

### Investment Objective and Benchmark Index

Finsbury Growth & Income Trust PLC invests principally in the securities of UK listed companies with the objective of achieving capital and income growth and providing a total return in excess of that of its benchmark, the FTSE All-Share Index (net dividends reinvested).

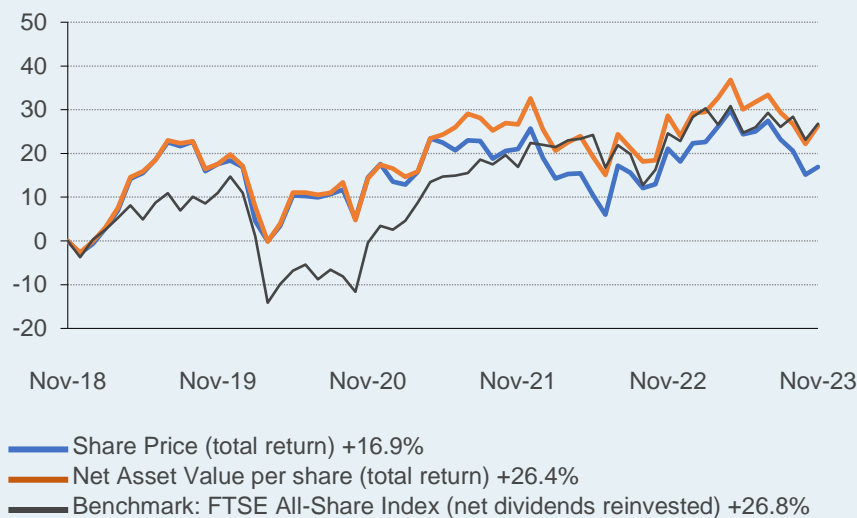
### LINDSELL TRAIN



Portfolio Manager Nick Train

### Five Year Performance (%)

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as arise and is not guaranteed; An investor may receive back less than the original amount invested.



Source: Morningstar

### Ten Largest Holdings as at 30 November 2023 (% of total investments)

Name	Sector	Total
London Stock Exchange	Financials	12.4
RELX	Consumer Discretionary	12.3
Experian	Industrials	9.9
Sage Group	Technology	9.9
Diageo	Consumer Staples	9.4
Unilever	Consumer Staples	8.4
Mondelez Int.	Consumer Staples	6.6
Burberry Group	Consumer Discretionary	6.3
Schroders	Financials	5.5
Heineken	Consumer Staples	4.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>84.9</b>

### Fast Facts

As at 30 November 2023

Launch Date	1926
AIC Sector	UK Equity Income
Date of Appointment of Lindsell Train:	December 2000
Annual Management Fee + (payable by the company)	
Ongoing Charges Ratio ('OCR')*	0.6%
Year / interim end	30 September/ 31 March
Capital Structure	199,882,638 Ordinary shares of 25p 25,108,665 (in treasury)
Number of Holdings	23
Net Assets (£m)	£1,755.0m
Market Capitalisation (£m)	£1,631.0m
Dividend Per Share**	19.0p
Current Net Yield	2.3%
Gearing	1.9%
Leverage***	Gross 101.9% Commitmen 101.9%
Share Price (p)	816.00
NAV (p) (cum income)	878.02
(Discount) / Premium to NAV	(7.1%)
Portfolio Turnover p.a.	2.3%
Active Share	85.2%

### Codes

Sedol	0781606
ISIN	GB0007816068
Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)	213800NN4ZKX2LG1GQ40
Global Intermediary Identification Number (GIIN)	QH4BH0.99999.SL.826
Bloomberg	FGT LN
EPIC	FGT

# Finsbury Growth & Income Trust PLC

## Factsheet as at 30 November 2023

### Sector Breakdown as at 30 November 2023 (%)

Consumer Staples	35.0
Financials	22.8
Consumer Discretionary	22.4
Industrials	9.9
Technology	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Discrete Performance – Calendar Years (%)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NAV	-0.8	23.1	-2.0	13.0	-6.5
Share Price	-0.9	21.8	-0.7	6.9	-6.0
Index	-9.5	19.2	-9.8	18.3	0.3

\*Cumulative since Manager appointment in December 2000

### Standardised Discrete Performance (%)

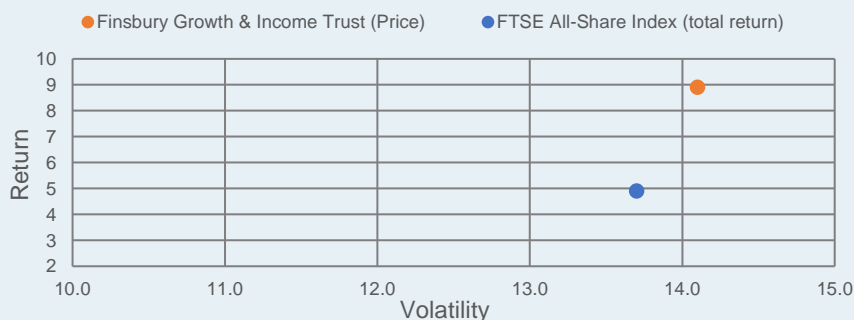
Percentage Growth 12 Month Return	1m	3m	YTD	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	Since Manager Appointment
NAV	3.4	-2.3	1.9	-1.7	10.6	26.4	118.0	607.1
Share Price	1.5	-5.1	-1.0	-3.5	2.1	16.9	100.5	664.2
Index	3.0	0.6	3.3	1.8	27.3	26.8	63.8	201.9

Source: Morningstar.

\* Index source: FTSE International Limited ("FTSE") © FTSE 2023

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### Return vs Volatility (Annualised since Appointment of Lindsell Train: December 2000) – Chart (%)



### Dividend Growth – 5 Years History

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Dividend Rate	16.6p	16.6p	17.1p	18.1p	19.0p
YoY% Growth	8.5	-	3.0	5.8	5.0

\*Calculated at the financial year end, includes management fees and all other operating expenses.

\*\*1st Interim payable 19 May 23 : (Year ended Sep 23) 8.5p

2nd Interim paid 10 Nov 23 : (Year ended Sep 23) 10.5p

\*\*\*The Board has set the leverage limit for both the Gross and the Commitment basis at 125% of the Company's Net Asset Value.

†Lindsell Train – 0.45% pa of the Company's adjusted market capitalisation up to a value of £1 billion, such fee reducing to 0.405% pa of the Company's adjusted market capitalisation in excess of £1 billion up to a value of £2 billion, such fee reducing to 0.36% pa of the Company's adjusted market capitalisation in excess of £2 billion.

Frostrow – 0.15% pa of the Company's adjusted market capitalisation up to a value of £1 billion, such fee reducing to 0.135% pa of the Company's adjusted market capitalisation in excess of £1 billion up to a value of £2 billion, such fee reducing to 0.12% pa of the Company's adjusted market capitalisation in excess of £2 billion.

Active Share is expressed as a percentage and shows the extent to which a fund's holdings and their weightings differ from those of the fund's benchmark index. A fund that closely tracks its index might have a low Active Share of less than 20% and be considered passive, while a fund with an Active Share of 60% or higher is generally considered to be actively managed.

### Investment Policy

The Company has a concentrated portfolio of up to 30 stocks with a low turnover, and aims to provide shareholders with a total return in excess of that of the FTSE All-Share Index. The Portfolio Manager uses a bottom-up stock picking approach and looks to invest in a universe of excellent listed companies that appear mostly undervalued. Up to 20% of the portfolio, at the time of acquisition, can be invested in quoted companies outside the UK. The Company's policy is to invest no more than 15% of its gross assets in other listed investment companies (including listed investment trusts).

### Share Buy-back and Issuance Mechanism

The Directors have adopted a share buy-back policy to establish and support an improved rating in the Company's shares through the use of share buybacks, with a view to limiting the discount to NAV per share at which the shares trade to no more than 5%. Shares bought back may be held in treasury for reissue at a later date and it is the intention of the Board that any re-sale of treasury shares would only take place at a premium to the NAV per share. In order to stop the share price trading at a significant premium to the NAV per share, the Company has the ability to issue new shares at a 0.7% premium to the NAV per share.

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**Commentary**

In November, the NAV was up 3.4% on a total return basis and the share price was up 1.5%, on a total return basis, while the index was up 3.0%.

I had planned this report to be an account of the new holding we have recently initiated for your portfolio, namely Rightmove. And a discussion of how Rightmove complements the other FTSE 100 data and software companies in the portfolio, that by and large have been performing well as businesses and share prices in 2023.

However, Diageo's profit warning on 10th November caused an 11% fall in its share price and was a major factor drag on the performance over the month and, therefore, needs discussion.

There were two aspects to the warning. One not so surprising, the other more so. First, Diageo indicated that in 2023 interest rates "higher for longer" and the unwinding of the post-Covid binge had resulted in consumers retrenching their discretionary spending and in some markets trading down from premium to mass-market brands. Almost every consumer company we follow has acknowledged similar conditions, as indeed had Diageo in its guidance from earlier in the year.

What was unexpected, though, was Diageo's admission that its Latin American business is subject to a far more material reversal, down c20% year-on-year. This matters, because it constitutes c11% of group revenues. What is more, part of the problem in Latin America is overstocking, not just a contraction of demand. This is not the first time that Diageo has discovered it has, doubtless inadvertently, over-supplied the region – effectively booking revenues and profits early – and suffered a painful hiatus, while supply and demand come back into balance. It was galling to investors and, we are sure, the very new CEO, that the warning came not only as a surprise, but resulted from a mistake that previous CEO Ivan Menezes had endeavoured to eradicate.

On balance, we do not believe the warning about Latin America invalidates the investment case for Diageo, frustrating though it is. There are two, apparently unavoidable, characteristics of doing business in that region. First, its economies are volatile and unpredictable. But, second, its peoples love Diageo's products, particularly whisky. Over the last decade, Diageo's sales there have grown, up c25% to £1.8bn last year. Operating margins in 2022/3 in Latin America were an attractive 36%. Overall group revenues are up 50% since 2013, hence Diageo's exposure to Latin America is down a couple of percentage points. Nonetheless, as investors we must be happier to benefit from that £1.8bn revenues rather than not, even with the accompanying volatility.

Diageo confirmed that trading for the other 89% of its business was progressing as expected and continues to forecast steady growth at least through to the end of this decade. It is worth reflecting on that forecast for steady growth, because it transpires that is exactly what Diageo has delivered over the 21st century to date. Earnings in 2022/3 were £1.64 per share, compared to £0.99 in 2013 and £0.49 in 2003. Return on Invested Capital was 16% in 2013 and the same in 2023, while Pre-Tax profit margins were c28% in both 2013 and 2023. Diageo reveals itself to be a globally diverse business, with attractive and resilient profitability ratios and a credible growth opportunity. Stock market history suggests that businesses offering these qualities deserve to be highly valued, for the melancholy but never to be forgotten reason that most companies do not succeed in delivering such reliable, growing profits.

We recognise that some software and digital platform businesses do likely share those characteristics of resilience and growth, perhaps to a greater extent than even Diageo and, within the context of the UK stock market, we have been building exposure to such companies – with Rightmove the most recent example. Nonetheless, Johnnie Walker, Guinness and Diageo's tequila brands really are of the highest calibre and are set to drive growth for the foreseeable future. At the current share price, these prospects are valued at little more than 17x earnings, or an earnings yield of nearly 6%. On those terms we have been adding again to Diageo shares.

\* Index source: FTSE International Limited ("FTSE") © FTSE 2023

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### **Risk Warnings**

*This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute an offer or invitation to purchase shares in the Company and has not been prepared in connection with any such offer or invitation. Before investing in the Company, or any other investment product, you should satisfy yourself as to its suitability and the risks involved, and you may wish to consult a financial adviser.*

*Any return you receive depends on future market performance and is uncertain. The Company does not seek any protection from future market performance so you could lose some or all of your investment. Shares of the Company are bought and sold on the London Stock Exchange (LSE). The price you pay or receive, like other listed shares, is determined by supply and demand and may be at a discount or premium to the underlying net asset value of the Company. Usually, at any given time, the price you pay for a share will be higher than the price you could sell it. For further information on the principal risks the Company is exposed to please refer to the Company's Annual Report or Investor Disclosure Document available at [www.finsburygt.com](http://www.finsburygt.com).*

*The Company can borrow to purchase investments, this could potentially magnify any losses or gains made by the Company.*

### **Target Market**

The Company is suitable for investors seeking an investment that aims to deliver total returns over the longer term (at least five years), is compatible with the needs for retail clients, professional clients and eligible counterparties, and is eligible for all distribution channels.

The Company may not be suitable for investors who are concerned about short-term volatility and performance, have low or no risk tolerance or are looking for capital protection, who are seeking a guaranteed or regular income, or a predictable return profile. The Company does not offer capital protection.

### **Value Assessment**

Frostrow Capital LLP has conducted an annual Value Assessment on the Company in line with Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) rules set out in the Consumer Duty regulation. The Assessment focuses on the nature of the product, including benefits received and its quality, limitations that are part of the product, expected total costs to clients and target market considerations.

Within this, the assessment considers quality of services, performance of the Company (against both benchmark and peers), total fees (including management fees and entry and exit fees as applicable to the Company), and also considers whether vulnerable consumers are able to receive fair value from the product.

Frostrow Capital LLP concluded that the Company is providing value based on the above assessment.

### **Important Information**

Finsbury Growth & Income Trust PLC (the Company) is a public limited company whose shares are premium listed on the LSE and is registered with HMRC as an investment trust. The Company has an indeterminate life.

This financial promotion is issued by Frostrow Capital LLP which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA").