

22 March 2021

## Closed-Ended Investment Funds



Source: Refinitiv

## Market data

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| EPIC/TKR           | OCI             |
| Price (p)          | 297             |
| 12m High (p)       | 300             |
| 12m Low (p)        | 155             |
| Shares (m)         | 180.6           |
| Mkt Cap (£m)       | 536             |
| NAV p/sh (Dec, p)  | 403             |
| Disc. to NAV       | 26%             |
| Country of listing | UK              |
| Market             | Main Market SFS |

### Description

Oakley Capital Investments (OCI) has generated market-beating returns from its concentrated, three-sector-focused portfolio of private equity (PE) investments via Oakley Capital (Oakley) PE funds. Oakley has a proven model for sourcing investments, and an excellent track record of identifying resilient value opportunities and delivering superior returns.

## Company information

|            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| Chairman   | Caroline Foulger     |
| Ind. NED   | R Lightowler, F Beck |
| NED        | P Dubens, S Porter   |
| Inv. Mgrs. | Oakley Capital       |
| Contact    | Steven Tredgett      |

[investorrelations@oakleycapital.com](mailto:investorrelations@oakleycapital.com)

## Key shareholders

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Asset Value Investors    | 14% |
| Peter Dubens/Directors   | 10% |
| Sarasin                  | 7%  |
| City of London IM        | 7%  |
| Barwon                   | 6%  |
| Lombard Odier & Fidelity | 5%  |
| Jon Wood & family        | 4%  |
| Hawksmoor                | 3%  |

## Diary

|        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| 18 May | Cap. Markets day |
|--------|------------------|

## Analyst

Mark Thomas 020 3693 7075  
mt@hardmanandco.com

OAKLEY CAPITAL INVESTMENTS LTD

## 2020 results: sustained and sustainable NAV growth

OCI's 2020 results were strong. Through this challenging year, i) the total NAV return reached 18%, ii) 10 companies representing 44% of NAV met or exceeded pre-COVID-19 expectations, and only three (13% of NAV) were significantly impacted, iii) both investments and realisations continued strongly (£152m and £341m, respectively), iv) year-end cash was £223m, giving huge firepower to take current opportunities, and v) potentially disruptive large share overhangs have been sold out. The digital focus, concentration on structural growth markets and Oakley's unique repeatable origination from its network of entrepreneurs bode well for the future.

- ▶ **Growth sustained through COVID-19:** Oakley's focus on tech-enabled, structural-growth, recurring-revenue-stream businesses meant that its portfolio companies delivered, on average, 2020 EBITDA growth of 20%. OCI benefited from realisations 89% above their book values and a value-enhancing buyback.
- ▶ **Sustainable growth outlook:** The key drivers to continued strong performance are i) the unique origination at a time of increased opportunities from carve-outs and family business sales, ii) value added to the newly acquired businesses, iii) continued realisations above book value, and iv) no recurrence of the 2020 drags.
- ▶ **Valuation:** Against the end-December NAV, OCI trades at a 26% discount, despite its absolute (five-year CAGR 16% total NAV return) and relative (Oakley Funds II & III top-quartile/5% by different measures) performance. OCI yields nearly 2%. Relative to both historical and peer levels, the discount is unusually high.
- ▶ **Risks:** While OCI's costs are slightly above-average, post-expense returns are still market-beating. Sentiment towards the global economic cycle is likely to be adverse, even though outperformance has been delivered in downturns. OCI's portfolio is concentrated. Its permanent capital is right for private assets.
- ▶ **Investment summary:** OCI provides investors with liquid access to the attractive PE market, enhanced by Oakley's incremental origination and management skills. The Oakley Funds are focused on mid-market, tech-enabled Western European companies that operate in the consumer, education and technology sectors. Accounting and governance appear conservative. There are risks – primarily sentiment-driven – around costs and cyclicality, as well as the liquidity and valuation of the underlying private assets. Previously large shareholder overhangs have now been sold completely. Buying a business with a consistent record of outperformance at a material discount to NAV is an additional attraction, we believe.

## Financial summary and valuation (£000)

| Year-end Dec      | 2017   | 2018    | 2019    | 2020     | 2021E   | 2022E   |
|-------------------|--------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| Interest income   | 7,722  | 6,629   | 9,218   | 10,466   | 12,253  | 11,415  |
| Realised gains    | 23,991 | 102,314 | 17,840  | 208,536  | 11,360  | 16,858  |
| Unrealised gains  | 20,316 | -23,877 | 127,741 | -133,086 | 56,799  | 67,432  |
| Total income      | 51,496 | 88,432  | 153,157 | 100,006  | 80,802  | 96,096  |
| Costs             | -6,571 | -6,434  | -17,888 | -7,620   | -18,632 | -21,858 |
| EPS (p)           | 22.0   | 40.0    | 66.3    | 47.9     | 34.4    | 41.1    |
| NAV per share (£) | 2.45   | 2.81    | 3.45    | 4.03     | 4.33    | 4.70    |
| S/P disc. to NAV  | -33%   | -38%    | -22%    | -29%     | -31%    | -37%    |
| Investments (£m)  | 420    | 470     | 661     | 505      | 681     | 821     |
| DPS (p)           | 4.5    | 4.5     | 4.5     | 4.5      | 4.5     | 4.5     |

Note: 2017 costs restated to include interest per 2018/2019 treatment  
Source: OGI, Hardman & Co Research

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Shares in OCI are traded on the Specialist Fund Segment of the main market of the London Stock Exchange and are intended for institutional, professional, professionally advised and knowledgeable investors primarily seeking exposure to private mid-market UK and Western European businesses through investment in the Oakley Capital Private Equity Funds (or successor Funds) and: (a) who understand and are willing to assume the potential risks of capital loss associated with investments in such companies, (b) who understand the illiquid nature of private equity compared to other asset classes, (c) for whom an investment in OCI's shares would be of a long-term nature constituting part of a diversified portfolio, and (d) who understand, or who have been advised of, the potential risk from investing in companies admitted to the Specialist Fund Segment.

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## 2020 results summary

In 27 January trading update, OCI pre-announced number of key facts, including NAV, cash and commitments

Also reported core business lines, such as investee company performance, investments and realisations, impact of buybacks

With the results, we learnt underlying company EBITDA growth had accelerated vs. interim stage to 20%, average EV/EBITDA was unchanged at 11.8x, and debt to EBITDA increased marginally to 3.9x

In its 27 January 2021 [trading update](#), OCI announced highlights including i) NAV per share of 403p, ii) total NAV return per share of 18% since 31 December 2019 (despite COVID-19 and ahead of the five-year CAGR of 16%), iii) that OCI had invested £152m and received proceeds of £341m, iv) year-end cash of £223m (31% NAV), v) outstanding Oakley Funds' commitments of £534m (which are likely to be deployed over five years), including the Origin Fund commitment (£116m), and vi) the buyback and cancellation of 18m shares.

We also learned from the announcement that i) expectations were met or exceeded at 10 companies, at 44% of NAV, with a modest impact at four, at 14%, and a significant impact at just three, at 13%, ii) total proceeds of £341m consisted of £264m from realisations (average gross money 3.3x), refinancing of £37m and debt repayments of £40m, iii) look-through total investment over eight deals (including four bolt-ons) was £152m, including platform investments of £90m, follow-on investments £21m and direct investments of £41m, and iv) the NAV saw an uplift of 12.6p from the 18m share buyback programme.

With the more [detailed results announced](#) on 11 March 2021, and the portfolio announcements since the start of the year, we also learnt that:

- ▶ 70% of portfolio companies deliver their products or services digitally.
- ▶ Average portfolio company year-on-year EBITDA growth was 20%. This growth reflects the right choice of sector, the tech-enabled business models, and the value added by the Oakley Capital team and network of entrepreneurs. It represents an acceleration on the 18% reported for the 12 months to June 2020 but is well below the levels of 2019 (30%), 2018 (39%) and 2017 (25%).
- ▶ The average portfolio company EV/EBITDA valuation was 11.8x. Despite the rise in tech valuations through 2020, and Oakley Capital/OCI's market-beating investee company growth, the rating was unchanged on June.
- ▶ The average uplift to the last disclosed book value on exit was 89%.
- ▶ Average net debt to EBITDA was 3.9x (marginally up on 3.7x for both June 2020 and December 2019).
- ▶ The key drivers of NAV movement in the period were Career Partner Group (+34p), Inspired (+10p), Casa.it (+10p) and Time Out (-30p). A number of businesses saw organic growth-driven valuation increases.
- ▶ Activity levels have remained high so far in 2021, with the completion of two new investments (idealista and Dexters), the agreed sale of the Digital Wholesale Solutions division of Daisy Group and a further refinancing of Career Partner Group. Feedback from other listed PE vehicles is consistent with this, in reporting that areas that benefited from, or were largely unaffected by, COVID-19 (i.e. most of OCI's portfolio) have continued to see deal activity. Where COVID-19 has had a major impact, establishing long-term value is difficult, and it is these areas that have seen less activity. Given its focus, Oakley Capital/OCI is not affected materially by this.
- ▶ Of the £534m commitments, £95m in Funds I-III are not expected to be drawn.

For us, the key message, which we explore below, was the sustainability through a crisis across OCI's portfolio, and why that is likely to continue going forward.

# Sustained returns in 2020

## Summary

OCI delivered 18% total NAV return from tech-enabled businesses in structural growth markets, supporting businesses through COVID-19, continued realisations at well above carry value and buying back shares at large discount to NAV

The reasons OCI was able to deliver a total NAV return of 18% in 2020 – above the five-year (2016-20) CAGR of 16% – include:

- ▶ Oakley having focused on areas with structural growth prospects;
- ▶ having tech-enabled businesses, many of which saw stable/improved business through the COVID-19 crisis and whose valuation rose accordingly;
- ▶ stable overall valuation ratings, despite the market rise in tech stocks;
- ▶ the expertise, business model, supply chain management and financial support that OCI provided to its investee companies;
- ▶ continued strong realisations at values well above carrying costs; and
- ▶ 18m shares bought back at an average 34% discount to prevalent NAV, which enhanced the NAV by 12.6p (4% uplift on opening NAV).

## Businesses with structural growth

Being in markets with structural growth helped drive the 20% average EBITDA growth of investee companies

Oakley is focused in just three sectors – consumer, education and technology – but, importantly, within these sectors, it targets sub-sectors and businesses that have structural growth opportunities. These are driven by socio-economic trends across a range of factors, including:

- ▶ ageing populations with greater needs for healthcare, including self-medication;
- ▶ increasing demand for higher education; and
- ▶ experience-based leisure demands.

Earnings growth drove valuation increases across number of tech and education investments

The average 20% EBITDA growth shows how strongly the businesses performed. Organically, some of the largest increases in valuations were driven by earnings growth from tech names such as Contabo, and WebPros, but also from the education businesses, AMOS and Ocean Technologies.

## Tech-enabled businesses

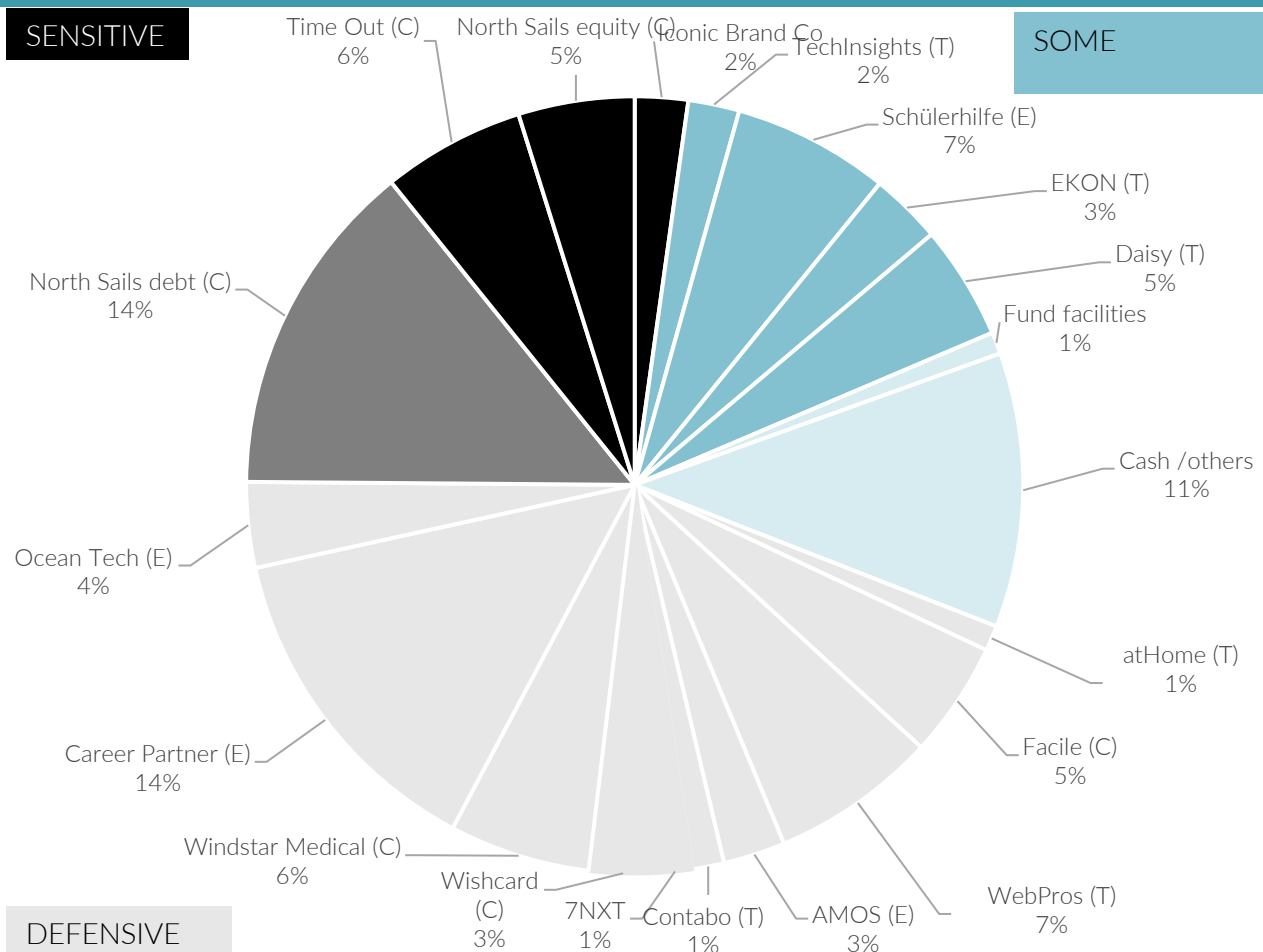
Most of Oakley investee businesses are tech-enabled, with recurring revenue streams

The portfolio investments of Oakley Funds – and so of OCI – have, for some time, been focused on businesses with a strong digital presence (65% at June 2020, subsequently increasing to ca.70%) and where revenue streams are on a subscription basis (around three quarters at end-2020). Such businesses showed considerable resilience and, indeed, may see market share gains. As we noted in the summary on the previous page, expectations were met or exceeded at 10 companies (44% of NAV), there was a modest impact at four (14%) and a significant impact at just three (13%). One reason the companies proved so resilient is that their business models were tech-enabled and so, in many cases, saw an uplift in customer interest, when physical interaction was not available.

## Low sensitivity to COVID-19

In the table below, we have analysed the exposure in a slightly different way from the company. In addition to its analysis (as noted, 44% of NAV saw expectations met or exceeded, 14% saw a modest impact and 13% a significant impact), we highlight North Sails' debt, which we include in the category "sensitive", and we also show cash (net of other assets/liabilities) and fund facilities as separate blocks of defensive sensitivity.

### Portfolio COVID-19 resilience as at December 2020 (% NAV)



Note: cash/others primarily reflects OCI's year-end cash of £223m and OCI's share of Oakley Fund liabilities, including debt at this level Source: OCI, Hardman & Co Research

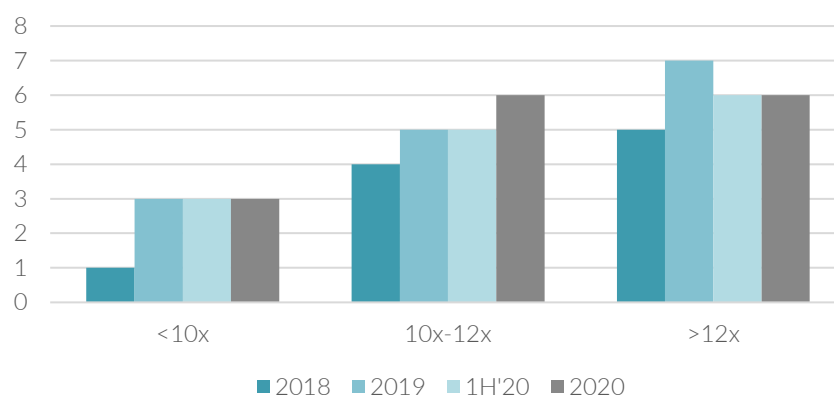
## Stable valuation ratings

2020 saw market re-rating for such businesses. For OCI, valuation ratings, on average, were below 2018 and 2019 levels – driven by mix effects of new businesses

2020 saw the market re-rating many technology companies, and OCI has a focus on tech-enabled companies. Despite this, the number of companies on multiples of more than 12 rose from five to seven, dropping back to six in June 2020 and December. The overall average EV/EBITDA fell from 12.9x in 2018 to 12.1x in 2019 and 11.8x in both June 2020 and December 2020. This was driven by mix effects, most notably the addition of lower-rated companies early in their PE life cycle. As we detailed in [our initiation](#), Oakley improves operational efficiency, management, growth prospects and the strategic positioning of businesses, resulting in investments being sold on higher ratings than those on which they are acquired. Some of the improvements are reflected during the holding period of the investment

– so material realisations/new investments have the mix effect of increasing the weightings of lower-rated businesses and so dragging down the overall average.

#### Spread of EV/EBITDA multiples by number of companies



Source: OCI, Hardman & Co Research

Being backed by Oakley Funds and OCI gives investee companies financial strength, incremental expertise and advice in financial planning, supply chain management, preparing for operational disruption and best practice

## Oakley support for investee companies

In *our initiation*, we highlighted why Oakley's investments outperformed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. At the OCI level, there is the liquidity to support commitments to Oakley Funds and direct investments, should capital injections be necessary/desirable for M&A or to strengthen balance sheets. Oakley Funds' committed capital structure gives much more certain access to capital than a non-PE-backed company. For investee companies, there is operational support that is simply not available to standalone entities to assist in the assessment, management and mitigation of risks as conditions evolve. With interests in a range of countries at varying stages of the virus development, lessons learnt in one country may be useful in preparing others for the effects of both lockdowns and re-openings. What this means, in practice, is that Oakley has provided expertise and best-practice advice on ensuring financial resilience, improving supply-chain robustness (including using the entrepreneur network to identify other suppliers), preparing for operational disruption, and providing advice and best-practice transfers to protect employees and customers.

Oakley (and so OCI) have a long track record of selling at prices well above carry values

## Realisations above book values

Oakley has a long and sustained track record of making sales at prices well above the carry cost of investments. This continued through 2020, with the combined exits at an 89% premium to book value. The most significant gains above book were from WebPros, Inspired and Casa.it (totalling 26p NAV per share uplift). The re-financing at Career Partner Group saw a further 34p NAV per share uplift.

Bought back 9% of company at average discount to NAV of 36% => 12.6p, 4% NAV uplift

## Share buybacks

Through 2020, OCI bought back 18m shares (9% of opening shares in issues), giving an NAV uplift of 12.6p. As can be seen in the table below, the shares were bought on significant discounts to the latest reported NAV, especially those bought in March (below half NAV). We believe the purchases reflected not only attractive prices, but also the availability of large lines of stock, as two large, non-core investors sold out completely. Removing the potential share overhang should also be good for sentiment.

## OCI share buybacks in 2020

| Month        | No shares (£) | Price (p)    | Cost (£m)   | NAV benefit (p) | % discount to NAV |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Dec          | 6.97          | 257.5        | 17.9        | 4.2             | 30%               |
| Oct          | 3.05          | 252.5        | 7.7         | 1.8             | 31%               |
| July         | 3.66          | 225.0        | 8.2         | 2.5             | 37%               |
| June         | 1.34          | 205.0        | 2.7         | 1.1             | 43%               |
| March        | 3.00          | 159.0        | 4.8         | 2.9             | 54%               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>18.00</b>  | <b>229.7</b> | <b>41.3</b> | <b>12.6</b>     | <b>36%</b>        |

Note: NAV taken as last reported number unadjusted for disposals  
Source: OCI RNS announcements, Hardman & Co Research

# Sustainable returns going forward

## Summary

Returns going forward should be sustained by similar factors to those during COVID-19, as well as uniquely strong origination, value added during ownerships, continued realisations and non-recurrence of 2020 Time Out drag

Many of the features that sustained NAV growth through the COVID-19 crisis position OCI well for the future, most notably the focus on tech-enabled businesses and being in businesses with structural growth. In addition, we note:

- ▶ its unique origination platform through entrepreneurs;
- ▶ that 2021 is likely to be a good year for investment opportunities;
- ▶ the value added to new and recently acquired businesses;
- ▶ the non-recurrence of the drags on 2021 performance;
- ▶ continued realisations from the historical portfolio; and
- ▶ the fact that part of OCI's cash pile will fund deals already done by Oakley Funds – initially financed with debt.

### Multiple director buying

The early 2021 multiple director buying of shares in the market is indicative of directors' confidence in OCI's future returns to investors.

Unique network also brings in attractive business, because they know, and are well-known to, the market and all the participants

## Entrepreneur relationship origination

We have previously reviewed how Oakley Capital has a unique network of actively engaged entrepreneurs, bringing both origination and ongoing management advantages. We noted, in [our initiation](#), that Oakley Funds' investments were purchased below comparable deal valuation multiples, and that more than 75% of deals were uncontested. We believe the network is hard to duplicate; it is driven by culture, being engaged but not over-bearing, its proven track record and direct financial alignment (the entrepreneurs are major investors in Oakley Funds).

Attractive opportunities this year from carve-out, family businesses and weaker competition seeking support. Already seen deals announced.

## Re-investment opportunities

In Oakley/OCI's core mid-market area, we see a number of opportunities in 2021/2022. Management notes a stronger pipeline than a year ago, and it commented, in the results, that "COVID-19 has become a catalyst, if not the direct cause, of more high-quality companies seeking private equity backing. Many have recognised during the pandemic that they lack the valuable support, expertise and capital resources that we can offer, as well as the security that being part of a bigger organisation can provide." It also stated that "post-crisis vintage private equity funds have historically proven to be some of the best performing".

In particular, we see opportunities in the following areas:

- ▶ Carve-out of businesses to strengthen group balance sheets. Oakley has a core competency in structuring such deals, which can be much more complex than a standard acquisition.
- ▶ The incremental strains of managing businesses through COVID-19 may be the final straw that breaks the back of family-owned businesses.
- ▶ Weaker competition is looking for a strong financial backer, which may assist not only first deals, but also roll-up strategies.

- In some areas, price expectations have become more realistic.

We note that, since the year-end, Oakley Capital Fund IV (and so OCI will participate in this) has agreed i) to make a minority investment in *idealista*, the leading online real estate classifieds platform in Southern Europe (OCI's share is ca.£43m), and ii) to invest in Dexters, London's independent Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents (OCI's share £13m).

We also note that the interest rate on the remaining debt position in North Sails has been increased from a blended rate of 8% to 10%, which should add £2m to income in a full year (debt £102.6m).

## Value added to new businesses

Value creation typically sees EBITDA growth accelerate over time

In previous notes, we have outlined how value is incrementally created to businesses owned by Oakley Funds. The driving factors include i) applying market-leading processes, practices and play books using the experience of the entrepreneur network, ii) assisting with global networking/supply chains, iii) helping digitise less tech-enabled operations, iv) treasury advice, and v) sourcing and helping to finance bolt-on acquisitions. In practice, this means that EBITDA growth is expected to accelerate through the life of Oakley's involvement and that new businesses will, like-for-like, have slower growth than those that have been in the portfolio for a couple of years. The new businesses added in 2019/2020 thus have an embedded value of probable future value creation.

## Continued realisations

Expect business-as-usual realisations, with uplift to NAV on sale

We expect further NAV uplifts with a normal level of realisations from Oakley Funds/OCI's historical portfolio. Since the year-end, it has already announced the partial sale of an Oakley Capital Fund II portfolio company, Daisy Group (which is selling its stake in the Digital Wholesale Solutions division). OCI's share of proceeds will be ca.£22m – a ca.33% premium to the last reported carrying value. As OCI invests the cash pile, its portfolio will shift to a mix of much newer business, and so realisations as a proportion of the opening book are likely to be below-average for at least a couple of years.

## Non-recurrence of 2020 Time Out drag

Time Out's share price up 20% from year-end, well below other leisure companies – so repetition of 30p per share NAV drag seen in 2020 is unlikely

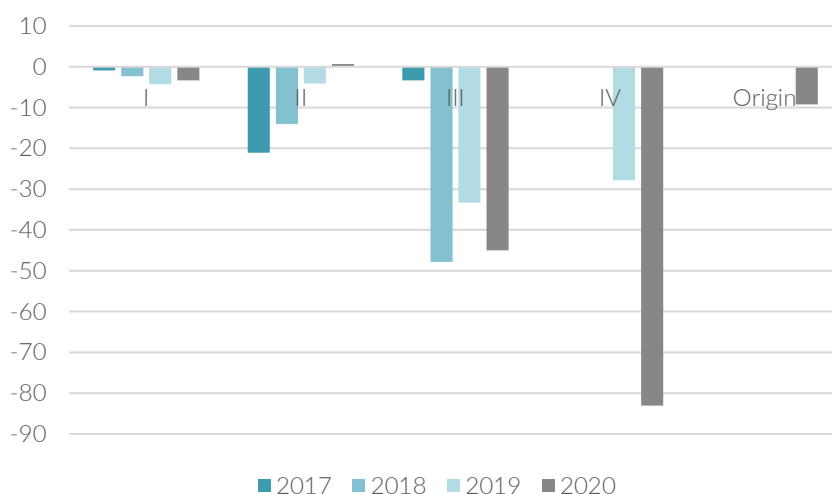
As noted above, the majority of OCI's investee companies performed well through 2020. Overall performance was held back by the share price of Time Out (ticker: TMO), which fell from 111p on 25 February to 39.5p at end-June 2020 and 35.5p at end-December 2020 (current level 41.5p). This one company alone saw an impact on NAV of -30p. Time Out has not yet participated in the rally seen in many leisure stocks (e.g. since mid-October 2020, Fulham Shore's share price has risen from 7.25p to 16.25p, Restaurant Group's from 43p to 111p and Cineworld's from ca.26p to 121p).

## Commitment and liquidity

OCI's liquidity needs to include its share of debt at Oakley Funds. If fully repaid, this would reduce cash and commitments by over £100m.

Given the timing of realisations in 2020, and their substantial nature, OCI had material cash balances at end-2020 (£223m), which are available to deploy. This has started already, as Oakley Funds has borrowed to make investments, and will, in due course, make the call on OCI. This is a standard practice, whereby the PE funds make intermittent calls on their investors, rather than making a call every time there is an expense or investment made. OCI discloses its share of other assets and liabilities in each Oakley Fund, and these primarily reflect borrowing at the Fund level. These now total a net liability of £140m, against £70m at end-2019 and £65m in 2018. These other liabilities, including £83m at Fund IV (2019 £28m), £9m at the Origin Fund (nil) and £45m in Fund III (£33m,) reflect their relative stage of development.

OCI's share of each Oakley Capital Funds' other assets and liabilities (£m)



Source: OCI, Hardman & Co Research

The fund debt is normal course of business and reflects deployment of capital at an optimal time. It gears returns for OCI shareholders and will reduce perceived cash drag.

When the Oakley Capital Fund makes the call on OCI, it will reduce both cash and outstanding commitments. From our perspective, the key points are i) historically, capital deployed immediately after crises has generated some of the best-performing PE cohorts, and so deployment in 2020 is likely to be a good thing, ii) borrowing at the Fund level increases the long-term returns for OCI's investors, iii) some borrowing is always likely to be present at the Fund level, iv) Oakley Capital controls the calls from the Funds, and it would be improbable that it would do anything to stretch OCI's financial position, v) the cash at the OCI level will be perceived as a drag on performance until it is deployed (as Oakley Funds make the calls on OCI, and so reduce cash levels, this perceived drag will reduce), and vi) given the opportunities in Oakley Funds' pipeline, a buyback would not appear the most sensible option.

## Director/senior manager dealing

Management and directors have been buying in the market

Following the 27 January [trading update](#), there has been multiple insider buying: D Till (6,750 @ 292p), F Beck (10,400 @ 293p) and R Lightowler (30,000 @ 291.61p). We believe buying by multiple directors is a strong sign of their confidence in the sustainable growth opportunity for the business.

## Results in some more detail

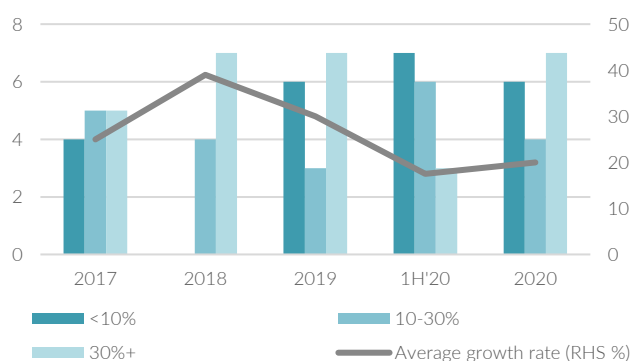
### EBITDA growth at underlying companies accelerated in 2H'20

The left-hand chart below shows the EBITDA growth of OCI's investee companies. They averaged a very impressive 20% in 2020 and, despite FY'20 including nine months of COVID-19 effects, the growth rate has accelerated on 1H'20 (when it was 18%, including three months of the pandemic).

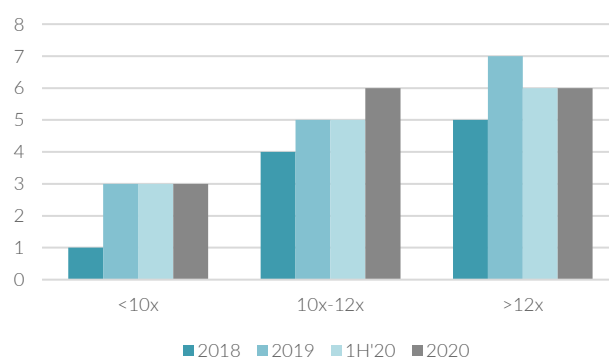
### Valuation ratings stable

Average EBITDA has declined from the 30% seen in 2019 because of the pandemic, but also because OCI has made a number of new investments, which are early in their life for PE support. History suggests that EBITDA growth will accelerate once Oakley Capital's and OCI's operational and financial support bear fruit. The right-hand chart shows the valuation ratings (measured as EV/EBITDA). There has been growth in more highly-rated companies, reflecting the fact that Oakley Funds is (and so OCI also is) invested in sectors that have structural growth and relatively little pandemic impact. Listed company ratings in these sectors have also been robust.

EBITDA by number of companies (LHS) and average growth (%), RHS)



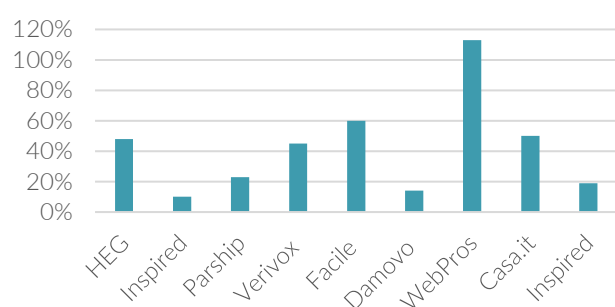
EV/EBITDA by number of companies



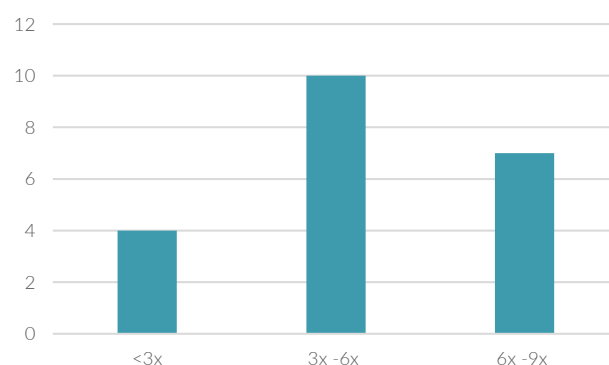
Source: OCI presentations, Hardman & Co Research

The next two charts show the continued uplift on exit (2020 89% premium to book value) measured against the last reported carry value. As can be seen, OCI remains conservative in accounting, with strong gains on exits. The right-hand chart shows the net cash/indebtedness by number of companies. Those with the highest gearing typically have the greatest concentration in recurring revenue streams.

Uplift on exit (%)



Net debt/EBITDA by number of companies



Source: OCI presentations, Hardman & Co Research

We estimate that over-commitments, which may be drawn over up to five years, could be covered by around one year's realisations or acceptable debt facilities

Outstanding commitments at end-2020 were £534m, of which £14.5m was to Oakley Funds I (2013) and II (2016), £107.9m to Fund III (2016), £299m to Fund IV (2019) and £113m to the Origin Fund (2020).

- ▶ The newer Funds, in particular, may be expected to be drawn over several years, and we note that £95m of the earlier Funds is not expected to be called.
- ▶ Adjusting for OCI's share of debt in Oakley Funds, both cash and commitments are likely to be ca.£100m lower.
- ▶ We therefore believe that the look-through position is likely to draw commitments of just over £325m, against free cash of ca.£125m. The gap may be expected to be closed by just over one year's realisations (average £174m p.a. 2015-2020) or debt (under 30% of current NAV if no realisations) but, with the drawings spread over several years, we do not see any liquidity issues with OCI's level of commitments.
- ▶ Unlike investors in third-party funds, the timing of any call by an Oakley Fund on OCI will be decided by Oakley management.

OCI looking to report quarterly and, in due course, move listing from restricted SFS and onto main market

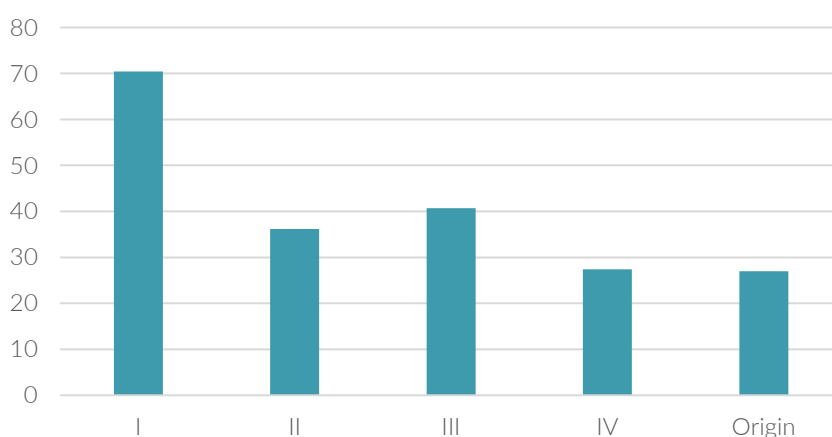
## More discount management actions

We also note the comments made in the results presentation about future actions to reduce the discount. In particular, OCI is aiming to move to quarterly reporting (if not 3Q'21, then 1Q'22), rather than the current six-monthly schedule. This would allow a steady stream of NAV updates into the market. Given the restrictions that some platforms (e.g. Barclays) apply to shares listed on the Specialist Fund Segment of the LSE, it is looking in time to move to the main market. Previous restrictions around concentration by Fund should moderate with new investments in later Funds.

## OCI ownership of different Oakley Funds

The chart below shows OCI's ownership of the different Oakley Capital Funds, which may help investors when OCI makes announcements of investments/exits. The reduction over time represents the success Oakley has had in attracting other investors, including its entrepreneur network, whose holdings at end-2020 were €200m.

OCI's ownership of Oakley Capital Funds (% total fund size)



Source: OCI, Hardman & Co Research

## Portfolio

The details of the portfolio are given below.

### Key metrics for portfolio companies, as at December 2020

| Company                    | Country          | Investment date | Fund          | Cost (£) | June valuation (£m) | Sector     |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|---------------------|------------|
| TechInsights               | Canada           | 2017            | III           | 0.4      | 15.5                | Technology |
| Daisy Group                | UK               | 2015            | II and direct | 29.5     | 34.6 (debt 17.3)    | Technology |
| Ekon                       | Spain            | 2019            | III           | 22.5     | 21.7                | Technology |
| Contabo                    | Germany          | 2019            | IV            | 5.0      | 9.7                 | Technology |
| 7NXT                       | Germany          | 2020            | Origin        | 10.3     | 10.3                | Technology |
| WebPros                    | Switzerland / UK | 2020            | IV            | 45.3     | 50.4                | Technology |
| atHome                     | Italy            | 2017            | III           | 0.0      | 7.7                 | Technology |
| Facile                     | Italy            | 2018            | III           | 20.8     | 35.0                | Consumer   |
| Time Out                   | Global           | 2010            | I and direct  | 60.4     | 43.3                | Consumer   |
| North Sails                | Global           | 2014            | II and direct | 147.7    | 137.8 (102.6 debt)  | Consumer   |
| Iconic BrandCo             | Italy            | 2019            | III           | 16.1     | 16.1                | Consumer   |
| Wishcard                   | Germany          | 2019            | III           | 17.3     | 20.7                | Consumer   |
| Technologies Group         |                  |                 |               |          |                     |            |
| Windstar Medical           | Germany          | 2020            | IV            | 42.7     | 42.7                | Consumer   |
| Career Partner Group       | Germany          | 2018            | III           | 0.0      | 100.5               | Education  |
| Schülerhilfe               | Germany          | 2017            | III           | 31.3     | 47.5                | Education  |
| AMOS                       | France           | 2017            | III           | 7.2      | 18.8                | Education  |
| Ocean Technologies         | Norway/ UK       | 2019            | IV            | 21.9     | 25.9                | Education  |
| Fund facilities            |                  |                 |               |          | 6.6                 |            |
| Cash                       |                  |                 |               |          | 223                 |            |
| Other assets & liabilities |                  |                 |               |          | -138.9              |            |

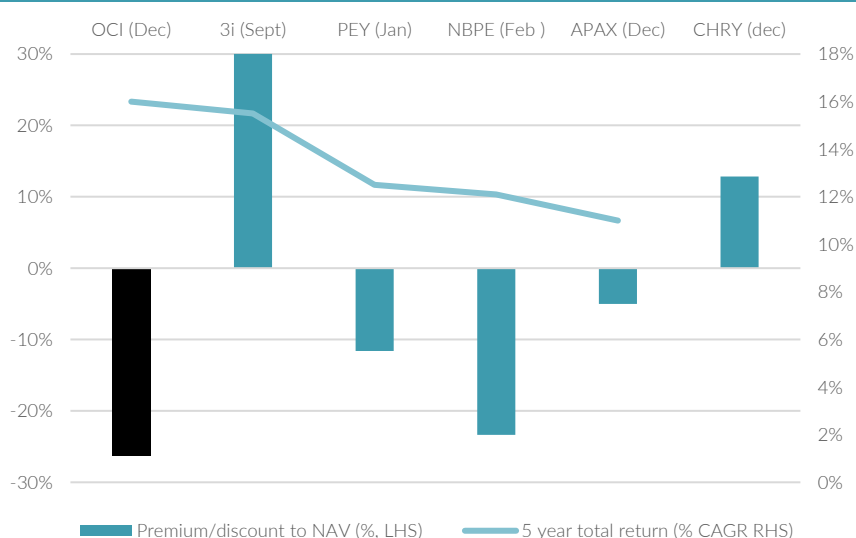
Source: OCI, Hardman and Co Research

## Valuation

OCI's discount appears anomalous with its market and peer-beating, long-term performance

The charts below show the premium/discount ratings of OCI's closest competitors, together with their five-year total NAV return. Despite having one of the best five-year returns, OCI has the highest discount. Indeed, the two peers with comparable returns are trading on material premiums to NAV. To have such a relative discount appears anomalous with historical performance, where both Fund II and Fund III are top-quartile/5% by different measures. Taking an absolute rating perspective, it also appears anomalous that a company with a strong track record of growth and value-added should trade at any discount to NAV at all.

Discount to NAV and five-year total return for OCI and peers (%)



Note: 3i total shareholder return per webpage  
Source: Company presentations and websites, Hardman & Co Research

# Financials

## Profit and loss summary

| Year-end Dec (£000)                     | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | 2020     | 2021E   | 2022E   |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| Interest income                         | 5,053   | 11,637  | 7,722   | 6,629   | 9,218   | 10,466   | 12,253  | 11,415  |
| Net realised gains at FV through P&L    | 29,041  | 8,545   | 23,991  | 102,314 | 17,840  | 208,536  | 11,360  | 16,858  |
| Net unrealised gains/losses through P&L | -3,561  | 46,196  | 20,316  | -23,877 | 127,741 | -133,086 | 56,799  | 67,432  |
| Net foreign currency gains/(losses)     | -2,000  | 4,733   | -839    | 3,149   | -2,715  | 13,700   | 0       | 0       |
| Other income                            | 597     | 140     | 306     | 217     | 1,073   | 390      | 390     | 390     |
| Total income                            | 29,130  | 71,251  | 51,496  | 88,432  | 153,157 | 100,006  | 80,802  | 96,096  |
| Costs                                   | -7,319  | -4,519  | -6,529  | -6,045  | -17,888 | -7,620   | -18,632 | -21,858 |
| Operating profit                        | 21,811  | 66,732  | 44,967  | 82,387  | 135,269 | 92,386   | 62,050  | 74,203  |
| Interest expenses                       | -2      | -55     | -42     | -389    | 0       | 0        | 0       | 0       |
| Pre-tax profit                          | 21,809  | 66,677  | 44,925  | 81,998  | 135,269 | 92,386   | 62,050  | 74,203  |
| Tax                                     | -235    | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0        | 0       | 0       |
| Attributable profit                     | 21,574  | 66,677  | 44,925  | 81,998  | 135,269 | 92,386   | 62,050  | 74,203  |
| Average no shares (000s)                | 174,008 | 189,901 | 203,859 | 204,804 | 204,113 | 192,707  | 180,600 | 180,600 |
| EPS (£)                                 | 12.4    | 35.1    | 22.0    | 40.0    | 66.3    | 47.9     | 34.4    | 41.1    |
| DPS (p)                                 |         | 4.5     | 4.5     | 4.5     | 4.5     | 4.5      | 4.5     | 4.5     |

Source: OCI Report and Accounts, Hardman & Co Research

## Balance sheet

| @ 31 Dec (£000)           | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    | 2021E   | 2022E   |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Non-current assets</b> |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Oakley Funds              | 158,369 | 211,254 | 282,663 | 298,581 | 420,316 | 354,718 | 540,267 | 691,264 |
| Co. investment Fund       | 0       | 0       | 26,280  | 41,789  | 74,984  | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Quoted                    | 0       | 43,854  | 41,182  | 22,320  | 38,510  | 23,940  | 23,940  | 23,940  |
| Other unquoted            | 25,950  | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Debt                      | 104,897 | 85,761  | 69,502  | 107,059 | 127,156 | 126,466 | 116,209 | 105,951 |
| <b>Total investments</b>  | 289,216 | 340,869 | 419,627 | 469,749 | 660,966 | 505,124 | 680,416 | 821,155 |
| <b>Current assets</b>     |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 95,520  | 106,509 | 117,836 | 107,888 | 48,866  | 223,090 | 121,302 | 65,194  |
| Receivables               | 5       | 673     | 668     | 11      | 40      | 33      | 100     | 100     |
| <b>Total assets</b>       | 384,741 | 448,051 | 538,131 | 577,648 | 709,872 | 728,247 | 801,818 | 886,449 |
| Creditors                 | 2,591   | 9,619   | 36,091  | 2,826   | 23,864  | 297     | 19,945  | 38,500  |
| Net assets                | 382,150 | 438,432 | 502,040 | 574,822 | 686,008 | 727,950 | 781,873 | 847,949 |
| NAV per share (£)         | 2.00    | 2.31    | 2.45    | 2.81    | 3.45    | 4.03    | 4.33    | 4.70    |

Source: OCI Report and Accounts, Hardman & Co Research

## Cashflow

| Year-end Dec (£000)                           | 2015     | 2016     | 2017     | 2018     | 2019     | 2020    | 2021E    | 2022E    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Purchase of portfolio investments             | -131,118 | -178,228 | -167,047 | -165,302 | -127,265 | -95,983 | -250,000 | -200,000 |
| Sale of portfolio investments                 | 122,579  | 173,554  | 167,773  | 158,712  | 90,005   | 332,595 | 155,000  | 155,000  |
| Interest income                               | 1,687    | 17,403   | 7,001    | 7,077    | 842      | 5,146   | 12,134   | 11,108   |
| Expenses aid                                  | -6,759   | -4,704   | -5,967   | -4,196   | -7,009   | -21,050 | -10,632  | -13,926  |
| Interest expense paid                         | -2       | -55      | -42      | -389     | 0        | 0       | 0        | 0        |
| Other income received                         | 597      | 140      | 306      | 217      | 1,073    | 390     | 390      | 390      |
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) from op. activities | -13,016  | 8,110    | 2,024    | -3,881   | -42,354  | 221,098 | -93,108  | -47,428  |
| <b>Cashflows from financing activities</b>    |          |          |          |          |          |         |          |          |
| New shares issued                             | 126,824  | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0        | 0        |
| Purchase/sale of shares into treasury         | -23,170  | -1,854   | 23,291   | 0        | -4,737   | -51,894 | 0        | 0        |
| Dividends                                     | 0        | 0        | -13,149  | -9,216   | -9,216   | -8,680  | -8,680   | -8,680   |
| Net cash inflow from financing activities     | 103,654  | -1,854   | 10,142   | -9,216   | -13,953  | -60,574 | -8,680   | -8,680   |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents     | 90,638   | 6,256    | 12,166   | -13,097  | -56,307  | 160,524 | -101,788 | -56,108  |
| Opening cash and cash equivalents             | 6,882    | 95,520   | 106,509  | 117,836  | 107,888  | 48,866  | 223,090  | 121,302  |
| FX effects                                    | -2,000   | 4,733    | -839     | 3,149    | -2,715   | 13,700  | 0        | 0        |
| Closing cash and cash equivalents             | 95,520   | 106,509  | 117,836  | 107,888  | 48,866   | 223,090 | 121,302  | 65,194   |

Source: OCI Report and Accounts, Hardman & Co Research

| Investments' analysis            |         |          |          |          |         |          |          |          |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| Year-end Dec (£000)              | 2015    | 2016     | 2017     | 2018     | 2019    | 2020     | 2021E    | 2022E    |
| Total investments                |         |          |          |          |         |          |          |          |
| Opening                          | 220,344 | 289,216  | 340,869  | 419,627  | 469,749 | 660,966  | 505,124  | 680,416  |
| Additions                        | 133,115 | 176,231  | 201,504  | 130,845  | 127,265 | 95,983   | 250,000  | 200,000  |
| Sales                            | -94,651 | -190,767 | -175,042 | -165,795 | -91,813 | -337,916 | -155,000 | -155,000 |
| Realised gains                   | 29,041  | 8,545    | 23,991   | 102,314  | 17,840  | 208,536  | 11,360   | 16,926   |
| Change in unrealised revaluation | 1,007   | 57,082   | 20,316   | -23,877  | 127,741 | -133,086 | 56,799   | 67,705   |
| Other, incl. FX and interest     | 360     | 562      | 7,989    | 6,635    | 10,184  | 10,641   | 12,134   | 11,108   |
| Closing                          | 289,216 | 340,869  | 419,627  | 469,749  | 660,966 | 505,124  | 680,416  | 821,155  |
| Oakley Funds                     |         |          |          |          |         |          |          |          |
| Opening                          | 151,857 | 158,369  | 211,254  | 282,663  | 298,581 | 420,316  | 354,718  | 537,996  |
| Additions                        | 27,146  | 41,846   | 124,590  | 58,829   | 64,776  | 54,469   | 220,000  | 170,000  |
| Sales                            | -45,520 | -48,636  | -78,457  | -130,526 | -39,909 | -203,486 | -105,000 | -105,000 |
| Realised gains                   | 29,041  | 9,403    | 15,591   | 102,314  | 17,840  | 133,800  | 11,360   | 16,858   |
| Change in unrealised revaluation | -4,155  | 50,272   | 9,685    | -14,699  | 79,028  | -50,381  | 56,799   | 67,432   |
| Other, incl. FX and interest     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0        | 120      | 307      |
| Closing                          | 158,369 | 211,254  | 282,663  | 298,581  | 420,316 | 354,718  | 537,996  | 687,594  |
| Co Investment Fund               |         |          |          |          |         |          |          |          |
| Inspired                         |         |          |          |          |         |          |          |          |
| Opening                          | 0       | 0        | 0        | 26,280   | 41,789  | 74,984   | 0        | 0        |
| Additions                        | 0       | 0        | 39,932   | 5,825    | 672     | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Sales                            | 0       | 0        | -35,355  | 0        | 0       | -94,210  | 0        | 0        |
| Realised gains                   | 0       | 0        | 8,400    | 0        | 0       | 74,736   | 0        | 0        |
| Change in unrealised revaluation | 0       | 0        | 13,303   | 9,684    | 32,523  | -55,510  | 0        | 0        |
| Other, incl. FX and interest     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0        | 120      | 307      |
| Closing                          | 0       | 0        | 26,280   | 41,789   | 74,984  | 74,984   | 0        | 0        |
| Quoted                           |         |          |          |          |         |          |          |          |
| Time out                         |         |          |          |          |         |          |          |          |
| Opening                          | 0       | 0        | 43,854   | 41,182   | 22,320  | 38,510   | 23,940   | 23,940   |
| Additions                        | 0       | 47,155   | 0        | 0        | 0       | 12,625   | 0        | 0        |
| Sales                            | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Realised gains                   | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Change in unrealised revaluation | 0       | -3,301   | -2,672   | -18,862  | 16,190  | -27,195  | 0        | 0        |
| Other, incl. FX and interest     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Closing                          | 0       | 43,854   | 41,182   | 22,320   | 38,510  | 23,940   | 23,940   | 23,940   |
| Debt                             |         |          |          |          |         |          |          |          |
| Opening                          | 68,487  | 104,897  | 85,761   | 69,502   | 107,059 | 127,156  | 126,466  | 118,600  |
| Additions                        | 80,253  | 80,476   | 36,982   | 66,191   | 61,817  | 28,889   | 30,000   | 30,000   |
| Sales                            | -49,131 | -109,976 | -61,230  | -35,269  | -51,904 | -40,220  | -50,000  | -50,000  |
| Realised gains                   | 0       | 560      | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Change in unrealised revaluation | 4,928   | 10,345   | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Other, incl. FX and interest     | 360     | -541     | 7,989    | 6,635    | 10,184  | 10,641   | 12,134   | 11,108   |
| Closing                          | 104,897 | 85,761   | 69,502   | 107,059  | 127,156 | 126,466  | 118,600  | 109,708  |

Source: OCI Report and Accounts, Hardman & Co Research

Our base assumption is that 2021 will be a more normal year, with OCI achieving 3% realised gains and 15% unrealised gains. We assume that there will be a significant (record) deployment of cash into investments, but year-end cash balances will remain high. The overall NAV growth (7%) reflects above-normal cash balances (we expect full deployment of 2020 realisation proceeds in 2022) and the fact that many OCI investments will still be early in their investment holding period. Over time, we expect value creation to accelerate.

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