

Aberdeen New Dawn Investment Trust PLC

Investing in locally chosen, high quality, Asia Pacific companies



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Investment Objective

To provide shareholders with a high level of capital growth through equity investment in the Asia Pacific countries ex Japan.

Benchmark

MSCI All Countries Asia Pacific ex Japan Index (Sterling adjusted).

Financial Highlights, Performance and Financial Calendar

Financial Highlights

	31 October 2019	30 April 2019	% change
Total assets including current year income ^A	£344,576,000	£347,660,000	-0.9
Total equity shareholders' funds	£311,250,000	£314,411,000	-1.0
Share price (mid-market) ^B	246.0p	250.0p	-1.6
Net asset value per share (including current year income) ^B	279.9p	281.1p	-0.4
Net asset value per share (excluding current year income) ^{BC}	276.6p	277.8p	-0.4
Discount to net asset value (including current year income) ^{BC}	12.1%	11.1%	
Discount to net asset value (excluding current year income) ^{BC}	11.1%	10.0%	
MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Index (currency adjusted) ^B	754.9	772.7	-2.3
Net gearing ^C	9.3%	9.3%	
Interim dividend per share ^D	1.0p	1.0p	-
Ongoing charges ratio ^C	1.11%	1.13%	

^A Total assets which includes current year income, less current liabilities, before deducting any prior charges.

^B Percentage change figures are on a capital return basis.

^C Considered to be an Alternative Performance Measure. Further details can be found on pages 17 and 18.

^D Interim dividend relating to the first six months of the financial year.

Performance (total return)

	Six months ended 31 October 2019	Year ended 30 April 2019
Share price ^A	-0.3%	+8.0%
Net asset value ^A	+0.7%	+4.9%
MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Index (currency adjusted)	-0.2%	+3.0%

^A Considered to be an Alternative Performance Measure. Further details can be found on pages 17 and 18.

Financial Calendar

18 December 2019	Announcement of results for the half year ending 31 October 2019
January 2020	Half Yearly Report posted to shareholders
31 January 2020	Interim dividend payable for the year ending 30 April 2020
30 April 2020	Year end
June 2020	Announcement of results for the year ending 30 April 2020
July 2020	Annual Report posted to shareholders
2 September 2020	Annual General Meeting (London)
11 September 2020	Final dividend payable for the year ending 30 April 2020

Interim Board Report – Chairman’s Statement

Results and Dividend

In my first report to Shareholders, I am pleased to record that, in what was a tough market environment, the Company’s Net Asset Value (“NAV”) delivered a resilient performance outperforming the benchmark over the six months to 31 October 2019. The NAV total return for the period was 0.7%, which compared favourably with the 0.2% decline in the MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Index. The share price total return for the period was -0.3%, resulting in a slight widening of the discount to NAV to 12.1% versus 11.1% on 30 April 2019. Sterling weakness for most of the period, largely due to continued Brexit-related uncertainty, was beneficial to the total returns of the Company and the benchmark.

The Board declares an unchanged interim dividend for the year of 1.0p per Ordinary share, which will be paid on 31 January 2020 to shareholders on the register on 3 January 2020 (the relevant ex-dividend date being 2 January 2020). Shareholders should be aware that, as in previous years, the level of future dividends will depend on the income from the portfolio.

Overview

The six month period was challenging for Asian stockmarkets as investors experienced mounting concerns over the macroeconomic outlook and political uncertainty. The US-China trade dispute was crucial in shaping sentiment. The optimism that fueled gains earlier in 2019 subsided after talks stalled and new tariffs were announced. For now, negotiations have resumed. Other emergent geopolitical issues, including the Japan-Korea dispute, the unrest in Hong Kong and events in the Middle East also unsettled markets.

Continued monetary easing from central banks in Europe and the US helped stocks avert deeper losses as weak exports and lower factory output compounded worries about slowing global economic growth. In addition, most major Asian central banks cut interest rates. At the same time, several governments turned to stimulus tools, such as tax cuts and extra spending, to offset the downturn. The tailwinds of benign inflation and relatively low debt levels should ensure that policymakers have room to support growth while maintaining fiscal prudence. China, for example, opted for targeted measures to spur demand in key consumer segments instead of the debt-financed investment of the past.

Against such a backdrop, the Board was encouraged by the contribution made by some of the holdings in the portfolio. Positive returns from the Company’s holdings in China and India underscored the value of a quality-focused approach. In China, trade and growth concerns impacted the performance of some companies in the

portfolio, but the holding in the Aberdeen Standard SICAV – China A Share Equity Fund proved helpful. This fund comprises market leaders in segments such as travel, food and beverage and healthcare, with their businesses linked mainly to domestic demand. These companies were largely insulated from the worst of the trade dispute, with earnings still growing at a decent rate.

It was a similar story in India, where the position in the Aberdeen Standard SICAV – Indian Equity Fund also had a positive impact. It outperformed the domestic benchmark, which was volatile due to persistent financial-sector worries and a poorly-received post-election Budget. The quality of the India Equity Fund’s underlying financial holdings merits mentioning. They remained resilient even as fears of a cash crisis within the country’s sprawling “shadow banking” sector dampened most other financial shares. Despite the present challenges, the re-election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was seen as a positive over the long-term as it should ensure that structural reforms and growth-friendly policies continue. In addition, a much-welcomed corporate tax cut could be a near-term fillip for business sentiment and the economy.

Also making notable contributions to performance were the Company’s holdings in the technology sector which rebounded after a period of underperformance. Better than expected smartphone sales and hopes for a recovery in memory-chip prices sparked a rally in the sector, which also benefited from the expectation of faster adoption of 5G wireless technologies. These factors, coupled with more upbeat forecasts, lifted the share prices of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (“TSMC”) and Samsung Electronics. These are among the stalwarts of the portfolio and attest to your Manager’s strategy of investing in long-term quality companies. Your Manager believes that prospects for TSMC and Samsung continue to look promising, with both poised to benefit from an industry-wide shift towards more complex chips. Additionally, their technological leadership and investments in innovation set them apart from most of their rivals. Towards the end of the period, events in Hong Kong attracted increasing attention as large-scale street protests turned violent. The prolonged unrest hurt important pillars of the economy, including tourism, retail and property. Within the Company’s portfolio, Jardine Strategic Holdings and Swire Properties were among the major laggards. Other Hong Kong holdings, however, were less affected as these companies generate their revenues from elsewhere, particularly China. A case in point is Budweiser Brewing Company, the sole addition to the portfolio during the period. Although listed in Hong Kong, the bulk of its profits are derived from China and South Korea, where it holds market-leading positions. The strength of its beer brands, along with consumers’

growing preference for premium products, should be beneficial for future margin expansion and earnings growth.

The Company's overall exposure to Hong Kong has fallen, reflecting your Manager's preference for more attractive options in the mainland. To that end, your Manager exited Hang Lung Properties during the period in view of its more muted outlook and reduced the position in Jardine Strategic due to challenges at several of its regional units. Positions in lenders, HSBC and Standard Chartered, were also scaled back.

Gearing

At the end of the period, the Company's borrowing facilities comprised a fixed rate loan of £20 million which matures in December 2023 (with an interest rate of 2.626%), and a £15 million multi-currency revolving loan facility which matures in December 2021. During the period, the Company also had a £5 million fixed rate loan which matured, and was repaid, in October 2019. Total borrowing facilities have therefore reduced to £35 million compared to £40 million at the start of the period.

An aggregate Sterling equivalent of £33.3 million was drawn down at the period end and gearing (net of cash) was 9.3% as at 31 October 2019, unchanged from the start of the period.

Share Buy Backs

In common with other investment trusts, the Company has bought back shares with the aim of providing a degree of liquidity to the market at times when the discount to the NAV has widened in normal market conditions. It is the view of the Board that this policy is in the interests of all Shareholders. The Board closely monitors the discount and we review the operation of the share buy back policy at each Board meeting as well as considering other options for managing the discount.

During the period, the Company bought back 630,000 shares, representing 0.6% of the issued share capital. These shares were bought back and held in treasury. The Company's stated policy on treasury shares is that these can only be re-issued to the market at a premium to the NAV per share at that time.

The Board is hopeful that the sustained performance of the Company will, in time, be reflected in a narrowing of the discount.

Board Composition

As previously announced, David Shearer retired as Chairman and a Director at the Annual General Meeting on 4 September and I succeeded him as Chairman. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank David for his services to the Company since he joined the Board in 2007 and as Chairman since 2012.

During the period, the Board was pleased to announce the appointment from 1 October 2019 of Stephen Souchon as an independent non-executive Director of the Company. Stephen is a Chartered Accountant and currently a non-executive director and Chair of the Audit Committee of SMBC Nikko Capital Markets Limited. He had an executive career at Morgan Stanley until 2015 where he was latterly Head of the EMEA Corporate Financial Control Group. He was a non-executive director and Chair of the Audit Committee of Morgan Stanley's Swiss Bank during which time he oversaw the development of the Swiss wealth management business within Asia. He was also the Audit Committee Chair of Morgan Stanley's Spanish wealth management subsidiary and its Russian bank and broker dealer.

As previously announced, John Lorimer has indicated that he intends to step down from the Board on conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in 2020 by which time he will have been a Director of the Company for 10 years including 8 years as Chairman of the Audit and Risk and Management Engagement Committees.

Electronic Communications for Registered Shareholders

The Board is proposing to move to more electronic based forms of communication with its registered shareholders. Increased use of electronic communications should be a more cost effective, as well as faster and more environmentally friendly way of providing information to shareholders. In addition, we hope that, over time, it might also increase engagement with shareholders who own their shares via platforms. Registered shareholders will therefore find enclosed with this Half Yearly Report a letter containing our electronic communications proposals. Registered shareholders who wish to continue to receive hard copies of documents and communications by post need to opt-in and send back their replies in accordance with the instructions set out in the letter.

Interim Board Report – Chairman’s Statement continued

Shareholders who hold their shares through the Aberdeen Standard Investments Children’s Plan, Investment Trust Share Plan or ISA (“Planholders”) will continue to receive all documentation by post in hard copy for the time being. The Plan Manager is currently assessing how to adopt more electronically-based communications within these savings plans, Planholders will be contacted directly with more detail in due course.

Outlook

Uncertainty will remain the watchword in the coming months. Markets appear to have already priced in an interim US-China trade deal, which means that any delays could trigger a painful reversal. It also seems clear that the strategic rivalry between the world’s two largest economies will continue to play out, with unknown consequences for trade, investment, supply chains and the application of technology. This is likely to influence the growth trajectory of economies across Asia and dictate the quality of corporate earnings.

Despite these risks, there are reasons for cautious optimism. Asian governments and central banks are united with regards to expansionary policies, while ongoing reforms and political stability should sustain consumer and business confidence. In addition, the robust macro fundamentals of most Asian economies, coupled with largely orthodox fiscal and monetary policies, should allow authorities to make more adjustments if needed.

Meanwhile, amid all the disquiet about a slowing global economy, it is worth remembering that Asia remains the world’s most dynamic region. The structural trends that will underpin its growth are intact. These include advances in technology that are disrupting traditional approaches, as well as growing demand for broader, and more customised products and services from wealthier populations. Your Manager’s stringent, bottom-up investment approach should ensure that the portfolio comprises holdings in companies with the ability to access these opportunities, even when market conditions are difficult. The Board remains confident that this approach will ensure that the portfolio has the requisite quality to deliver sustainable returns for the Company over the long term.

Donald Workman

Chairman

18 December 2019

Interim Board Report – Other Matters

Directors' Responsibility Statement

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Half-Yearly Financial Report in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The Directors confirm that to the best of their knowledge:

- the condensed set of financial statements within the Half-Yearly Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 104 'Interim Financial Reporting';
- the Interim Board Report (constituting the Interim Management Report) includes a fair review of the information required by rule 4.2.7R of the Financial Conduct Authority's Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules (being an indication of important events that have occurred during the first six months of the financial year and their impact on the condensed set of financial statements, and a description of the principal risks and uncertainties for the remaining six months of the financial year) and 4.2.8R (being related party transactions that have taken place during the first six months of the financial year and that have materially affected the financial position of the Company during that period, and any changes in the related party transactions described in the last Annual Report that could do so).

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Board regularly reviews the principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Company together with the mitigating actions it has established to manage the risks. These are set out within the Strategic Report contained within the Annual Report for the year ended 30 April 2019 and comprise the following risk headings:

- Investment strategy and objectives
- Investment management
- Income/dividends
- Financial
- Gearing
- Regulatory
- Operational

The Board has reviewed and considered the potential impact of the current geopolitical environment including Brexit and trade tensions. Apart from this, the Company's principal risks and uncertainties have not changed materially since the date of the Annual Report and are not expected to change materially for the remaining six months of the Company's financial year.

Going Concern

The Company's assets consist substantially of equity shares in companies listed on recognised stock exchanges and in most circumstances are realisable within a short timescale. The Board has set limits for borrowing and regularly reviews cash flow projections and compliance with banking covenants. The Directors believe that, after making enquiries, the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and has the ability to meet its financial obligations as they fall due for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of this Report. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board

Donald Workman

Chairman

18 December 2019

Investment Portfolio

As at 31 October 2019

Company	Country	Valuation £'000	Total assets %
Aberdeen Standard SICAV – Indian Equity Fund ^A	India	42,299	12.3
Aberdeen Standard SICAV – China A Share Equity Fund ^A	China	23,767	6.9
Samsung Electronics Pref	South Korea	20,730	6.0
Tencent Holdings	China	20,256	5.9
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company	Taiwan	19,663	5.7
Ping An Insurance H Shares	China	11,470	3.3
AIA Group	Hong Kong	11,050	3.2
Bank Central Asia	Indonesia	10,293	3.0
Ayala Land	Philippines	10,111	2.9
Jardine Strategic Holdings	Hong Kong	9,391	2.7
Top ten investments		179,030	51.9
CSL	Australia	8,886	2.6
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation	Singapore	8,463	2.5
China Resources Land	China	7,509	2.2
Aberdeen New India Investment Trust ^{AB}	India	6,361	1.8
BHP Group ^B	Australia	6,340	1.8
Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing	Hong Kong	5,830	1.7
Siam Cement (Foreign)	Thailand	5,221	1.5
City Developments	Singapore	5,103	1.5
DBS Group Holdings	Singapore	5,012	1.5
Wuxi Biologics (Cayman)	China	4,738	1.4
Top twenty investments		242,493	70.4
Swire Properties	Hong Kong	4,610	1.3
Astra International	Indonesia	4,264	1.2
Keppel Corporation	Singapore	4,222	1.2
LG Chem	South Korea	4,187	1.2
Cochlear	Australia	4,015	1.2
John Keells Holdings	Sri Lanka	3,929	1.1
M.P. Evans Group ^B	United Kingdom	3,870	1.1
Sunny Optical Technology	China	3,682	1.1
Vietnam Dairy Products	Vietnam	3,518	1.0
Budweiser Brewing	Hong Kong	3,483	1.0
Top thirty investments		282,273	81.8
Singapore Telecommunication	Singapore	3,414	1.0
Rio Tinto ^B	Australia	3,406	1.0
Autohome ADR	China	3,393	1.0
Huazhu Group ADR	China	3,387	1.0
Kerry Logistics Network	Hong Kong	3,316	1.0
Anhui Conch Cement H Shares	China	3,290	1.0
ASM Pacific Technology	Hong Kong	3,272	0.9
Venture Corp	Singapore	3,139	0.9
Taiwan Mobile	Taiwan	3,071	0.9
China Mobile	China	3,045	0.9
Top forty investments		315,006	91.4

Company	Country	Valuation £'000	Total assets %
United Overseas Bank	Singapore	2,870	0.8
Standard Chartered ^B	United Kingdom	2,828	0.8
Yum China Holdings	China	2,777	0.8
Mobile World	Vietnam	2,767	0.8
Aberdeen Standard Asia Focus ^{AB}	Other Asia	2,534	0.7
Unilever Indonesia	Indonesia	2,335	0.7
Bangkok Dusit Medical Services (Foreign)	Thailand	1,906	0.6
HSBC Holdings	Hong Kong	1,665	0.5
Raffles Medical	Singapore	1,660	0.5
Woodside Petroleum	Australia	1,375	0.4
Top fifty investments		337,723	98.0
Yoma Strategic Holdings	Myanmar	1,091	0.3
DFCC Bank	Sri Lanka	755	0.2
Swire Pacific B Shares	Hong Kong	636	0.2
Amorepacific Corporation Pref	South Korea	233	0.1
Total investments		340,438	98.8
Net current assets^C		4,138	1.2
Total assets^D		344,576	100.0

^A Holding also managed by the Standard Life Aberdeen Group but not subject to double charging of management fees.

^B London Stock Exchange listing.

^C Excluding short-term bank loans of £13,381,000.

^D Total assets which includes current year income, less current liabilities, before deducting any prior charges.

Note: Unless otherwise stated, foreign stock is held and all investments are equity holdings.

Condensed Statement of Comprehensive Income (unaudited)

	Notes	Six months ended 31 October 2019			Six months ended 31 October 2018		
		Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Losses on investments		-	(792)	(792)	-	(36,727)	(36,727)
Income	2	5,050	-	5,050	4,664	-	4,664
Management fee		(466)	(466)	(932)	(454)	(454)	(908)
Administrative expenses		(434)	-	(434)	(432)	-	(432)
Exchange losses	6	-	(54)	(54)	-	(1,659)	(1,659)
Net return before finance costs and taxation		4,150	(1,312)	2,838	3,778	(38,840)	(35,062)
Finance costs		(246)	(246)	(492)	(201)	(201)	(402)
Return before taxation		3,904	(1,558)	2,346	3,577	(39,041)	(35,464)
Taxation	3	(247)	-	(247)	(260)	-	(260)
Return after taxation		3,657	(1,558)	2,099	3,317	(39,041)	(35,724)
Return per Ordinary share (pence)	5	3.28	(1.40)	1.88	2.92	(34.39)	(31.47)

The total column of the Condensed Statement of Comprehensive Income represents the profit and loss account of the Company.

All revenue and capital items in the above statement derive from continuing operations.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed set of interim financial statements.

Condensed Statement of Financial Position (unaudited)

	Notes	As at 31 October 2019 £'000	As at 30 April 2019 £'000
Fixed assets			
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	9	340,438	343,419
Current assets			
Debtors		566	926
Cash at bank and in hand		4,990	3,853
		5,556	4,779
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Loans		(13,381)	(13,311)
Other creditors		(1,418)	(538)
		(14,799)	(13,849)
Net current liabilities		(9,243)	(9,070)
Total assets less current liabilities		331,195	334,349
Non-current creditors			
Loans		(19,945)	(19,938)
Net assets		311,250	314,411
Share capital and reserves			
Called-up share capital		6,011	6,011
Share premium account		17,955	17,955
Capital redemption reserve		10,543	10,543
Capital reserve	6	263,666	266,798
Revenue reserve		13,075	13,104
Equity shareholders' funds		311,250	314,411
Net asset value per Ordinary share (pence)	7	279.87	281.12

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed set of interim financial statements.

Condensed Statement of Changes in Equity (unaudited)

Six months ended 31 October 2019

		Share	Share	Capital	Capital	Revenue	Total
	Notes	capital	premium	redemption	reserve	reserve	
		£'000	account	reserve	£'000	£'000	£'000
			£'000	£'000			
Balance at 30 April 2019		6,011	17,955	10,543	266,798	13,104	314,411
Buy back of Ordinary shares for treasury		-	-	-	(1,574)	-	(1,574)
Return after taxation		-	-	-	(1,558)	3,657	2,099
Dividend paid	4	-	-	-	-	(3,686)	(3,686)
Balance at 31 October 2019		6,011	17,955	10,543	263,666	13,075	311,250

Six months ended 31 October 2018

		Share	Share	Capital	Capital	Revenue	Total
	Notes	capital	premium	redemption	reserve	reserve	
		£'000	account	reserve	£'000	£'000	£'000
			£'000	£'000			
Balance at 30 April 2018		6,152	17,955	10,402	264,189	13,118	311,816
Buy back of Ordinary shares for treasury		-	-	-	(4,109)	-	(4,109)
Return after taxation		-	-	-	(39,041)	3,317	(35,724)
Dividend paid	4	-	-	-	-	(3,741)	(3,741)
Balance at 31 October 2018		6,152	17,955	10,402	221,039	12,694	268,242

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed set of interim financial statements.

Condensed Statement of Cash Flows (unaudited)

	Notes	Six months ended 31 October 2019 £'000	Six months ended 31 October 2018 £'000
Operating activities			
Net return before finance costs and taxation		2,838	(35,062)
Adjustment for:			
Losses on investments		792	36,727
Currency losses		54	1,659
Dividend income		(5,041)	(4,661)
Dividend income received		5,515	5,467
Interest income		(9)	(3)
Interest income received		8	3
(Increase)/decrease in other debtors		(1)	8
Increase in creditors		13	167
Stock dividends included in investment income		(483)	(286)
Overseas withholding tax		(340)	(335)
Net cash flow from operating activities		3,346	3,684
Investing activities			
Purchases of investments		(18,728)	(32,564)
Sales of investments		22,190	31,911
Net cash from investing activities		3,462	(653)
Financing activities			
Interest paid		(490)	(402)
Equity dividends paid	4	(3,686)	(3,741)
Buyback of Ordinary shares for treasury		(1,512)	(4,134)
Loan drawdown		-	3,500
Net cash used in financing activities		(5,688)	(4,777)
Increase/(decrease) in cash		1,120	(1,746)
Analysis of changes in cash during the period			
Opening balances		3,853	4,507
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held		17	(39)
Increase/(decrease) in cash as above		1,120	(1,746)
Closing balances		4,990	2,722

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed set of interim financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 104 'Interim Financial Reporting' and with the Statement of Recommended Practice for 'Financial Statements of Investment Trust Companies and Venture Capital Trusts'. They have also been prepared on a going concern basis and on the assumption that approval as an investment trust will continue to be granted.

The interim financial statements have been prepared using the same accounting policies as the preceding annual financial statements.

	Six months ended 31 October 2019 £'000	Six months ended 31 October 2018 £'000
2. Income		
Income from investments		
UK dividend income	589	646
Overseas dividends	3,969	3,729
Stock dividends	483	286
	5,041	4,661
Other income		
Deposit interest	9	3
Total income	5,050	4,664

3. Taxation

The taxation charge for the period represents withholding tax suffered on overseas dividend income (31 October 2018 – same).

4. Dividends

Ordinary dividends on equity shares deducted from reserves are analysed below:

	Six months ended 31 October 2019 £'000	Six months ended 31 October 2018 £'000
2019 final dividend – 3.30p (2018 – 3.30p)	3,686	3,741

An interim dividend of 1.00p (31 October 2018 – 1.00p) per share will be paid on 31 January 2020 to shareholders on the register on 3 January 2020. The ex-dividend date will be 2 January 2020.

	Six months ended 31 October 2019	Six months ended 31 October 2018
	p	p
5. Return per Ordinary share		
Revenue return	3.28	2.92
Capital return	(1.40)	(34.39)
Total return	1.88	(31.47)

The figures above are based on the following attributable returns:

	£'000	£'000
Revenue return	3,657	3,317
Capital return	(1,558)	(39,041)
Total return	2,099	(35,724)
Weighted average number of Ordinary shares in issue	111,625,750	113,518,761

6. Capital reserve

The capital reserve reflected in the Condensed Statement of Financial Position at 31 October 2019 includes gains of £141,748,000 (30 April 2019 – gains of £149,600,000) which relate to the revaluation of investments held at the reporting date.

During the period the Company had exchange losses of £54,000 (2018 – losses of £1,659,000), of which £70,000 (2018 – losses of £1,719,000) were attributable to foreign exchange movements on bank loan drawdowns.

	As at 31 October 2019	As at 30 April 2019
7. Net asset value per share		
Net assets per Condensed Statement of Financial Position (£'000)	311,250	314,411
Number of Ordinary shares in issue ^A	111,211,348	111,841,348
Net asset value per Ordinary share (p)	279.87	281.12

^A Excluding shares held in treasury.

8. Transaction costs

During the six months ended 31 October 2019 expenses were incurred in acquiring or disposing of investments classified as fair value through profit or loss. These have been expensed through capital and are included within losses on investments in the Condensed Statement of Comprehensive Income. The total costs were as follows:

	Six months ended 31 October 2019	Six months ended 31 October 2018
	£'000	£'000
Purchases	38	70
Sales	30	39
	68	109

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

9. Fair value hierarchy

FRS 102 requires an entity to classify fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy has the following classifications:

Level 1: unadjusted quoted prices in an active market for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable (ie developed using market data) for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: inputs are unobservable (ie for which market data is unavailable) for the asset or liability.

The financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value in the Condensed Statement of Financial Position are grouped into the fair value hierarchy at the reporting date as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
As at 31 October 2019				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss				
Quoted equities	274,372	-	-	274,372
Collective investment schemes	-	66,066	-	66,066
Net fair value	274,372	66,066	-	340,438
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
As at 30 April 2019				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss				
Quoted equities	280,340	-	-	280,340
Collective investment schemes	-	63,079	-	63,079
Net fair value	280,340	63,079	-	343,419

Quoted equities

The fair value of the Company's investments in quoted equities has been determined by reference to their quoted bid prices at the reporting date. Quoted equities included in Fair Value Level 1 are actively traded on recognised stock exchanges.

Collective investment schemes

The fair value of the Company's investments in collective investment schemes has been determined by reference to their quoted net asset values at the reporting date and hence are categorised in Fair Value Level 2.

10. Called-up share capital

During the six months ended 31 October 2019 the Company purchased 630,000 (31 October 2018 – 1,800,000) Ordinary shares for treasury at a cost of £1,574,000 (31 October 2018 – £4,109,000).

Between the period 1 November 2019 and the date of approval of this Report, the Company bought back for treasury a further 235,000 Ordinary shares at a cost of £584,000.

11. Related party transactions and transactions with the Manager

Mr Young is also a director of the Company's Investment Manager, Aberdeen Standard Investments (Asia) Limited, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Life Aberdeen plc. Management, promotional activities and secretarial and administration services are provided to the Company by Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited.

The management fee is payable monthly in arrears based on an annual amount of 0.85% of the net asset value of the Company valued monthly, with the following provisions for commonly managed funds:

- the Company's investments in Aberdeen Standard SICAV – Indian Equity Fund, Aberdeen Standard Asia Focus Investment Trust PLC and Aberdeen New India Investment Trust PLC are excluded from the calculation of the investment management fee. The Company's investment in Aberdeen Standard SICAV – China A Share Equity Fund is held in a share class not subject to management charges at a fund level and the Manager is therefore entitled to a fee on the value of the Company's investment. The total value of such commonly managed funds at the period end was £74,961,000 (31 October 2018 – £56,416,000).
- the Company receives a rebate from the Manager for the amount of fees in excess of 0.85%, of net assets charged by the Manager for any applicable commonly managed fund.

During the period £932,000 (31 October 2018 – £908,000) of management fees were payable, with a balance of £305,000 (31 October 2018 – £291,000) being due to ASFML at the period end. Management fees are charged 50% to revenue and 50% to capital.

The promotional activities fee is based on a current annual amount of £140,000 (31 October 2018 – £158,000), payable quarterly in arrears. During the period £70,000 (31 October 2018 – £79,000) of fees were payable, with a balance of £47,000 (31 October 2018 – £53,000) being due to ASFML at the period end.

12. Segmental information

The Company is engaged in a single segment of business, which is to invest in equity securities. Accordingly, all significant operating decisions are based on the Company as one segment.

13. The financial information contained in this Half-Yearly Report does not constitute statutory accounts as defined in Sections 434-436 of the Companies Act 2006. The financial information for the six months ended 31 October 2019 and 31 October 2018 has not been audited by the Company's external auditor.

The financial information for the year ended 30 April 2019 has been extracted from the latest published audited financial statements which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The report of the Independent Auditor on those accounts contained no qualification or statement under Section 498 (2), (3) or (4) of the Companies Act 2006.

14. This Half-Yearly Financial Report was approved by the Board on 18 December 2019.

Independent Review Report to Aberdeen New Dawn Investment Trust PLC

Introduction

We have been engaged by the Company to review the condensed set of financial statements in the Half Yearly Financial Report for the six months ended 31 October 2019 which comprises a Condensed Statement of Comprehensive Income, Condensed Statement of Financial Position, Condensed Statement of Changes in Equity, Condensed Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes 1 to 14. We have read the other information contained in the Half Yearly Financial Report and considered whether it contains any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the information in the condensed set of financial statements.

This report is made solely to the Company in accordance with guidance contained in International Standard on Review Engagements 2410 (UK and Ireland) 'Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity' issued by the Auditing Practices Board. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusions we have formed.

Directors' Responsibilities

The Half Yearly Financial Report is the responsibility of, and has been approved by, the Directors. The Directors are responsible for preparing the Half Yearly Financial Report in accordance with the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules of the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority.

As disclosed in note 1, the annual financial statements of the Company are prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The condensed set of financial statements included in this Half Yearly Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard ("FRS")104 'Interim Financial Reporting'.

Our Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express to the Company a conclusion on the condensed set of financial statements in the Half Yearly Financial Report based on our review.

Scope of Review

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements 2410 (UK and Ireland) 'Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom. A review of interim financial information consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the condensed set of financial statements in the Half Yearly Financial Report for the six months ended 31 October 2019 is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with FRS 104 'Interim Financial Reporting' and the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules of the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority.

Ernst & Young LLP

Edinburgh
18 December 2019

Alternative Performance Measures

Alternative performance measures are numerical measures of the Company's current, historical or future performance, financial position or cash flows, other than financial measures defined or specified in the applicable financial framework. The Company's applicable financial framework includes FRS 102 and the AIC SORP.

Total return is considered to be an alternative performance measure. NAV and share price total returns show how the NAV and share price has performed over a period of time in percentage terms, taking into account both capital returns and dividends paid to shareholders. NAV total return involves investing the net dividend in the NAV of the Company with debt at fair value on the date on which that dividend goes ex-dividend. Share price total return involves reinvesting the net dividend in the share price of the Company on the date on which that dividend goes ex-dividend.

The tables below provide information relating to the NAVs and share prices of the Company on the dividend reinvestment dates during the six months ended 31 October 2019 and 31 October 2018.

	Dividend rate	NAV	Share price
31 October 2019			
30 April 2019	N/A	281.12p	250.00p
15 August 2019	3.30p	277.07p	241.00p
31 October 2019	N/A	279.87p	246.00p
Total return		-0.7%	-0.3%

	Dividend rate	NAV	Share price
31 October 2018			
30 April 2018	N/A	272.41p	236.00p
16 August 2018	3.30p	262.91p	227.00p
31 October 2018	N/A	238.09p	204.00p
Total return		-12.6%	-13.6%

Discount to net asset value

The amount by which the market price per Ordinary share of 246.00p (30 April 2019 – 250.00p) is lower than the net asset value per Ordinary share (including income 279.87p (30 April 2019 – 281.12p); excluding income 276.58p (30 April 2019 – 277.79p)), expressed as a percentage of the adjusted net asset value per Ordinary share.

Net asset value per Ordinary share (ex income)

The Company also uses net asset value (ex income) per share as an alternative performance measure. This is calculated as follows:

	31 October 2019	30 April 2019
Net assets attributable (£'000)	311,250	314,411
Less: Revenue for the year (£'000)	(3,657)	(4,850)
Add: Dividends paid during the year (£'000)	–	1,123
Net assets (ex income) (£'000)	307,593	310,684
Number of Ordinary shares in issue	111,211,348	111,841,348
NAV (ex income) per Ordinary share	276.58p	277.79p

Alternative Performance Measures continued

Net gearing

Net gearing measures the total borrowings of £33,326,000 (30 April 2019 – £33,249,000) less cash and cash equivalents of £4,228,000 (30 April 2019 – £3,944,000) divided by shareholders' funds of £311,250,000 (30 April 2019 – £314,411,000), expressed as a percentage. Under AIC reporting guidance cash and cash equivalents includes net amounts due to brokers £762,000 (30 April 2019 – due from brokers of £91,000) at the period end as well as cash at bank and in hand of £4,990,000 (30 April 2019 – £3,853,000).

Ongoing charges

Ongoing charges is considered to be an alternative performance measure. The ongoing charges ratio has been calculated in accordance with guidance issued by the AIC as the total of investment management fees and administrative expenses and expressed as a percentage of the average net asset values throughout the year. The ratio for 31 October 2019 is based on forecast ongoing charges for the year ending 30 April 2020.

	31 October 2019	30 April 2019
Investment management fees (£'000)	1,843	1,803
Administrative expenses (£'000)	808	839
Less: non-recurring charges (£'000)	(52)	(89)
Ongoing charges (£'000)	2,599	2,553
Average net assets (£'000)	312,808	294,966
Ongoing charges ratio (excluding look-through costs)	0.83%	0.87%
Look-through costs ^A	0.28%	0.26%
Ongoing charges ratio (including look-through costs)	1.11%	1.13%

^A Costs associated with holdings in collective investment schemes as defined by the Committee of European Securities Regulators' guidelines on the methodology for the calculation of the ongoing charges figure, issued on 1 July 2010.

During both years net asset values with debt at fair value equated to net asset value with debt at amortised cost due to the short-term nature of the bank loans.

The ongoing charges ratio provided in the Company's Key Information Document is calculated in line with the PRIIPs regulations.

Investor Information

Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (“AIFMD”) and Pre-Investment Disclosure Document (“PIDD”)

The Company has appointed Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited as its alternative investment fund manager and BNP Paribas Securities Services, London Branch as its depositary under the AIFMD.

The AIFMD requires Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited, as the Company’s AIFM, to make available to investors certain information prior to such investors’ investment in the Company. Details of the leverage and risk policies which the Company is required to have in place under the AIFMD are published in the Company’s PIDD which can be found on its website: newdawn-trust.co.uk.

Investor Warning: Be alert to share fraud and boiler room scams

Aberdeen Standard Investments has been contacted by investors informing it that they have received telephone calls and emails from people who have offered to buy their investment company shares, purporting to work for Aberdeen Standard Investments or for third party firms. Aberdeen Standard Investments has also been notified of emails claiming that certain investment companies under its management have issued claims in the courts against individuals. These may be scams which attempt to gain your personal information with which to commit identity fraud or could be ‘boiler room’ scams where a payment from you is required to release the supposed payment for your shares. These callers/senders do not work for Aberdeen Standard Investments and any third party making such offers/claims has no link with Aberdeen Standard Investments.

Aberdeen Standard Investments does not ‘cold-call’ investors in this way. If you have any doubt over the veracity of a caller, do not offer any personal information, end the call and contact our Customer Services Department.

The Financial Conduct Authority provides advice with respect to share fraud and boiler room scams at: fca.org.uk/consumers/scams

Shareholder Enquiries

For queries regarding shareholdings, lost certificates, dividend payments, registered details and related matters, shareholders holding their shares directly in the Company are advised to contact the Registrars (see Corporate Information). Changes of address must be notified to the Registrars in writing.

If you have any general questions about your Company, the Manager or performance, please telephone the Aberdeen Standard Investments Customer Services Department on 0808 500 4000, send an email to inv.trusts@aberdeenstandard.com or write to:

Aberdeen Standard Investment Trusts
PO Box 11020
Chelmsford
Essex CM99 2DB

Dividend Tax Allowance

The annual tax-free personal allowance for dividend income for UK investors is £2,000 for the 2019/20 tax year. Above this amount, individuals pay tax on their dividend income at a rate dependent on their income tax bracket and personal circumstances. The Company provides registered shareholders with a confirmation of dividends paid and this should be included with any other dividend income received when calculating and reporting to HMRC total dividend income received. It is the shareholder’s responsibility to include all dividend income when calculating any tax liability.

How to Invest

Investors can buy and sell shares in the Company directly through a stockbroker or indirectly through a lawyer, accountant or other professional adviser. Alternatively, for retail clients, shares can be bought directly through the Aberdeen Standard Investments Children’s Plan, Investment Trust Share Plan or Investment Trust Individual Savings Account (“ISA”), or through the many broker platforms which offer the opportunity to acquire shares in investment companies.

Aberdeen Standard Investments Children’s Plan

Aberdeen Standard Investments operates an Investment Plan for Children (the “Children’s Plan”) which covers a number of investment companies under its management, including the Company. Anyone can invest in the Children’s Plan (subject to the eligibility criteria as stated within the terms and conditions), including parents, grandparents and family friends. All investments are free of dealing charges on the initial purchase of shares, although investors will suffer the bid-offer spread, which can, on some occasions, be a significant amount. Lump sum investments start at £150 per trust, while regular savers may invest from £30 per month. Investors only pay Government Stamp Duty (currently 0.5%) on entry where applicable. Selling costs are £10 + VAT. There is no restriction on how long an investor need invest in the Children’s Plan, and regular savers can stop or suspend participation by instructing Aberdeen Standard Investments in writing at any time.

Investor Information continued

Aberdeen Standard Investments Share Plan

Aberdeen Standard Investments operates an Investment Trust Share Plan (the "Plan") through which shares in the Company can be purchased. There are no dealing charges on the initial purchase of shares, although investors will suffer the bid-offer spread, which can, on some occasions, be a significant amount. Lump sum investments start at £250, while regular savers may invest from £100 per month. Investors only pay Government Stamp Duty (currently 0.5%) on entry where applicable. Selling costs are £10 + VAT. There is no restriction on how long an investor need invest in a Plan, and regular savers can stop or suspend participation by instructing Aberdeen Standard Investments in writing at any time.

Aberdeen Standard Investments ISA

Aberdeen Standard Investments operates an Investment Trust ISA ("ISA") through which an investment may be made of up to £20,000 in the 2019/20 tax year.

There are no brokerage or initial charges for the ISA, although investors will suffer the bid-offer spread, which can be a significant amount. Investors only pay Government Stamp Duty (currently 0.5%) on purchases where applicable. Selling costs are £15 + VAT. The annual ISA administration charge is £24 + VAT, calculated annually and applied on 31 March (or the last business day in March) and collected soon thereafter either by direct debit or, if there is no valid direct debit mandate in place, from the available cash in the ISA prior to the distribution or reinvestment of any income, or, where there is insufficient cash in the ISA, from the sale of investments held in the ISA. Under current legislation, investments in ISAs can grow free of capital gains tax.

ISA Transfer

Investors can choose to transfer previous tax year investments to Aberdeen Standard Investments, which can be invested in the Company while retaining their ISA wrapper. The minimum lump sum for an ISA transfer is £1,000 and is subject to a minimum per trust of £250.

Nominee Accounts and Voting Rights

All investments in the Aberdeen Standard Investments Children's Plan, Investment Trust Share Plan and Investment Trust ISA are held in nominee accounts and investors are provided with the equivalent of full voting and other rights of share ownership.

Keeping You Informed

Further information about the Company may be found on its dedicated website: newdawn-trust.co.uk. This provides access to information on the Company's share price performance, capital structure, London Stock Exchange

announcements, current and historic Annual and Half-Yearly Reports, and the latest monthly factsheet on the Company issued by the Manager.

Alternatively, please call 0808 500 0040 (Freephone) or email inv.trusts@aberdeenstandard.com or write to the address for Aberdeen Standard Investment Trusts stated above.

Details are also available at: invtrusts.co.uk.

The Company's Ordinary share price appears under the heading 'Investment Companies' in the Financial Times.

Key Information Document ("KID")

The KID relating to the Company and published by the Manager can be found on the Company's website.

Literature Request Service

For literature and application forms for Aberdeen Standard Investments' investment trust products, please contact:

invtrusts.co.uk or contact:

Telephone: 0808 500 4000

Or write to:-

Aberdeen Standard Investment Trusts
PO Box 11020
Chelmsford
Essex CM99 2DB

Terms and Conditions

Terms and conditions for Aberdeen Standard Investments managed savings products can also be found under the Literature section of our website at: invtrusts.co.uk.

Suitable for Retail/NMPI Status

The Company's shares are intended for investors, primarily in the UK, including retail investors, professionally-advised private clients and institutional investors who are seeking a high level of capital growth through equity investment in the Asia Pacific countries ex Japan and who understand and are willing to accept the risks of exposure to equities.

Investors should consider consulting a financial adviser who specialises in advising on the acquisition of shares and other securities before acquiring shares. Investors should be capable of evaluating the risks and merits of such an investment and should have sufficient resources to bear any loss that may result.

The Company currently conducts its affairs so that the securities issued by the Company can be recommended by a financial adviser to ordinary retail investors in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's rules in relation to non-mainstream pooled investments ("NMPIs") and intends to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The Company's securities are excluded from the Financial Conduct Authority's restrictions which apply to NMPIs because they are securities issued by an investment trust.

Online Dealing

There are a number of online dealing platforms for private investors that offer share dealing, ISAs and other means to invest in the Company. Real-time execution-only stockbroking services allow you to trade online, manage your portfolio and buy UK listed shares. These sites do not give advice. Some comparison websites also look at dealing rates and terms.

Discretionary Private Client Stockbrokers

If you have a large sum to invest, you may wish to contact a discretionary private client stockbroker. They can manage your entire portfolio of shares and will advise you on your investments. To find a private client stockbroker visit The Personal Investment Management and Financial Advice Association at: pimfa.co.uk.

Financial Advisers

To find an adviser who recommends on investment trusts, visit: unbiased.co.uk.

Regulation of Stockbrokers

Before approaching a stockbroker, always check that they are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority:

Tel: 0800 111 6768 or at

fca.org.uk/firms/financial-services-register

Email: consumer.queries@fca.org.uk

Note

Please remember that past performance is not a guide to the future. Stock market and currency movements may cause the value of shares and the income from them to fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount they originally invested.

As with all equity investments, the value of investment trusts purchased will immediately be reduced by the difference between the buying and selling prices of the shares, the market maker's spread.

Investors should further bear in mind that the value of any tax relief will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor and that tax rates and reliefs, as well as the tax treatment of ISAs, may be changed by future legislation.

The information on pages 19 to 21 has been approved for the purposes of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended by the Financial Services Act 2012) by Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority in the United Kingdom.



Corporate Information

Directors

Donald Workman (Chairman)
John Lorimer
Susie Rippingall
Marion Sears
Stephen Souchon
Hugh Young

Company Secretary & Registered Office

Aberdeen Asset Management PLC
Bow Bells House
1 Bread Street
London EC4M 9HH

Alternative Investment Fund Manager

Aberdeen Standard Fund Managers Limited
Bow Bells House
1 Bread Street
London EC4M 9HH

Investment Manager

Aberdeen Standard Investments (Asia) Limited
21 Church Street
#01-01 Capital Square Two
Singapore 049480

Aberdeen Standard Investments Customer Services Department, Children's Plan, Share Plan and ISA enquiries

Aberdeen Standard Investment Trusts
PO Box 11020
Chelmsford
Essex CM99 2DB

Freephone: 0808 500 0040
(open Monday to Friday, 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., excluding public holidays in England and Wales)
Email: inv.trusts@aberdeenstandard.com

Company Registration Number

02377879 (England & Wales)

United States Internal Revenue Service FATCA Registration Number (GIIN)

SL62LS.99999.SL.826

Legal Entity Identifier ("LEI")

5493002K00AHWEME3J36



Registrars

Equiniti Limited
Aspect House
Spencer Road
Lancing
West Sussex BN99 6DA

Shareholder helpline: 0371 384 2504*

(*Lines open 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Monday to Friday excluding public holidays in England and Wales. Charges for calling telephone numbers starting with '03' are determined by the caller's service provider.)

Overseas helpline number: +44 (0) 121 415 7047

Depository

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Stockbrokers

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Independent Auditor

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Solicitors

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Bankers

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Website

newdawn-trust.co.uk

Visit us online
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