

## Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust

# Still finding opportunities

Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust (MNP) invests in a portfolio of larger-cap blue chip companies selected for their above-average growth potential. Recent performance has been similar to the FTSE World index benchmark in a period of market volatility and risk-adjusted returns are ahead of global trust sector averages over one and three years. Since adopting a zero discount policy in 2013, the shares have traded close to NAV. Dividends are paid quarterly and have held steady or increased each year since launch with MNP's 2.3% yield ranking in the top quartile of global trust peers.

12 months ending	Total share price return (%)	Total NAV return (%)	Blended benchmark (%)	FTSE World (%)	FTSE All-Share (%)
30/11/11	7.4	6.8	1.6	(0.1)	2.6
30/11/12	14.2	9.8	12.0	12.0	12.1
30/11/13	23.3	20.0	22.5	22.5	19.8
30/11/14	11.0	11.3	13.7	13.7	4.7

Note: Twelve-month rolling discrete total return performance. Blended benchmark is the FTSE All-Share index until 1 June 2011 and the FTSE World index thereafter.

## Investment strategy: Picking stocks globally

MNP follows a bottom-up stock selection process, investing globally on a largely unconstrained basis within a broad framework of risk controls. Manager Tom Walker works with Martin Currie's experienced analyst team to identify companies with upside potential based on earnings, assets or a valuation anomaly. The trust holds a relatively concentrated portfolio of c 60 stocks, but is well spread within this, with few stocks representing less than 1% or more than 3.5% of the total. While the manager does not focus on the country of listing, the trust's geographical profile is largely in line with that of its benchmark, the FTSE World index. Although gearing of up to 20% is permitted, none has been used since 2008.

# Outlook: Markets maintaining a positive bias

Market valuation multiples are ahead of 10-year averages, although still some way below peak levels, suggesting that while upside potential from further re-rating has become more limited, valuations are not overstretched. Although concerns over slowing global growth and the end of US quantitative easing saw markets turn down in September, the focus quickly turned to prospects of further stimulus in Europe, Japan and China with a resultant market rebound in October and valuations have resumed their upward path. While risks remain, markets appear willing to maintain a positive bias and on a one-year view the manager can see markets moving higher.

## Valuation: Narrow discount; above average yield

Adoption of the zero discount policy in July 2013 has successfully reduced discount volatility, largely removing this source of uncertainty for potential buyers. Another feature that may appeal to investors is MNP's 2.3% dividend yield, which ranks at the higher end of the global trust sector.

#### Investment trusts

# 10 December 2014

Price	17 op
Market cap	£184m
AUM	£181m
NAV*	176.4p
Premium to NAV	0.9%
NAV**	179.9p
Discount to NAV	1.0%
Yield	2.3%
*Excluding income. **Including income.	
Ordinary shares in issue	103.4m
Code	MNP
Primary exchange	LSE
AIC sector	Global

#### Share price/discount performance



#### Three-year cumulative perf. graph



Gearing	
Gross	0.0%
Net cash	2.4%

### **Analysts**

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#### Exhibit 1: Trust at a glance

#### Investment objective and fund background

Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust's objective is to achieve long-term capital growth in excess of the capital return of the benchmark FTSE World index by investing in a diversified portfolio of international quoted investments. The benchmark was changed on 1 June 2011 from the FTSE All-Share index to the FTSE World index when the trust adopted a more global focus.

#### Recent developments

15 September 2014: Results for 6 months to 31 July 2014 – NAV total return +7.0%, benchmark +6.5%.
18 June 2014: Retirement of director Gillian Nott.
17 June 2014: IMS for three months to 30 April 2014 – NAV total return +4.4%, benchmark +3.7%.

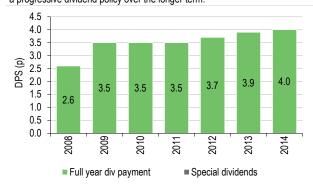
Forthcoming		Capital structure		Fund details		
AGM	June 2015	Ongoing charges	0.75%	Group	Martin Currie Inv. Mgmt. Ltd (UK)	
Preliminary results	March 2015	Net cash	2.4%	Manager	Tom Walker	
Year end	31 January	Annual mgmt fee	0.5% of net assets	Address	Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace,	
Dividend paid	Oct, Jan, Apr, Jul	Performance fee	15% over index (see pg 7)		Edinburgh EH1 2ES	
Launch date	March 1999	Trust life	Indefinite	Phone	+44 (0)131 229 5252	
Continuation Vote	None – see page 7	Loan facilities	None	Website	www.martincurrieglobal.com	

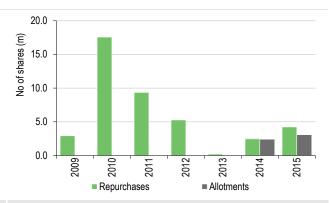
#### Dividend policy and history

MNP moved to paying quarterly dividends from FY14 (previously semi-annual). Dividends are paid in October, January, April and July. The board is committed to a progressive dividend policy over the longer term.

Share buyback policy and history

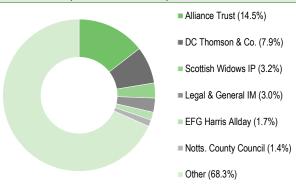
Renewed annually, the trust has authority to purchase up to 14.99%, and allot up to 10% of issued share capital.

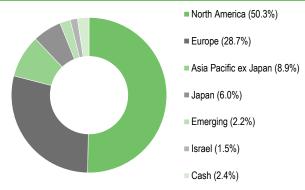




### Shareholder base (as at 8 December 2014)

## Distribution of portfolio (as at 31 October 2014)





## Top 10 holdings (as at 31 October 2014)

			Portfolio weight %		
Company	Region	Sector	31 October 2014	31 October 2013	
JPMorgan Chase	North America	Financials	4.0	N/A	
Roche	Developed Europe	Healthcare	3.6	N/A	
Prudential	Developed Europe	Financials	3.2	2.6	
Apple	North America	Technology	2.9	2.8	
L Brands	North America	Consumer Services	2.8	N/A	
Lockheed Martin	North America	Industrials	2.8	N/A	
Verizon Communications	North America	Telecommunications	2.8	N/A	
United Technologies	North America	Industrials	2.7	2.8	
Lyondellbasell Industries	North America	Basic Materials	2.5	2.6	
BG Group	Developed Europe	Oil & Gas	2.4	2.2	
Top 10			29.7	N/A	

Source: Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust, Edison Investment Research. Note: N/A where the stock was not in the October 2013 top 10



## Outlook: Markets maintain a positive bias

Exhibit 2 illustrates the re-rating of world equity markets from mid-2012 to mid-2014, with the Datastream world index forward P/E multiple rising from 10.6x to 14.4x. Forward P/E and price-to-book multiples are now ahead of 10-year averages, but are still below peak levels and the market's dividend yield is only marginally below the 10-year average. This suggests that while upside potential from further re-rating has become more limited, valuations are not overstretched. Although concerns over slowing global growth and the end of US quantitative easing saw markets turn down in September, the focus quickly turned to prospects of further stimulus in Europe, Japan and China, with a resultant market rebound in October and valuations resumed their upward path.

Exhibit 2: Datastream world index prospective P/E and 10-year valuation metrics

Datastream world index prospective P/E over 10 years

Datastream world index 10-year valuation metrics



	Last	High	Low	10-year average	Last % of average
P/E (12 months forward)	14.5	15.1	8.8	12.9	113%
Price to book	2.1	2.5	1.1	1.9	112%
Dividend yield	2.5	4.6	2.0	2.5	96%
Return on equity	11.4	16.8	4.7	12.4	92%

Source: Thomson Datastream

Speculation over the timing and potential pace of US and UK interest rate rises creates some near-term uncertainty that could lead to increased market volatility and, although markets have been generally sanguine about global geopolitical risks including conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, further adverse events could disturb this equanimity. Concerns remain over the pace of economic recovery in Europe, Japan's recent fall into recession and the risks of further economic slowdown in China, but markets appear willing to maintain a positive bias with a focus on positive data from the US and prospects for monetary stimulus in other regions. The underlying outlook for corporate earnings growth is supported by a continuing global recovery with the IMF's October 2014 World Economic Outlook projecting global GDP growth to strengthen from 3.0% in 2013 to 3.3% in 2014 and 3.8% in 2015.

# Fund profile: Large-cap global equities, capital growth

Launched in March 1999, MNP invests globally in predominantly large-capitalisation blue chip companies that are market leaders in their industries and have superior share price appreciation potential due to earnings, assets or valuation anomalies. The trust aims to hold a diversified portfolio of international companies containing around 60 high-conviction stocks selected on the basis of detailed research analysis. MNP's investment objective is to achieve long-term capital growth ahead of the capital return of the benchmark FTSE World index. MNP has been managed by Tom Walker, an investment director at Martin Currie, since January 2000. The trust initially had a three-tier strategy of investing in UK equities, international equities and private equity. The international allocation limit was increased from 25% to 50% in 2007 and then removed altogether in June 2011, at which time MNP adopted a more global focus, changing its name from Martin Currie Portfolio to Martin Currie Global Portfolio and changing its benchmark from the FTSE All-Share index to the FTSE World index, while maintaining the same investment approach. Also in June 2011, MNP removed its commitment to holding up to 20% of the portfolio in private equity funds.



# The fund manager: Tom Walker

## The manager's view: Still finding opportunities

While Tom Walker sees ongoing challenges to global economic growth, he thinks that potential government support, such as quantitative easing in Europe and delays to the timing of interest rate rises in the US, is likely to provide support to equity markets. While he acknowledges that market valuation multiples offer relatively limited scope for further re-rating, he does not see this preventing markets moving higher over the next 12 months.

Recent changes to MNP's top 10 holdings include a switch out of AT&T into Verizon Communications to exploit what the manager saw as a valuation anomaly after Verizon shares de-rated following Vodafone's disposal of its 45% stake in Verizon Wireless. The holding in AbbVie was reduced following the withdrawal of its offer for Shire and the position in L Brands, a speciality retailer whose main brands are Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works, was increased ahead of its recent rerating. The holding in plastics, chemicals and refining company LyondellBasell was trimmed, although the manager sees the recent sell-off as a potential buying opportunity. Other changes include the sale of longstanding holding Johnson Matthey on valuation grounds, and the addition of Cooper Companies, whose CooperVision business operates in the high-growth contact lens market, although this holding has recently been reduced following a strong share price performance.

Recent portfolio additions that reflect the manager's preference for exposure to the domestic US economy are TJX Companies and Ashtead Group. TJX is a global off-price retailer that generates over 80% of its earnings from the US, where it is growing its retail floor space by c 5% pa and has additional potentially greater growth prospects at its TK Maxx operations in Europe. Ashtead is an international equipment rental company, which generates c 85% of its earnings in the US. Ashtead operates Sunbelt Rentals, the second largest equipment rental business in the US, which is gaining market share, as well as benefiting from the secular growth of the rental market supported by a gentle recovery in the US construction market.

In response to the weaker outlook for Japan, Mitsui & Co was sold and replaced with Komatsu, which generates less than 20% of revenues from Japan. Komatsu is a global construction, mining and utility equipment business that is benefiting from increased activity in the US construction market, as well as better than expected sales of mining equipment. While earnings may not accelerate rapidly, Walker regards the valuation as attractive.

## Asset allocation

## Investment process: Focus on fundamentals

MNP is primarily a stockpicking fund, with manager Tom Walker supported by Martin Currie's team of global sector research analysts and regional investment specialists. The management group's investment approach hinges on fundamental research, and while Walker works within a broad set of risk constraints and takes some account of macro factors when constructing the portfolio, he expects the bulk of returns to come from stock selection rather than asset allocation.

When a potential investment is identified, it is rigorously researched by an analyst, who will construct a five-year financial forecast. Environmental, social and governance factors are assessed and the team will nearly always meet with or speak to the company management. Stock discussions aim to identify factors that the market is missing – for instance, Walker's view is that the market is underestimating prospects for second-largest holding (3.6%) Roche's new cancer drugs. Each stock is given a sell price target, and the upside between the current and target price will be a major consideration in dictating whether a significant position is taken immediately, or built slowly



from a smaller initial stake. When a stock reaches its target price, it is reassessed to decide if it should be sold or held.

While fundamental research is at the heart of the process, Walker has access to screens that can help him manage the research universe and assess any tilts in the portfolio towards stocks with certain attributes, for example superior earnings growth or dividend yields.

## **Current portfolio positioning**

As at 31 October 2014, MNP held 59 portfolio investments spread across 16 countries, similar to a year earlier and consistent with the strategy of holding around 60 high-conviction stocks. Exhibit 3 shows that while sector exposures have remained broadly similar in the current financial year, industrials and consumer services sector weightings have increased and these two sectors are MNP's largest active overweight positions. Exposure to the consumer goods sector has been trimmed, leaving this as the largest active underweight position while technology and healthcare sector weightings have also been reduced, leaving these sectors as significant active underweight positions.

Exhibit 3: Sector a	Exhibit 3: Sector allocations as at 31 October 2014											
	Portfolio weight 31 Oct 2014 (%)	Portfolio weight 31 Jan 2014 (%)	Change (pp)	Benchmark weight 31 Oct 2014 (%)	Trust active weight (%)	Trust weight/ benchmark weight						
Financials	22.4	22.0	0.4	21.9	0.5	1.0						
Industrials	16.0	13.8	2.2	12.4	3.6	1.3						
Consumer Services	14.3	12.6	1.6	10.6	3.6	1.3						
Healthcare	9.2	10.3	-1.1	10.9	-1.8	0.8						
Oil & Gas	8.7	10.2	-1.4	8.2	0.5	1.1						
Technology	8.3	9.8	-1.5	10.7	-2.4	0.8						
Basic Materials	6.1	8.0	-1.9	5.2	0.8	1.2						
Consumer Goods	5.8	6.3	-0.5	13.0	-7.3	0.4						
Telecommunications	4.6	3.8	0.8	3.5	1.1	1.3						
Utilities	2.2	2.0	0.3	3.4	-1.2	0.7						
Cash	2.4	1.3	1.1	0.0	N/A	N/A						
	100.0	100.0		100.0								

Source: Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust, Edison Investment Research

Geographically, the larger active weights are North America (-5.9%) and Europe (+5.2%). While there has been stock rotation, geographical weightings are between +/-2% compared with 12 months earlier.

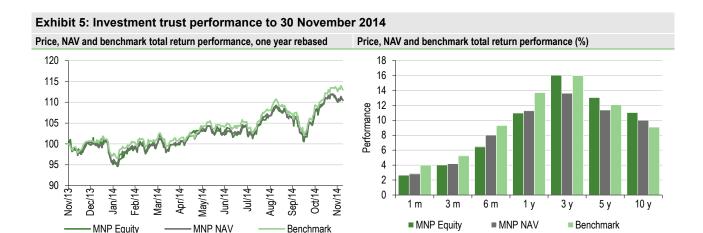
Exhibit 4: Geographic allocations as at 31 October 2014									
	Portfolio weight 31 Oct 2014 (%)	Portfolio weight 31 Oct 2013 (%)	Change (pp)	Benchmark weight 31 Oct 2014 (%)	Trust active weight (%)	Trust weight/ benchmark weight			
North America	50.3	48.9	1.4	56.2	-5.9	0.9			
Europe	28.7	28.9	-0.2	23.5	5.2	1.2			
Asia Pacific ex Japan	8.9	10.6	-1.7	6.6	2.3	1.4			
Japan	6.0	7.2	-1.2	8.3	-2.3	0.7			
Emerging	2.2	3.2	-1.0	5.2	-3.0	0.4			
Israel	1.5	0.0	1.5	0.2	1.3	6.3			
Cash	2.4	1.3	1.1	0.0	N/A	N/A			
	100.0	100.0		100.0					

Source: Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust, Edison Investment Research

# Performance: Outperformance over 10 years

As shown in Exhibit 6, MNP's NAV total return has outperformed its blended benchmark (FTSE All-Share index until 1 June 2011 and the FTSE World index thereafter) over 10 years while underperforming somewhat over one, three and five years. Exhibit 5 shows MNP's positive absolute performance over all time periods with an annualised return of 10% over 10 years. Exhibit 7 illustrates MNP's outperformance from January 2007 to July 2008, which was only partly given up during the global financial crisis. MNP has performed largely in line with its benchmark since January 2009.





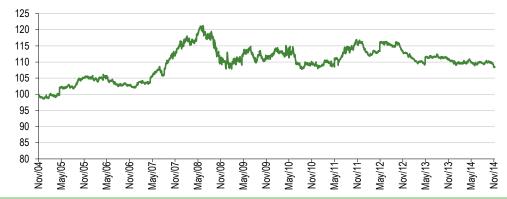
Source: Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust, Thomson Datastream, Edison Investment Research. Note: Benchmark is FTSE All Share Index until 1 June 2011 and FTSE World Index thereafter. Three, five and 10 years annualised.

Exhibit 6: Share price and NAV total return performance, relative to benchmarks (%), to 30 November 2014

	One month	Three months	Six months	One year	Three years	Five years	10 years
Price relative to blended benchmark	(1.3)	(1.1)	(2.6)	(2.4)	0.1	4.3	19.3
NAV relative to blended benchmark	(1.1)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(2.1)	(6.0)	(3.1)	8.5
Price relative to FTSE World index	(1.3)	(1.1)	(2.6)	(2.4)	0.1	5.2	14.6
NAV relative to FTSE World index	(1.1)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(2.1)	(6.0)	(2.3)	4.1
Price relative to FTSE All Share index	(0.3)	4.7	6.5	6.0	11.0	14.7	31.2
NAV relative to FTSE All Share index	(0.1)	4.8	8.1	6.3	4.2	6.5	19.2

Source: Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust, Thomson Datastream, Edison Investment Research. Note: Blended benchmark index is the FTSE All-Share index until 1 June 2011 and the FTSE World index thereafter. Geometric calculation.

Exhibit 7: NAV total return relative to blended benchmark, over 10 years, rebased to 100



Source: Martin Currie Global Portfolio Trust, Thomson Datastream, Edison Investment Research

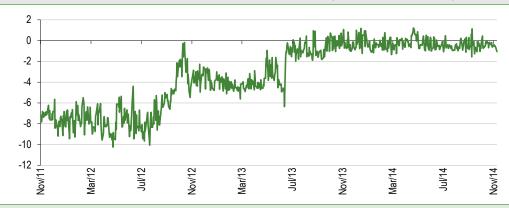
# Discount: Zero discount policy in operation

In July 2013, the board announced that it would use its share buyback powers with the objective of ensuring that MNP's shares trade at or around NAV, in normal market conditions. The board is committed to this zero discount policy, which removed the need for five-yearly share redemptions at NAV and shareholders approved the removal of redemption rights in February 2014.

Since July 2013, the discount has averaged 0.5%, which compares with the 6.4% average discount over the previous two years during which the discount ranged from 0.2% to 11.3%. Exhibit 8 shows the narrow range between a 2.0% discount and a 1.2% premium since July 2013, illustrating the effectiveness of the zero discount policy.



Exhibit 8: Share price discount/premium to NAV (including income) over three years



Source: Thomson Datastream, Edison Investment Research.

# Capital structure and fees

MNP has 103.4m shares in issue and has annually renewed authority to repurchase up to 14.99% and allot up to 10% of its issued share capital. In the year to 31 January 2014, 1.6m shares were repurchased and 1.5m shares reissued from treasury. In the current financial year 2.5m shares, representing 2.5% of the outstanding shares, have been repurchased with 1.7m shares reissued.

Although gearing of up to 20% of net assets is permitted, MNP has been ungeared since 2008 and does not currently have any borrowing facilities. The manager would only consider employing gearing when he had a high conviction that markets could rise significantly.

MNP pays an annual management fee of 0.5% of NAV, calculated quarterly. Martin Currie is also entitled to a performance fee if the increase in NAV per share exceeds the capital return of the benchmark FTSE World index by more than one percentage point over the period since a performance fee was last earned. If the NAV has risen over the period, the performance fee is 15% of the outperformance or 7.5% if the NAV has fallen. The performance fee is capped at 1% of net assets. For FY14, the management fee was £0.8m, no performance fee was payable and ongoing charges were 0.75%.

# **Dividend policy**

While MNP's principal goal is long-term capital growth, the board also expects to pay dividends each year and remains committed to a progressive dividend policy over the longer term. This has resulted in maintained or increased dividends each year since MNP's launch in 1999.

In May 2013, MNP announced that dividends would be paid on a quarterly basis, rather than twice a year. For FY14, three interim dividends of 0.90p each were paid in July, October and January followed by a final dividend of 1.30p paid in April 2014. Total dividend payments of 4.00p per share for FY14 represented a 2.6% increase from the previous year. For the current year, two interim dividends of 0.90p each were paid in July and October, with the third interim dividend due to be declared in January.

# Peer group comparison

Exhibit 9 illustrates a comparison of MNP with a selected closed-ended peer group from the AIC Global sector, which comprises 38 trusts. We have selected trusts with a market capitalisation over £100m, less than 30% exposure to the UK and over 20% exposure to North America. Over one,



three, five and 10 years, MNP's NAV total return is ahead of the sector average and similar to the selected peer group average, while above the selected peer group median over one, five and 10 years. In terms of risk-adjusted returns, MNP's Sharpe ratios of 0.9 and 1.4 over one and three years are ahead of the sector and selected peer group averages. MNP's 0.75% ongoing charge is below the sector average and similar to the selected peer group average. MNP's 2.3% dividend yield ranks it in the top quartile of the sector and in the top two of the selected peer group. MNP is in the minority of trusts in the sector that do not employ gearing.

Exhibit 9: Global investment trusts as at 8 December 2014												
% unless stated	Market cap £m	NAV TR 1 Year		NAV TR 5 Year		Sharpe 1y (NAV)	Sharpe 3y (NAV)		Ongoing Charge	Perf Fee	Net Gearing	Dividend yield
Martin Currie Global Portfolio	181.8	11.7	45.2	69.6	159.6	0.9	1.4	(0.2)	0.75	Yes	98	2.3
Alliance Trust	2,623.3	10.7	45.5	58.5	119.4	0.5	1.2	(12.2)	0.77	No	105	2.1
Edinburgh Worldwide	194.1	2.1	54.0	68.1	184.1	(0.0)	0.7	(10.0)	0.99	No	110	0.5
F&C Global Smaller Companies	470.1	9.0	70.1	116.1	237.0	0.8	1.7	1.9	0.53	Yes	110	0.9
F&C Investment Trust	2,348.7	13.1	52.0	72.1	154.0	1.1	1.4	(8.4)	0.51	No	108	2.2
Henderson Global Trust	148.1	9.5	41.6	59.3	173.5	0.5	1.0	(9.4)	0.95	No	99	2.6
JPMorgan Overseas	241.0	13.5	56.6	69.3	174.8	1.0	1.3	(4.9)	0.64	Yes	108	1.4
Monks	852.5	4.3	29.0	45.9	135.8	0.1	0.7	(14.8)	0.57	No	100	1.0
Personal Assets	602.8	7.4	9.2	39.0	90.4	(0.0)	0.4	0.4	0.91	No	76	1.6
RIT Capital Partners	2,221.5	12.7	36.8	52.9	150.2	1.5	1.3	(2.9)	1.25	Yes	121	2.1
Scottish Investment Trust	655.4	7.9	43.4	58.3	139.5	0.2	1.0	(11.9)	0.74	No	104	1.9
Scottish Mortgage	3,030.9	24.2	90.2	124.1	280.6	1.4	1.3	(0.4)	0.50	No	113	1.2
Selected peer group average	1,130.9	10.5	47.8	69.4	166.6	0.7	1.1	(6.1)	0.76		104	1.6
Sector average	552.1	9.2	41.5	60.6	146.8	0.5	0.9	(6.6)	0.98		101	1.8

Source: Morningstar, Edison Investment Research. Note: TR = total return. The Sharpe ratio is a measure of risk-adjusted return. The ratios we show are calculated by Morningstar for the past 12- and 36-month periods by dividing a fund's annualised excess returns over the risk-free rate by its annualised standard deviation. Net gearing is total assets less cash/cash equivalents as a percentage of shareholders' funds.

## The board

Following the retirement of Gill Nott in June 2014 after more than 11 years of service, the board comprises four independent non-executive directors. Neil Gaskell was appointed as chairman in May 2012, having joined the board in November 2011. David Kidd has served on the board since October 2005 and succeeded Gill Nott as senior independent director in June 2014. Mike Balfour was appointed as a director in January 2010 and Gillian Watson joined the board in April 2013.

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