders for the current period do not equal the closing net assets attributable to unitholders for the comparative period as they are not consecutive periods.

## Financial Statements (unaudited) (continued)

**Balance Sheet (unaudited)**

as at 30 June 2024

	<b>30.6.2024</b> <b>(£'000)</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b> <b>(£'000)</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Investments	1,007,398	1,000,704
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Debtors	3,802	3,295
Cash and bank balances	8,921	27,164
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,020,121</b>	<b>1,031,163</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Creditors:</b>		
Distribution payable	–	(17,516)
Other creditors	(6,451)	(4,558)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>(6,451)</b>	<b>(22,074)</b>
<b>Net assets attributable to unitholders</b>	<b>1,013,670</b>	<b>1,009,089</b>

**Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice ("UK GAAP") and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Financial Statements of UK Authorised Funds" issued by the Investment Association in May 2014 (the "SORP") and updated in June 2017, the COLL and the Fund's Trust Deed and Prospectus. In applying UK GAAP, the financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' ("FRS 102").

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 and are described in those financial statements.

## Securities Financing Transactions (unaudited)

as at 30 June 2024

### Securities Lending

Securities lending transactions entered into by the Fund are subject to a written legal agreement between the Fund and the Stock Lending Agent, The Bank of New York Mellon (London Branch), a related party to the Fund, and separately between the Stock Lending Agent and the approved borrowing counterparty. Collateral received in exchange for securities lent is transferred under a title transfer arrangement and is delivered to and held in an account with a tri-party collateral manager in the name of The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited ("the Trustee") on behalf of the Fund. Collateral received is segregated from the assets belonging to the Fund's Trustee or the Stock Lending Agent.

The total income earned from securities lending transactions is split between the relevant Fund and the Stock Lending Agent. The Fund receives 70% while the Stock Lending Agent receives 30% of such income, with all operational costs borne out of the Stock Lending Agent's share.

### Return and cost

The table below shows the net income earned by the Fund from securities lending activity during the period to 30 June 2024.

	Collective Investment Undertaking (£'000)	Manager of Collective Investment Undertaking (£'000)	Third Parties (e.g. lending agent) (£'000)	Total (£'000)
<b>Securities lending</b>				
Gross return	9	–	4	13
% of total	70%	0%	30%	100%
Cost	–	–	–	–

### Securities lending

The following table details the value of securities on loan as a proportion of the Fund's total lendable assets and Net Asset Value (NAV) as at 30 June 2024. The income earned from securities lending are also shown for the period ended 30 June 2024. Total lendable assets represents the aggregate value of assets forming part of the Fund's securities lending programme. This excludes any assets held by the Fund that are not considered lendable due to any market, regulatory, investment or other restriction.

	Securities on loan		Income earned (£'000)
% of lendable assets	% of NAV		
5.32	5.30		9

## Securities Financing Transactions (unaudited)(continued)

as at 30 June 2024

### Securities lending (continued)

The following table details the value of securities on loan and associated collateral received, analysed by counterparty as at 30 June 2024.

Counterparty	Counterparty's country of establishment	Securities Lending	
		Amount on loan (£'000)	Collateral received (£'000)
BNP Paribas	France	10,010	11,164
Citigroup Global Markets Limited	UK	264	291
HSBC Bank	UK	402	440
J.P. Morgan Securities Plc	UK	169	185
Merrill Lynch International	UK	35,650	38,144
The Bank of Nova Scotia	Canada	6,962	7,660
UBS	Switzerland	247	275
<b>Total</b>		<b>53,704</b>	<b>58,159</b>

All securities on loan have an open maturity tenor as they are callable or terminable on a daily basis.

### Collateral

The Fund engages in activities which may require collateral to be provided to a counterparty ("collateral posted") or may hold collateral received ("collateral received") from a counterparty.

The following table provides an analysis by currency of the underlying cash and non-cash collateral received/posted by way of title transfer collateral arrangement by the Fund, in respect of securities lending transactions, as at 30 June 2024.

Currency	Cash collateral received (£'000)	Cash collateral posted (£'000)	Non-cash collateral received (£'000)	Non-cash collateral posted (£'000)
<b>Securities lending transactions</b>				
AUD	-	-	70	-
CAD	-	-	9	-
CHF	-	-	3,165	-
EUR	-	-	5,158	-
GBP	-	-	7,312	-
HKD	-	-	38,017	-
JPY	-	-	1,644	-
NOK	-	-	19	-
NZD	-	-	6	-
SEK	-	-	15	-
USD	-	-	2,744	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,159</b>	<b>-</b>

Non-cash collateral received by way of title transfer collateral arrangement in relation to securities lending transactions cannot be sold, re-invested or pledged.

## Securities Financing Transactions (unaudited)(continued)

as at 30 June 2024

### Collateral (continued)

The following table provides an analysis of the type, quality and maturity tenor of non-cash collateral received/posted by the Fund by way of title transfer collateral arrangement in respect of securities lending transactions, as at 30 June 2024.

Collateral type and quality	Maturity Tenor					Open transactions (£'000)	Total (£'000)
	1 - 7 days (£'000)	8 - 30 days (£'000)	31 - 90 days (£'000)	91 - 365 days (£'000)	More than 365 days (£'000)		
<b>Collateral received - securities lending</b>							
<b>Fixed income</b>							
Investment grade	–	3	3	1	348	–	<b>355</b>
<b>Equities</b>							
Recognised equity index	–	–	–	–	–	57,804	<b>57,804</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>57,804</b>	<b>58,159</b>

Investment grade securities are those issued by an entity with a minimum investment grade credit rating from at least one globally recognised credit rating agency; Standard & Poor's, Moody's or Fitch.

A recognised equity index contains at least 20 equities where no single equity represents more than 20% of the total index and no five equities combined represent more than 60% of the total index.

The maturity tenor analysis for fixed income securities received as collateral is based on the respective contractual maturity date, while for equity securities and exchange traded funds (ETFs) received as collateral are presented as open transactions as they are not subject to a contractual maturity date.

As at 30 June 2024, all non-cash collateral received by the Fund in respect of securities lending transactions is held by the Fund's Trustee (or through its delegates).

The following table lists the top ten issuers (or all the issuers if less than ten) by value of non-cash collateral received by the Fund by way of the title transfer collateral arrangement across securities lending transactions as at 30 June 2024.

Issuer	Value (£'000)	% of the Fund's NAV
Merrill Lynch International	38,144	3.76
BNP Paribas Arbitrage (Euroclear)	11,164	1.10
The Bank of Nova Scotia	7,660	0.76
HSBC Bank	440	0.04
Citigroup Global Markets Limited	291	0.03
UBS	275	0.03
J.P.Morgan Securities Plc	185	0.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,159</b>	<b>5.74</b>

## Additional Information (unaudited)

**Trust Deed:** The Fund was established by a Trust Deed made between the Manager and the Trustee dated 27 January 1993.

**Prospectus:** Copies of the Fund's Prospectus are available free of charge from the Manager upon request, and from our website, [www.liontrust.co.uk](http://www.liontrust.co.uk).

**Unit type:** The Fund issues income and accumulation units. Investors can elect at any time to have any income either paid out or automatically reinvested to purchase units at no initial charge.

**Pricing and dealing:** A buying price (the price at which you have bought the units in the Fund and being the higher) and a selling price (the price at which you can sell the units back to the Manager and being the lower) are always quoted for the Fund. The buying price includes the Manager's initial charge.

Dealing in all unit trusts operated by Liontrust Fund Partners LLP may be carried out between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on any business day. Professional investors and advisers may buy and sell units over the telephone; private investors are required to instruct the Manager in writing for initial purchases, but can deal over the telephone thereafter. Prices are quoted on a 'forward' basis. This means that all deals are based on a price that is calculated at the next valuation point (which is 12.00 hours on each business day) following receipt of instructions. Instructions received before 12.00 hours will be priced at 12.00 hours that day, whilst those deals taken later in the day will receive the next dealing price which is fixed at 12.00 hours on the following business day.

The minimum initial lump sum investment in the Fund is £1,000, the minimum additional investment is £1,000 and the amount you may sell back to the Manager at any one time is £500. Please refer to the Prospectus for more details. At its absolute discretion, the Manager may accept a lower minimum amount for the purchase and sale of units.

A contract note in respect of any purchase will be issued the day following the dealing date. Unit certificates will not be issued. Instructions to sell your units may be required to be given by telephone and then confirmed in writing to Liontrust Fund Partners LLP, PO Box 373, Darlington, DL1 9RQ. A contract note confirming the instruction to sell will be issued the day following the dealing day. Following receipt of a correctly completed Form of Renunciation, a cheque in settlement will be sent directly to you or your bank/building society, if proof of ownership of the account has been received by us, in four business days. Liontrust does not make or accept payments to or from third parties unauthorised by the Financial Conduct Authority or other financial regulator.

**Management charges and spreads:** The initial charge and annual management fees per unit class are detailed below.

Initial charge	%	Ongoing charges figure*	%	Included within the OCF is the Annual Management Charge**	%
	up to				
B Income	5.00	B Income	1.07	B Income	1.00
Institutional Accumulation		Institutional Accumulation	0.84	Institutional Accumulation	0.75
Institutional Income	Nil	Institutional Income	0.82	Institutional Income	0.75
Mandate Accumulation	Nil	Mandate Accumulation	0.62	Mandate Accumulation	0.55
Mandate Income	Nil	Mandate Income	0.62	Mandate Income	0.55
	up to				
Retail Income	5.00	Retail Income	1.57	Retail Income	1.50
S Accumulation	Nil	S Accumulation	0.72	S Accumulation	0.65
S Income	Nil	S Income	0.72	S Income	0.65

\* The OCF covers all aspects of operating a Fund during the course of its financial period. These include the annual charge for managing the Fund, administration and independent oversight functions, such as trustee, custody, legal and audit fees. The OCF excludes portfolio transaction costs except for an entry/exit charge paid by the Fund when buying or selling units in another Fund.

\*\* These are the annual costs of running and managing the Fund.

**Publication of prices:** The price of units in the Fund is quoted on our website, [www.liontrust.co.uk](http://www.liontrust.co.uk) and other industry websites such as [www.trustnet.com](http://www.trustnet.com). Daily and historic Fund prices are available from our Dealing and Administration team on 0344 892 0349.



## Additional Information (unaudited) (continued)

**Capital Gains Tax:** As an authorised unit trust, any capital gains made within the Fund is exempt from UK Capital Gains Tax. An individual investor is subject to capital gains tax on gains made on their investment, however an individual's first £3,000 of net gains on disposals in the 2024-2025 tax year are exempt from tax (2023-2024: £6,000).

**Income Tax:** UK tax resident individuals are now entitled to a new tax-free dividend allowance in place of the dividend tax credit. Consequently, all income from dividend distributions is now regarded as gross income.

UK resident individuals who are not liable to tax are not able to reclaim the tax credits from the HM Revenue and Customs. In the case of UK resident individuals who are liable to starting or basic rate tax only, the tax credit will match his or her liability on the distribution and there will be no further tax to pay and no right to claim repayments from the HM Revenue and Customs. In the case of a higher rate taxpayer, the tax credit will be set against, but not fully match, his or her tax liability on the distribution. Such people will have an additional tax liability to pay.

**Assessment of Value:** The regulator - the FCA - has asked every asset manager to assess the value of the funds they run. Assessing value goes beyond performance and costs and encompasses a minimum of seven criteria mandated by the FCA. The assessment of value of the Fund and other UK-domiciled funds managed by Liontrust will be conducted as at 30 June each year, with a publication deadline of end of October. The assessment of value report can be viewed on the Liontrust website [www.liontrust.co.uk/learning/assessment-of-value](http://www.liontrust.co.uk/learning/assessment-of-value).

**Task Force on Climate-Related Disclosures (TCFD) Product Reports:** Under the rules of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), Liontrust is required to publish information annually on product level (fund) TCFD disclosures so that investors may have a better understanding of the climate-related risks and opportunities associated with this Fund and its underlying holdings. This report is published in line with the requirements of the FCA and TCFD. The individual TCFD Product Reports can be viewed within the individual Fund pages on the Liontrust website ([www.liontrust.co.uk/our-funds](http://www.liontrust.co.uk/our-funds)).

**Important information:** Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income generated from it can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. You may get back less than you originally invested. The issue of units may be subject to an initial charge and this is likely to have an impact on the realisable value of your investment, particularly in the short term. You should always regard unit trust investment as long term.



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