



# BMO Private Equity Trust plc

## INVESTOR DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### Regulatory and legal status of the Company

***BMO Private Equity Trust plc (the "Company")*** is an 'alternative investment fund' ("AIF") for the purposes of the EU Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (Directive 2011/61/EU) (as implemented in the United Kingdom, the "AIFM Directive") which has appointed BMO Investment Business Limited ("BMOIB") as its Alternative Investment Fund Manager ("AIFM"). BMO is authorised and regulated by the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority (the "FCA") as an AIFM for the Company.

The Company is an investment trust and is incorporated as a public limited liability company in Scotland. The Company's shares are listed on the premium segment of the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and are admitted to trading on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. The operation of the Company is subject to its Articles of Association, the FCA Listing Rules, the FCA Disclosure and Transparency Rules, the UK Corporate Governance Code issued by the Financial Reporting Council (September 2012) and the UK Companies Act 2006.

The provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, which are binding on the Company and all of its shareholders, set out the respective rights and restrictions attaching to the Company's shares. All shareholders are entitled to the benefit of, and are bound by and are deemed to have notice of, the Company's Articles of Association.

#### Limited purpose of this document

This document, which is made available to investors in the Company by being made available at [bmoprivateequity.com](http://bmoprivateequity.com) is not a prospectus. It is issued for the sole purpose of making certain regulatory disclosures to investors in accordance with the requirements of the AIFM Directive. The Company, its Directors and FCIB as its AIFM will not be responsible to persons other than the Company's shareholders for their use of this document, nor will they be responsible to any person (including the Company's shareholders) for any use which they may make of this document other than to inform a decision to invest in shares in the Company.

This document does not constitute, and may not be used for the purposes of, an offer or solicitation to buy or sell, or otherwise undertake investment activity in relation to, the Company's shares.

**This document is not intended to be an invitation or inducement to any person to engage in any investment activity. It does not include all the information which investors or their professional advisers may require for the purpose of making an informed decision in relation to an investment in the Company and its shares.**

## **No advice**

The Company, its Directors and FCIB as its AIFM are not advising any person in relation to any investment or other transaction involving shares in the Company. Recipients must not treat the contents of this document or any subsequent communications from the Company, FCIB or any of their respective affiliates, officers, directors, employees or agents, as advice relating to financial, investment, taxation, accounting, legal, regulatory or any other matters. Prospective investors must rely on their own professional advisers, including their own legal advisers and accountants, as to legal, tax, accounting, regulatory, investment and any other related matters concerning the Company and an investment in the Company's shares.

**Potential investors in the Company's shares should consult their stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other financial adviser before investing in the Company.**

## **Overseas investors**

The distribution of this document in certain jurisdictions will be restricted and accordingly any persons into whose possession this document comes are required to inform themselves about and to observe such restrictions. In particular, the shares have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 (as amended) or under any of the relevant securities laws of Canada, Australia or Japan. Accordingly, the shares may not (unless an exemption from such Act or such laws is available) be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or Japan. The Company is not registered under the United States Investment Company Act of 1940 (as amended) and investors are not entitled to the benefits of such Act.

Prospective investors must inform themselves as to (a) the legal requirements within their own countries for the purchase, holding, transfer and other disposal of shares; (b) any foreign exchange restrictions applicable to the purchase, holding, transfer or other disposal of shares which they might encounter; and (c) the income and other tax consequences which may apply in their own countries as a result of the purchase, holding, transfer or other disposal of shares.

This Investor Disclosure Document is dated, and is valid, as at 3 May 2018.

## **THE COMPANY**

### **Investment Objective**

The Company's Investment Objective is "to achieve long-term capital growth through investment in private equity assets, whilst providing shareholders with a predictable and above average level of dividend funded from a combination of the Company's revenue and realised capital profits."

### **Investment restrictions and guidelines**

The Company makes private equity investments by taking stakes in private equity focused limited partnerships, offshore funds, investment companies and investment trusts. In addition to investing in newly-formed private equity funds, the Company may also purchase secondary private equity fund interests (that is, portfolios of investments in existing private equity funds). The Company may also make direct private equity investments, mainly through co-investment with the funds in which the Company is invested.

The private equity funds in which the Company invests comprise buy-out funds, venture capital funds and mezzanine funds. Both the funds and the direct investments are selected in order to create an underlying portfolio which is well-diversified by geography, sector, size of company, stage of development, transaction type and management style.

At the time of investment:

- No more than 15 per cent of total assets may be invested in UK-listed investment companies.
- No more than 15 per cent of total assets may be invested in non-UK listed investment companies.
- No more than 50 per cent of total assets may be invested in direct private equity co-investments.
- No more than 5 per cent of total assets to be invested in any one direct investment or co-investment.
- No more than 10 per cent of total assets may be invested outside the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Continental Europe.

As far as practicable the Company will be fully invested at all times.

### **Leverage**

The Company may borrow in sterling or other currencies. The Company's Articles of Association contain a borrowing limit equal to the value of its adjusted capital and reserves. However, under the Company's investment policy it may only use gearing up to 30 per cent of its total assets at the point of drawdown. To reflect this intention and to allow for future fluctuations in portfolio valuations, the maximum gross leverage, calculated in accordance with the requirements under the AIFM Directive as being inclusive of exposure to derivatives, is 200 per cent on both a gross and commitment basis.

Material changes to leverage policies must be agreed by the Company and will be notified to shareholders via the Company's website and its Annual Report and Accounts.

The total level of leverage employed by the Company is updated regularly on the "Quarterly Factsheet" published on the Company's website.

## **Investment Policy and Strategy**

The Company's Investment Strategy and Policy are set out in full in the Business Model and Strategy section of the Annual Report and Accounts, which can be found on the Company's website.

The Company is required to obtain the prior approval of shareholders, by ordinary resolution, to any material change to its published Investment Policy. The Company will announce any such change through a Regulatory Information Service.

### **Dividend policy**

The Company aims to pay quarterly dividends with an annual yield equivalent to not less than 4 per cent of the average of the published net asset values per Ordinary Share as at the end of each of its last four financial quarters prior to the announcement of the relevant quarterly dividend or, if higher, equal (in terms of pence per share) to the highest quarterly dividend previously paid. It is anticipated that dividends will be paid in January, April, July and October of each year.

Dividend payments are announced through a Regulatory Information Service.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY**

### **Report on Remuneration**

This section of the annual report has been prepared in accordance with the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive 2011/61/EC ("AIFM Directive") and the Financial Conduct Authority's Handbook (SYSC 19B: AIFM Remuneration Code).

In accordance with the AIFM Directive, BMO Investment Business Limited, the designated Alternative Investment Fund Manager ("AIFM") for BMO Private Equity Trust plc, has adopted a remuneration policy which is consistent with the remuneration principles applicable to AIF management companies and aligned with the BMO Global Asset Management (EMEA) Remuneration Policy. The size of the AIFM and the size of the funds it manages, the internal organisation and the nature, the scope and the complexity of their activities have been taken into consideration in this disclosure.

### ***Remuneration policy***

The purpose of the AIFM's remuneration policy is to describe the remuneration principles and practices within the AIFM and for such principles and practices:

- (a) to be consistent with, and promote, sound and effective risk management;
- (b) to be in line with the business strategy, objectives, values and interests of the AIFM;
- (c) not to encourage excessive risk-taking as compared to the investment policy of the relevant sub-funds of the AIFM;
- (d) to provide a framework for remuneration to attract, motivate and retain staff (including directors) to which the policy applies in order to achieve the objectives of the AIFM; and
- (e) to ensure that any relevant conflicts of interest can be managed appropriately at all times.

### ***Decision making and governance***

The board of directors (the "Board") of the AIFM is responsible for the remuneration policy of the AIFM and for determining the remuneration of the directors of the AIFM and other staff who undertake professional activities for the AIFM. The Board has delegated to BMO Asset Management plc's Risk and Remuneration Committee (the "Committee") responsibility for

maintaining a compliant remuneration policy. The Committee is solely comprised of non-executive directors of BMO Asset Management plc. The Board has adopted the remuneration policy applicable to all members of the BMO Group (“BMO Global Asset Management (EMEA)”) for this financial year as reviewed and approved by the Committee periodically (at least annually). The Committee is responsible for, and oversees, the implementation of the remuneration policy in line with the AIFMD Regulations. The Board considers that the members of the Committee have appropriate expertise in risk management and remuneration to perform this review.

### ***Applicability***

The remuneration policy, which incorporates compliance with AIFMD requirements applies to staff whose professional activities have a material impact on the risk profile of the AIFM or of the funds it manages (“Identified Staff”) and so covers:

- a) senior management;
- b) risk takers;
- c) control functions; and
- d) employees receiving total remuneration that takes them into the same remuneration bracket as senior management and risk takers, whose professional activities have a material impact on the risk profile of the AIFM.

The Identified Staff list and the selection criteria above are subject to regular review (at least annually) by the Committee as well as formally reviewed in the event of significant organisation changes and changes in remuneration regulations the AIFM is subject to.

### ***Linking remuneration with performance***

The AIFM’s remuneration policy is part of the BMO Global Asset Management (EMEA) framework for promoting sound remuneration management, with the objective of providing total compensation to its employees that is warranted by corporate, business unit/function and individual performance and is comparable to market competitors, whilst being consistent with and promoting sound and effective risk management and the achievement of fair outcomes for all customers. Its purpose is to facilitate achievement of the business objectives and corporate values of the AIFM, with the primary focus on clients, whilst ensuring that BMO Global Asset Management (EMEA) is able to attract, retain and motivate the key talent required to achieve these business objectives and corporate values without incentivising excessive or inappropriate risk.

When setting remuneration levels, the following components and principles form part of the remuneration management framework:

- Fixed remuneration is determined taking into account factors including the requirements of the particular role and the staff member's experience, expertise, contribution level and the fixed pay for comparable roles. Fixed remuneration is set, with reference to market data, at a level that is sufficient to attract high calibre staff as well as to permit the operation of a fully-flexible remuneration policy (including the possibility of a staff member receiving reduced or no variable remuneration in a particular year). The Committee keeps the balance between fixed and variable remuneration under review.
- Variable remuneration is determined annually by reference to both financial and non-financial AIFM performance considerations. External competitor practices are included in the funding review to ensure compensation opportunities in the markets within which the AIFM operates are given due consideration and retention risks are effectively managed. Incentive funding is developed in view of current and projected economics and risks, supported by BMO Global Asset Management (EMEA) Audit and Compliance

Committee inputs, ensuring risk-adjustments and qualitative and quantitative considerations, such as the cost and quantity of capital and liquidity are actively considered as funding adjustments. The Committee ensures that all incentive awards are not paid through vehicles or methods that facilitate the avoidance of the requirements with regard to remuneration imposed by applicable law and/or regulations.

- Variable remuneration is allocated to respective business functions by reference to:
  - contribution of the respective business function or unit to corporate performance;
  - business function performance relative to pre-determined targets and objectives, including adherence to risk management obligations; and
  - competitive market pay data.

Individual award allocations are referenced to the individual achievement during the performance year relative to pre-agreed objectives and assessment of market comparability. Performance is assessed in relation to pre-agreed objectives, which include financial and non-financial goals (including the achievement of fair customer outcomes), compliance with the BMO Group’s policies and procedures, adherence to risk management and compliance requirements and the BMO Code of Conduct. The assessment of performance for Identified Staff reflects multi-year performance in a manner appropriate to the life-cycle of the funds that are managed by the AIFM.

- Application of Financial Conduct Authority’s Handbook (SYSC 19B: AIFMD Remuneration Code) pay-out process rules, save for disapplication at individual or AIFM level, which is determined by an annual proportionality assessment.

**Quantitative remuneration disclosure**

The total remuneration paid by BMO Investment Business Limited to its staff is zero, as all AIFM staff are employed by other companies in BMO Global Asset Management (EMEA).

The table below provides an overview of aggregate total remuneration paid to AIFM Identified Staff in respect of the proportion of their pay aligned to their AIFM responsibilities. It is not possible to apportion remuneration by individual Identified Staff working on a specific investment fund, therefore figures are provided in aggregate on an AIFM basis.

	Headcount	Fixed Remuneration £m	Variable Remuneration £m	Total Remuneration £m
BMO Investment Business Limited Remuneration of AIFMD Identified Staff of which:	22	1.475	1.999	3.474
Senior Management	11	0.105	0.203	0.308
Other Code Staff	11	1.370	1.796	3.166

**Notes on the quantitative remuneration disclosure**

Total remuneration reported is the sum of salary, cash bonus, any deferred annual bonus, value of any long-term incentive awards, plus the value (actual or estimated) of employer’s pension contributions, awarded in respect of performance in the reportable financial year.

The table excludes staff who are providing delegated services to the AIFM.

Senior management are defined in this table as the AIFM Directors and Control Function Heads.

The Identified Staff disclosure represents total compensation of those staff who are fully or partly involved in the activities of the AIFM funds, apportioned to the estimated time relevant to the AIFM or to the amount attributable to the AIFM allocated on an AUM basis.

### **The Depositary**

The Company has appointed J.P. Morgan Europe Limited (JPMEEL) to provide depositary services, under the AIFM Directive and certain other associated rules, under the terms of a depositary agreement dated 22 July 2014 to which both the Company and the AIFM are parties. The services provided by JPMEEL as depositary for the Company include:

- general oversight responsibilities over the issue and cancellation of the Company's share capital, the carrying out of net asset value calculations, the application of income, and the ex-post review of investment transactions;
- monitoring the Company's cash flows and ensuring that all cash is booked in appropriate accounts in the name of the Company or FCIB or JPMEEL acting on behalf of the Company; and
- ensuring that J.P. Morgan Chase Bank Limited (JPMCB) (to whom JPMEEL has delegated the safekeeping of all assets held within the Company's investment portfolio, including those classed as financial instruments for the purpose of the AIFM Directive, in accordance with the terms of a Global Custody Agreement to which both the Company and the AIFM are also a party) retains custody of the Company's financial instruments in segregated accounts so that they can be clearly identified as belonging to the Company and maintains records sufficient for verification of the Company's ownership rights in relation to assets other than financial instruments. No specific conflicts have been identified as arising as a result of the delegation of the provision of custody and safekeeping services by JPMEEL to JPMCB.

The terms of the depositary agreement provide that, where certain assets of the Company are invested in a country whose laws require certain financial instruments to be held in custody by a local entity and no such entity is able to satisfy the requirements under the AIFM Directive in relation to use of delegates by depositaries, JPMEEL may still delegate its functions to such a local entity and be fully discharged of all liability for loss of financial instruments of the Company by such local entity. However, this is strictly subject to the prior approval of the Directors and a prior notification to shareholders.

Although the Depositary has delegated the safekeeping of all assets held within the Company's investment portfolio to JPMEEL, in the event of loss of those assets that constitute financial instruments under the AIFM Directive, the Depositary will be obliged to return to the Company financial instruments of an identical type, or the corresponding amount of money, unless it can demonstrate that the loss has arisen as a result of an external event beyond its reasonable control, the consequences of which would have been unavoidable despite all reasonable efforts to the contrary.

The Depositary receives an annual fee for its services of 1.9 basis point of the Company's net assets, payable monthly in arrears.

The depositary agreement in place with JPMEEL and the related custody agreement in place with JPMCB is it the counterparty continues unless and until terminated by the Company giving not less than 90 days' notice or by JPMEEL giving not less than 120 days' notice, in each case such notice to be effective no earlier than the first anniversary of the effective date.

The Depositary's duties are owed to the Company and not directly to investors in the Company, whether individually or in groups. Accordingly, investors may not bring any action or make a claim against the Depositary under the depositary agreement.

### **The Auditor**

Ernst & Young LLP (E&Y) provides audit, audit-related assurance services and taxation compliance services to the Company. Its Audit Report in respect of the Financial Statements of the Company, and the fees for its services, are set out in the Annual Report and Accounts on the Company's website.

The Auditor has a statutory responsibility to report to the members of the Company as a whole in relation to the truth and fairness of the Company's state of affairs and profit or loss as well as confirming that the Company accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association. The Auditor is also required to report by exception if there are certain matters on which they are not satisfied, including if adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Company or it has not received all the information and explanations required in order to carry out the audit.

### **The Share Registrar**

Capita Asset Services is responsible for maintaining the Company's share register, including keeping up to date the names and addresses of shareholders, receiving and recording proxies at the Company's Annual General meeting, and paying dividends on the due date to shareholders on the register in accordance with instructions from the Company. The fees paid to the Registrar are variable.

### **Outsourcing and delegation of functions by the AIFM**

The AIFM has outsourced responsibility for settlement, corporate action, reconciliation and certain other administrative and record-keeping functions to State Street Bank and Trust Company. Fees for these services are paid by the AIFM and are not reimbursed by the Company. The Company has not identified any conflicts of interest in this relationship.

BMO Management Limited, an associate of the AIFM, trades securities and financial derivatives with brokers and other market counterparties as agent on behalf of the Company on a delegated basis.

## **SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION**

### **Reports and Accounts**

Copies of the Company's latest Annual and Interim Reports may be accessed at [bmoprivateequity.com](http://bmoprivateequity.com) or by writing to the Company Secretary at its Registered Office address, 6th Floor, Quartermile 4, 7a Nightingale Way, Edinburgh EH3 9EG, Scotland.

### **Publication of net asset values and share prices**

The Company's quarterly net asset values are published through a Regulatory Information Service and may also be accessed at [bmoprivateequity.com](http://bmoprivateequity.com) under "Regulatory News". The current share price is also published on the website.



## **Valuation Policy**

The Company's valuation policy in respect of its investments and derivatives is contained within the Accounting Policies note in the Annual Report and Accounts published on the Company's website which can be accessed at [bmoprivateequity.com](http://bmoprivateequity.com).

## **Historical performance of the Company**

Details of the Company's historical financial performance are provided in the Company's Annual Reports and Accounts and quarterly factsheets, which are available at [bmoprivateequity.com](http://bmoprivateequity.com).

Investors should note that past performance of the Company is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

## **Purchases and sales of shares by investors**

The Company's shares are admitted to the Official List of the UKLA and to trading on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. Accordingly, the Company's shares may be purchased and sold on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. The value at which shares trade on the London Stock Exchange may be below (at a "discount" to) or above (at a "premium" to) the net asset value per share of the Company.

The Company's shares are not redeemable. While the Company intends at each Annual General Meeting to obtain shareholder authority to issue and to buy back shares, shareholders do not have the right to have their shares re-purchased by the Company.

The AIFM with the approval of the Company maintains a series of savings plans operated by BMO Management Limited anyone else as plan manager through which investors located in the United Kingdom can make regular or lump sum payments to purchase and subsequently hold or sell shares in the Company in a savings plan account. The savings plans are administered on behalf of the AIFM by DST Systems ("DST") and details are contained in the Annual Report and Accounts and at [bmoprivateequity.com](http://bmoprivateequity.com).

## **Legal implications of contractual relationship**

The rights, obligations and relationships of the members of the Company shall be governed by the law of Scotland and subject to exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Scotland.

The Scottish courts generally recognise judgements obtained in the courts of another jurisdiction (subject to, inter alia, the legislation on the recognition of judgements referred to below, the rules of the Scottish courts in relation to the recognition and/or enforcement of foreign judgements and such judgements not being contrary to public policy in Scotland). The exact rules, on the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgements, depend on the jurisdiction in which such judgements are obtained. Legislation providing for the reciprocal recognition of foreign judgements in Scotland includes: Civil Jurisdiction and Judgements Act 1982/EU Council Regulation EC no. 44/2001 ("CJJA") in respect of all EU countries other than Denmark (with equivalent provisions applying to Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland as signatories to the Brussels and Lugano Conventions, both of which Conventions are covered by the CJJA reciprocal enforcement provisions); Foreign Judgements (Reciprocal Enforcement) Act 1933 in respect of those jurisdictions covered by the CJJA, Israel, Suriname and Tonga and to judgements of the recognised courts of the Commonwealth countries of Australia, the Federal Court of Canada and any courts in most of the provinces of Canada as well as Guernsey, the Isle of Man, the Bailiwick of Jersey, certain territories of the Republic of India and Pakistan; and the Administration of Justice Act 1920 in respect of the superior courts of Commonwealth countries and British Overseas Territories within 12 months from the date of the relevant judgement.

In respect of all other jurisdictions (including the United States), judgements are not automatically enforceable in Scotland and would be required to be enforced in Scotland under common law.

### **Fees and expenses**

The fees and expenses which will be borne by the Company and investors are limited as set out above, but there is no formal cap on their level.

Accordingly, the maximum amount of fees and expenses which could theoretically be indirectly borne by the investors is equal to the value of their investment in the Company, including, in relation to indemnities, any distributions made to them by the Company.

### **Fair treatment of investors**

The legal and regulatory regime to which the Company and the Directors are subject ensures the fair treatment of investors. The FCA Listing Rules require that the Company treats all shareholders of the same class of shares equally.

In particular, each Director has statutory duties under the Companies Act 2006 with which he or she must comply, including a duty to act in the way he or she considers, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole.

No investor has a right to obtain preferential treatment in relation to their investment in the Company and the Company does not give preferential treatment to any investors. Furthermore, the AIFM does not give preferential treatment to any investors who open savings plan accounts for the purpose of investing in the shares of the Company and it is obliged under the rules of the FCA to ensure that all investors in the savings plans are treated fairly. Oversight of its compliance with the aforementioned rules and the achievement of fair outcomes for investors is undertaken by the BMO Group Treating Customers Fairly Committee and through the operation of an embedded complaints handling procedure.

## **RISK FACTORS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **Risk profile**

The Company's key risks and the procedures in place for the management of those risks are set out in the Annual Report and Accounts on the website under the heading "Principal Risks and Uncertainties and Risk Management" within the Business Model and Strategy and within the Report of the Audit Committee.

The Company reports in its Interim Report and Accounts, which can be found at [bmoprivateequity.com](http://bmoprivateequity.com), whether the key risks have changed since the year end.

### **Liquidity risk management**

The Company's investment portfolio includes unlisted private equity investments which are not traded in an organised public market and which generally may be illiquid. As a result, the Company may not be able to liquidate quickly some of its investments at an amount close to their fair value in order to meet its liquidity requirements.

The AIFM and the Directors have in place a liquidity management policy in relation to the Company which is intended to ensure that the Company's investment portfolio maintains a level

of liquidity which is appropriate to the Company's obligations in respect of private equity commitments, share buybacks, loan repayments, dividend payments and other operating costs.

Details of the Company's investment portfolio are contained within the Annual Report and Accounts.

A list of pre-approved counterparties, selected on strict criteria, is maintained by the AIFM. Cash and deposits must be held with approved banks with a minimum rating as set by the Company from time to time.

Investors will be notified by way of a disclosure on the website in the event of any material changes being made to the liquidity management systems and procedures, or where any new arrangements for managing the Company's liquidity are introduced.

**Professional negligence liability risks**

The AIFM is covered under professional indemnity insurance.