



INVESTOR FORUM SECURES THREE YEAR FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM LEADING INVESTORS AND GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT

(London, 14th March 2016)

The Investor Forum (“the Forum”), established to facilitate collective engagement and encourage effective stewardship of UK companies following the 2012 Kay Review, has today announced that it has secured funding from 19 leading asset managers and asset owners.

These institutions have led the way by committing to finance the Forum’s work for the next three years, demonstrating their industry leadership and support for this new model of collective engagement. The commitment secures a sustainable operating model and provides a platform from which the Forum can engage with all of its current members and other asset managers and owners.

The Forum has been grateful for the support of the Investment Association during its development phase and pro bono assistance from the industry, including a panel of leading law firms. The Forum will now launch a membership fee consultation and begin the next phase of its development. The focus will be on resourcing the team to deliver a range of stewardship services to investors and company boards, and scaling its engagement impact in a safe and secure environment.

The Forum’s core purpose is to put stewardship at the heart of investment decision making and drive a shift in mind-set among the investment community towards more long-term strategic engagement, enhancing the value of UK corporations for the benefit of investors and all savers.

Commenting on the developments, **Chairman of the Investor Forum Simon Fraser said:**

“We are delighted that this three year commitment gives us a strong and sustainable foundation and secures the resources we need to scale up our team and deliver safe, value-enhancing, collective engagements with UK companies.

We are grateful for the support we have received from the investment industry, and particularly these 19 firms, which represent an important mix of asset owners and investment managers and reflect the global nature of UK company ownership. We will continue to build on the momentum achieved in our first year and make the case for both long-term strategic engagement and effective stewardship.”

The Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills said:

“The Forum plays a valuable role in bringing investors together to support and challenge companies to ensure their strategies create long-term value. This advance means the Forum can continue to help build stronger, more competitive businesses, improve returns to savers and boost UK productivity and long-term growth.”

Guy Sears, Interim CEO of the Investment Association said:

“We are very pleased to see that, after an encouraging start with financial support from the Investment Association, the Investor Forum has now sourced the independent funding needed to take it forward on its journey.

The Forum is a crucial part of the industry’s drive towards delivering sustainably managed businesses that can deliver in the long-term, and so the fact it has completed this planned stage of its development bodes well for the UK’s investing public. The Investment Association will continue to provide support and cooperation to help the Forum thrive.”

**James Anderson, Partner at Baillie Gifford said:**

“We have been hugely encouraged by the early progress of the Investor Forum in re-focusing the attention of companies on building their long-run strategic advantages. It enables serious dialogue with major companies away from the noise of market trading and offers the opportunity to reverse the fragmentation and diminution of our influence and responsibilities as owners that has so marred recent history. We are pleased to be able to support them as they grow.”

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Investor Forum is an independent, not for profit organisation which will be funded by a membership comprising leading asset managers and owners of the UK equity market.
- 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 Investor Forum was launched at the end of October 2014 and has been involved in nine collective engagements, across a range of industries, covering issues from succession and governance to the direction and execution of strategy.
- The team currently comprises experienced investment professionals, with extensive experience in Board positions and portfolio manager, asset owner and governance roles.
- During 2015, 35 Member organisations signed up, including asset managers, insurance companies, pension funds, and endowments. A number of firms are in discussions to join in 2016.
- Firms committing to funding the operating costs of the Investor Forum for the next 3 years include:

Aberdeen Asset Management	Legal & General Investment Management
Allianz Global Investors	M&G Investments
Aviva Investors	Old Mutual Global Investors (UK)
Baillie Gifford & Co	Railpen Investments
BlackRock	Schroders
Capital Group	Standard Life Investments
Fidelity International	T. Rowe Price International
Generation Investment Management	The Wellcome Trust
Henderson Global Investors	UBS Asset Management
Jupiter Asset Management	

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