

**PERSONAL  
ASSETS  
TRUST PLC**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
30 APRIL 2009**

## IAN RUSHBROOK

**BORN: 16 MAY 1940 IN EDINBURGH. DIED: 12 OCTOBER 2008 IN EDINBURGH, AGED 68.**



History offers some poignant examples of men who passed away in the hour of their greatest triumph. One such was Ian Rushbrook, who died suddenly but peacefully on 12 October at his home in Edinburgh. As Managing Director of Personal Assets Trust (“PAT”) Ian had over several years become convinced that a major dislocation of world banking and finance was looming. As he said with astonishing prescience to PAT’s July 2007 AGM (his lucid and searching expositions of the investment outlook were legendary), “Is the financial world sleepwalking into disaster? No. It’s worse than that. It’s walking into disaster, wide awake. The Federal Reserve, the US banking system, the US mortgage industry, the investment banks, the hedge and private equity funds, all know what’s happening; yet they carry on regardless . . . Credit, debt and liquidity have expanded to extraordinary levels and we are certain this expansion must reverse itself. And the catalyst for such a reversal won’t be a butterfly fluttering its wings over Peking. It will be a vulture, glutted on sub-prime mortgages, falling from its perch on a skyscraper over Wall Street.”

Ian’s warnings fell on deaf ears and sometimes earned him harsh criticism. Recent events have proved how right he was.

Ian was the son of Frank and Violet Rushbrook. His father, Dr Frank Rushbrook CBE, sometime Firemaster of Lothian and Borders and a world-renowned expert on ship fires, survives him; father and son co-operated this year with great pride in the erection of a much-deserved statue to James Braidwood, Father of the British Fire Service, in Parliament Square, Edinburgh.

Ian’s childhood was shadowed by tuberculosis, which caused him to spend his life between the ages of 5 and 11 in hospital. Perhaps this experience reinforced his fierce independence and his determination to live life to the full.

After East Ham Grammar School and the University of Edinburgh, where he obtained a First in Physics while financing himself by playing poker, Ian studied at Cranfield and the London School of Economics before an attempt to gain research sponsorship from Ivory & Sime unexpectedly turned into the offer of a job. Ian enthusiastically accepted and found himself one of a number of eager young tigers during a remarkable period in the company’s history under Eric Ivory and James Gammell. In 1975, in difficult circumstances following a severe market crash, he took responsibility for the management of Atlantic Assets, an investment trust dedicated to achieving capital growth for private individuals. Before long, Atlantic and its daughter company, Independent Investment, were among the most successful trusts in the sector.

In 1990 Ian took over the management of PAT, which under the Chairmanship successively of Dick Anderson and Bobby White he ran as an investment trust expressly for private investors and dedicated, unusually, to protecting and then increasing (in that order) the value of shareholders' funds. Over the 18 years during which he managed PAT the Company's funds grew from £8½ million to the present £160 million. He overcame the problem of the discount to net asset value at which investment trusts typically sell by a determination, now enshrined in the Company's Articles of Association, to eliminate it by vigorous and continuing share buybacks coupled to the issue of new shares if demand exceeded supply. Critics forecast that this would cause the Company to shrink significantly in size. Instead, the confidence the discount control policy gave to shareholders saw PAT's share capital increase fivefold.

Ian was a Conservative, a libertarian and a passionate believer in free markets, correctly attributing the blame for the present crisis not to under-regulation but to official interference in the shape of the US Federal Reserve's irresponsible cheap money policy following the 9/11 bombings. He revered Lady Thatcher and was proud to have acquired, for a personal donation of £100,000, one of her celebrated handbags in an auction in aid of the charity, Breast Cancer Care. At the time he commented, "For over twenty years I have admired Lady Thatcher's will power, drive and capability. What she did for Britain was phenomenal. She has never had anywhere near the level of credit that she deserves." (It appealed to Ian's ever-present sense of mischief that, in the same auction, Cherie Blair's handbag raised only the modest sum of £490.) Ian and his wife, Anne, were as a result invited to lunch with Sir Denis and Lady Thatcher at the House of Lords, which Sir Denis afterwards described as "the most enjoyable lunch he had ever had with a couple he didn't already know". Thereafter, the Rushbrooks and the Thatchers remained in contact and Ian and Anne were guests at Lady Thatcher's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in London.

A man of astonishing kindness and generosity (which he loved to conceal under a sometimes cynical exterior), a challenger and inspiring mentor of the young, a contrarian and intellectual iconoclast who revelled in debate yet whose Rolls Royce (or, as Ian would prefer, Porsche) intellect was always tempered by a whimsical, teasing and affectionate sense of humour, Ian had the good fortune to make a supremely happy marriage. Anne was his true soulmate, as he was hers. His bedrock was his family life with Anne and their three children, Tara, Frank and John, and their joy was increased recently by the arrival of Scott to Tara and Derek, and Andrew to Frank and Fiona. They, his father Frank, his sister Jean, his nieces and nephews and his cousins are in our thoughts and prayers.

Ian never doubted his own intellectual powers, but I'm not sure if he ever realised how wise and how loveable he was. His family, friends and colleagues knew, however, and find it hard to imagine life without him.

**ROBIN ANGUS**

*This is a reproduction of the obituary which appeared in "The Scotsman" on 14 October 2008.*

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## KEY FEATURES

### FOR THE YEAR TO 30 APRIL 2009

	Change %	30 April 2009	30 April 2008
Market Capitalisation	-8.3	<b>£173.6m</b>	£189.3m
Shareholders' Funds	-9.3	<b>£171.1m</b>	£188.7m
Effective Liquidity	–	<b>29.9%<sup>(4)</sup></b>	100.2%
Share Price	-9.8	<b>£233.00</b>	£258.25
NAV per share	-10.8	<b>£229.64</b>	£257.37
FTSE All-Share Index	-29.9	<b>2,173.06</b>	3,099.94
Premium to NAV	–	<b>1.5%</b>	0.3%
Dividend per share	8.7	<b>£5.00</b>	£4.60
Current dividend rate <sup>(1)</sup>		<b>£5.00</b>	£4.70

### FOR THE 3 YEARS TO 30 APRIL 2009<sup>(2)</sup>

	Change %	30 April 2009	30 April 2006
Market Capitalisation	-9.4	<b>£173.6m</b>	£191.6m
Shareholders' Funds	-9.7	<b>£171.1m</b>	£189.4m
Effective Liquidity	–	<b>29.9%<sup>(4)</sup></b>	40.8%
Share Price	-10.1	<b>£233.00</b>	£259.25
NAV per share	-10.3	<b>£229.64</b>	£256.14
FTSE All-Share Index	-29.3	<b>2,173.06</b>	3,074.26
Premium to NAV	–	<b>1.5%</b>	1.2%
Dividend per share	35.1	<b>£5.00</b>	£3.70

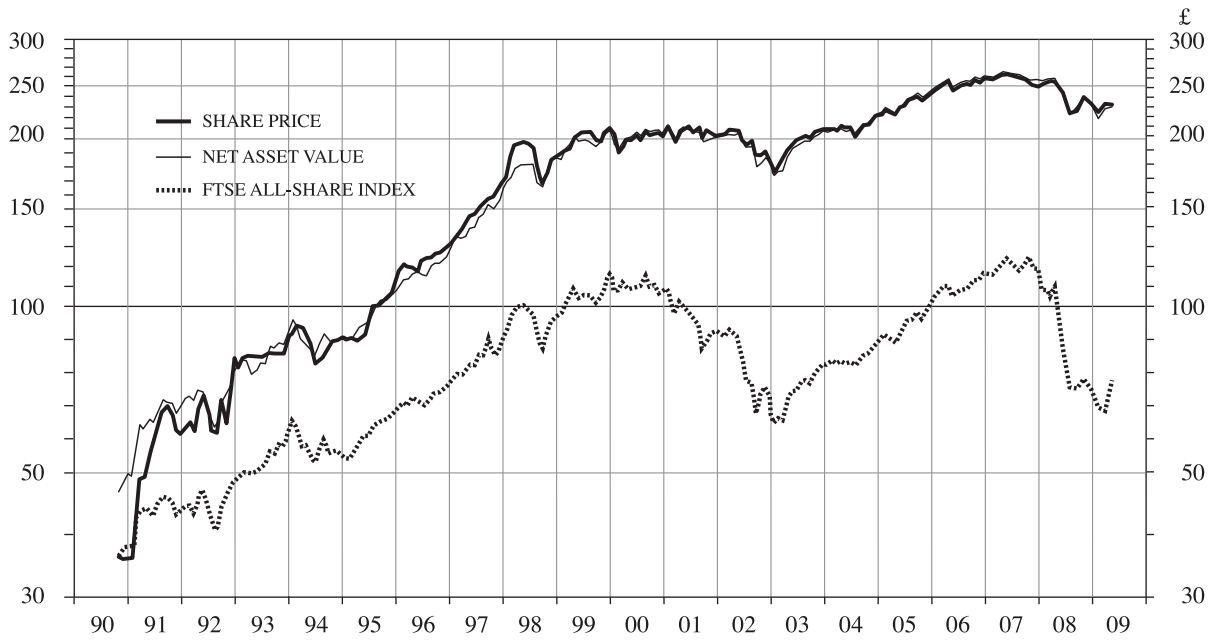
### FOR THE 9 YEARS TO 30 APRIL 2009

	Change %	30 April 2009	30 April 2000 <sup>(3)</sup>
Market Capitalisation	132.7	<b>£173.6m</b>	£74.6m
Shareholders' Funds	131.8	<b>£171.1m</b>	£73.8m
Effective Liquidity	–	<b>29.9%<sup>(4)</sup></b>	45.3%
Share Price	15.3	<b>£233.00</b>	£202.00
NAV per share	14.9	<b>£229.64</b>	£199.80
FTSE All-Share Index	-27.6	<b>2,173.06</b>	3,001.92
Premium to NAV	–	<b>1.5%</b>	1.1%
Dividend per share	90.5	<b>£5.00</b>	£2.625

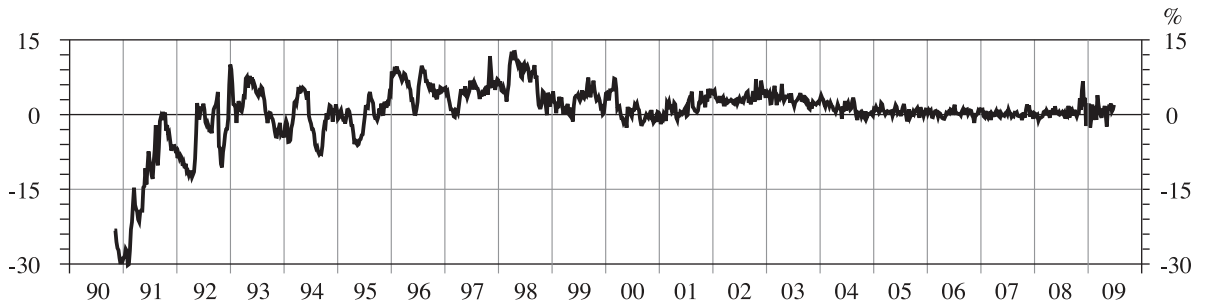
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- (1) Double the last interim dividend of £2.50. It is our policy never to cut the dividend rate. Shareholders can therefore be confident that each half-yearly dividend will at least equal the previous one.
- (2) As long term investors we measure our net asset value performance against our benchmark, the FTSE All-Share Index, over rolling three-year periods.
- (3) UK GAAP. From 1st May 2004, the Company adopted International Financial Reporting Standards.
- (4) Includes holding in Gold Bullion Securities of 5.8%.

# PERFORMANCE 1990-2009

## SHARE PRICE AND NET ASSET VALUE IN POUNDS VERSUS FTSE ALL-SHARE



## SHARE PRICE (DISCOUNT)/PREMIUM TO NET ASSET VALUE



## PERFORMANCE RELATIVE TO FTSE ALL-SHARE



## RECORD 1983 - 2009

Date 30 April	Share- holders' Funds £'000	Shares Out- standing	Net asset value per share (£)	Share Price (£)	Earnings per share (£)	Dividend per share (£)	Dividend Growth (%)	Inflation (RPI) %
1983 (Sept)	5,397	149,313	36.15	22				
1984	4,797	149,313	32.13	30	0.43	0.40		
1985	6,011	149,313	40.26	39	0.21	0.20		
1986	6,988	149,313	46.80	40	0.38	0.35		
1987	9,168	149,313	61.40	54	0.61	0.50		
1988	8,283	149,313	55.47	44	1.12	1.00		
1989	9,174	149,313	61.44	51	1.46	1.25 <sup>(1)</sup>		
1990 <sup>(2)</sup>	8,462	149,313	56.67	39 ½	1.09	1.00		
1991	9,006	149,313	60.32	48 ½	1.45	1.50	50.0	6.4
1992	10,589	149,313	70.92	66	1.67	1.60	6.7	4.3
1993	11,441	152,187	75.18	81 ½	2.52	1.80	12.5	1.3
1994	12,987	152,187	85.34	89 ½	2.12	1.95	8.3	2.6
1995	13,939	152,187	91.59	87	2.00	2.00	2.6	3.3
1996	19,473	169,173	115.11	118 ½	2.90	2.20	10.0	2.4
1997	27,865	208,114	133.89	141 ¼	3.01	2.30	4.5	2.4
1998	48,702	270,250	180.21	199 ½	3.57	2.45	6.5	4.0
1999	65,200	323,966	201.26	202 ½	3.67	2.55	4.1	1.6
2000	73,751	369,121	199.80	202	2.98	2.62 ½	2.9	3.0
2001	78,000	376,750	207.03	208 ½	3.27	2.70	2.9	1.8
2002	92,430	454,472	203.38	209 ½	3.88	2.80	3.7	1.5
2003	104,324	559,925	186.32	193 ¾	3.40	2.90	3.6	3.1
2004	134,770	641,253	210.17	214 ½	3.98	3.10	6.9	2.5
2005	149,834	677,185	221.26	224 ¾	3.41	3.40	9.7	3.2
2006	189,351	739,234	256.14	259 ¼	3.78	3.70	8.8	2.6
2007	192,416	726,921	264.70	266	4.95	4.10	10.8	4.5
2008	188,664	733,051	257.37	258 ¼	5.59	4.60	12.2	4.2
2009	171,132	745,231	229.64	233	5.34	5.00	8.7	-1.2

Per share values have been adjusted for the 1 for 100 consolidation of Ordinary shares in January 1993.

- (1) Includes special dividend of £0.25 per share.
- (2) Personal Assets became self managed in 1990.

## CORPORATE INFORMATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert White (*Chairman*)  
Robin Angus  
Hamish Buchan  
Martin Hamilton-Sharp  
Gordon Neilly

### COMPANY SECRETARY

Steven Davidson ACIS  
F&C Investment Business Ltd  
80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU  
Telephone: 0207 628 8000

### EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Robin Angus (*Executive Director*)  
Steven Budge  
10 St Colme Street  
Edinburgh EH3 6AA  
Telephone: 0131 225 9995  
www.patplc.co.uk

### REGISTRARS

Equiniti Limited  
Aspect House  
Spencer Road  
Lancing  
West Sussex BN99 6DA  
Telephone: 0871 384 2464

### INVESTMENT ADVISER

Troy Asset Management Limited  
Brookfield House  
44 Davies Street  
London W1K 5JA  
www.taml.co.uk

### INVESTMENT PLAN ADMINISTRATION

Halifax Share Dealing Limited  
Lovell Park Road  
Leeds LS1 1NS  
Telephone: 0845 850 0181

### CUSTODIAN BANKERS

JPMorgan Chase Bank  
125 London Wall  
London EC2Y 5AJ

### STOCKBROKERS

JPMorgan Cazenove  
20 Moorgate  
London EC2R 6DA

### SOLICITORS

Dickson Minto WS  
16 Charlotte Square  
Edinburgh EH2 4DF

### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young LLP  
Ten George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 2DZ

### REGISTERED OFFICE

80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU  
Telephone: 0207 628 8000



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bobby White** (73) has been a non-executive Director of Personal Assets since 1994 and was elected Chairman later that year. After qualifying as a chartered accountant he spent his working life in stockbroking as a partner in Wood Mackenzie and then, after ownership changes, as a director of Robert White & Co and Bell Lawrie White.

**Other Trust Directorships:** None.



**Robin Angus** (56) has worked in the investment trust sector since 1977 and has been a Director of Personal Assets since 1984 (Executive Director since 2003). He trained as an investment trust manager at Baillie, Gifford & Co and worked with Hamish Buchan for 17 years as an investment trust analyst.

**Other Trust Directorships:** None.



**Hamish Buchan** (64) joined the Board as a non-executive Director in 2001. He has worked in the investment trust sector since 1969 and headed the award-winning Wood Mackenzie (later, NatWest Securities) trust research team for many years. He is the immediate past Chairman of the Association of Investment Companies.

**Other Trust Directorships:** Aberforth Smaller Companies; JPMorgan American (Chairman); Scottish Investment Trust; Standard Life European Private Equity; Templeton Emerging Markets.



**Martin Hamilton-Sharp** (66) has been a non-executive Director since 1990. For over 20 years he was responsible for managing Equitable Life Assurance Society's substantial investment trust portfolio. He later served as a director of Jupiter Asset Management.

**Other Trust Directorships:** None.



**Gordon Neilly** (48), Chief Executive of Intelli Corporate Finance, was previously Finance and Business Development Director of Ivory & Sime. Company Secretary of Personal Assets for 10 years, he joined the Board as a non-executive Director in 1997 and has considerable experience and knowledge of investment trusts.

**Other Trust Directorships:** INVESCO Leveraged High Yield Fund.



## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

This has been a tumultuous year, not only in world markets but, sadly, also in your Company with the sudden and untimely death of Ian Rushbrook last October. We have all felt the loss keenly and our tribute to an outstanding man, composed by Robin Angus for "The Scotsman" at the time of Ian's death, appears at the front of this Report. Life, however, has to go on and your Board has, since last October, spent much time and energy in searching for and finding a successor. It may seem invidious to pick out one member of the Board for special mention but we were all very aware of the exceptional contribution made by Gordon Neilly and that has been recognised in a tangible manner.



In our selection of Troy Asset Management to succeed Ian, we chose a group to which the addition of Personal Assets Trust ("PAT") was not only significant to it but also its first closed end fund. Further, its Chief Executive, Sebastian Lyon, was known to us as a shareholder in the Trust, might almost be described as a Rushbrook disciple and has an investment record which compares very favourably with most.

Having listened to innumerable members of the Government say "No one could have forecast this calamity" I thought, before composing this statement, I would read Ian's contributions to this Report in each of the past five years. One can only regret that Mr Greenspan among many others – Gordon, Fred and Andy come quickly to mind – had not been shareholders in the Company. The world might now be a happier place if they had read and inwardly digested. If you have half an hour to spare, you can find these on our new website which has been created in the past few months to keep shareholders, and others, aware of all events and changes at PAT. It can be found at [www.patplc.co.uk](http://www.patplc.co.uk).

I wonder if anyone has counted the number of times Gordon Brown has used the word "global" in the past eighteen months. I imagine in West Fife this is translated as "it wisnae me" and it would be less than fair, though tempting, to attribute all of the world's problems to him. Nevertheless, he cannot walk away from much of the blame for the UK's problems - and judging by the Euro election results the electorate have reached a similar conclusion - having put in place a regulatory system in the financial sector which was plainly inadequate and used the resources of this country in a manner suggesting he actually believed he had abolished boom and bust. Further, he has now put in place solutions to the problems which seem to involve huge risks and mortgage our grandchildren's futures. As one who, half a century ago, had to buy his way through an economics exam (37/6d), I hesitate to pronounce on such matters but trying to solve a problem caused by too much debt with even more debt strikes me as risky. I have heard it said that alcoholics can drink themselves sober but doubt this analogy is appropriate to the circumstances here.

Let me turn now to our performance in this past year. We were concerned that, following Ian's death, our capital base would be eroded by shareholders who felt it was the end of an era. We have been greatly encouraged, therefore, by the fact that our capital base has remained stable and, indeed, has increased by rather more than 12,000 shares in the course of the year. Our high levels of liquidity throughout most of this year have produced a very solid outperformance of our benchmark even if we are no richer. Our liquidity has been gradually reduced in the course of the year and we have, therefore, shared to some extent in the remarkably strong rally in March and April. I use the phrase "to some extent" as this rally has largely bypassed quality and has been classified by some as "a dash for trash". As you will read in the following pages, our Investment Adviser is less than convinced that we are out of the woods.

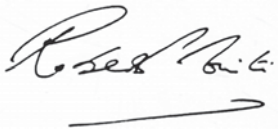
We have managed to achieve a compound rate of dividend growth in the past five years of 10%, a target we set ourselves some years ago and long before deposit interest rates more or less vanished and even major companies felt obliged by economic forces to reduce or eliminate their dividends. In the circumstances, an increase of 8.7% we feel is a creditable effort but we must warn shareholders that in the foreseeable future we may struggle to achieve increases of this magnitude.

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT *(CONT'D)*

Our Annual General Meeting has become a very popular event and, as we imagine many of you will wish to meet and listen to Sebastian Lyon, we have changed the venue to accommodate larger numbers and plan to offer attendees light refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting. If you intend coming to the meeting, it will be helpful if you will return the attendance card.

Several of our southern shareholders have asked if we might hold our Annual General Meeting in London. We are inclined to the view that this is unlikely but have decided that we should make a presentation in London at the time of our interim figures in November. Depending on the response, this could become an annual event.

I have now occupied this chair for 15 years and, even if in this last year we have all suffered a grievous loss, it has been a hugely enjoyable experience surrounded by immensely able and agreeable people. When, in the last two or three years, I have raised the matter with Ian and Robin in particular, they were kind enough to say that I could stay as long as I liked. With the number alongside my photograph getting higher and higher, however, and at a time when other major changes have occurred, I think it is time to demit office before I have to interpret signals. I shall, therefore, retire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting. I do know, however, that I pass the baton to a man, Hamish Buchan, with long and wide experience in the sector – experience which has included recently a term of office as Chairman of The Association of Investment Companies - and have no doubt that the man we have chosen as our investment adviser will prove a worthy successor to his predecessor. To maintain the Rushbrook connection we have invited Ian's elder son, Frank, to join the Board. Frank works with F&C Asset Management, with a particular involvement on the European side. We have also invited Stuart Paul to join the Board. Stuart is Joint Managing Partner of Asia Pacific Global Emerging Markets equity team at First State Investors and brings with him a wider knowledge of international markets than any of the current members of the Board. Both will take up their appointment at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sebastian Lyon', with a horizontal line underneath it.

## INVESTMENT ADVISER'S REPORT

Over the year to 30 April 2009 the FTSE All-Share Index ("FTSE") our benchmark, fell by 29.9%, while the net asset value per share ("NAV") of Personal Assets Trust ("PAT") declined by 10.8%, an outperformance of 27.2%. However, my predecessor, Ian Rushbrook's preferred starting point was to report PAT's performance from 30 April 2000. This nine year phase is the period since stock markets peaked and a secular bear market began. It also coincides with Ian's correct analysis, that since 2000, the Federal Reserve policy has been woefully misguided. In those nine years our NAV has increased by 14.9%, a figure which compares with our benchmark's fall of 27.6%, an outperformance of 58.7%.



As a Personal Assets shareholder myself for the past ten years, I benefited from Ian's outstanding performance as well as his wisdom. His approach to investment has had a major influence on the way I have managed money at Troy Asset Management Limited ("Troy") for the past eight years. The prevailing industry view is that asset allocation is a dark art and does not add value. The convention (even after nine years of falling stock markets) is to remain fully invested. Ian endeavoured to protect shareholders from the roller coaster ride of markets and it is fitting that he succeeded in insulating the Trust's investors from the ravages of the past year. Our aim is to continue where Ian left off, by combining strategic asset allocation with stock selection. We intend to invest in companies that will prove resilient, even in the difficult economic environment we anticipate in the next few years.

The financial and economic mess that Ian predicted came to pass last year. Stock markets were slow to realise the implications of the credit crisis that began immediately prior to the collapse of Northern Rock in August 2007. This financial crisis did not hit *despite* the actions of policymakers. It hit *because* of them. Alan Greenspan's decision to keep interest rates too low for too long and Gordon Brown's woeful management of the public finances combined with abysmal financial regulation were all avoidable. We are left with government, corporate and consumer balance sheets ill equipped to cope with a sharply deteriorating economy. Policy makers have, until recently, been behind the curve. They have now thrown not only the kitchen sink at the problems but the kitchen too. In the US, between 1929 and 1932, GDP fell by 27% while fiscal stimulus was 8.3% of GDP. Today, US GDP has suffered a drop of only 3.3% from the peak which has, to date been offset by a stimulus of 30% of GDP. Over three times the medicine for one tenth of the fall. The politicians and central bankers who got us into this state are trying to convince us that they have the answers, but they will not permit the market to clear and allow asset prices to find their natural levels. No one knows the outcome of these decisions, but interventions lead to a lack of clarity.

We live in a world of dishonest money. The largest UK gilt and US Treasury issuance ever is being sold, only to be bought back, by newly printed cash via 'quantitative easing'. This can only distort investor perceptions. Governments have a track record of monetising their debt - inflation is the lesser evil. The seeds have, therefore, been sown for much higher prices down the road. Government bonds, once described as offering risk free returns, now offer '*return-free risk*'. Investors tend to focus on nominal values, but inflation destroys the real wealth of the prudent. Our intention, in the years to come, will be to endeavour to protect shareholders' from this ultimate stealth tax.

Stock markets have rallied from their lows in March. We have increased PAT's net equity exposure from zero in April 2008 to 70% today and you will see on the table on the opposite page how the Trust's asset allocation has changed through the year. Valuations are lower than they were last April, but risks remain. Shareholders will see on page 10 that we have made a number of changes to the

## INVESTMENT ADVISER'S REPORT (CONT'D)

portfolio. Our policy is to buy holdings in stocks that we believe offer sustainable and growing dividends but we will also continue to use FTSE futures for asset allocation purposes. Our preference is for businesses with strong balance sheets and predictable cash flows. The bias will be towards UK equities but we may, like Ian, invest in US stocks as well. In contrast to previous policy, we may also occasionally invest in European stocks and recently we acquired a holding in Nestlé. This investment approach, which has served Troy's investors well over the long term, will from time to time be in or out of fashion. For this reason, performance is likely to vary from the benchmark. This experience will not be unfamiliar to PAT shareholders!

In addition to the portfolio's equity exposure and 24% liquidity (held in US Treasury Index Protected Securities hedged back into sterling) we have acquired a holding in Gold Bullion Securities, shares quoted on the London stock market backed by physical gold. In a world where central bankers are openly printing money, it leaves investors with the real risk of currency compromise. Sterling and the US dollar look very vulnerable. As Ian highlighted in his last annual report to shareholders "*both the destruction of the Dollar as the world's reserve currency and much higher inflation*" were realistic possibilities. Gold is an insurance policy against such uncertainty and while I accept it is a volatile asset, so are equities. With interest rates at such low levels the opportunity cost of holding gold is far lower than it has been for a century.

A year ago, Ian identified the credit crisis as posing the combined threats to the world economy of 'fire and ice' (inflation and recession). The ice has arrived but the fire is still to come.

Date	Liquidity (%)	Gold (%)	Direct Equities (%)	FTSE Futures (%)	FTSE 100 Level
30 April 2008	100	—	39	-39	6,087
31 May 2008	101	—	38	-39	6,054
30 June 2008	50	—	36	14	5,626
31 July 2008	25	—	35	40	5,412
31 August 2008	40	—	41	19	5,637
30 September 2008	42	—	39	19	4,902
31 October 2008	13	—	38	49	4,377
30 November 2008	16	—	38	46	4,288
31 December 2008	28	—	36	36	4,434
31 January 2009	44	—	33	23	4,150
28 February 2009	45	—	32	23	3,830
31 March 2009	37	6	35	22	3,926
30 April 2009	24	6	47	23	4,244

*Sebastian Lyan*

## PORTFOLIO COMPARISONS FOR THE YEAR TO 30 APRIL 2009

Company	30 April 2009 £'000	Share- holders' funds %	Gain/ (Loss) £'000	Bought/ (Sold) £'000	30 April 2008 £'000	Sector
Alliance Trust	16,503	9.6	(1,330)	13,361	4,472	Investment Trusts
Royal Dutch Shell	12,145	7.1	(3,572)	–	15,717	Oil & Gas Producer
BP	11,580	6.8	(3,084)	–	14,664	Oil & Gas Producer
GlaxoSmithKline	6,819	4.0	(468)	–	7,287	Pharmaceuticals
British American Tobacco	5,737	3.4	(268)	6,005	–	Tobacco
Centrica	3,973	2.3	(227)	4,200	–	Utility
Tesco	3,538	2.1	37	3,501	–	Food Retailer
National Grid	2,961	1.7	165	2,796	–	Utility
Sage	1,874	1.1	157	1,717	–	Technology
BAE Systems	985	0.6	(298)	–	1,283	Aerospace & Defence
F&C UK Select Trust	423	0.2	(282)	–	705	Investment Trusts
Other Investments	–	–	(17,674)	(7,242)	24,916	
FTSE 100 Future Exposure	39,125	22.9	1,911	111,291	(74,077)	
<b>UK Equity Exposure</b>	<b>105,663</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>(24,933)</b>	<b>135,629</b>	<b>(5,033)</b>	
Philip Morris International	4,378	2.5	(117)	2,616	1,879	Tobacco
Newmont Mining	3,392	2.0	(296)	3,688	–	Mining
Nestle	3,320	1.9	(112)	3,432	–	Food Producer
Johnson & Johnson	3,177	1.9	37	3,140	–	Pharmaceuticals
Other Investments	–	–	(769)	(1,942)	2,711	
<b>Overseas Equity Exposure</b>	<b>14,267</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>(1,257)</b>	<b>10,934</b>	<b>4,590</b>	
<b>Total Equity Exposure</b>	<b>119,930</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>(26,190)</b>	<b>146,563</b>	<b>(443)</b>	
Gold Bullion Securities	9,955	5.8	(983)	10,938	–	
<b>Total Gold Exposure</b>	<b>9,955</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>(983)</b>	<b>10,938</b>	<b>–</b>	
<b>Liquidity</b>						
US Treas. 1.375% 15/07/18	67,423	39.4				
Net Current Assets	9,531	5.6				
FTSE 100 Future Liability	(35,707)	(20.9)				
<b>Total Liquidity</b>	<b>41,247</b>	<b>24.1</b>			<b>189,107</b>	
<b>Shareholders' Funds</b>	<b>171,132</b>	<b>100.0</b>			<b>188,664</b>	

# BUSINESS REVIEW FOR THE YEAR TO 30 APRIL 2009

## INTRODUCTION

The review which follows is designed to provide shareholders with information about:

- the environment within which the Company operates;
- the Board's strategy for achieving its stated objectives;
- principal risks and risk management; *and*
- shareholders' returns measured against key performance indicators.

## COMPETITIVE AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

The Company is an investment trust quoted on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the Association of Investment Companies ("AIC").

The Company operates so as to comply with section 842 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, which allows it to be exempted from capital gains tax on investment gains.

In addition to publishing annual and interim accounts the Company announces net asset values per share daily and provides more detailed statistical information on a monthly basis to the AIC in order to enable investors and brokers to compare its performance and other relevant information with those of its peer group, the AIC Global Growth Sector.

The Company also publishes quarterly reports on subjects of investment interest to shareholders together with portfolio information and performance statistics.

## STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

Personal Assets is an investment trust run expressly for private investors. Its capital structure is the simplest possible for an investment trust, consisting only of Ordinary shares.

Its investment objective is to protect and increase (*in that order*) the value of shareholders' funds over the long term and to earn as high a total return as is compatible with a risk equivalent to that of the FTSE All-Share Index.

Since Personal Assets invests for the long term, the Board assesses performance not annually at the end of each accounting year but over rolling three-year periods.

A review of the Company's returns during the financial year, the position of the Company at the year end and the outlook for the coming year are contained within the Chairman's Statement and Investment Adviser's Report on pages 6–9.

- **Management of Personal Assets.** Ian Rushbrook (as the Company's Managing Director) was responsible for the day-to-day management of the portfolio until his death on 12 October 2008. The day-to-day management of the portfolio is now the responsibility of Troy Asset Management Limited ("Troy"), the Investment Adviser, and of Troy's Sebastian Lyon in particular. Robin Angus, as an executive Director, works alongside Sebastian and they meet and talk regularly with the Chairman and with other Directors. The Directors and their families together own shares worth £1.5 million and Sebastian Lyon and his family together own shares worth a further £0.2 million. Those who run Personal Assets therefore have a community of interest with those who invest in it.

## BUSINESS REVIEW FOR THE YEAR TO 30 APRIL 2009 (CONT'D)

- **Service to Shareholders.** The Board regards Personal Assets as being in business primarily to provide the best service it can to its shareholders, whom we envisage as being private investors who either have a substantial amount of capital or expect to build it out of income. This objective is reflected in our range of zero-charge investment plans and in the Quarterly Reports we send to shareholders. The Board aims to provide tax-efficient and cost-effective ways for shareholders to invest in the Company. These include a zero-charge ISA and a zero-charge Investment Plan (including a Cash Income Option), details of which can be found on page 16.
- **Dividend Policy.** We aim to pay as high, secure and sustainable a dividend as is compatible with maintaining our investment flexibility. We intend the present dividend rate to grow in real terms and it is our policy never to cut the dividend rate, so shareholders know that each half-yearly payment will at least equal the previous one.
- **'No Discount' Policy** (*see chart on page 2*). Investment trusts have long suffered from high and volatile discounts to net asset value ("NAV"). Sometimes, too, the shares of individual investment trusts may sell temporarily at a significant premium to NAV. This can put those investing regularly through investment plans at a disadvantage, because they may find themselves buying shares at a sizeable premium which almost certainly will not be sustained and which will therefore have an adverse effect on the return from their investment.

*Because of the disadvantages to shareholders of such discount and premium fluctuations, the Board's policy is to ensure that the shares of Personal Assets always trade at close to NAV.*

Each year we seek authority from shareholders to allot new shares, to buy back for cancellation up to 14.99% of our share capital, and to hold shares in Treasury for re-sale. If need be, we will ask shareholders to renew this authority at other times during the year.

- **Investment Policy.** The way we invest is determined by a desire to achieve our objective of first protecting and then increasing our shareholders' funds. Personal Assets has no policy restrictions to interfere with the investment management process. Furthermore, since it is owned almost entirely by individuals it need not take account of the differing and at times conflicting objectives of the investing institutions.

An analysis of the investment portfolio is set out on page 10.

Although we have no policy restrictions or investment specialisation we do have certain principles for making investment decisions. The most important of these are as follows:

- i. **Investment Decisions that make a Difference.** In managing Personal Assets we concentrate on decisions that will have an appreciable effect on our NAV per share. First in order of importance come decisions about the attractiveness or otherwise (relative to cash) of the markets in which we invest and about the sectors we favour within equity markets. Stock selection complements these decisions. We invest for the long term. Our equity portfolio is usually concentrated in a short list of stocks and turnover tends to be low.
- ii. **Investing Overseas.** Most of our shareholders are UK residents or expatriates whose personal liabilities are denominated mainly in Sterling and who may also have invested a significant proportion of their net worth in Personal Assets. Their need to match their long-term Sterling liabilities with Sterling assets suggests it is prudent for our portfolio to have a high Sterling content. Depending on circumstances, however, Personal Assets may want to hold investments overseas, typically in the United States. The Directors believe that a suitable overseas, or non-Sterling, risk exposure for Personal Assets would range between 50% of total assets and zero.



## BUSINESS REVIEW FOR THE YEAR TO 30 APRIL 2009 (CONT'D)

- iii. **Liquidity and Gearing.** We believe in the active use of both gearing and liquidity in investment management. When markets look particularly attractive and we want to increase our equity exposure to more than 100% of shareholders' funds, we will do so in a flexible way by using either short-term borrowed funds or (*more likely*) derivatives such as FTSE 100 Futures. When we believe markets to be overvalued, we may either hold part of our resources in cash or short-term fixed-interest securities, or use such derivatives as a way of reducing our equity exposure. In exceptional circumstances our equity exposure could be as high as 150% or our liquidity as high as 133% of shareholders' funds. These limits would not be exceeded without recourse to shareholders.
- iv. **Fixed Interest Securities.** Personal Assets may from time to time hold fixed-interest securities rather than holding cash on deposit or using derivatives. It is not tax-efficient at present for Personal Assets to hold fixed-interest gilts for capital gain and so we do not do so. This does not, however, apply to the preference shares of UK companies or to foreign fixed-interest securities.
- v. **Currencies.** If a foreign currency in which we hold investments (at present this is only the US Dollar and Swiss Franc) looks overvalued we hedge all our exposure to it by selling forward foreign exchange contracts, to lock in gains and protect the Sterling value of our foreign holdings.
- vi. **Use of other Investment Trusts.** Personal Assets may invest from time to time in other investment trusts when doing so would help us achieve our desired investment exposures. Sometimes investment trusts sell at discounts which make them look attractive compared to other UK equities. In addition, if we felt confident about the attractions of a geographical or industrial area in which we lacked expertise we would buy shares in other investment trusts which provided the exposure we wanted. Personal Assets has a policy of not investing more than 15% of its gross assets in other listed investment companies.

### INVESTMENT ADVISER

The Board appointed Troy Asset Management Limited ("Troy") as Investment Adviser with effect from 3 March 2009. The contract between the Company and Troy is for an initial one year period and a rolling six months thereafter. The fee structure, which is based on the Company's shareholders' funds, is 0.5% on the first £100 million; 0.625% on the next £50 million; 0.75% between £150 million and £500 million; and 0.625% thereafter, payable quarterly in arrears. In the year to 30 April 2009 the total cost amounted to £162,000 (2008: £nil). No compensation is payable to the Investment Adviser in the event of termination of the contract over and above payment in respect of the required 6 months' notice. The contract is also terminable summarily by either party in the event of material breach by the other party; the occurrence of certain events suggesting the insolvency of the other party or relating to the winding up of the other party; or the negligence, wilful default or fraud of the other party. In addition, the Company is entitled to terminate the contract summarily (a) if Sebastian Lyon ceases to be a full-time executive of Troy, (b) if Troy commits a material breach of the UK regulatory system or (c) if Troy undergoes a change of control (other than through a change of control whereby the existing management team of Sebastian Lyon, Francis Brooke and Simon de Zoete increases its aggregate holding in Troy to more than 50% of the voting rights and where Sebastian Lyon's voting interest in the share capital of Troy is not decreased) or a change in corporate structure which may reasonably be expected to be materially prejudicial to the Company's interests (such right of summary termination being exercisable within 30 days of the Company receiving written notice of the change of control or change in corporate structure).

Under the terms of the contract with the Investment Adviser, the following matters have been expressly reserved to the Board: (a) the level and form of liquidity within the portfolio; (b) asset alloca-

## **BUSINESS REVIEW FOR THE YEAR TO 30 APRIL 2009** (CONT'D)

tion within the portfolio; (c) the Company's gearing levels; (d) matters relating to the buying back and issuance of the Company's shares; (e) matters relating to shareholder communication; (f) hedging; (g) investment in any new asset class; (h) and such other matters as the Board may reasonably intimate from time to time.

However, the Board is required to engage in active dialogue with the Investment Adviser in relation to the matters referred to at items (a), (b), (e) and (f) above.

### **COMPANY SECRETARIAL**

F&C Investment Business Limited provides secretarial and other corporate services to the Company. The fee paid for these services was increased to £125,000 (2008: £44,000) per annum during the year.

### **PRINCIPAL RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Board believes that the principal risks to shareholders, which it seeks to mitigate through continual review of its investments and through shareholder communication, are events or developments which can affect the general level of share prices, including, for instance, inflation or deflation, economic recessions and movements in interest rates.

Other risks faced by the Company include breach of regulatory rules which could lead to suspension of the Company's Stock Exchange listing, financial penalties, or a qualified audit report. Breach of Section 842 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 could lead to the Company being subject to tax on capital gains. Details of the Company's financial risks are contained in the *Notes to the Accounts* on pages 28–37.

In the mitigation and management of these risks, the Board regularly monitors the investment environment and the management of the Company's investment portfolio, and applies the principles detailed in the guidance provided by the Financial Reporting Council. The Company's internal controls are described in more detail on page 23.

### **PERFORMANCE**

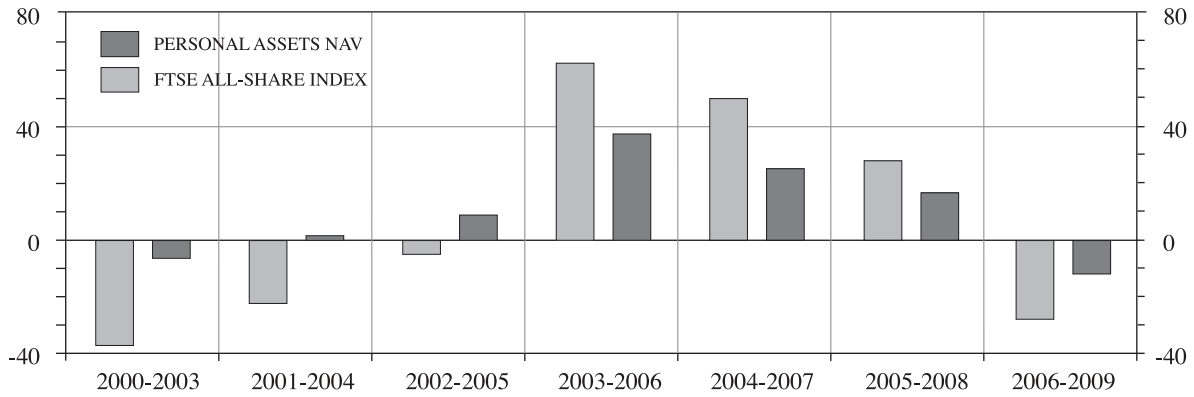
The Board assesses its performance in meeting the Company's objective against the following Key Performance Indicators:

- Net asset value per share and share price against the FTSE All-Share Index over a rolling three-year period whilst aiming to protect and increase (*in that order*) the value of shareholders' funds in accordance with the Company's investment objective.
- Dividend policy against the Retail Price Index.
- 'No Discount' policy.

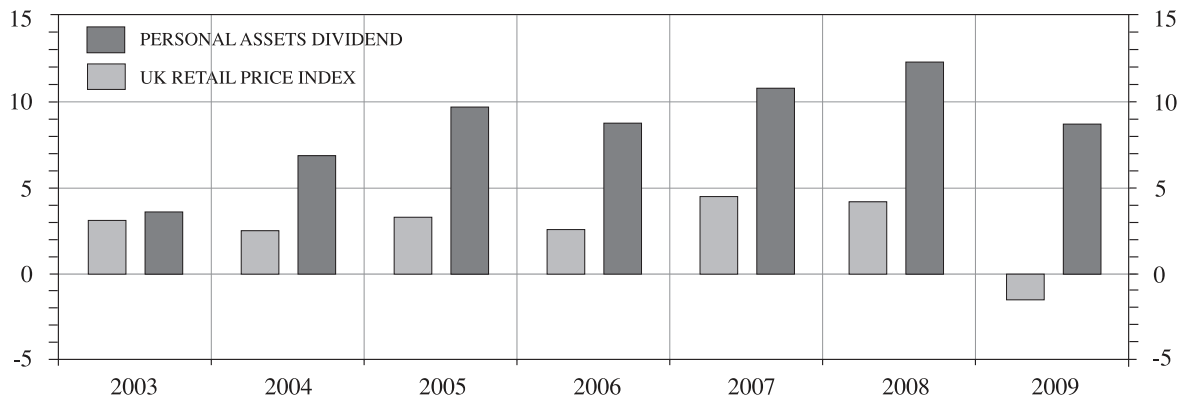
A historical record of these indicators is contained in the Key Features on page 1 and on the following page. Additional comments are provided in the Chairman's Statement and Investment Adviser's Report discussing the performance of the Company over the current period.

# BUSINESS REVIEW FOR THE YEAR TO 30 APRIL 2009 (CONT'D)

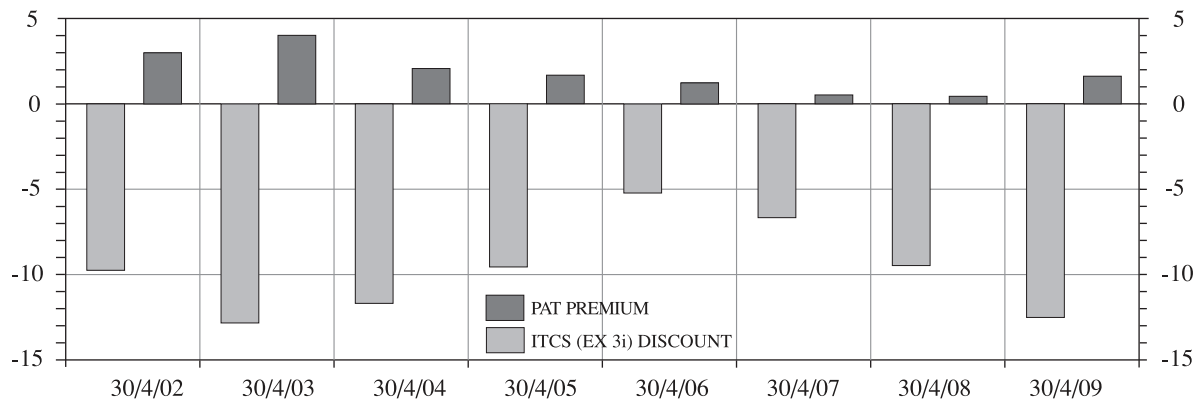
## PERCENTAGE CHANGES OVER ROLLING THREE-YEAR PERIODS



## PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN DIVIDEND COMPARED TO UK INFLATION



## PERSONAL ASSETS – ‘NO DISCOUNT’ POLICY



Source: Datastream

By Order of the Board  
 Steven K Davidson  
 Secretary  
 80 George Street  
 Edinburgh EH2 3BU  
 11 June 2009

## WAYS OF INVESTING IN PERSONAL ASSETS



**Steven Budge** (*left*), and **Steven Davidson**, our Company Secretary (*right*), will be pleased to provide information about the ways of investing in Personal Assets listed below. Their contact details are on page 4. Information can also be accessed on the Company's website – [www.patplc.co.uk](http://www.patplc.co.uk).



The shares of Personal Assets are listed on the Official List and traded on the London Stock Exchange and private investors can buy or sell shares by placing an order either directly with a stockbroker or through an Independent Financial Adviser. Alternatively, investments can be made through the Company's **Investment Plan** (which offers three options, as outlined below) or **Individual Savings Account ("ISA")**.

The Board believes investment costs for shareholders should be kept as low as possible. *No charges are therefore made by Personal Assets to shareholders using these plans.*

### THE PERSONAL ASSETS INVESTMENT PLAN

**The Single Investment Option** (minimum investment £5,000, no maximum) allows investors to acquire shares to be held within the Plan and to choose either to have dividends reinvested or to receive them directly in the usual way.

**The Monthly Investment Option** (minimum investment £500 per month, no maximum) allows investors to make regular investments by direct debit only and to choose either to have dividends reinvested or to receive them directly in the usual way.

**The Cash Income Option** lets investors draw an annual income of £4,000 or more (minimum £1,000 per quarter) from a shareholding in Personal Assets held within the Plan. Depending on their own tolerance of risk and view of markets, investors can choose to receive an annual 4%, 7% or 10% of the starting value of their holding as a quarterly cash income from the sale of shares. The minimum starting sum will depend on the percentage rate of cash income chosen.

### THE PERSONAL ASSETS ISA

The Personal Assets zero-charge Individual Savings Account ("ISA") consists solely of Personal Assets shares and all cash (whether from subscriptions or dividends) is invested in the Company's shares on the earliest dealing day. Dealing days are Wednesday and Friday of each week. Subscribers must invest the maximum amount permissible in each year. Subscriptions may be made either by lump sum or by monthly direct debit. The current rate of monthly direct debit is £600 and the lump sum investment is £7,200. In his Budget speech on 22 April 2009, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an increase in ISA allowance for those aged over 50 years to £10,200 from 6 October 2009 and an increase to the same amount for all investors from 6 April 2010. Investors can choose either to have dividends reinvested or to receive them directly in the usual way.

### TRANSFER OF OTHER ISAS INTO THE PERSONAL ASSETS ISA

Transfers may be made into the Personal Assets ISA of ISAs currently managed by other managers. Details are available from either Steven Budge or Steven Davidson.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report together with the Accounts of the Company for the year to 30 April 2009.

### ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS REVIEW

A review of the Company's activities and a business review which includes the Company's performance against its Key Performance Indicators are given on pages 11–15 and in the Chairman's Statement and Investment Adviser's Report. The business review does not include information about environmental matters and community issues, as these are not considered to be relevant to an understanding of the development, performance or position of the Company's business.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY AND STATUS

The Company is an investment company as defined by section 833 of the Companies Act 2006. It carries on the business of an investment trust and has been approved as such by the Inland Revenue up to 30 April 2008. Subsequently the Company's affairs have been conducted so as to enable it to continue to seek such approval. The Company will continue to seek approval under section 842 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 each year.

### CAPITAL STRUCTURE

As at 30 April 2009 there were 745,231 Ordinary shares of £12.50 each in issue.

The revenue profits of the Company (including accumulated revenue reserves) are available for distribution by way of interim and second interim dividends to the holders of the Ordinary shares (excluding those Ordinary shares held in Treasury which have no entitlement to dividends).

Voting rights and deadlines for exercising voting rights can be found in the Notice of Annual General Meeting on pages 41–43.

### RESULTS AND DIVIDEND

The results for the year are set out in the Income Statement on page 24.

	£'000
Revenue available for dividends	3,896
Distributed as dividends from current year revenue:	
First interim dividend (£2.50 per share) paid on 24 October 2008	(1,849)
Second interim dividend (£2.50 per share) paid on 24 April 2009	(1,824)
Retained earnings (£0.30 per share)	<u>223</u>

### STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

As far as the Directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and each Director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a Director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

### DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

The Directors at the end of the year and their interests in the shares of the Company at 30 April 2009 and 30 April 2008 were as follows:

Director	Interest	2009	2008
Robert White ( <i>Chairman</i> )	Beneficial	1,000	1,000
Robin Angus	Beneficial	2,646	2,581
Hamish Buchan	Beneficial	445	434
Martin Hamilton-Sharp	Beneficial	1,892	1,449
Gordon Neilly	Beneficial	195	192

Since 30 April 2009, Mr Angus has acquired a beneficial interest in an additional 4 shares. There have been no other changes in the above holdings between 30 April 2009 and 11 June 2009.

Ian Rushbrook, who also served as a Director during the year, had a beneficial interest of 33,985 shares in the Company at his death on 12 October 2008.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONT'D)

### INVESTMENT ADVISER

The Board appointed Troy Asset Management Limited ("Troy") as Investment Adviser with effect from 3 March 2009 following a careful and considered selection process extending over a four month period. Troy has a proven record of strong performance against the FTSE All-Share Index from 2000 which has been achieved by cautious, risk-averse, low turnover investing of a kind that has characterised Personal Assets Trust. The Board have known Troy since its inception in 2000 and are confident that the relationship between the Company and Troy will be successful. It is the opinion of the Directors that the continuing appointment of Troy as investment adviser under the terms as set out in the Business Review on pages 11–15 is in the interests of the Company's shareholders as a whole.

### SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS

As at 11 June 2009 the following holdings representing (directly or indirectly) 3% or more of the voting rights attaching to the issued share capital of the Company has been disclosed to the Company:

Substantial Holders	Shares Held	Percentage
Personal Assets Trust ISA	192,149	25.6
Personal Assets Trust Investment Plan	126,833	16.9
Ian Rushbrook's Executry	33,985	4.5
Legal & General	29,162	3.9

### FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Information on the Company's financial instruments can be found in *The Business Review for the Year to 30 April 2009* on pages 11–15 and in the *Notes to the Accounts* on pages 28–37.

### PRINCIPAL RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Information on the principal risks to shareholders and management of these risks can be in *The Business Review for the Year to 30 April 2009* on pages 11–15.

### DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY

The Company's Articles of Association entitle any Director or other officer of the Company to be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against any loss or liability incurred by him in the execution of his duties in relation to the Company's affairs to the extent permitted by law.

### CREDITOR PAYMENT POLICY

The Company's payment policy is to settle investment transactions in accordance with market practice and to ensure settlement of supplier invoices in accordance with stated terms. The Company did not have any trade creditors at the year end.

### RESOLUTIONS TO BE PROPOSED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### Annual Report and Accounts

*Resolutions 1 and 2* are, respectively, to receive the Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 30 April 2009 and to approve the Directors' Remuneration Report contained therein.

#### Directors

*Resolutions 3, 4 and 5* are, respectively, to re-elect Hamish Buchan, Martin Hamilton-Sharp and Gordon Neilly, all of whom retire annually.

*Resolution 6* is to re-elect Robin Angus, who, as an executive Director, also retires annually.

The Board confirms that each of the Directors seeking re-election continues to make a significant contribution to Board deliberations, and that Robin Angus continues to undertake his executive duties in an effective and committed manner. The Board therefore believes that it is in the interests of shareholders that the above Directors be re-elected.

#### Auditors

*Resolution 7* is to re-appoint Ernst & Young LLP as auditors and fix their remuneration.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONT'D)

### Authority to Issue Shares

In order to meet the continuing demand for shares by the Company's investment plans, two Resolutions will be proposed.

*Resolution 8* is to authorise the Directors to issue new shares up to an aggregate nominal amount of £938,750, being 9.99% of the total issued shares (excluding treasury shares) as at 11 June 2009.

*Resolution 9* is to enable the Directors to issue such new shares and to re-sell shares from Treasury (see *Treasury Shares* below) up to an aggregate nominal amount of £938,750 (being 9.99% of the total issued shares (excluding treasury shares) as at 11 June 2009) for cash without first offering such shares to existing shareholders *pro rata* to their existing shareholdings.

If approved by shareholders, the authorities sought by *Resolutions 8 and 9* will continue in effect until 31 October 2010, or, if earlier, the conclusion of the Company's Annual General Meeting in 2010.

The Directors issue new shares only when they believe it is advantageous to the Company's shareholders to do so and in no circumstances would such issue of new shares or re-sale of shares from Treasury result in a dilution of net asset value per share.

### Authority to Buy Back Shares

During the year, the Company purchased 43,057 Ordinary shares to be held in Treasury for a total consideration of £9,603,465, representing 5.9% of the Ordinary shares in issue at the previous year end. The Company also re-issued 55,237 Ordinary shares from Treasury for a total consideration of £12,567,933, representing 7.5% of the Ordinary shares in issue at the previous year end. The Company's current authority to make market purchases of up to 14.99% of the issued Ordinary shares expires at the end of the Annual General Meeting.

*Resolution 10* is to renew the authority for a further period until the Company's Annual General Meeting in 2010. The price paid for shares on exercise of the authority will not be less than the nominal value of £12.50 per share or more than 5% above the average of the middle market quotations of those shares for the five business days before the shares are purchased. The authority, which may be used to buy back shares either for cancellation or (subject to statutory limits) to be held in Treasury, will be used to purchase shares only if, in the opinion of the Directors, a purchase would be in the best interests of the shareholders as a whole and would result in an increase in the net asset value per share for the remaining shareholders.

### Treasury Shares

Under UK company law investment trusts are able to acquire their own shares to hold in Treasury for re-sale. The Directors consider that this facility gives the Company more flexibility in managing its share capital. As at 11 June 2009 the Company had re-sold all of its Ordinary shares in Treasury.

*Resolutions 9 and 10* would provide the Directors with the authority they need to manage Treasury shares.

Any buy-back of shares into Treasury and re-sale of shares from Treasury will operate within the following limits:

- no more than 10% of the Company's listed shares will be held in Treasury at any time;
- Treasury shares will only be sold at a premium to the net asset value of the shares at the time of sale; *and*
- Treasury shares will not be sold at a discount of more than 10% to the middle market price of the shares at the time of sale.

By Order of the Board



Steven K Davidson  
Secretary  
80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU

11 June 2009

# DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION REPORT

## POLICY ON DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

The Board's policy is that fees should be sufficient to attract and retain Directors capable of managing the Company on behalf of its shareholders.

Non-executive Directors do not have service contracts but on first election are provided with a letter of appointment.

Directors do not receive any pension benefits, share options, long-term incentive schemes or other benefits. The Remuneration Committee is Hamish Buchan, Robert White, Martin Hamilton-Sharp and Gordon Neilly. The Remuneration Committee meets, at least annually, to review the Directors' fees and the remuneration paid to the Investment Adviser.

## DIRECTORS' FEES

Following review of the level of Directors' fees for the forthcoming year the Board concluded that the amounts should remain unchanged.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SERVICE CONTRACTS

Robin Angus has a rolling twelve month contract of employment, signed in November 2002. His salary was paid under the Investment Management Fee until 12 October 2008, after which his salary was paid directly by the Company. In the event of termination of his contract, the Company would incur a liability for 12 months salary.

Until Ian Rushbrook's death on 12 October 2008, investment management services were provided by Ian Rushbrook to the Company under a rolling twelve-month contract of employment signed in July 1990. The contract covered the costs of salaries<sup>(1)</sup> of the Company's employees (including its two executive directors), the provision of office premises and equipment<sup>(2)</sup> and the provision of company secretarial and administration services<sup>(3)</sup>.

## DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION FOR THE YEAR (AUDITED)

Directors	Year ended 30 April 2009		Year ended 30 April 2008	
	Fees	Salaries	Fees	Salaries
Robert White (Chairman)	£24,000	–	£24,000	–
Robin Angus	£12,000	£175,000	£12,000	£163,000
Hamish Buchan	£12,000	–	£12,000	–
Martin Hamilton-Sharp	£12,000	–	£12,000	–
Gordon Neilly <sup>(1)</sup>	£22,000	–	£12,000	–
Ian Rushbrook <sup>(2)</sup>	£6,000	£596,000	£12,000	£1,231,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£88,000</b>	<b>£771,000</b>	<b>£84,000</b>	<b>£1,394,000</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> During the year the Board approved the payment of £10,000 to Gordon Neilly in acknowledgement of his efforts leading to the appointment of Troy as Investment Adviser.

<sup>(2)</sup> Details of the terms of remuneration paid to Ian Rushbrook can be found in the *Notes to the Accounts* on page 31.

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(1) The Company is also responsible for employer's NIC on its employees' salaries, which in the year to 30 April 2009 amounted to £79,000 (2008: £186,000).

(2) £50,000 (2008: £100,000) was paid under the Investment Management Fee to Rushbrook & Company, a partnership of which Ian Rushbrook was senior partner, for the provision of office premises and equipment.

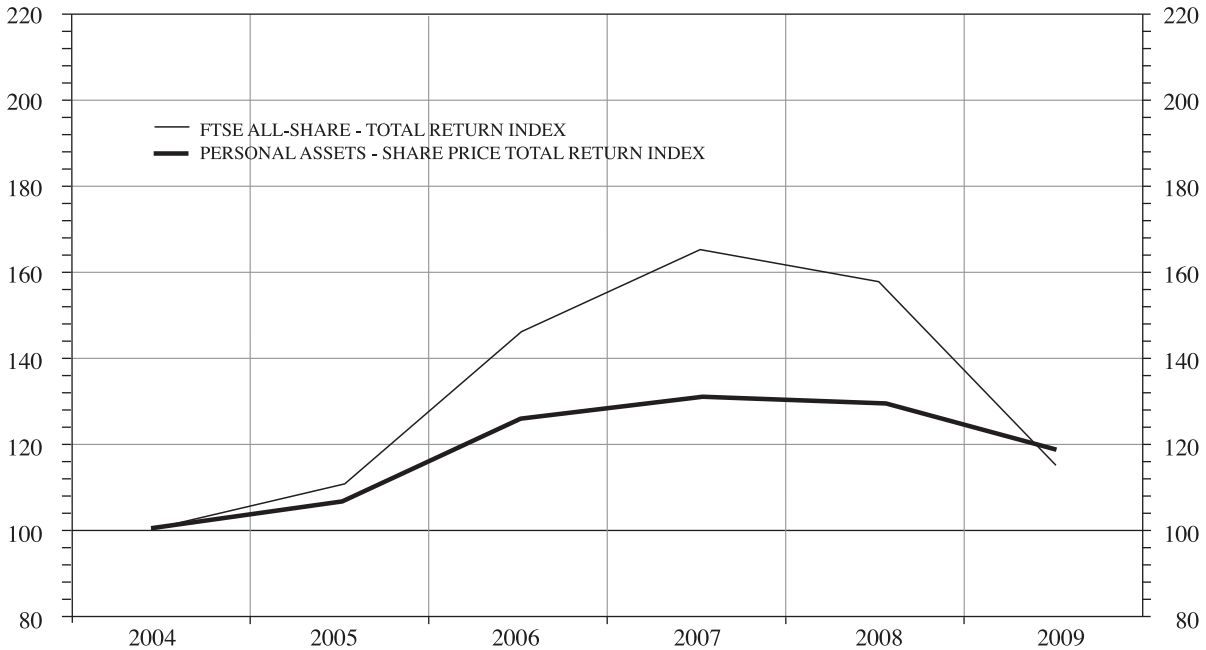
(3) £23,000 (2008: £44,000) was paid under the Investment Management Fee to F&C Investment Business Limited for the provision of company secretarial and administration services.



## DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION REPORT (CONT'D)

### COMPANY PERFORMANCE

The graph below compares, for the five financial years ended 30 April 2009, the share price total return (assuming all dividends were reinvested) to Ordinary shareholders in each period compared to the total shareholder return on a notional investment in the FTSE All-Share Index. This index represents a comparable broad equity market index and is the Company's benchmark. An explanation of the performance of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2009 is given in the Chairman's Statement and Investment Adviser's Report on pages 6-9.



On behalf of the Board

Robert P White  
Chairman

11 June 2009

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Personal Assets Trust is a self-managed investment trust run by its Board, which takes all major decisions collectively. While Robin Angus has executive duties, all of the Directors regard themselves and one another as equal in the duties and responsibilities they owe to shareholders and accordingly work together as a unitary Board within which the Chairman (who is elected by the Directors from among their own number) acts as *primus inter pares*.

The Directors are elected by the shareholders and regard corporate governance and accountability to shareholders as fundamental. They therefore place considerable emphasis on running the Company in the way they believe to be best suited to the successful management of an investment trust on behalf of its shareholders.

Arrangements appropriate to an investment trust in respect of corporate governance have been made by the Board. The Board has considered the principles and recommendations of the AIC's Code of Corporate Governance issued in March 2009 (the 'AIC Code') by reference to the AIC Corporate Governance Guide for Investment Companies (the 'AIC Guide'). The AIC Code, as explained by the AIC Guide, addresses all the principles set out in Section 1 of the Combined Code on Corporate Governance issued by the Financial Reporting Council in June 2006 (the 'Combined Code'), as well as setting out additional principles and recommendations which are of specific relevance to investment trusts.

The Board considers that reporting against the principles and recommendations of the AIC Code, and by reference to the AIC guide (which incorporates the Combined Code), will provide better information to shareholders than if it had adopted the Combined Code.

The Company has complied throughout the year with the recommendations of the AIC Code and the relevant provisions of the Combined Code, except as disclosed below.

The Board does not consider it appropriate for a Senior Independent Director to be appointed as recommended by provision A.3.3 of the Combined Code as it operates as a unitary Board.

The Board did not have separate Audit or Nomination Committees as recommended by provisions C.3.1 and A.4.1 of the Combined Code. All matters recommended for delegation to such Committees were considered by the full Board. Any Director with any possible conflict of interest must declare this and, unless requested to remain, leave the meeting prior to discussion and determination of such matters by the other Directors.

The Board did not consider it appropriate for the Company to arrange insurance cover in respect of legal action against the Directors as recommended by provision A.1.5 of the Combined Code.

In May 2009, as part of its ongoing review of the Combined Code, the Company agreed to set up separate Audit and Nomination Committees and for the Company to arrange appropriate insurance cover in respect of legal action against the Directors.

All of the non-executive Directors are considered to be independent in character and judgement and, in the opinion of the Board, there are no relationships or circumstances which are likely to affect the judgement of any Director. Martin Hamilton-Sharp, Gordon Neilly and Robert White have served for more than nine years. However, the Board subscribes to the view expressed within the AIC Code that long-serving Directors should not be prevented from forming part of an independent majority, and does not consider that a Director's length of tenure reduces his ability to act independently.

Directors' fees are determined within the limits set out in the Company's Articles of Association. The present limit is £100,000 in aggregate per annum and the approval of shareholders in a General Meeting would be required to change this limit.

Director	Date of Appointment	Due date for Re-election
Robert White (Chairman)	1 February 1994	–
Robin Angus	18 May 1984	AGM 2009
Hamish Buchan	5 July 2001	AGM 2009
Martin Hamilton-Sharp	16 November 1990	AGM 2009
Gordon Neilly	30 April 1997	AGM 2009

Any new Directors appointed during the year must stand for re-appointment at the first Annual General Meeting following their appointment. All executive and non-executive Directors retire annually. Other than for Robin Angus there is no notice period and no provision for compensation on early termination of appointment.

During the year there were eleven Board meetings, each of which was attended by all of the Directors except Martin Hamilton-Sharp, who attended ten meetings, and Ian Rushbrook, who attended two meetings.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (CONT'D)

Only Robin Angus has a contract of service with the Company. Details of this service contract, the remuneration, and fees paid to other Directors during the year, are shown in the Directors' Remuneration Report.

Individual Directors may, after having obtained the consent of any other Director, seek independent professional advice at the Company's expense on any matter that concerns the furtherance of their duties.

The Investment Adviser is to exercise all votes exercisable by the Company in relation to the Company's investments in favour of resolutions proposed by the boards of investee companies, save where the Board instructs otherwise. Board decisions regarding voting on corporate resolutions of companies in which the Company invests is a matter for the whole Board. All resolutions on which the Company is entitled to vote are monitored and although normally the Company would vote in favour of all Board resolutions, any contentious matters are referred to the Directors by e-mail for comment. Any Director disagreeing that the Company should cast an affirmative vote informs the Company Secretary and requests that his view be considered by a sub-committee of the Board consisting of any two Directors. The sub-committee then considers the matter and informs the Director of its conclusion. Should the Director disagree with the sub-committee's conclusion, a full Board meeting is called to consider the matter.

The Board welcomes the views of shareholders and places considerable importance on communications with them. The Investment Adviser reports back to the Board on meetings with shareholders and the Chairman and other Directors are available to meet shareholders if required. The Annual General Meeting of the Company provides a forum, both formal and informal, for shareholders to meet and discuss issues with the Board.

During the year the full Board, in carrying out the responsibilities of an audit committee, reviewed the Annual and Interim Accounts, the system of internal controls, and the terms of appointment of the auditors together with their remuneration. The Board also reviewed the objectivity of the auditors together with the terms under which they are appointed to perform non-audit services. The Board reviewed the scope and results of the audit, its cost effectiveness and the independence of the auditors, with particular regard to non-audit fees. Such fees amounted to £8,000 for the year ended 30 April 2009 (2008: £5,000) and related to the provision of taxation services. Notwithstanding such services the Board considers Ernst & Young LLP to be independent of the Company. These responsibilities will now be carried out by the Audit Committee.

The Remuneration Committee, chaired by Hamish Buchan and comprising the non-executive Directors, reviews the Directors' fees and the remuneration paid to the Investment Adviser together with the terms and conditions thereof on an annual basis.

During the year the performance of the Board, Remuneration Committee and individual Directors was evaluated through a discussion based assessment process led by the Chairman. The performance of the Chairman was evaluated by the other Directors.

F&C Investment Business Limited ("F&C") provides secretarial and other corporate services to the Company. During the year F&C also provided investment advisory services from 13 October 2008 until 31 January 2009.

The Board is responsible for the Company's system of internal controls and for reviewing its effectiveness. The Board has therefore established an ongoing process designed to meet the particular needs of the Company in managing the risks to which it is exposed, consistent with the internal control guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council in October 2005. The process relies principally on F&C's existing risk based system of internal control whereby a test matrix is created that identifies the key functions carried out by the Company and other service providers, the individual activities undertaken within those functions, the risks associated with each activity and the controls employed to minimise those risks. A formal annual review of these procedures is carried out by the Board and includes consideration of internal control reports issued by Troy Asset Management Limited, F&C and other service providers.

Such review procedures have been in place throughout the financial year and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report, and the Board is satisfied with their effectiveness. These procedures are designed to manage, rather than eliminate, risk and, by their nature, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Board has reviewed the need for an internal audit function and has decided that the systems and procedures employed by F&C, which are reported on by a firm of external auditors, provide sufficient assurance that a sound system of internal control is maintained to safeguard the Company's assets. An internal audit function specific to the Company is therefore considered unnecessary.

After making inquiries, and bearing in mind the nature of the Company's business and assets, the Directors believe that the Company has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

## INCOME STATEMENT

	Notes	Year ended 30 April 2009			Year ended 30 April 2008		
		Revenue return £'000	Capital return £'000	Total £'000	Revenue return £'000	Capital return £'000	Total £'000
Investment income	2	5,164	–	5,164	5,219	–	5,219
Other operating income	2	491	–	491	953	–	953
Gains/(losses) on investments held at fair value through profit or loss	9	–	3,728	3,728	–	(11,670)	(11,670)
Gains on derivatives held at fair value through profit or loss		–	1,911	1,911	–	5,962	5,962
Foreign exchange differences		–	(26,359)	(26,359)	–	(346)	(346)
<b>Total income</b>		<b>5,655</b>	<b>(20,720)</b>	<b>(15,065)</b>	<b>6,172</b>	<b>(6,054)</b>	<b>118</b>
Expenses	3	(1,759)	–	(1,759)	(2,099)	–	(2,099)
<b>Profit/(loss) before taxation</b>		<b>3,896</b>	<b>(20,720)</b>	<b>(16,824)</b>	<b>4,073</b>	<b>(6,054)</b>	<b>(1,981)</b>
Taxation	5, 6	–	–	–	(37)	–	(37)
<b>Profit/(loss) for the year</b>		<b>3,896</b>	<b>(20,720)</b>	<b>(16,824)</b>	<b>4,036</b>	<b>(6,054)</b>	<b>(2,018)</b>
Earnings per share	8	£5.34	(£28.43)	(£23.09)	£5.59	(£8.38)	(£2.79)

The 'Total' column of this statement represents the Company's Income Statement, prepared in accordance with IFRS. Under IFRS the Income Statement is the equivalent of the Statement of Total Return.

The revenue return and capital return columns are supplementary to this and are prepared under guidance published by the Association of Investment Companies.

All items in the above statement derive from continuing operations.

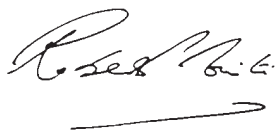
### Supplementary information

Dividends per share	£5.00	£4.60
Dividends paid out of current year income		
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
First interim dividend of £2.50 per share (2008: £2.25 per share)	1,849	1,626
Second interim dividend of £2.50 per share (2008: £2.35 per share)	1,824	1,703
	<b>3,673</b>	<b>3,329</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	30 April 2009 £'000	30 April 2008 £'000
Non current assets			
Investments held at fair value through profit or loss	9	158,183	170,546
Current assets			
Other receivables	10	5,039	9,397
Cash and cash equivalents		8,202	14,660
Total assets		171,424	194,603
Current liabilities			
Other payables	11	(292)	(5,939)
Net assets		171,132	188,664
Capital and reserves			
Ordinary share capital	12	9,386	9,386
Share premium		87,224	87,582
Capital redemption reserve		219	219
Special reserve (distributable)		22,517	22,517
Treasury share reserve		(1,346)	(4,669)
Other capital reserves		49,457	70,177
Revenue reserve		3,675	3,452
Total equity		171,132	188,664
Net asset value per Ordinary share	13	£229.64	£257.37

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf on 11 June 2009 by:



Robert P White, Chairman

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Ordinary share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Special reserve £'000	Treasury share reserve £'000	Other capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance as at 30 April 2008	9,386	87,582	219	22,517	(4,669)	70,177	3,452	188,664
Loss for the year	–	–	–	–	–	(20,720)	3,896	(16,824)
Ordinary dividends paid	–	–	–	–	–	–	(3,673)	(3,673)
Issue of Ordinary shares	–	(358)	–	–	12,926	–	–	12,568
Buy-backs of Ordinary shares	–	–	–	–	(9,603)	–	–	(9,603)
Balance as at 30 April 2009	9,386	87,224	219	22,517	(1,346)	49,457	3,675	171,132

	Ordinary share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Special reserve £'000	Treasury share reserve £'000	Other capital reserves £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance as at 30 April 2007	9,386	87,098	219	22,517	(6,047)	76,498	2,745	192,416
Transfer <sup>(1)</sup>	–	267	–	–	–	(267)	–	–
Loss for the year	–	–	–	–	–	(6,054)	4,036	(2,018)
Ordinary dividends paid	–	–	–	–	–	–	(3,329)	(3,329)
Issue of Ordinary shares	–	217	–	–	4,532	–	–	4,749
Buy-backs of Ordinary shares	–	–	–	–	(3,154)	–	–	(3,154)
Balance as at 30 April 2008	9,386	87,582	219	22,517	(4,669)	70,177	3,452	188,664

<sup>(1)</sup> The premium on shares issued from Treasury has been transferred to Share premium.

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Year ended 30 April 2009 £'000	Year ended 30 April 2008 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Loss before taxation	(16,824)	(1,981)
(Gains)/losses on investments	(6,036)	5,708
Foreign exchange differences at fair value through the profit or loss	26,359	346
Operating cash flow before movements in working capital	3,499	4,073
Decrease in other receivables	111	173
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	184	(87)
Net cash from operating activities before taxation	3,794	4,159
Taxation	(51)	(37)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	3,743	4,122
Investing activities		
Purchase of FTSE 100 Futures	(11)	(12)
Disposal of FTSE 100 Futures	(6,480)	10,986
Purchase of investments – equity shares	(59,779)	(5,508)
Purchase of investments – fixed interest and other investments	(342,100)	(326,666)
Disposal of investments – equity shares	20,145	14,306
Disposal of investments – fixed interest and other investments	404,776	318,882
Net cash inflow from investing activities	16,551	11,988
Financing activities		
Equity dividends paid	(3,673)	(3,329)
Issue of Ordinary shares	12,568	4,749
Buy-backs of Ordinary shares	(9,603)	(3,154)
Net cash outflow from financing activities	(708)	(1,734)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	19,586	14,376
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year	14,660	155
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes	(26,044)	129
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	8,202	14,660

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”). These comprise standards and interpretations approved by the International Accounting Standards Board (“IASB”), together with such interpretations by the International Accounting Standards and Standing Interpretations Committee as have been approved by the IASB and still remain in effect, to the extent that these have been adopted by the European Union.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds (£’000) except where otherwise indicated.

The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below. Where the presentational guidance set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (“the SORP”) for investment trusts issued by the Association of Investment Companies (“the AIC”) in January 2009 is consistent with the requirements of IFRS, the Directors have sought to prepare the financial statements on a basis compliant with the recommendation of the SORP.

### Presentation of Income Statement

In order better to reflect the activities of an investment trust company, and in accordance with guidance issued by the AIC, supplementary information which analyses the Income Statement between items of a revenue and capital nature has been presented alongside the Income Statement. In accordance with the Company’s status as a UK investment company under section 833 of the Companies Act 2006 net capital returns may not be distributed by way of dividend. Additionally, the net profit is the measure the Directors believe is appropriate in assessing the Company’s compliance with certain requirements set out in section 842 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

### Income

Dividends are recognised as income when the shareholders’ right to receive payment has been established, normally the ex-dividend date.

Dividends receivable on equity shares where no ex-dividend date is quoted are recognised when the Company’s right to receive payment is established.

Where the Company has received its dividends in the form of additional shares rather than cash, the amount of the cash dividend is recognised as income.

Interest income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

### Expenses

All expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis and are charged fully to revenue.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition or disposal of investments are expensed.

### Taxation

In accordance with the SORP, the marginal rate of tax is applied to taxable net revenue.

### Deferred Taxation

Deferred tax is the tax expected to be payable or recoverable on differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit, and is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method. Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised.

### Investments

Investments are recognised and derecognised on the trade date where a purchase or sale is under a contract whose terms require delivery within a period of time established by the market concerned, and are initially measured at fair value.

Investments are designated in terms of IFRS as “investments held at fair value through profit or loss”, and are measured at subsequent reporting dates at fair value, which is either the bid price or the last traded price, depending on the convention of the exchange on which the investment is quoted. Investments in unit trusts or OEICs are valued at the closing price released by the relevant investment manager.



## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

### Capital Redemption Reserve

The Capital Redemption Reserve represents the nominal value of Ordinary shares bought back for cancellation by the Company since authority to do this was first obtained at an Extraordinary General Meeting in April 1999.

### Special Reserve

The cost of any shares bought back for cancellation is deducted from the Special Reserve, which is a distributable reserve and was created from the cancellation of the Share Premium Account, also following the Extraordinary General Meeting in April 1999.

### Treasury Share Reserve

The Treasury Reserve was created following the introduction of Treasury Shares and IFRS. The cost of any shares bought back to be held in Treasury or subsequent re-sale of shares from Treasury is deducted from or added to the Treasury Share Reserve. If shares are re-sold at a premium over their cost the excess is transferred to the Share Premium Account.

### Other Capital Reserves

Gains and losses on the realisation of investments, gains and losses on the realisation of FTSE 100 Future contracts, realised exchange differences of a capital nature and returns of capital are accounted for in this Reserve.

Increases and decreases in the valuation of investments held at the year end, unrealised gains and losses on FTSE 100 Future contracts and unrealised exchange differences of a capital nature are also accounted for in this Reserve.

### Revenue Reserve

Any surplus arising from the revenue profit for the year after payment of dividends is taken to this Reserve.

### Foreign Currency

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the actual exchange rate as at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets denominated in foreign currencies at the year end are reported at fair value by using the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end. The rate of exchange of US\$ to Sterling at 30 April 2009 was 1.4818 (2008: 1.98055). The rate of exchange of Swiss Francs to Sterling at 30 April 2009 was 1.68775 (2008: 2.06285).

Forward currency contracts are reported at fair value at the year end by using the rates of exchange prevailing at the year end. The forward rate of exchange of US\$ to Sterling at 30 April 2009 was 1.4818 (2008: 1.97873).

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

### Financial liabilities and equity

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is a contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Company after deducting all of its liabilities. Financial liabilities and equity instruments are recorded at the proceeds received, net of issue costs.

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

### 2. INCOME

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Income from investments		
Franked investment income	3,438	4,571
Fixed interest securities	1,421	–
Overseas dividends	305	648
	5,164	5,219
Other income		
Deposit interest	410	854
Other income	81	99
	5,655	6,172
Total income comprises		
Dividends	3,743	5,219
Fixed interest securities	1,421	–
Other income	491	953
	5,655	6,172
Income from investments		
Listed UK	3,513	4,571
Listed overseas	1,651	648
	5,164	5,219

### 3. EXPENSES

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Investment management expenses	659	1,388
Staff costs	286	266
Office costs	100	100
Investment advisory expenses paid to Troy	162	–
Secretarial and administration expenses	181	44
Directors' fees	88	84
Auditors' remuneration for:		
– audit	14	14
– tax services	8	5
Other expenses	261	198
	1,759	2,099

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

Investment management services were provided to the Company under a rolling twelve month contract of employment by Ian Rushbrook until his death on 12 October 2008. The contract covered the costs of salaries of the Company's employees, the provision of office premises and equipment and the provision of company secretarial and administrative services.

The investment management fee was calculated at 0.85% per annum of shareholders' funds, payable quarterly in advance. In the year to 30 April 2009 (May to October) the total cost amounted to £873,000 (2008: £1,798,000)

The agreement between the Company and F&C for the provision of company secretarial and administrative services was amended on 13 October 2009 to include investment advisory services at a cost of £25,000 per month. The secretarial and administration fee was also increased to £125,000 per annum. The investment advisory services were terminated on 31 January 2009.

Details of the contract between the Company and Troy Asset Management in respect of investment advisory services is provided in the Business Review on pages 11–15.

### 4. DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION AND EMPLOYEE COSTS

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Directors' fees and salaries	859	1,478
Other salaries	80	74
Employer's national insurance	95	186
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,034	1,738
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Details of the highest paid Director can be found in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 20–21. Excluding the Directors, there was one employee during each of the years ended 30 April 2009 and 30 April 2008.

### 5. TAX ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Foreign tax suffered	51	18
Recovery of foreign tax suffered	(51)	–
Prior year adjustment	–	19
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	–	37
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Company had £736,000 unrelieved excess expenses at 30 April 2009 (2008: £1,194,000). It is uncertain whether the Company will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise these expenses and therefore no deferred tax asset in respect of these expenses has been recognised.

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

### 6. FACTORS AFFECTING TAX CHARGE FOR YEAR

The revenue account tax charge for the year is lower than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK. The differences are explained below:

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Loss before tax	(16,824)	(1,981)
Corporation tax at standard rate of 28% (2008: 30%)	(4,711)	(594)
Effects of:		
Capital losses not subject to taxation	5,802	1,816
Franked investment income not subject to taxation	(963)	(1,371)
Excess management expenses	(128)	149
Prior year adjustment	–	19
Foreign tax suffered	51	18
Recovery of foreign tax suffered	(51)	–
Total tax charge (note 5)	–	37

### 7. DIVIDENDS

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Amounts recognised as distributions to equity holders in the year:		
Interim dividend for the year ended 30 April 2009 of £2.50 (2008: £2.25) per Ordinary share	1,849	1,626
Second interim dividend for the year ended 30 April 2009 of £2.50 (2008: £2.35) per Ordinary share	1,824	1,703
	3,673	3,329

### 8. RETURN PER SHARE

The revenue return per share of £5.34 (2008: £5.59) is based on the net revenue profit for the financial year of £3,896,000 (2008: £4,036,000), and on 728,778 (2008: 722,662) shares, being the weighted average number in issue during the year, excluding Treasury shares.

The capital return per share of minus £28.43 (2008: minus £8.38) is based on a net capital loss for the financial year of £20,720,000 (2008: loss of £6,054,000), and on 728,778 (2008: 722,662) shares, being the weighted average number in issue during the year, excluding Treasury shares.

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

### 9. INVESTMENTS

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Investments listed on a recognised investment exchange	158,183	170,546	
	<b>Listed UK</b>	<b>Listed Overseas</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Opening book cost	67,526	99,573	167,099
Opening unrealised appreciation	1,518	1,929	3,447
Opening valuation	69,044	101,502	170,546
Movements in the year			
Purchases at cost	69,017	332,015	401,032
Effective yield adjustment	(88)	485	397
Sales proceeds	(44,580)	(372,940)	(417,520)
Sales – realised (losses)/gains on sales	(22,077)	22,193	116
(Decrease)/increase in unrealised appreciation	(4,779)	8,391	3,612
Closing valuation	66,537	91,646	158,183
Closing book cost			
Closing book cost	69,798	81,326	151,124
Closing unrealised (depreciation)/appreciation	(3,261)	10,320	7,059
	66,537	91,646	158,183
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Equity shares	80,805	73,634	
Fixed interest securities	67,423	95,903	
Other investments	9,955	1,009	
	158,183	170,546	
Realised gains on sales			
Realised gains on sales	116	10,668	
Increase/(decrease) in unrealised appreciation	3,612	(22,338)	
Gains/(losses) on investments	3,728	(11,670)	

#### Transaction costs

During the year the Company incurred transaction costs of £303,228 (2008: £69,381) on the purchase and sale of investments.

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

### 10. OTHER RECEIVABLES

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Due from brokers	–	7,401
Gain on forward currency contract	754	1,069
Gain on FTSE 100 Future	3,418	–
Prepayments and accrued income	802	905
Tax debtor	51	–
Other debtors	14	22
	5,039	9,397

### 11. OTHER PAYABLES

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Due to brokers	–	847
Loss on FTSE 100 Future	–	4,984
Other creditors	292	108
	292	5,939

### 12. CALLED-UP SHARE CAPITAL

	<b>Number</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Authorised:		
Ordinary shares of £12.50 each	1,000,000	12,500
Allotted, called-up and fully paid:		
Balance at 30 April 2008	750,876	9,386
Balance at 30 April 2009	750,876	9,386

Of the above shares in issue the movements in the Ordinary shares held in Treasury are as follows:

	<b>Number</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Balance at 30 April 2008	17,825	(4,669)
Purchased during the year	43,057	(9,603)
Issued during the year	(55,237)	12,926
Balance at 30 April 2009	5,645	(1,346)

The total cost of shares purchased into Treasury during the year was £9,603,000 and the total proceeds from shares issued from Treasury were £12,568,000.

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

### 13. NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE

The net asset value per Ordinary share and the net asset value attributable to the Ordinary shares at the year end were as follows:

	Net asset value per share attributable		Net asset value attributable	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	£	£	£'000	£'000
Ordinary shares	229.64	257.37	171,132	188,664

Net asset value per Ordinary share is based on net assets shown above and 745,231 (2008: 733,051) Ordinary shares, being the number of Ordinary shares in issue at the year end.

At the year end the Company held 5,645 Ordinary shares in Treasury. To avoid any dilution of existing shareholders' interests, the Company will not re-issue these shares at below net asset value per share.

### 14. BUSINESS SEGMENT

The Directors are of the opinion that the Company is engaged in a single segment of business of investing in equity shares, fixed interest securities and other investments.

### 15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Company holds investments in listed companies and fixed interest securities, holds cash balances and has debtors and creditors. It also invests in FTSE 100 Futures and may from time to time enter into forward currency contracts. Cash balances are held for future investment and forward currency contracts are used to manage the exchange risk of holding foreign investments. Further information is given in *The Business Review for the Year to 30 April 2009* on pages 11–15.

The fair value of the financial assets and liabilities of the Company at 30 April 2009 is not different from their carrying value in the financial statements.

The Company is exposed to various types of risk that are associated with financial instruments. The most important types are credit risk, liquidity risk, interest rate risk, market price risk and foreign currency risk.

The Board reviews and agrees policies for managing its risk exposures. These policies are summarised below and have remained unchanged for the year under review.

#### CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or counterparty will be unable or unwilling to meet a commitment that it has entered into with the Company.

The Company's principal financial assets are investments, bank balances, cash and other receivables, which represent the Company's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to financial assets. The Company did not have any exposure to any financial assets which were passed due or impaired at the year end.

The Company is exposed to potential failure by counterparties to deliver securities for which the Company has paid, or to pay for securities which the Company has delivered. A list of pre-approved counterparties used in such transactions is maintained, and regularly reviewed by the Company, and transactions must be settled on a basis of delivery against payment. Broker counterparties are selected based on a combination of criteria, including credit rating, balance sheet strength and membership of a relevant regulatory body. Risk relating to unsettled transactions is considered to be small because of the short settlement period involved and the credit quality of the brokers used.

All of the assets of the Company, other than cash deposits and the exposure to the FTSE 100 Future, are held by JPMorgan Chase Bank, the Company's custodian. Bankruptcy or insolvency of the custodian might cause the Company's rights with respect of the securities held by the custodian to be delayed or limited. The Board monitors the Company's risk by reviewing the custodian's internal control reports on a regular basis.

The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit ratings, rated AA or higher, assigned by international credit rating agencies. Bankruptcy or insolvency of such financial institution might cause the Company's ability to access cash placed on deposit to be delayed or limited. The Company has no concentration of credit risk and exposure is spread over a large number of counterparties.

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

### MARKET PRICE RISK

The fair value of equity and other financial securities held in the Company's portfolio fluctuates with changes in market prices. Prices are themselves affected by movements in currencies and interest rates and by other financial issues including the market perception of future risks. The Company's strategy for the management of market price risk is driven by the Company's investment policy as outlined within the Business Review on pages 11–15. The Board sets policies for managing this risk and meets regularly to review full, timely and relevant information on investment performance and financial results. The management of market price risk is part of the fund management process and is fundamental to equity investment. The portfolio is managed with an awareness of the effects of adverse price movements in the UK equity market with an objective of maximising overall returns to shareholders. Investment and portfolio performance are discussed in more detail in the Investment Adviser's Report and the investment portfolio is set out on page 10.

Any changes in market conditions will directly affect the profit or loss reported through the Income Statement. A 30% increase in the value of the equity exposure as at 30 April 2009 would have increased net assets and income for the year by £35,979,000 (2008: a 10% increase in the value of the equity exposure would have reduced net assets and income by £44,000). A decrease of 30% (2008: 10%) would have had an equal but opposite effect. These calculations are based on investment valuations at the respective balance sheet date and are not representative of the year as a whole, nor reflective of future market conditions.

The Company continued to use derivatives during the year. These contracts were entered into to manage the Company's effective liquidity.

### LIQUIDITY RISK

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will encounter in realising assets or otherwise raising funds to meet financial commitments. The risk of the Company not having sufficient liquidity at any time is not considered by the Board to be significant, given the liquid nature of the portfolio of investments and the level of cash and cash equivalents ordinarily held. Cash balances are held with reputable banks with a credit rating of AA or higher, usually on overnight deposit. The Investment Adviser reviews liquidity at the time of each investment decision. The Board reviews liquidity exposure at each meeting.

All of the Company's financial liabilities at 30 April 2009 have a maturity period of less than three months.

### INTEREST RATE RISK

Some of the Company's financial instruments are interest bearing. As such, the Company is exposed to interest rate risk due to fluctuations in the prevailing market rate.

#### Floating Rate

When the Company holds cash balances, such balances are held on overnight deposit accounts and call deposit accounts. The benchmark rate which determines the interest payments received on cash balances is the bank base rate, which at 30 April 2009 was 0.50% in the UK (2008: 5.00%).

<b>Floating interest rate exposure at 30 April:</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Sterling	8,202	15,669

#### Fixed rate and zero rate

The Company may from time to time hold fixed interest or zero interest investments.

	<b>£'000</b>	<b>Period to maturity</b>
At 30 April 2009 the Company held:		
US Treasury 1.375% 15/07/2018	67,423	9 years 76 days
At 30 April 2008 the Company held:		
0% US Treasury Strip 15/05/2008	95,903	15 days



## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONT'D)

Considering effects on cash balances, an increase of 100 basis points in interest rates would have increased net assets and income for the period by £82,000 (2008: £157,000). A decrease of 100 basis points would have had an equal but opposite effect. The calculations are based on the cash balances at the balance sheet date and are not representative of the year as a whole.

### FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK

The Company invests in overseas securities.

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Currency exposure at 30 April:</b>		
US Dollars		
Fixed asset investments	88,325	100,493
Swiss Francs		
Fixed asset investments	3,320	–

At 30 April 2009 the Sterling cost of the US Treasury and US Equity exposure was protected by a forward currency contract. The gain of £754,000 (2008: gain of £1,069,000) on the US\$122,100,000 (2008: US\$ 200,000,000) sold forward against £83,154,000 (2008: £102,144,000) is included in debtors (2008: debtors). All foreign exchange contracts in place at 30 April 2009 are due to mature within one month.

Given the policy to hedge currency risk by entering into forward foreign exchange currency contracts, the Board view the weakening or strengthening of Sterling against the US Dollar as having minimal impact on either income for the period or net asset value as at 30 April 2009.

The Company made a gain of £32,164,000 on its US Treasury and US Equity investments in the year ending 30 April 2009 and a loss of £26,359,000 on the forward currency contracts that were in place throughout the year.

# DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

## DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and those International Financial Reporting Standards adopted by the European Union.

The Directors are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which present fairly the financial position of the Company and the financial performance and cash flows of the Company for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- present information, including accounting policies, in a manner that provides relevant, reliable, comparable, and understandable information;
- provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in the IFRS is insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the entity's financial position and performance; *and*
- state that the Company has complied with IFRS, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Under applicable law and regulations, the Directors are also responsible for preparing a Directors' Report (including a Business Review), Directors' Remuneration Report and Corporate Governance Statement that comply with that law and those regulations.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge:

- the financial statements, prepared in accordance with the applicable set of accounting standards, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company; and
- the Report of the Directors (including those sections of this document incorporated by reference therein) includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the Company together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that it faces.

On behalf of the Board



Robert P White  
Chairman

11 June 2009

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PERSONAL ASSETS TRUST PLC

We have audited the financial statements of Personal Assets Trust plc for the year ended 30 April 2009 which comprise the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and the related notes 1-15. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein. We have also audited the information in the Directors' Remuneration Report that is described as having been audited.

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Sections 495,496 and 497 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## **Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors**

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report, the financial statements and the Directors' Remuneration Report in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements and the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and give a true and fair view. We also report to you whether in our opinion the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, and whether the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the Company has not kept adequate accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made.

We review whether the Corporate Governance Statement reflects the Company's compliance with the nine provisions of the 2006 Combined Code specified for our review by the Listing Rules of the Financial Services Authority, and we report if it does not. We are not required to consider whether the board's statements on internal control cover all risks and controls, or form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

We read other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. The other information comprises only the Key Features, Performance 1990-2009, Record 1983-2009, Board of Directors, Chairman's Statement, Investment Adviser's Report, Portfolio Comparisons for the Year to 30 April 2009, Business Review for the Year to 30 April 2009, Ways of Investing in Personal Assets, Directors' Report, Corporate Governance and the unaudited part of the Directors' Remuneration Report. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

## **Basis of audit opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements and the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PERSONAL ASSETS TRUST PLC (CONT'D)

## Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 30 April 2009 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the European Union;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006;
- the part of the Directors' Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.



Edinburgh  
Ratan Engineer (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
11 June 2009  
For and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Statutory Auditor

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 28th Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of Personal Assets Trust Public Limited Company will be held at The Roxburghe Hotel, 38 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, on Thursday 16 July 2009 at 12 noon for the following purposes:

**To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolutions which will be proposed as Ordinary Resolutions:**

1. That the Report and Accounts for the year to 30 April 2009 be received.
2. That the Directors’ Remuneration Report for the year to 30 April 2009 be approved.
3. That Hamish Buchan, who retires from office annually, be re-elected as a Director.
4. That Martin Hamilton-Sharp, who retires from office annually, be re-elected as a Director.
5. That Gordon Neilly, who retires from office annually, be re-elected as a Director.
6. That Robin Angus, who retires from office annually, be re-elected as a Director.
7. That Ernst & Young LLP be re-appointed as Auditors and that the Directors be authorised to determine their remuneration.
8. That the Directors be and are hereby generally and unconditionally authorised for the purposes of section 80 of the Companies Act 1985 (“the Act”) to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot relevant securities (as defined in section 80(2) of the Act) up to an aggregate nominal amount of £938,750 in substitution for any existing authority under section 80 of the Act but without prejudice to any exercise of any such authority prior to the date hereof, such authority to expire on 31 October 2010 or, if earlier, at the conclusion of the date of the Company’s AGM to be held in 2010, unless previously revoked, varied or extended by the Company in general meeting, save that the Company may, before such expiry, make an offer or enter into an agreement which would or might require relevant securities to be allotted after such expiry, and the Directors may allot relevant securities in pursuance of such offer or agreement as if the authority conferred hereby had not expired.

**To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolutions which will be proposed as Special Resolutions:**

9. That subject to the passing of resolution numbered 8 in the notice of the meeting and in place of all existing powers the Directors be generally empowered pursuant to section 95 of the Act to allot equity securities (within the meaning of sections 94(2) to section 94(3A) of the Act) for cash, pursuant to the authority conferred by resolution numbered 8 in the notice of the meeting as if section 89(1) of the Act did not apply to the allotment. This power:
  - a) expires on 31 October 2010 or, if earlier, at the conclusion of the Company’s AGM to be held in 2010, but the Company may make an offer or agreement which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after expiry of this power and the Directors may allot equity securities in pursuance of that offer or agreement as if this power had not expired; *and*
  - b) shall be limited to:
    - i) the allotment of equity securities in connection with an issue in favour of holders of Ordinary shares in the capital of the Company in proportion (as nearly as may be) to their existing holdings of Ordinary shares, but subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors deem necessary or expedient in relation to fractional entitlements or any legal or practical problems under the laws of any territory, or the requirements of a regulatory body or stock exchange; *and*
    - ii) the allotment of equity securities for cash otherwise than pursuant to paragraph (i) up to an aggregate nominal amount equal to £938,750.

This power applies in relation to a sale of shares which is an allotment of equity securities by virtue of section 94(3A) of the Act as if in the first paragraph of this resolution the words “pursuant to the authority conferred by resolution numbered 8 in the notice of the meeting” were omitted.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (CONT'D)

10. That, in substitution for any existing authority, the Company be authorised, generally and unconditionally, in accordance with section 166 of the Act, to make market purchases (within the meaning of section 163(3) of the Act) of Ordinary shares of £12.50 each ("Shares") in the share capital of the Company, provided that:
- i) the maximum aggregate number of Shares hereby authorised to be purchased shall be 14.99% of the Company's issued Ordinary share capital on the date on which this resolution is passed;
  - ii) the minimum price (exclusive of costs) which may be paid for a Share shall be £12.50;
  - iii) the maximum price (exclusive of costs) which may be paid for a Share shall be 105% of the average of the middle market quotations (as derived from the Daily Official List of the London Stock Exchange) for the Shares for the five business days immediately preceding the date of purchase;
  - iv) unless previously varied, revoked or renewed by the Company in general meeting, such authority shall expire on 31 October 2010 or, if earlier at the conclusion of the Company's AGM to be held in 2010, save that the Company may, before such expiry, enter into a contract to purchase Shares under such authority which will or may be completed or executed wholly or partly after such expiry and may make a purchase of Shares pursuant to any such contract as if the power conferred hereby had not expired.

By Order of the Board



Steven K Davidson  
Secretary  
80 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3BU

11 June 2009

### NOTES

1. A member who is entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint one or more proxies to attend, speak and vote on her/his behalf at the meeting. Such a proxy need not be a member of the Company. If multiple proxies are appointed they must not be appointed in respect of the same shares. A form of proxy for use by members is enclosed with this Annual Report. Completion and return of the form of proxy will not prevent a member from attending the meeting and voting in person. To be effective, the form of proxy, duly completed and executed, together with any power of attorney or other authority under which it is signed, must be lodged at the address shown on the form of proxy at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting or, in the case of an adjourned meeting, no later than 48 hours before the holding of that adjourned meeting (or in the case of a poll taken subsequent to the date of the meeting or adjourned meeting, no later than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll). In the calculation of these time periods, no account is taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.  
  
A member present in person or by proxy has one vote on a show of hands and on a poll every member present in person or by proxy has one vote for every share of which he is the holder.
2. CREST members who wish to appoint a proxy or proxies by utilising the CREST electronic proxy appointment service may do so for this meeting by following the procedures described in the CREST manual. CREST personal members who have appointed a voting service provider(s), should refer to their CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s) who will be able to take the appropriate action on their behalf.
3. In order for a proxy appointment or instruction made by means of CREST to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a "CREST Proxy Instruction") must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited's ("Euroclear") specifications and must contain the information required for such instructions, as described in the CREST Manual. The message, in order to be valid, must be transmitted so as to be received by the Company's agent (ID: RA19) by the latest time for receipt of proxy appointments specified in note 1 above. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be at the time (as determined by the timestamp applied to the message by the CREST Applications Host) from which the Company's agent is able to retrieve the message by enquiry to CREST in the manner prescribed by CREST. After this time, any change of instructions to proxies appointed through CREST should be communicated to the appointee through other means.
4. The Company may treat as invalid a CREST Proxy Instruction in the circumstance set out in Regulation 35(5)(a) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001.
5. A person to whom this notice is sent who is a person nominated under section 146 of the Companies Act 2006 to enjoy the information rights (a "Nominated Person") may, under an agreement between him/her and the shareholder by whom he/she was nominated, have a right to be appointed (or to have someone else appointed) as a proxy for the Annual General Meeting. If a Nominated Person has no such proxy appointment right or does not wish to exercise it, he/she may, under any such agreement, have a right to give instructions to the shareholder as to the exercise of voting rights.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (CONT'D)

The statements of the rights of members in relation to the appointment of proxies in notes 1 and 2 above do not apply to a Nominated Person. The rights described can only be exercised by registered members of the Company.

6. In order to facilitate voting by corporate representatives at the Annual General Meeting, arrangements will be put in place at the meeting to that (i) if a corporate shareholder has appointed the Chairman of the meeting as its corporate representative with instructions to vote on a poll in accordance with the directions of all of the other corporate representatives for that corporate shareholder present at the meeting then, on a poll, those corporate representatives will give voting directions to the Chairman of the meeting and the Chairman will vote (or withhold a vote) as corporate representative in accordance with those directions; and (ii) if more than one corporate representative for the same corporate shareholder attends the meeting but the corporate shareholder has not appointed the Chairman of the meeting as its corporate representative, a designated corporate representative will be nominated from those corporate representatives in attendance on behalf of the corporate shareholder who will vote on a poll and the other corporate representatives will give voting directions to that designated corporate representative. Corporate representatives are referred to the guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators on proxies and corporate representatives – [www.icsa.org.uk](http://www.icsa.org.uk) – for further details of this procedure. The guidance includes a sample form of representation letter if the Chairman is being appointed as described in sub-paragraph (i) of this note.
7. Pursuant to Regulation 41 of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001, the Company specifies that only those members entered on the Company's Register of Members by 6.00pm on 14 July 2009 or, in the event that the meeting is adjourned, on the Register of Members 48 hours before the time of any adjourned meeting, shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting (or adjourned meeting) in respect of the number of Ordinary shares registered in their name at that time. Changes to the entries on the Register of Members after 6.00pm on 14 July 2009 or, in the event that the meeting is adjourned, on the Register of Members 48 hours before the time of any adjourned meeting, shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend and vote at the meeting, notwithstanding any provision in any enactment, the Articles of Association of the Company or other instrument to the contrary.
8. The terms and conditions of appointment of the non-executive Directors and copy of the executive Director's service contract will be available for inspection at the registered office of the Company during normal business hours and at the meeting from 11.45am on 16 July 2009 until the conclusion of the meeting.
9. Members are requested to inform Equiniti Limited, Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN99 6DA of any change of address.
10. As at 11 June 2009, the latest practicable date prior to publication of this document, the Company had 751,985 Ordinary shares in issue with a total of 751,985 voting rights.
11. The members of the Company may require the Company to publish, on its website, a statement setting out any matter relating to the audit of the Company's accounts, including the auditors report and the conduct of the audit. The Company will be required to do so once it has received such requests from either members representing at least 5% of the total voting rights of the Company or at least 100 members who have a relevant right to vote and hold shares in the Company on which there has been paid up an average sum per member of at least £100.