



## Schroder British Opportunities Trust plc

December 2023

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Rory Bateman  
Uzo Ekwue

Co-Portfolio Managers  
Public Equity

Tim Creed  
Pav Sriharan

Co-Portfolio Managers  
Private Equity



# An exciting opportunity to invest in public and private UK growth companies

- We invest in both public and private equity, targeting **small & mid-sized UK businesses, facilitating and driving growth**
- Providing **access to** a larger **universe of high quality, high growth companies**
- Executed by an established team of **experienced investment professionals** with **strong track records**, proven processes and **extensive networks**

Source: Schroders.

Source for award: ADVFN International Financial Awards, 2021 – Most Exciting Investment Company IPO.

# Powerful combination of public equity and private equity expertise

Uzo Ekwue and Pav Sriharan added as co-managers

**Rory Bateman**  
**Co-Head of Investments and Head of Equities**  
Member of Schroders' General Management Committee  
**Co-Portfolio Manager, Public Equity**



**Tim Creed**  
**UK and European Head of Private Equity**  
Selected as one of '50 Most Influential People in European Private Equity'<sup>1</sup>  
**Co-Portfolio Manager, Private Equity**



**Uzo Ekwue**  
**Portfolio Manager, UK Equities**  
Manages UK public equities across the market cap spectrum  
**Co-Portfolio Manager, Public Equity**



**Pav Sriharan**  
**Investment Director, Private Equity**  
Covers European private equity opportunities, and part of technology and consumer team  
**Co-Portfolio Manager, Private Equity**

**Managers supported by a wealth of investment resources through Schroders' broad public equity team and Schroders Capital's private equity team**

# Why Public Private?



**Enhanced universe: can find the best stocks whether public or private**



**Private Equity offers access to high quality companies, with strong valuation creation potential, not accessible through the stock market**



**Ability to invest in attractive UK companies that are currently priced at a substantial discount to fair value**



# Overview



## Financial performance

Resilient net asset value (NAV) performance since inception against challenging market backdrop

However, NAV decreased by 2.5% over 6 months to 30 September 2023 due to weakness in listed UK equity markets

- **Main positive performers over the 6 months:**
  - EasyPark (unquoted)
  - Pirum (unquoted)
  - Cera (unquoted)
- **Main negative performers over the 6 months:**
  - Watches of Switzerland (quoted)
  - Rapyd (unquoted)
  - Learning Technologies (quoted)



## Portfolio overview

Focus on quality, growing and mostly profitable companies that have strong balance sheets and that can sustainably compound their earnings over the long run

Unquoted allocation focused on growth capital and small/mid-market buyout-stage companies, avoiding areas at greatest valuation risk

### Main activity over the 6 months included:

- Keyword Studios (exit)
- City Pub Group (reduction of existing position)



## Outlook

### Opportunity in quoted UK companies

UK small and mid-caps have substantial re-rating potential in sustained economic recovery

While UK equities remain unloved compared to world markets, they are also highly cash generative

### New drivers of PE market returns

Strategies focused on identifying companies that exhibit strong underlying financial performance poised to do well

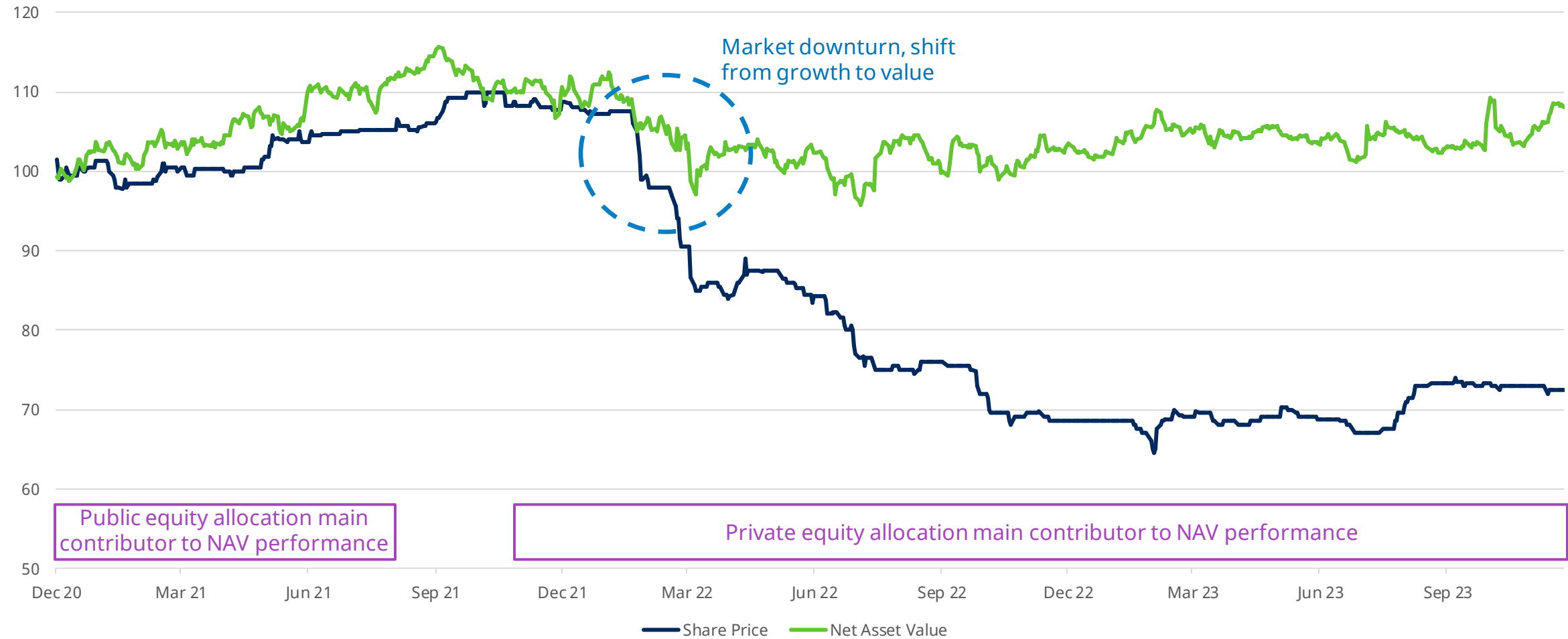
Buy and build strategies also have potential to succeed

### Future investments

£8.2m cash position (as at 30 September 2023) to deploy in volatile markets

# Long-term performance

Share price and net asset value since inception to 24 November 2023



Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of investments to fall as well as rise.

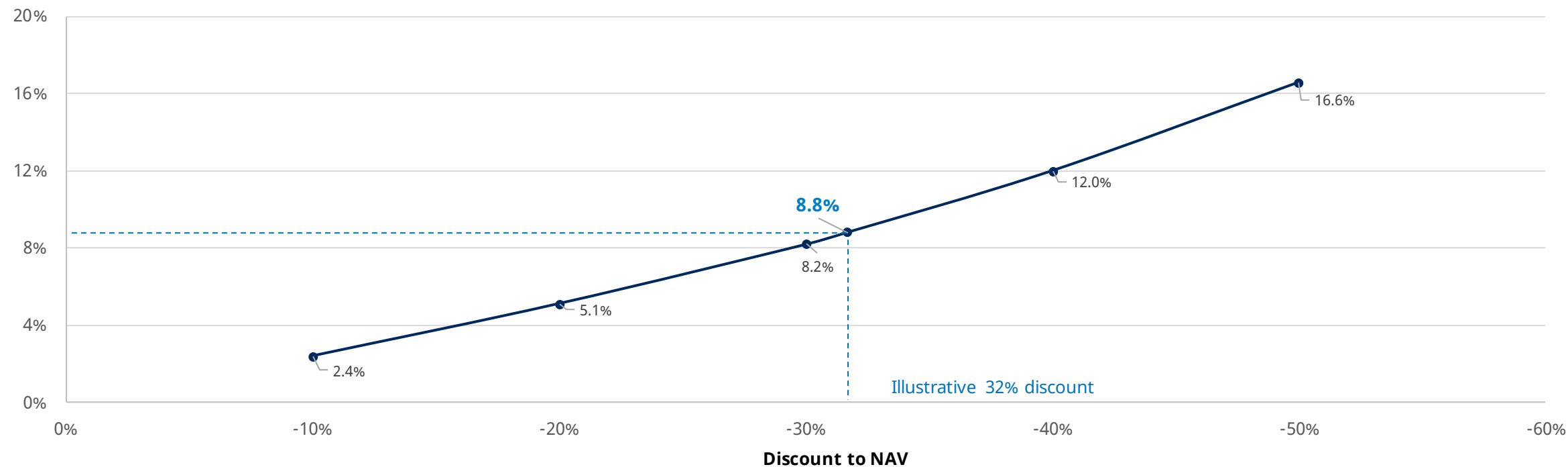
Source: LSEG Datastream from 1 December 2020 to 24 November 2023. Note: NAV above does not reflect latest revaluation.

# Fixed life<sup>1</sup> of Company should act as catalyst to closing of discount

Illustrative example assuming a recent total portfolio discount to NAV of 32%

**Implied annualised return**

From 30 November 2023 until 31 May 2028 (31 May 2028 = last date for Winding-Up Resolution)

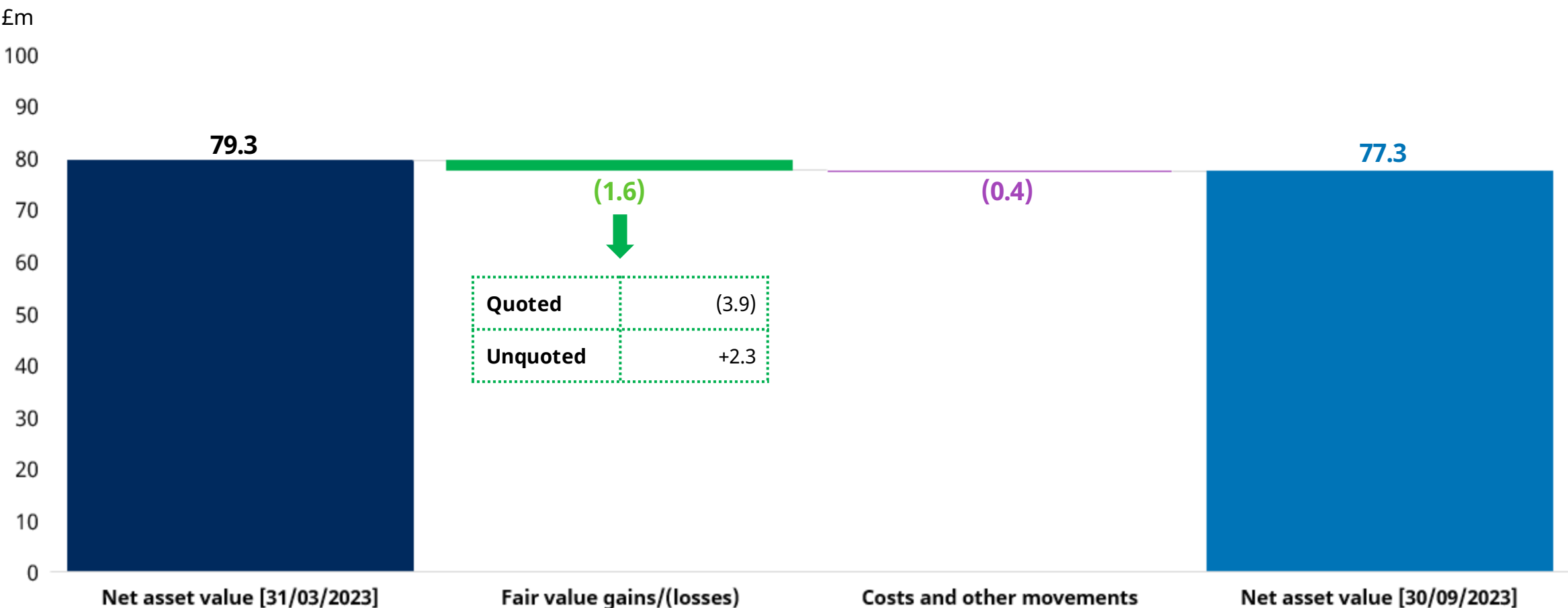


**If 32% discount remains, this illustration implies investors could see an 8.8% annualised return on their investment from now until 31 May 2028**

Source: Schroders, implied annualised return represents the extended internal rate of return, considering cash flows and discount rates, as well as the corresponding dates. The above assumes that all investments are crystallized at NAV on 31 May 2028. The scenario presented is an estimate of future performance and are not an exact indicator. Unless the fund contains a capital guarantee, what you will get will vary depending on how the market performs and how long you keep the investment/product. **Performance is subject to your individual taxation circumstances which may change in the future.** For illustrative purposes only. Readers of this document should not rely on forward-looking statements due to the inherent uncertainty. 1. The Articles require the Directors to put forward, at a general meeting of the Company to be held in the year 2028 but in any event no later than 31 May 2028, a Winding-Up Resolution to place the Company into voluntary liquidation. The Articles provide that voting on the Winding-Up Resolution will be enhanced such that, provided any single vote is cast in favour, the Winding-Up Resolution will be passed.

# Portfolio performance (6 months to 30 September 2023)

Strong private equity allocation performance has acted as a buffer to public markets



Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested.

Source: Schroders, derived from Schroder British Opportunities Trust plc Annual Report and Accounts for the 6-month period ended 30 September 2023.



# Key positive and negative performers

6 months to 30 September 2023

Top 5 contributors	Contribution %	Bottom 5 contributors	Contribution %
EasyPark	2.2	Watches of Switzerland	-0.9
Pirum	1.4	Rapyd	-0.9
Cera	0.4	Learning Technologies	-0.7
Bytes	0.4	Learning Curve	-0.7
Mintec	0.3	OSB	-0.6

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested.

Source: Schroders, 6 months to 30 September 2023. Contribution % shown is to % change in NAV.

Companies shown are for illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell

# Calendar year performance – Schroder British Opportunities Trust plc

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of any overseas investments to rise or fall.

Performance (%)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Share price	-	-	-	5.9	-36.1
NAV per share	-	-	-	11.3	-8.8

## **Risk considerations:**

Key risks applicable to the Company can be found at the end of this presentation.

# Fund risk considerations

**Conflict of Interest Risk:** The AIFM, the Portfolio Managers and their affiliates will provide services to other clients, which could compete directly or indirectly with the activities of the Company and may be subject to conflicts of interest in respect of their activities on behalf of the Company.

**COVID-19 Risk:** The long-term impacts of Covid-19 are unknown, rapidly-evolving and may be materially more severe and/or more permanent than anticipated. It is difficult to accurately predict the effects these factors may have on the investee companies within the Company's portfolio and on the Company. The Company may invest in investee companies which do not meet the target returns anticipated by the Portfolio Managers (being Schroder Investment Management Limited and Schroders Capital Management (Switzerland) AG (the "Portfolio Managers")) due to the Portfolio Managers underestimating or failing to accurately predict or foresee the time scale, severity and/or impacts of the Covid-19 crisis, which could result in a material adverse impact on the performance of the Company, the NAV and the returns to Shareholders.

**COVID-19 Strategy Risk:** The Company's strategy is to invest, initially, in companies impacted by the Covid-19 crisis in the approximately £50 million to £2 billion equity value range. These companies may not have the financial strength, diversity and resources which larger companies may have and there may be a higher risk that these companies will find it more difficult to operate during the Covid-19 crisis, as well as in periods of economic slowdown and recession. The risk of bankruptcy of such companies is also generally higher. Therefore, investment in such companies could be riskier than investments in larger companies and the deterioration in the financial condition or bankruptcy of such companies may result in greater volatility in the Company's net asset value ("NAV") and may materially and adversely affect the performance of the Company and returns to Shareholders.

**Fixed-life Risk:** The Company has a fixed life and in the event that no alternative proposals are put forward to Shareholders and approved by Shareholders ahead of the winding-up date, a winding-up resolution will be proposed at the winding-up date to voluntarily liquidate the Company. This could mean that certain investments, in particular, private equity investments, may not be able to be realised at an optimal price, or that the realisation of such investments may take longer than anticipated (as it could take several years after the commencement of the winding-up of the Company until all of the Company's private equity investments could be disposed of and any final distribution of proceeds made to Shareholders).

**Illiquid Market Risk:** There may not necessarily be a liquid market for shares in investee companies in the approximately £50 million to £2 billion equity value range even if their shares are publicly traded.

**Investment Trust Status Risk:** Failure by the Company to maintain investment trust status, or changes in taxation legislation or practice, could result in the Company not being able to benefit from the current exemption for investment trusts from UK tax on chargeable gains and could affect the Company's ability to provide returns to Shareholders.

**No Guarantee and Investment Objective Risk:** The Company may not meet its investment objective and returns of the Company are not guaranteed.

**Private Equity Exit Risk:** It is difficult to accurately time the exit of private equity investments. Exits will take time and the Portfolio Managers may have very little influence on any decisions around the timing on exits. Realisations of private equity investments may not occur on a regular straight line basis. Should an exit of a private equity investment be effected in such manner or time frame which is not compatible with the Company's investment horizon, this could result in a material adverse impact on the Company's NAV and on the return to Shareholders.

**Private Equity Valuation Risk:** Private equity investments are difficult to value. Information from underlying investee companies may be delayed, missing or restricted which would lead to valuations being made on incomplete information.

**Tax and Operations Risk:** Changes in tax legislation or practices or laws or regulations governing the Company's operations (in particular, the Listing Rules, the Prospectus Regulation, the Prospectus Regulation Rules, the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules, the Market Abuse Regulation, the AIFMD and the PRIIPs Regulation) may adversely affect the Company's business.

**Third Party Services Risk:** The Company has no employees and the Directors have all been appointed on a non-executive basis. Therefore, the Company is reliant upon the performance of third party service providers for its executive function. Failure by any of these or any other service provider to carry out its obligations to the Company in accordance with the terms of its appointment, together with a failure by the Company to enforce such terms, could have a materially detrimental impact on the operation of the Company.

# Top 10 holdings (as at 30 September 2023)

Top 10 holdings	Quoted/ unquoted	31 March 2023		30 September 2023	
		Fair value (£'000)	% of total investments	Fair value (£'000)	% of total investments
<b>Mintec</b>	Unquoted	8,614	11.6	8,865	12.4
<b>Rapyd</b>	Unquoted	8,399	11.3	7,721	10.8
<b>Cera</b>	Unquoted	6,986	9.5	7,316	10.2
<b>Pirum</b>	Unquoted	6,087	8.2	7,166	10.0
<b>EasyPark</b>	Unquoted	4,492	6.1	6,245	8.7
<b>Culligan*</b>	Unquoted	5,053	6.9	4,909	6.9
<b>CFC</b>	Unquoted	4,098	5.5	4,416	6.2
<b>Learning Curve</b>	Unquoted	2,455	3.3	1,918	2.7
<b>Graphcore</b>	Unquoted	1,778	2.4	1,801	2.5
<b>Volution</b>	Quoted	2,012	2.7	1,691	2.3

Source: Schroders, 2023. \*Formerly Waterlogic

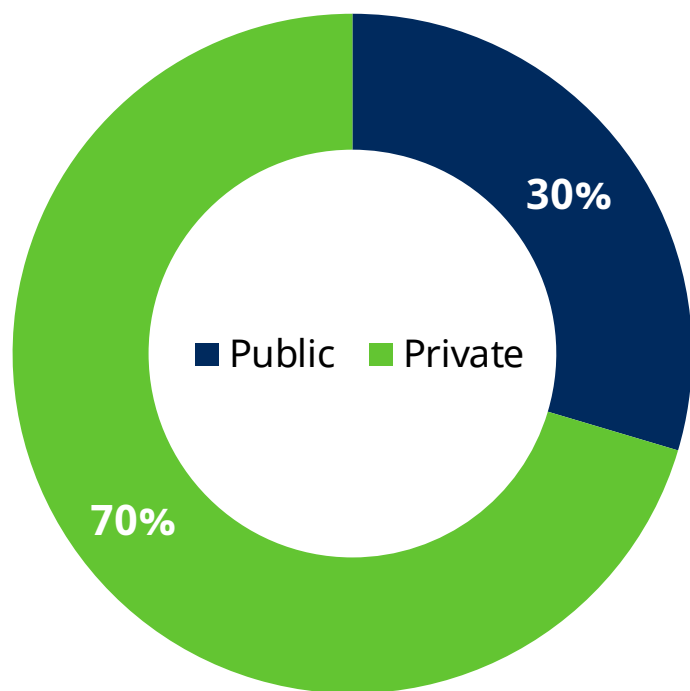
Companies shown are for illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell



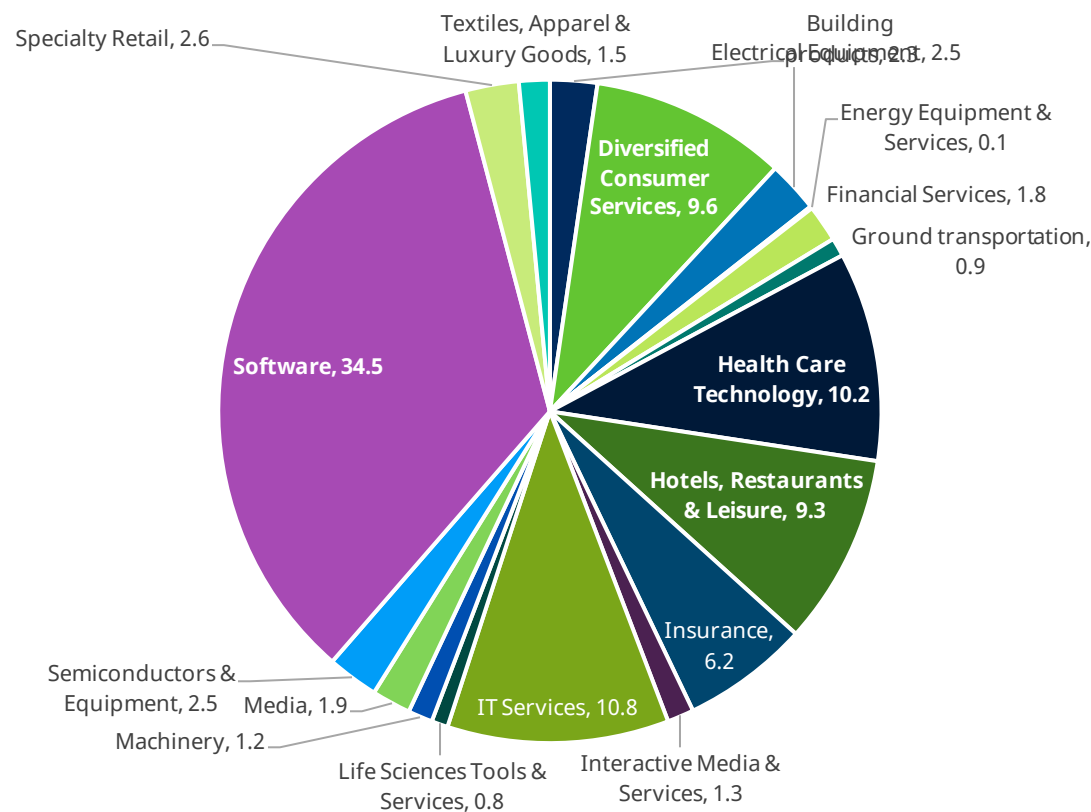
# Portfolio positioning

As at 30 September 2023

Total investments: Public/Private (%)



Total investments: industry (%)









Source: Schroders, 2023. Industries shown are for illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell



Private equity allocation  
development and valuation  
background

# Strategy in action

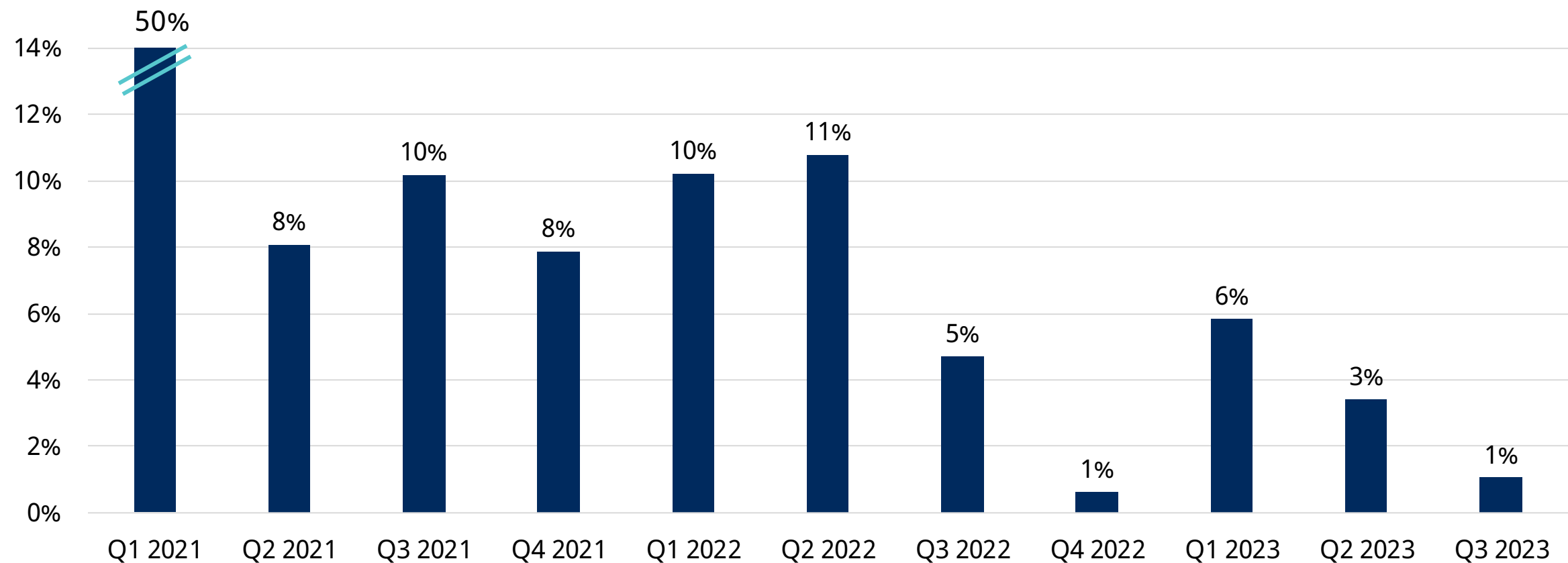
## Key drivers of growth for SBO's private equity investments

Company	Robust organic revenue growth	Multiple add-on acquisitions	Large transformational acquisition/merger
 Mintec	Yes	Yes	Yes
 Cera+	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Rapyd</b>	Yes		Yes (not closed yet)
 pirum	Yes		
 waterlogic <small>A Culligan company</small>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>easypark</b>	Yes		Yes (two)
 cfc	Yes	Yes	
 LEARNING CURVE GROUP		Yes	
<b>GRAPHCORE</b>		n/a	n/a

Source: Schroders Capital, December 2023. For illustrative purposes only and not a recommendation to buy or sell. Logos are the property of the respective entities.

# Net increase in PE portfolio every quarter since launch

QoQ NAV % change (net of contributions and distributions)



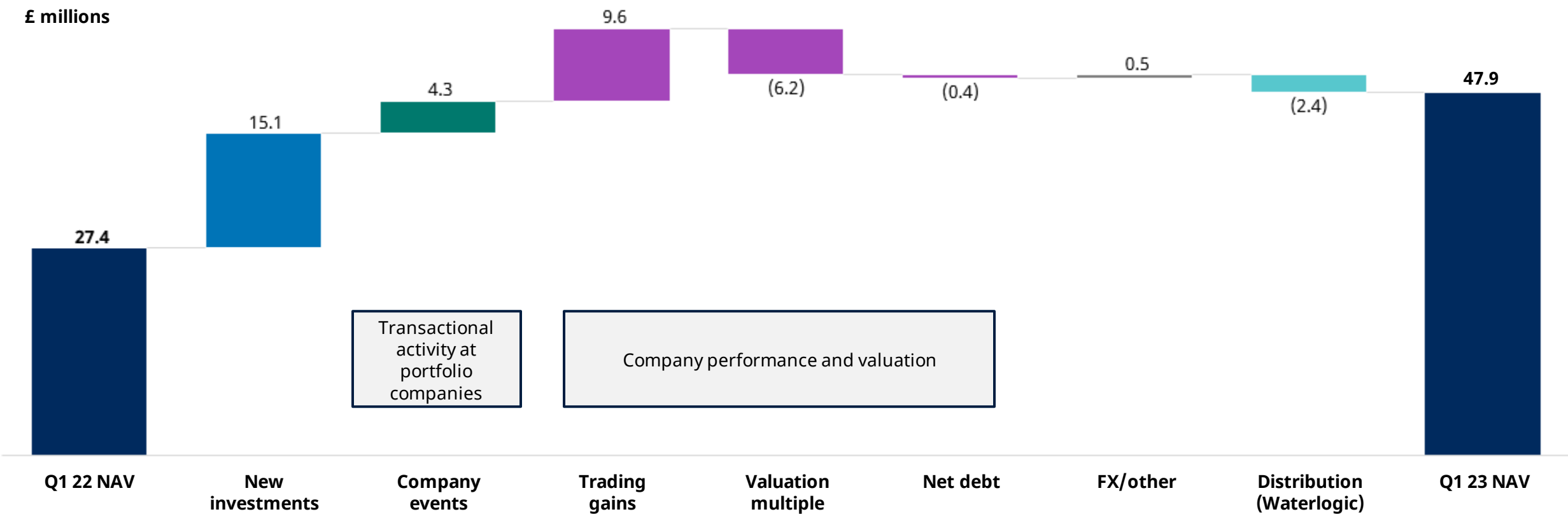
Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested.

Source: Schroders, to 30 September 2023



# Private equity allocation attribution – 12 months to 31 March 2023

Transactional activity and trading gains have driven strong performance

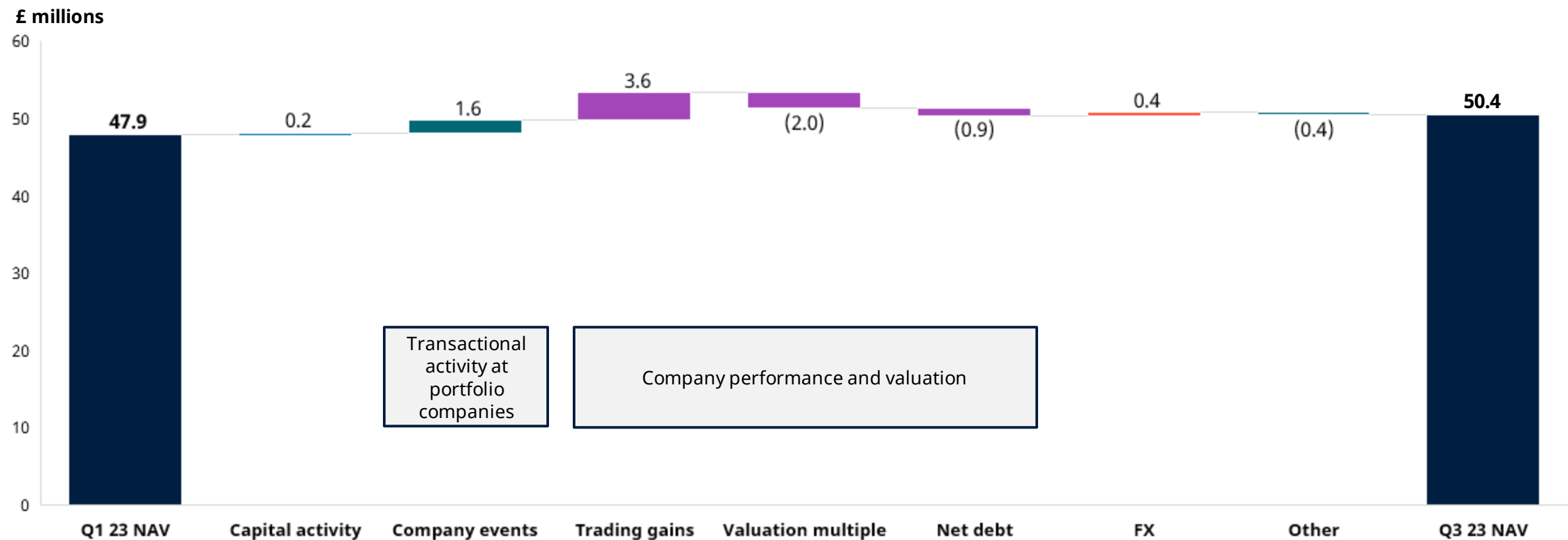


Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested.

Source: Schroders Capital, 2023. New investments include follow-on investments.

# Private equity allocation attribution – 6 months to 30 September 2023

Transactional activity and trading gains have driven performance



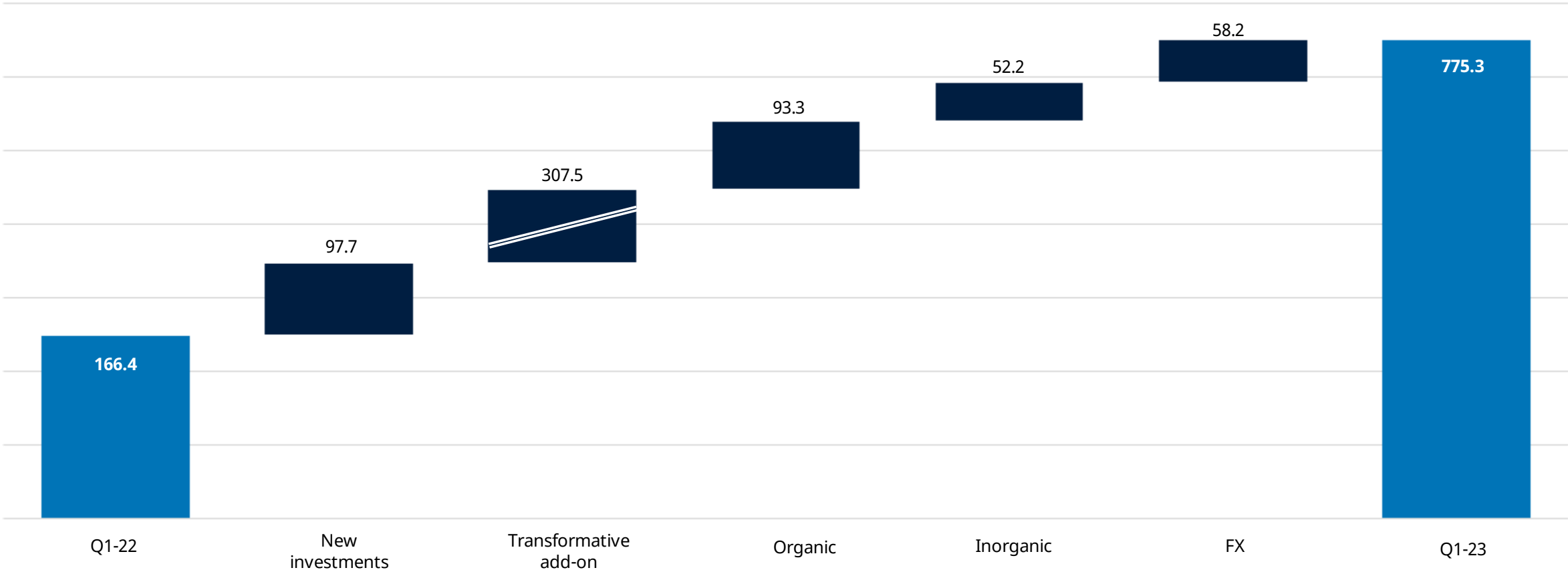
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Source: Schroders Capital, 2023.

# EBITDA development of private equity allocation: 12 months to 31 March 2023

Strong organic and inorganic growth witnessed, while transformational add-on acquisitions have enhanced total EBITDA

£ millions

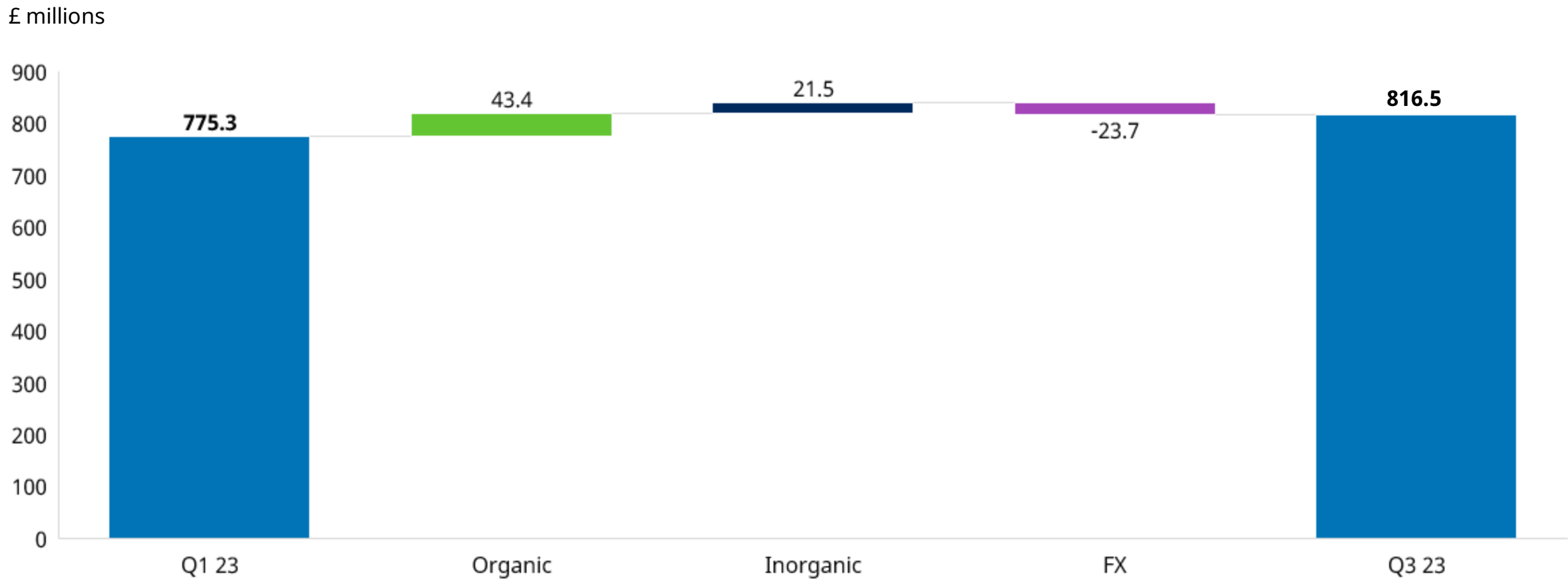


Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested.

Source: Schroders Capital, 2023

# EBITDA development of private equity allocation: 6 months to 30 September 2023

Continued robust organic and inorganic growth witnessed



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Source: Schroders Capital, 2023

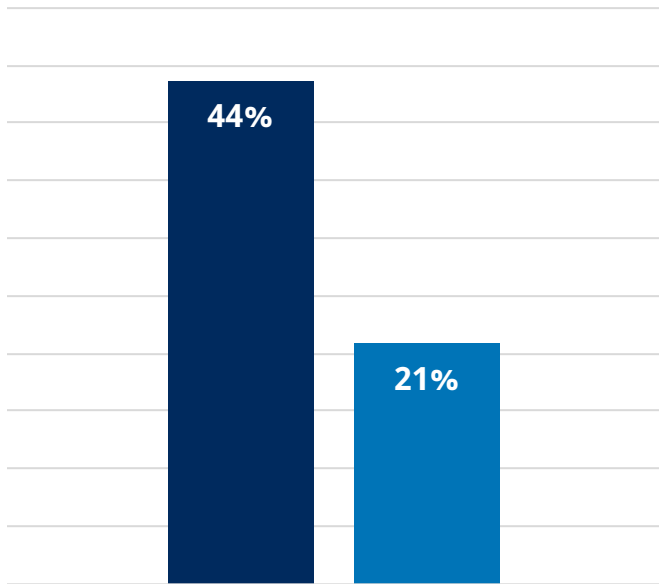


# Strong profitability and continued growth in Company’s PE portfolio

## EBITDA-positive businesses valued at a significant discount to public markets

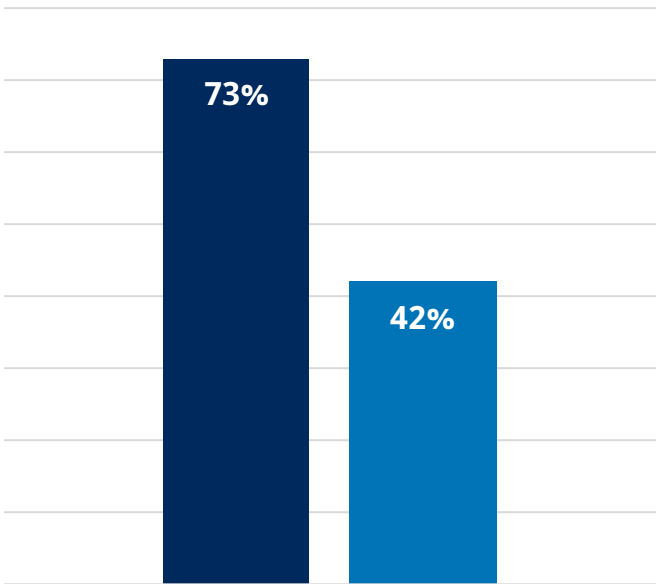
**Profitability significantly exceeds public comparables...**

EBITDA margin (%) – weighted average



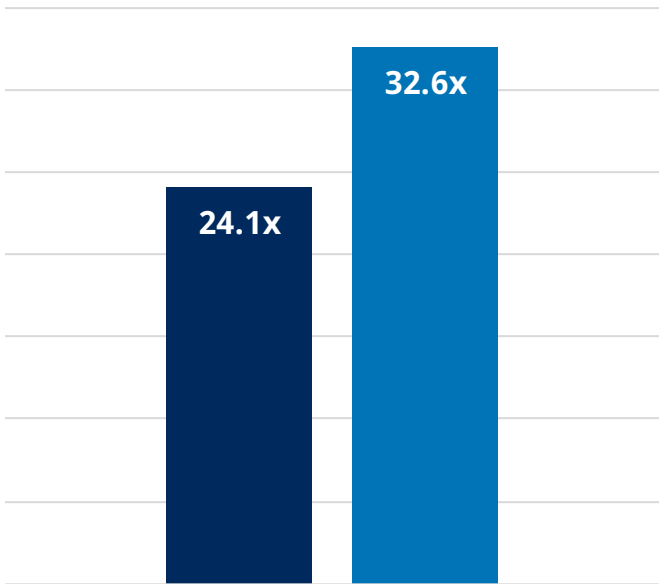
**...while more effectively utilising capital...**

Rule of 40 (%)<sup>1</sup> - weighted average



**...and continuing to be valued at a notable discount to public comparators**

EV/EBITDA multiple (x)<sup>2</sup> – weighted average

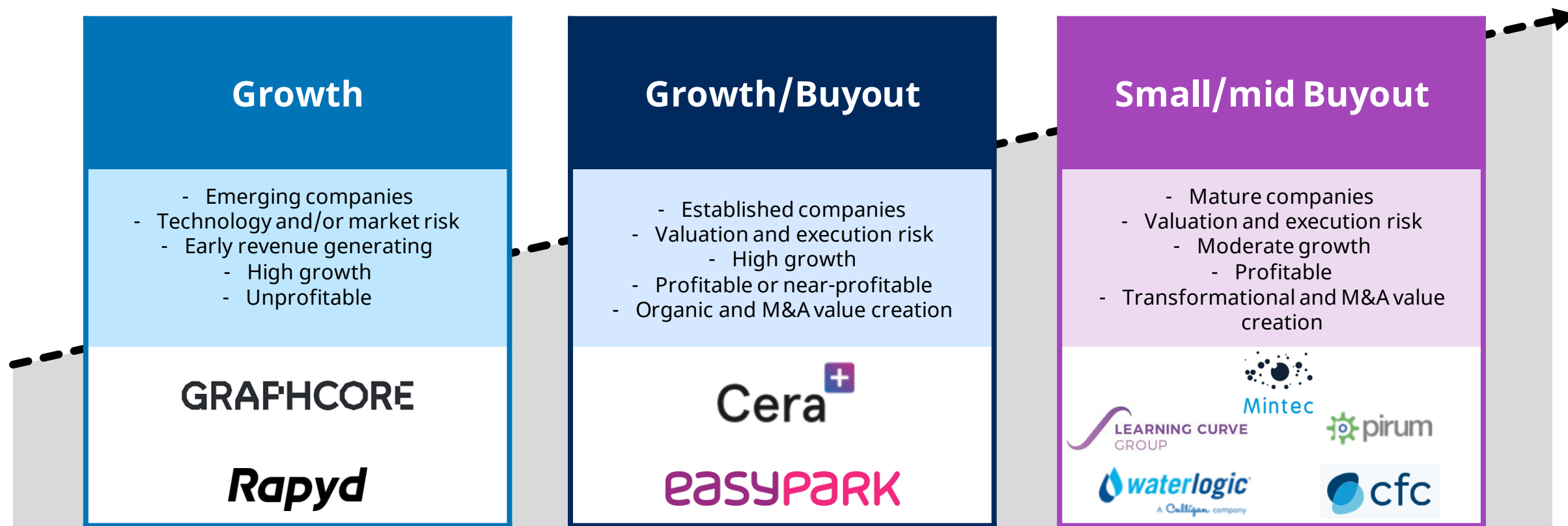


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Source: Schroders Capital, as at November 2023. EV/EBITDA = Enterprise Value / Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation, and Amortisation. EBITDA is a measure of core corporate profitability. EV/EBITDA is a valuation metric used to compare relative value of different businesses. EBITDA margin is a profitability ratio that compares the EBITDA of a company to its net revenue.

1. The Rule of 40, which is often used in the software space, looks at a combination of sales growth and profitability for a company. This rule acts as a proxy to help assess how effectively a company is utilising capital to achieve a balance between growth and profitability. According to the rule, the combination should equal or exceed 40% to demand premium valuations. 2. Weighted average of EBITDA positive private equity portfolio companies that are valued using EBITDA multiple.













# Private equity strategy



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Source: Schroders Capital. For illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell.

# PE allocation demonstrating strong aggregate performance since launch

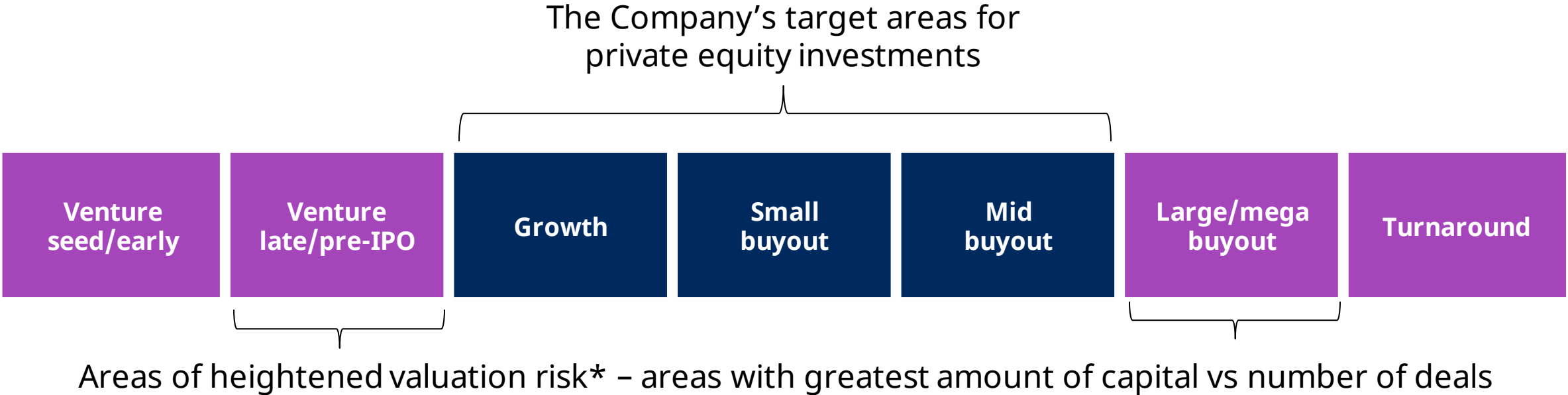
Invested capital	Total Value	TVPI*	Investment	% of total investments	Commentary	Status
£32.8m	£52.7m	1.6x	 Cera	10.2	Ranked top UK Healthtech 2023 with over 45 million home visits to date	
			 cfc	6.2	Continues to benefit from the cyber risk insurance tailwind	
			 easypark	8.7	Announces combination with Flowbird: intention to create a truly Global leading urban mobility business	
			 GRAPHCORE	2.5	Challenging market, threat from NVIDIA dominance remains prevalent	
			 LEARNING CURVE GROUP	2.7	Completed multiple add-ons, continued plans for growth particular in online learning	
			 Mintec	12.4	Integrating the Agribriefing acquisition, organic growth remains robust	
			 pirum	10.0	Continues to innovate with new product development driving growth	
			 Rapyd	10.8	Acquires a substantial part of PayU from Prosus for \$610M to scale its fintech-as-a-service platform	
			 waterlogic <small>A Oulligan company</small>	6.9	No significant updates	

**Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested.**

Source: Schroders Capital, as at 30 Sep 2023. Rounded numbers. Investment capital displayed is gross, Total Value includes distributions. Companies shown are for illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell. \*TVPI is net at the investment level (accounting for GP economics such as management fees and provisions for carried interest but does not account for SBO fees.)

# Contextualising our private equity allocation focus

## Investment strategy by company lifecycle stage



Source: Schroders. For illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell.  
\*Where we denote 'valuation risk' as the risk around the perceived value of an underlying asset, whereas investment risk encompasses a broader set of risks beyond valuation, including but not limited to factors such as market dynamics, economic conditions and industry-specific risks.



# EasyPark's intended acquisition of Flowbird Group

## Creating a truly global leading urban mobility business

### Recent news

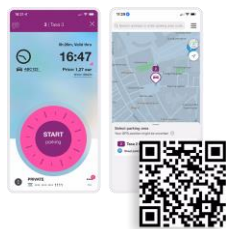
EasyPark Group announced its intention to acquire Flowbird Group, a global mobility player providing integrated parking and transportation solutions

### Investment thesis

Combination creates the global leading urban mobility end-to-end solutions provider for parking and public transport.

The proposed deal would bring:

- (1) Economies of scale: substantial increase in sales with global market-leading geographic reach .
- (2) Complementary offerings to enable market-leading end-to-end solutions and improved customer experience for parking demand.
- (3) Synergy potential and post implementation of EasyPark's best in class MPP offering.



**easypark**



EasyPark Group is one of the global leaders in mobile paid parking, and helps drivers save time and money by finding and managing parking and electric vehicle charging. It allows businesses, parking operators, property owners and cities to administrate, plan and take data-driven decisions. The company owns and develops the apps EasyPark, ParkMobile, RingGo and Park-line and operates in over 4,000 cities across more than 20 countries.

**FLOWBIRD**



Flowbird Group operates under the brands Flowbird, YourParkingSpace , TPARK, Extenso Cloud, and Yellowbrick . They offer multiple mobility solutions, covering equipment and services including pay and display machines, software, park & charge, open payments for debit and credit cards and mobile wallets.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amounts originally invested.

Source: EasyPark, Schroders Capital, 2023. Logos shown are property of the respective entities. For illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell.

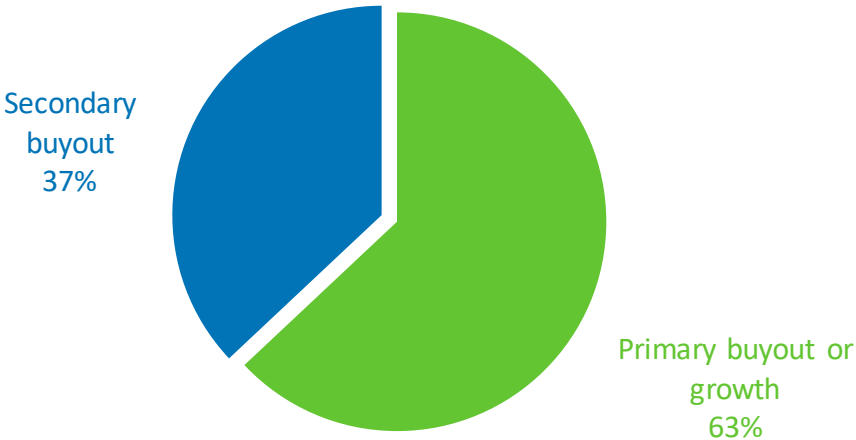
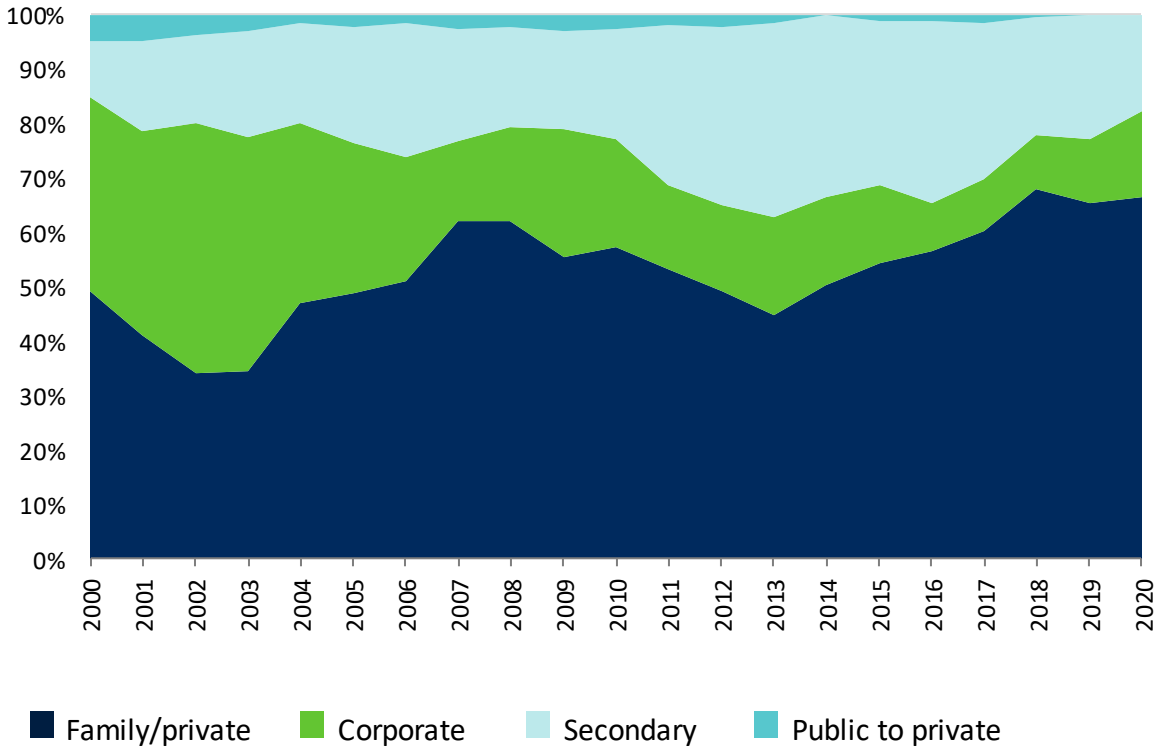
1The views shared are those of Schroders capital and may not lead to favourable investment outcomes.

# Most deals sourced from families, entrepreneurs and corporates

## High transformation potential

Small European buyout dominated by more than 60% of transactions with families/founders<sup>1</sup>

Significant majority of Schrodgers Capital investments into family/founder-controlled businesses<sup>2</sup>



Source: Unquote data, Schrodgers Capital, 2023.

<sup>1</sup>Unquote data. <sup>2</sup>Schrodgers Capital data, a total of 92 European co-investments closed as of Q4 2022.

Small buyouts: deals <€100m enterprise value. Views and opinions are those of Schrodgers Capital and might be subject to change.



Public equity strategy,  
performance, and highlights

# Public equity strategy

## 1 – Opportunity set

We screen for growth companies in the **UK**<sup>1</sup> that are listed on the FTSE AIM, FTSE Small Cap and FTSE 250 indices with a market cap range between **£50m and £2bn**.

## 2 – Identifying a Growth Gap

Market inefficiencies often drive material differences between underlying company fundamentals and market estimates (the '**Growth Gap**')



## What we look for

- ✓ A robust business model with secular tailwinds driving growth
- ✓ A positive growth gap vs. consensus estimates
- ✓ An inflection point/catalyst that will lead to a re-rating of the shares
- ✓ Strong valuation support and an attractive risk-reward
- ✓ Good governance

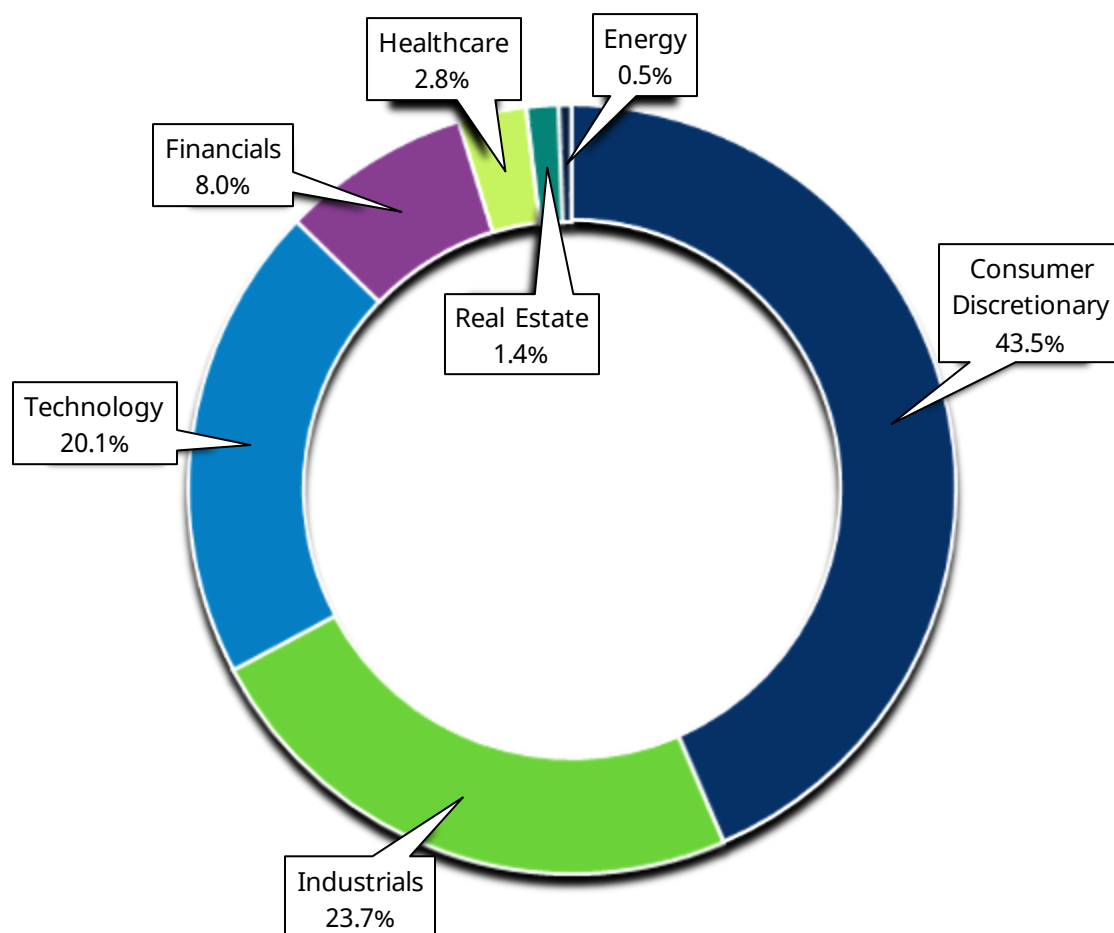
## 3 – Exploiting 3 persistent inefficiencies

- Markets fail to look far enough ahead when appraising the earnings power of companies
- Markets extrapolate historic growth and fail to correctly interpret catalysts that change the trajectory of growth
- Markets over-react to short term news flow

Source: Schroders. <sup>1</sup>UK listed and/or UK domiciled companies. The 'company earnings' line in the graph represents our forecast (as opposed to the consensus estimates). The opinions stated in this presentation include some forecasted views. We believe that we are basing our expectations and beliefs on reasonable assumptions within the bounds of what we currently know. However, there is no guarantee that any forecasts or opinions will be realised.

# Public equity sleeve composition – 31 December 2022

Concentrated towards consumer discretionary, industrials and technology stocks



## 43% Consumer Discretionary

- As we exited 2022, the standalone public equity sleeve had its largest allocation to this area of the market where inflation concerns, and consumer sentiment have the potential to outweigh fundamentals

## 24% Industrials

- Portfolio companies in this sector are particularly sensitive to manufacturing based economic activity

## 20% Technology

- Holdings in this sector were likely to react to interest rate data given the higher expectations typically implied in the valuation multiples of these companies

Source: Schroders, as at 31 December 2022. For illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell.



# Public equity sleeve performance

A volatile year amid market uncertainty...but we are well placed as equities recover

Total return, at 31 March 23



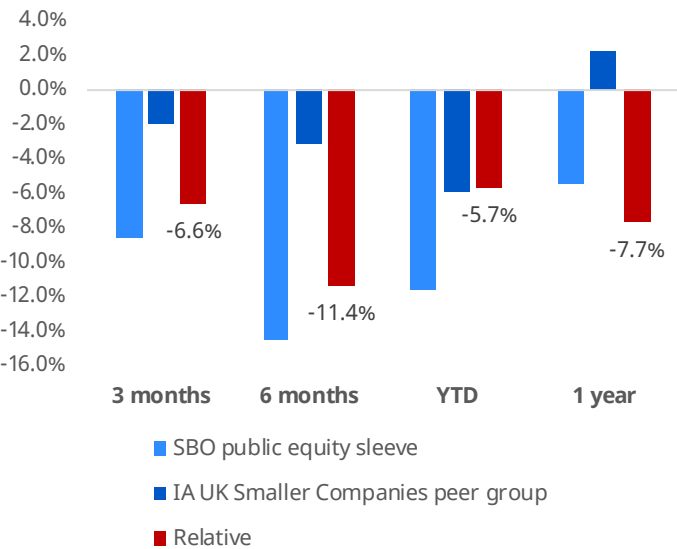
Quartile rank

3 months	6 months	YTD	1 year
1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>

**March 2023**

Performance helped by the UK equity market rally post the Q4 2022 departure of Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng, as interest rate expectations fell from the then peak

Total return, at 30 September 23



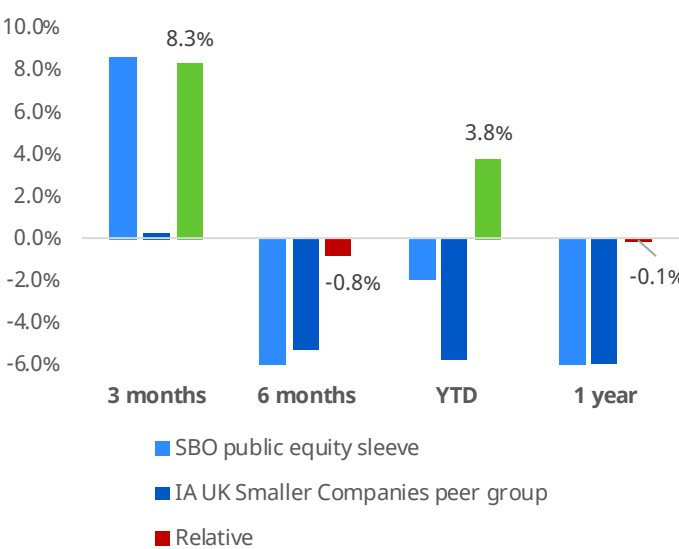
Quartile rank

3 months	6 months	YTD	1 year
4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>

**September 2023**

Renewed concerns over “higher interest rates for longer” saw consumer stocks held back. Concerns over the impact that the potential scrapping of inheritance tax would have on the AIM market also hurt the portfolio.

Total return, at 23 November 23



Quartile rank

3 months	6 months	YTD	1 year
1 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>

**November 2023**

Evidence of better-than-expected inflation in the US and UK has helped the portfolio, as did activity in two of our large holdings; Ascential and City Pub Group.

Source: Schroders, Morningstar, Aladdin, as at 23 November 2023. IA UK Smaller Companies per group has been used for illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell. Ranks are based on the public equity portion of the company excluding cash. The IA UK Smaller Companies median average ongoing charge (0.90%) was applied to the company’s public equity gross performance and compared against the IA UK Smaller Companies peer group (net of fees).

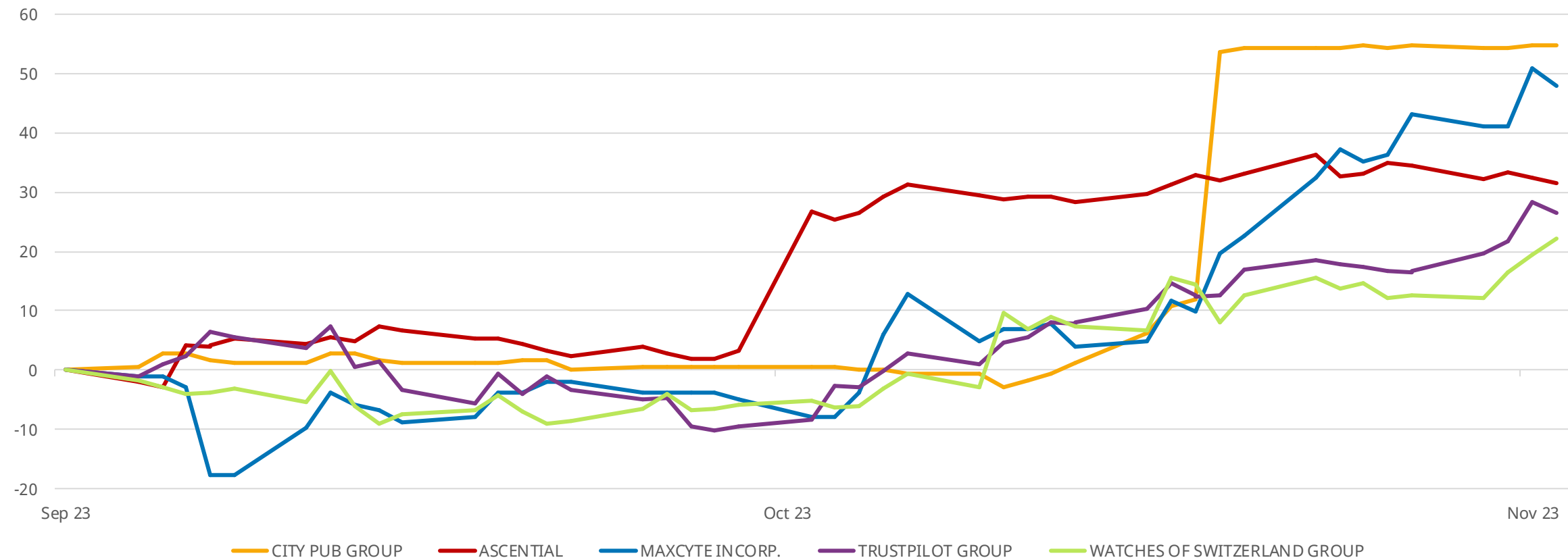
Schroders



# Public equity sleeve performance

Sharp rebound in largest positions since half-year report and accounts

Total return (%) of top 5 holdings as at 30 September 2023, rebased to zero



For illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell.

Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Workspace. Total return from 30 September 2023 to 30 November 2023. Rebased to 0 as at 30 September 2023.

# City Pub Group Takeout

Transaction demonstrates the undervalued nature of our portfolio & UK equities



Source: The City Pub Group, 12 months to 30 November 2023.

## Investment thesis

- We first invested in City Pub Group on 23 March 2021 when COVID-19 was more of a concern for businesses that had been forced into lockdown to manage the spread of the disease. We felt that the company would be able to weather the storm given its strong liquidity position and low leverage.
- In addition, ~90% of the value of the properties were freehold, which we felt could be attractive to lenders and thus support the company's growth plans, or the freehold assets would be attractive to an external buyer.
- The shares were trading at a significant discount to NAV at the time, and this reached a trough of approx. -60% in 2022.

## Bid details

- On 16 November 2023, Young & Co's Brewery Plc announced its plan to acquire City Pub Group for 145p per share (75% cash + 25% shares). City Pub Group's board supported this bid.
- The price was a c.46% increase from City Pub Group's market cap the day prior to the announcement.

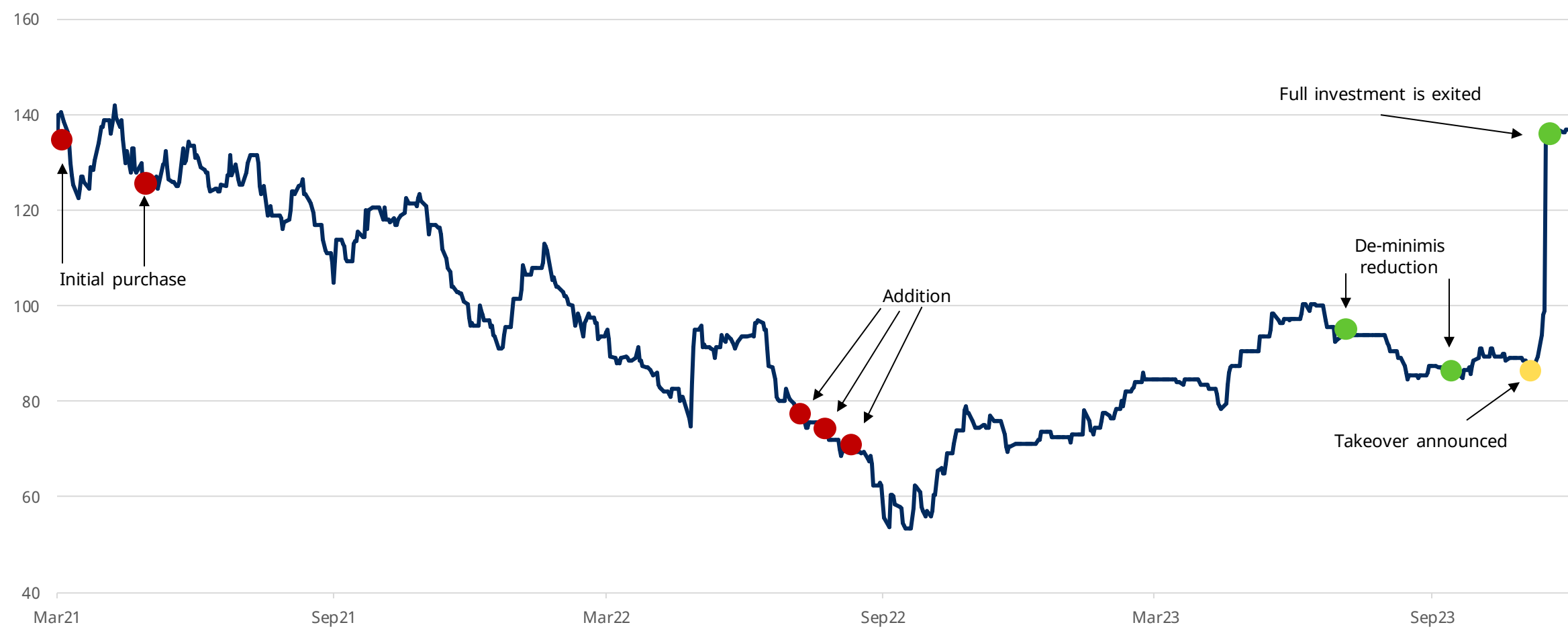
## Total return during the duration of our investment

City Pub Group in SBO	+14.5%
FTSE 250 ex IT	-7.9%
FTSE Small Cap ex IT	-2.5%
FTSE AIM	-38.2%



# City Pub Group: anatomy of an investment

Taking advantage of mispricings to improve our investment return



Source: Schroders. For illustrative purposes.

# 6 of our public companies have been taken over since launch\*

Private equity and corporates recognising strong growth profiles in the portfolio



Bid: December 2020  
Total return: 30.4%

Calisen is a leading owner and manager of essential energy infrastructure assets & our purpose is to accelerate the use of smarter energy.


£1.43bn takeover by global consortium Coyote Bidco



Bid: September 2021  
Total return: -18.2%

Maker of enterprise robotic process automation software that provides a digital workforce designed to automate complex, end-to-end operational activities.


Acquired by SS&C Technologies Holdings for \$1.6bn



Bid: May 2022  
Total return: 53.2%

The principal activities of the Company are the development and sale of information management software to businesses in highly regulated industries and the provision of associated professional services and support.


Acquired by Rainforest Bidco Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of funds managed by Hg Capital



Bid: June 2022  
Total return: 38.7%

A global B2B information-services business. The Company provides actionable data, analysis, intelligence and access through three divisions: Fastmarkets, Financial & Professional Services (FPS), and Asset Management

Shareholders approved a bid by Becketts Bidco, comprising a consortium of PE firms Astorg and Epiris



Bid: June 2022  
Total return: 83.5%

EMIS Health is a supplier of integrated care technology to the NHS, including primary, community, acute and social care. EMIS Enterprise is focused on growth in the B2B technology sector within the healthcare market.

Shareholders approved a £1.24bn all-cash takeover by Optum Health Solutions UK Ltd, a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group



Bid: November 2023  
Total return: 14.5%

The City Pub Group owns and operates an estate of premium pubs across southern England. The pub estate comprises 34 free houses located largely in London, cathedral cities and market towns.

Young & Co's Brewery Plc announced its plan to acquire City Pub Group in **November 2023** for 145p per share



# Ascential Break-Up

Proposed sale of Digital Commerce and WGSN for a combined £1.4 billion



## Sale of Digital Commerce

- Compelling offer received from Ominicom, a leading global marketing and corporate communications company
- Estimated completion: Q1 2024
- Proceeds expected to be \$775 million

## Sale of WGSN

- Acquiror is funds advised by Apex Partners, a leading global private equity advisory firm
- Estimated completion: Q1 2024
- Proceeds are expected to be £572 million

## Return to shareholders

- Combined net sales proceeds: £1.2 billion, equivalent to 132% of Ascential market capitalisation<sup>1</sup>
- £850 million expected to be returned to shareholders, equivalent to 93% of Ascential market capitalisation<sup>1</sup>
- Special dividend the expected return mechanism

## Market response to announcement

- Shares jumped +22.9% on the news of the break-up
- Share price increased +31.6% since end-September<sup>2</sup>

**ASCENTIAL**

Act today, win tomorrow.

Source: Ascential. 2 months to 30 November 2023. <sup>1</sup>Prior to announcement of the Strategic Review conclusions (24 January 2023). <sup>2</sup>Share price increase as at 30 November 2023.

# Portfolio activity

6 months to 30 September 2023

We exited the position after reassessing the potential downside



We modestly trimmed the position to capitalise on recent share price appreciation



Source: Schroders, December 2023. Stocks shown are for illustrative purposes only and should not be viewed as a recommendation to buy or sell.





The opportunity in UK SMID cap  
public equities

# Non-US markets continue to look cheaper

## Valuation vs 15-year median (% above or below)

Equity market	CAPE	Forward P/E	Trailing P/E	P/B	Dividend yield
US	27 (12%)	18 (7%)	22 (8%)	4.0 (39%)	1.6 (23%)
UK	13 (2%)	10 (-20%)	11 (-22%)	1.7 (-6%)	3.9 (-1%)
Europe ex. UK	18 (8%)	12 (-12%)	14 (-19%)	1.9 (7%)	3.3 (-2%)
Japan	18 (-13%)	14 (0%)	15 (-5%)	1.4 (5%)	2.3 (-11%)
EM	11 (-24%)	11 (-4%)	14 (0%)	1.5 (-5%)	3.2 (-15%)

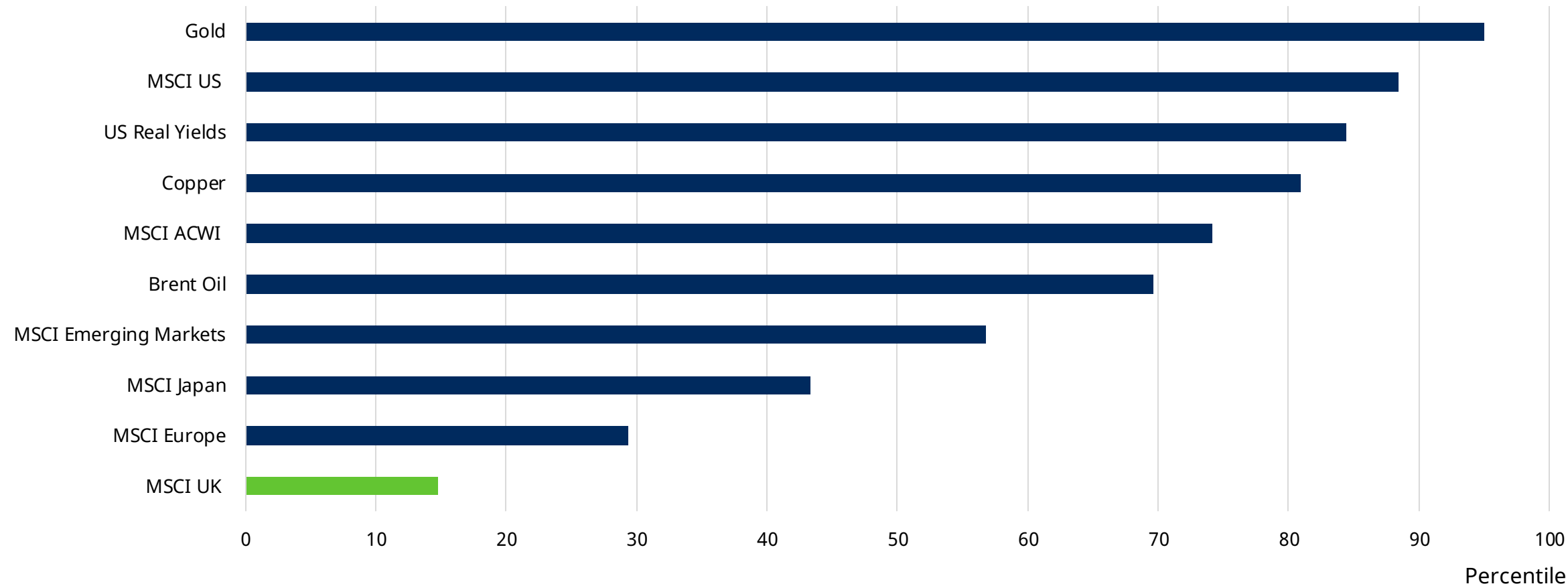
Key:	<-25%	-25% to -15%	-15% to -5%	-5% to 0%	0% to 5%	5% to 15%	15% to 25%	>25%
	Cheap			Neutral		Expensive		

Source: LSEG Datastream, MSCI and Schroders Strategic Research Unit. Data to 31 October 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on slide 38  
Figures are shown on a rounded basis. Assessment of cheap/expensive is relative to 15-year median.

# Cheap (and getting cheaper)

UK equities trade at a historically cheap 30% discount to global equities

The valuation of UK equities in the context of 10 broad asset classes dating back over the last 20 years

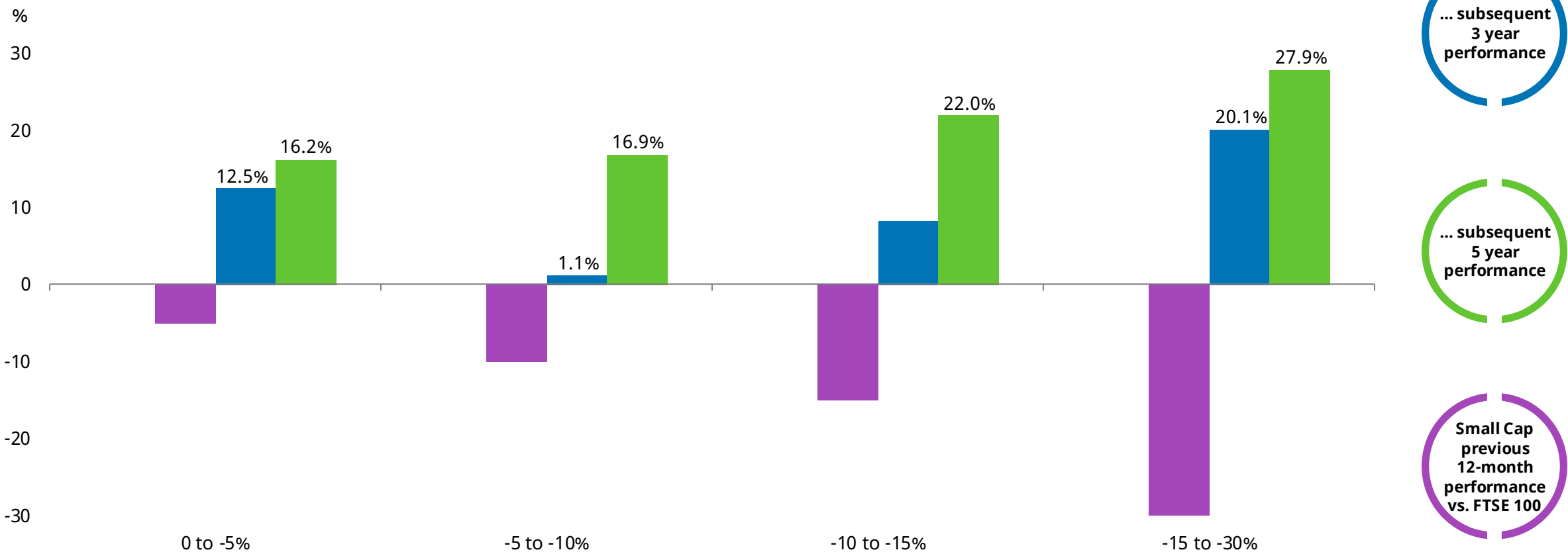


Source: Morgan Stanley Research, Bloomberg, Refinitiv, MSCI, as at 30 June 2023. MSCI equity market valuations are forward 12m PE. The forecasts included are not guaranteed; they are provided only as at the date of issue and should not be relied upon. Our forecasts are based on our own assumptions which may change. We accept no responsibility for any errors of fact or opinion and assume no obligation to provide you with any changes to our assumptions or forecasts. Forecasts and assumptions may be affected by external economic or other factors.

# Why are we optimistic on small & mid cap returns from here?

Buying on weakness has given the best long-term returns

## UK small Cap performance vs. FTSE 100 index

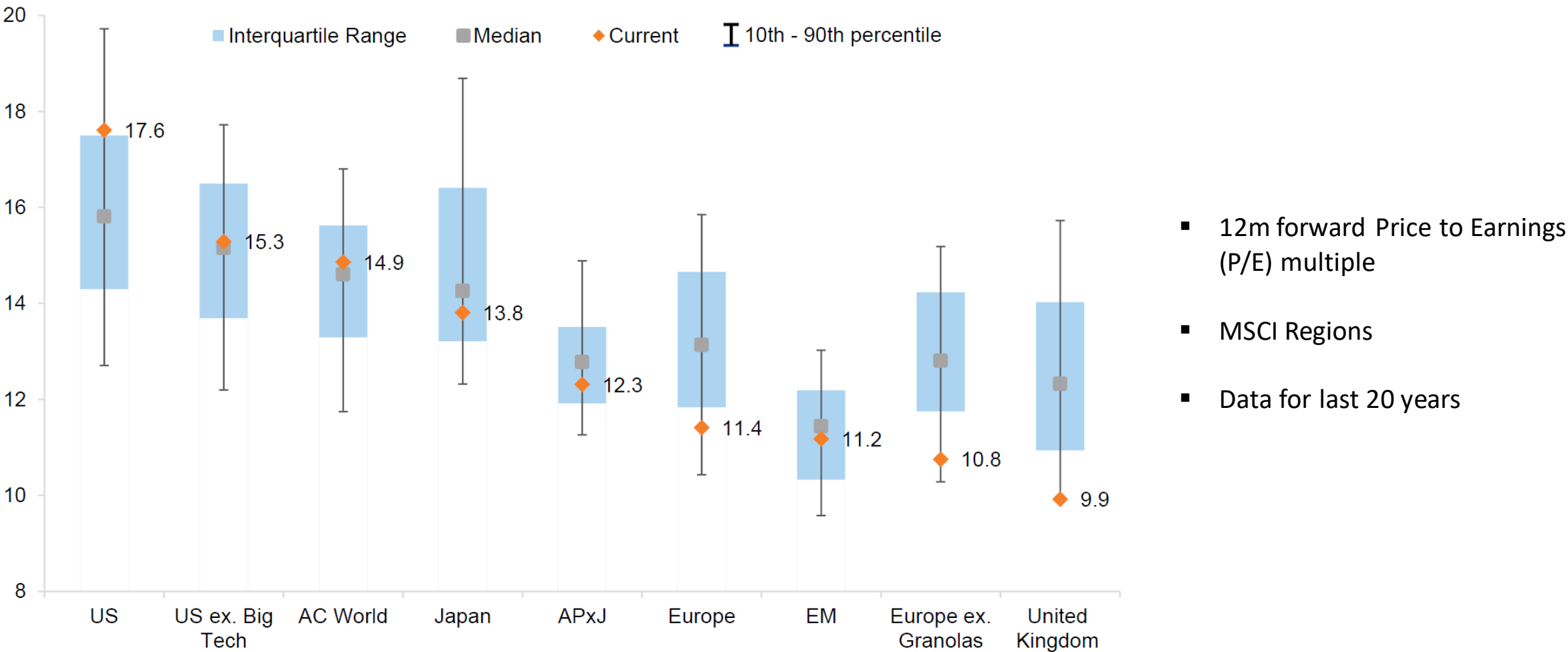


**Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.**

Source: Schroders, returns are shown for the Numis Small Capplus AIM ex.IT index vs FTSE 100 index.  
Based on rolling 12-month performance from 30 September 1990 to 30 September 2023.

# UK is attractively valued

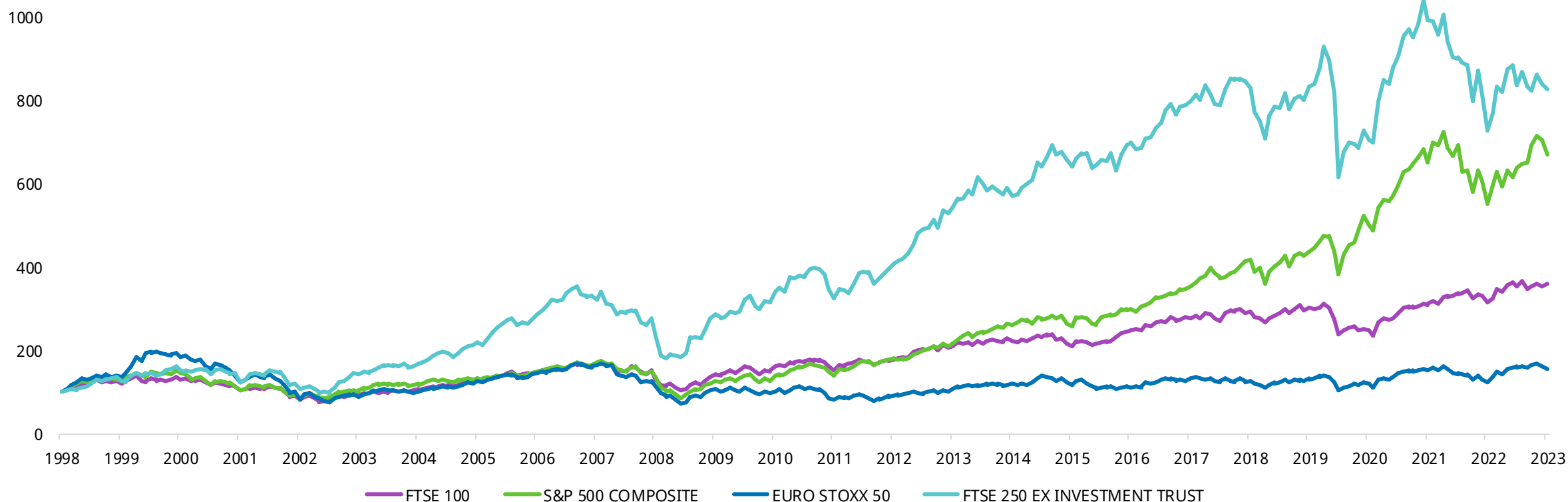
## Cheap versus other regions and history



# Long term Mid 250 outperformance

...of most developed market indices over the last 25 years

## FTSE 250 ex Investment Trusts vs Large developed markets, Total Return, %



**Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.**

Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream, rebased to 100 at 30 September 1998, data to 30 September 2023. Currencies are local (GBP, USD, EUR).





## Outlook

# Looking to the future



**Private equity allocation  
has performed well since  
launch and excited for  
future progress and  
opportunities**



**Well placed to invest  
further on the public side of  
the portfolio as the UK  
market recovers**



**Access to larger universe of  
high quality, high growth  
companies means we have  
no shortage of investment  
opportunities**





## Appendix

# Important information

## Marketing material.

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