

# Ruffer Total Return International

Positive returns with low volatility

During February, the fund price fell by 1.1%. This compares with a fall of 3.3% for the FTSE All-Share Total Return Index and a rise of 0.2% for the FTSE Govt All-Stocks Index (all figures total returns in sterling).

Last month we commented on the inherent instability observable in financial markets, noting that volatility seemed likely to be at the heart of any market setback, and so, somewhat faster than expected, it turned out. On the back of seemingly 'good' news from the US, in the form of better jobs and wages data, bond yields rose, equity prices fell and volatility spiked up to what would normally be viewed as 'crisis' levels. The proximate reasons for this spike in volatility: the demise of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) explicitly shorting the VIX index and widespread use of implicit 'short volatility' strategies, have all been well documented. Although stock markets recovered some poise by the end of the month, we believe that the outsized move in volatility has laid bare an underlying fragility in equity markets. Investors' portfolios are probably more risky than they believe and low volatility has been a key element of this. We took some profits in our volatility options, but consistent with holding this as crisis protection, were unwilling to cash in all our initial gains on what remained just a market correction. These gains offset some losses in our equity holdings, but were insufficient to keep the performance in positive territory for the month overall.

Whilst February's 'vol shock' may turn out to have been no more than a temporary tremor in financial markets, it underlines the difficulties in protecting portfolios in a period when equity market declines are unlikely to be offset by rising bond prices. Indeed, in contrast to all the previous episodes this century when volatility has spiked higher, this market 'tremor' saw supposedly safe haven assets, such as US government bonds and gold, post losses alongside stock markets.

All this meant that Jay Powell, the new Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, had a rather uncomfortable first day in office, coinciding as it did with the volatility spike and a sharp drop in stock markets. Any sense of relief on passing a difficult initiation is likely to be short-lived however and we believe the new chairman finds himself in the difficult position of being 'damned if he does and damned if he doesn't'. If the Fed raises interest rates faster or further than the market currently expects, then there is a real danger that this is more than an indebted global economy can tolerate, and certainly more than fragile financial markets can bear. If the Fed, fearful of the impact on both the financial and real economy, shies away from tightening financial conditions sufficiently, then inflation pressures are likely to mount and both equity and bond markets could sell-off regardless. Our index-linked bonds stand guard against higher inflation, but protecting against the potholes in the journey to inflation could be problematic. Accordingly, we have trimmed back equity holdings to below 40% and added to our dollar exposure. We fear markets may get more, rather than less, dangerous as the year progresses.

Please note that Ruffer SICAV is a Luxembourg UCITS and subject to Luxembourg law. Ruffer SICAV is authorised by and subject to the supervisory authority in Luxembourg, the CSSF, and is a scheme recognised by the UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Ruffer Total Return International (RTRI) is not registered for distribution in any country other than Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy (qualified investors only), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Singapore (institutional and accredited investors only), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (qualified investors only) and the UK. The fund's prospectus is provided in English; Key Investor Information Documents are provided in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish and are available on request or from [www.ruffer.co.uk](http://www.ruffer.co.uk). Ruffer LLP is not able to market RTRI in other countries, except under certain exemptions. In line with the Prospectus, it is possible that at any one time Ruffer Total Return International may invest more than 35% of its assets in transferable securities issued or guaranteed by an EEA state, one or more local authorities, a third country or a public international body to which one or more EEA States belong. The only aforementioned securities where Ruffer would currently consider holding more than 35% would be UK or US government issued transferable securities.



C class February 2018 Issue 80

## Investment objective

The investment objective of Ruffer Total Return International ('the fund') is to achieve positive returns with low volatility from an actively managed portfolio. The fund may have exposure to the following asset classes: cash, debt securities of any type (including government and corporate debt), equities and equity related securities and commodities (including precious metals). Pervading this objective is a fundamental philosophy of capital preservation.

## Performance since launch on 14 July 2011 – C class shares



Performance %	February 2018	Year to date	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
C GBP capitalisation shares	-1.1	-1.3	-0.7	10.7	24.8	na

Percentage growth (C GBP cap)	%	Share price as at 28 February 2018
31 Dec 2016 – 31 Dec 2017	1.0	C CHF capitalisation <b>127.46</b>
		C EUR capitalisation <b>131.64</b>
31 Dec 2015 – 31 Dec 2016	14.3	C EUR distribution <b>129.83</b>
31 Dec 2014 – 31 Dec 2015	0.6	C GBP capitalisation <b>137.80</b>
		C GBP distribution <b>134.70</b>
31 Dec 2013 – 31 Dec 2014	6.0	C GBP income <b>132.27</b>
31 Dec 2012 – 31 Dec 2013	9.8	C USD capitalisation <b>137.51</b>
		C USD distribution <b>135.71</b>

Source: Ruffer LLP, FTSE International Limited (FTSE)<sup>†</sup>

Ruffer performance is shown after deduction of all fees and management charges, and on the basis of income being reinvested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of the shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount originally invested. The value of overseas investments will be influenced by the rate of exchange.

# Ruffer Total Return International as at 28 February 2018

## Asset allocation



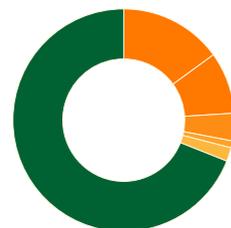
### Asset allocation

Asset allocation	%
• Cash	18
• Non-UK index-linked	14
• Long-dated index-linked gilts	13
• Index-linked gilts	8
• Illiquid strategies	4
• Gold and gold equities	4
• Options	1
• Japan equities	17
• UK equities	10
• North America equities	6
• Europe equities	4
• Asia ex-Japan equities	1

### Currency allocation

Currency allocation	%
• Sterling	69
• US dollar	15
• Yen	9
• Gold	4
• Euro	1
• Other	2

## Currency allocation



## 10 largest of 57 equity holdings\*

Stock	% of fund
Dai-ichi Life Insurance	2.9
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial	2.3
Tesco	2.1
ORIX	2.1
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial	1.9
Vivendi	1.7
Walt Disney	1.7
Sony	1.5
Mizuho Financial	1.5
Royal Bank of Scotland	1.3

## 5 largest of 10 bond holdings

Stock	% of fund
UK Treasury index-linked 0.125% 2068	7.1
US TIPS 1.25% 2020	6.4
UK Treasury index-linked 0.375% 2062	5.6
UK Treasury index-linked 0.125% 2019	4.6
US TIPS 0.625% 2021	3.4

\*Excludes holdings in pooled funds  
Source: Ruffer LLP

The views expressed in this report are not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any investment or financial instrument. The views reflect the views of Ruffer LLP at the date of this document and, whilst the opinions stated are honestly held, they are not guarantees and should not be relied upon and may be subject to change without notice.

The information contained in this document does not constitute investment advice and should not be used as the basis of any investment decision. References to specific securities are included for the purposes of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell these securities. Ruffer LLP has not considered the suitability of this fund against any specific investor's needs and/or risk tolerance. If you are in any doubt, please speak to your financial adviser.

The fund data displayed is designed only to provide summary information and the report does not explain the risks involved in investing in the fund. Any decision to invest must be based solely on the information contained in the Prospectus, Key Investor Information Document and the latest report and accounts.

Fund size £2,344.6m

## Fund information

Ongoing Charges Figure*	1.13	%
Maximum annual management fee (C class)	1.2	
Maximum subscription fee	5.0	
Minimum investment (or equivalent in other currency)	£10,000,000	
Record date	Third Monday of November	
Ex dividend dates	Next NAV following the record date	
Payment	Within five business days after ex dividend date	
Dealing	Weekly, every Wednesday (if not a business day, on the following business day) Plus on the first business day of each month	
Cut-off	4pm Luxembourg time on the day before valuation day (so typically Tuesday and the penultimate business day of the month)	
ISIN and SEDOL	CHF C cap LU0638557743 B45L1M4	
	EUR C cap LU0638557669 B4MRCS8	
	EUR C dis LU0779208544 B8BHY14	
	GBP C cap LU0638557586 B4XQ109	
	GBP C dis LU0638558048 B4X19Y4	
	GBP C inc LU1220904186 BWXC1G9	
	USD C cap LU0638557826 B4WPBZ2	
	USD C dis LU0779208890 B8BHY81	

Structure Sub fund of Ruffer SICAV, a Luxembourg domiciled UCITS SICAV

Management company, administrative agent, registrar and transfer agent, paying and domiciliary agent FundPartner Solutions (Europe) S.A.

Investment manager Ruffer LLP

Depository bank Pictet & Cie (Europe) S.A.

Auditors Ernst & Young S.A.

\* As at 31 Dec 2017. Specific share classes available on request

The base currency of the fund is GBP. Share classes denominated in other currencies are hedged to reduce the impact on your investment of movements in the exchange rate between the base currency of the fund (GBP) and the currency of the share class.

† © FTSE 2018. 'FTSE®' is a trade mark of London Stock Exchange Group companies and is used by FTSE under licence. All rights in the FTSE Data vest in FTSE and/or its licensors. Neither FTSE nor its licensors accept any liability in relation to the FTSE Data data. No further distribution of FTSE Data is permitted without FTSE's express written consent.

## Fund Managers

### Jacques Hirsch

INVESTMENT DIRECTOR

Joined Ruffer in 2011, previous work included fund management and macro research at Goldman Sachs, GLG Partners and Fulcrum Asset Management. Graduated from École Centrale Paris in 1999, and holds an MSc in Mathematics from Oxford University.



### Alex Lennard

INVESTMENT DIRECTOR

Joined Ruffer in 2006 after graduating from Exeter University with an honours degree in economics and finance; he is a member of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.



## Ruffer LLP

Ruffer LLP manages investments on a discretionary basis for private clients, trusts, charities and pension funds. As at 28 February 2018, assets managed by the Ruffer Group exceeded £22.5bn, of which over £13.8bn was managed in open-ended Ruffer funds.

## Enquiries

Ruffer LLP +44 (0)20 7963 8254  
80 Victoria Street rif@ruffer.co.uk  
London SW1E 5JL www.ruffer.co.uk

Notice for Investors in Switzerland: Ruffer SICAV, including the sub-fund Ruffer Total Return International (RTRI), has not been and will not be registered with the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA). Any offering materials relating to the sub-fund RTRI may be made available in Switzerland solely to Qualified Investors as defined in the Swiss Collective Investment Schemes Act of 23 June 2006, as amended. Ruffer SICAV's prospectus, KIIDs, articles of association and the annual and semi-annual reports are available free of charge at the office of the Swiss representative: Fund-Partner Solutions (Suisse) S.A., Route des Acacias 60 CH – 1211 Ge-neva 73. Ruffer SICAV's paying agent in Switzerland is Banque Pictet & Cie S.A. of the same address.

Issued by Ruffer LLP, 80 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL. Ruffer LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. © Ruffer LLP 2018