THE INVESTOR FORUM

New Investor & Issuer Forum launches to enhance UK equity market effectiveness

(London, 6th September 2024)

The Investor Forum is pleased to announce the launch of the Investor & Issuer Forum (I&IF), a new initiative which is being created to provide a unique environment for companies and investors to enhance the effectiveness of the UK equity markets.

The I&IF is a key component of the broader reforms aimed at boosting market competitiveness and has been established following recommendations put forward by the Capital Markets Industry Taskforce (CMIT). It complements the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC) ongoing initiatives to enhance market stewardship and is backed by the London Stock Exchange.

Strengthen Engagement and Enhance Market Effectiveness

The I&IF will provide a platform where companies and investors can come together to engage in constructive dialogue, share insights, and work towards the shared goal of sustainable value creation. With a focus on practical actions, the I&IF will allow market practitioners to tackle contentious issues head-on and to drive meaningful change.

Its creation is a natural extension of the work of the Investor Forum, established in 2014 by institutional investors in UK equities following the Kay Review, which highlighted the importance of relationships built on long term trust and confidence across the investment chain.

Investment Industry Leadership

Michael McLintock, Chair of the Investor Forum, will be the founding Chair of the I&IF. A Steering Committee of company Chairs and senior leaders from the investment industry will shape the agenda and the Investor Forum will act as the secretariat, leading an agreed programme of projects and ensuring that voices from across the investment chain are heard.

The other members of the Steering Committee announced today are **Sir Jonathan Symonds**, Chair GSK, **Rupert Soames**, Chair CBI, **Mark Versey**, CEO Aviva Investors and **Sonja Laud**, Global Chief Investment Officer LGIM.

Michael McLintock, Inaugural Chair of the Investor & Issuer Forum, *added: "There is currently no place where corporates and investors come together to discuss and address the critical issues facing our markets. The I&IF fills this gap, and I'm delighted to be able to announce the first four members of the Steering Committee and look forward to appointing the remaining eight by the end of 2024."*

Chris Kinder, CEO of the Investor Forum, *highlighted the forum's unique position: "The I&IF marks a step forward in reshaping the stewardship landscape. We have developed a framework that allows market practitioners to come together to focus on practical, granular actions that*

will make our markets more effective. This forum goes beyond discussion - it's about taking action and driving meaningful results."

Dame Julia Hoggett, CEO of the London Stock Exchange and Chair of CMIT, *emphasised the importance of this new initiative: "The Investor & Issuer Forum is an important addition to the UK equity markets, providing a much-needed platform where investors and issuers can work together directly. The London Stock Exchange is pleased to support the I&IF's mission to reduce market friction, encourage innovation and enhance the functioning of our markets. This forum will undoubtedly play a key role in strengthening the foundations of our market."*

Rupert Soames, "As Chair of the CBI and a member of the Steering Committee, *I am delighted to support the launch of the Investor & Issuer Forum. This initiative represents a significant step forward in interactive dialogue between investors and issuers, which is essential for driving sustainable growth and enhancing transparency across the market. We are looking forward to working closely with the forum, and alongside the CBI's Listed Companies Group, to press for a listings environment that spurs innovation, growth and competitiveness across the whole UK economy."*

A Market-Driven Initiative

The I&IF is built on the belief that market participants have a common interest in working together to enhance the effectiveness of the UK's capital markets. This forum is designed to be highly practical and grounded in the real-world needs of market participants with a focus on delivering tangible results.

The I&IF will serve as a vital link across the entire investment chain, aligning the viewpoints of companies, asset managers and asset owners to underpin a more efficient market. The initiative builds on a year-long effort to create a strong framework that encourages cross market cooperation and prioritises value creation.

Steering Committee to Shape 2025 Agenda

Over the next few months, eight additional Steering Committee members will be appointed. Together, they will oversee the development of an Investor & Issuer Covenant - that will lay the foundations for the forum - and identify priority issues to shape an agenda for 2025 and beyond.

A Call to Action for Market Participants

As the I&IF's secretariat, the Investor Forum encourages market participants to share ideas, priorities and concerns to inform the new forum's agenda. This collective effort is crucial for reshaping stewardship practices and ensuring that the market can function at its highest potential.

For more information about the Investor & Issuer Forum, or to get involved,

please contact us at info@investorandissuerforum.org.uk or visit our website at www.investorandissuerforum.org.uk

Contacts:

- **Lansons**

Tom Baldock	Tom Straker
tombaldock@lansons.com	toms@lansons.com
Tel: 07860 101715	Tel: 07505 425961

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Investor Forum is an independent, not for profit organisation which was founded in October 2014. At the end of Q2 2024, over 50 organisations are Members, including asset managers, insurance companies, pension funds, and endowments.
- Our Members represent ~25% of the FTSE All-Share market cap.
- The purpose of the Investor Forum is to position stewardship at the heart of investment decision making by facilitating dialogue, creating long-term solutions, and enhancing value.
- The executive team comprises senior professionals with international experience as portfolio managers, asset owners, or investment banking sales and research management.