



A letter from our CIO.



Dear Investor,

It is with great pleasure that I put pen to paper in my first letter to you. For many investors, the launch of the Astute OEIC fund range is just the latest leg of your financial journey, on which you have already been guided by an experienced financial adviser. I consider it a great privilege to be joining you on that journey, particularly at such an exciting time for our company, as we endeavour to achieve even higher standards of service.

I intend to write comprehensive quarterly commentaries discussing all aspects of markets and fund performance, and I hope to have the first of these at the end of this latest quarter. For now, however, I simply want to offer some brief words on my philosophy, and also provide a few comments on recent market events.

Firstly, my approach to investing is influenced heavily by my scientific background. Disciplined, repeatable research processes, carefully calibrated risk controls, and a healthy cynicism towards those who claim knowledge of the future, are all useful attributes when navigating financial markets. I firmly believe that the best way to deliver consistent returns is through a structured process, with risk management placed at the centre. In the words of Aristotle, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence... is not an act, but a habit."

Be disciplined, be diligent and be diversified. Markets and time will do the rest. Which brings me to recent market events. In the last year we have seen the fastest bear market in modern history, probably the deepest recession, and without doubt, the largest ever intervention from governments and central banks. These factors have made for a rollercoaster ride in markets, and served to underline two key points for me. Firstly, that adequate portfolio diversification and active risk oversight have never been more important, and secondly, that in extreme circumstances, policies previously considered unthinkable, can quickly become reality. The first simply reinforces my obsession with understanding the drivers of risk within the funds. The second increases my focus on long term structural themes, whilst ensuring the funds are tilted towards investments that can not only weather short-term shocks and upheaval, but can positively benefit from the changes in the long term, a subject I am sure I will return to in more detail in future.

In the meantime, I hope you and your family remain safe, and thank you for your support.

Scott Osborne PhD CFA

