cgam

CGAM Investor Day

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 Grocers' Hall



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# Agenda

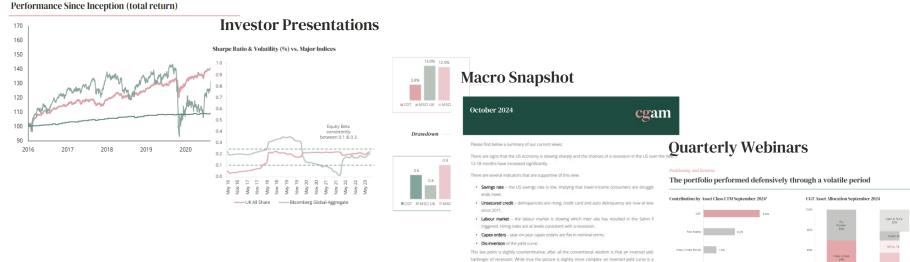
1. Trust the Process	Peter Spiller	10.00 am
2. TRIGger Warning	Chris Clothier	10.25 am
3. Wizard of Oz Economics	Alastair Laing	10.45 am
4. Coffee Break		11.05 am
5. Keynote Speech	Sir Ben Wallace KBE	11.30 am
6. Q&A		12.00 pm
7. Champagne and Canapés		12.30 pm



### **CG ASSET MANAGEMENT**

# There are lots of ways to stay in touch with us

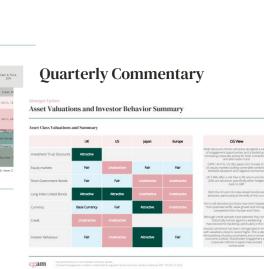
#### **Performance Factsheets**



the bond market believes that a recession is likely in the short to medium term because it implies to

You can find out more at: www.capitalgearingtrust.com www.cgasset.com

Or contact us directly at IR@cgasset.com

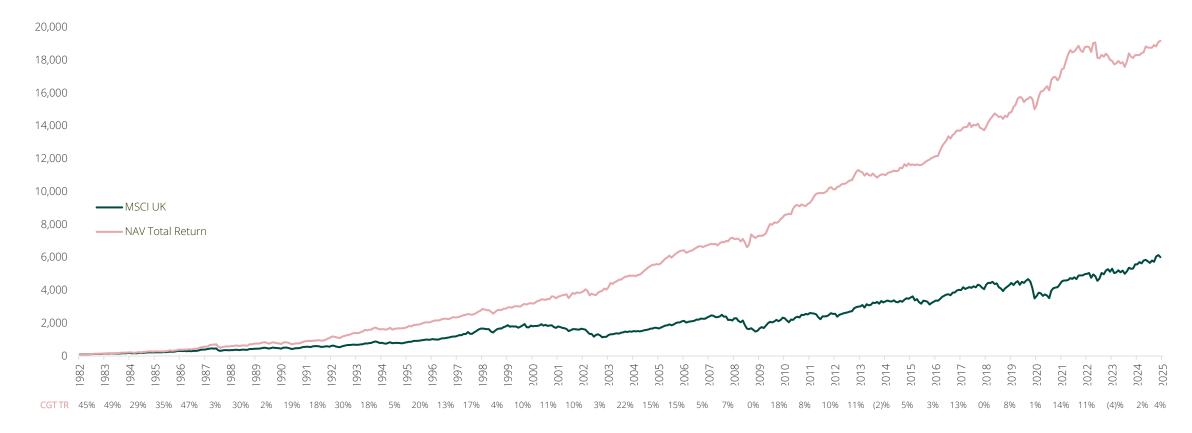




### TRUST THE PROCESS

# Since 1982 the CGT share price total return has been >289x1

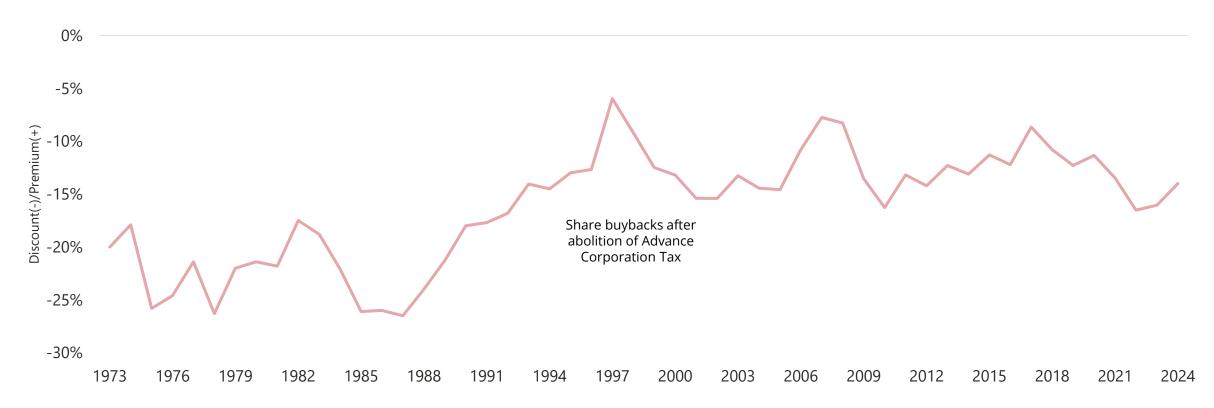
### Total Return History (Rebased) Mar 1982 to Mar 2025



### TRUST THE PROCESS

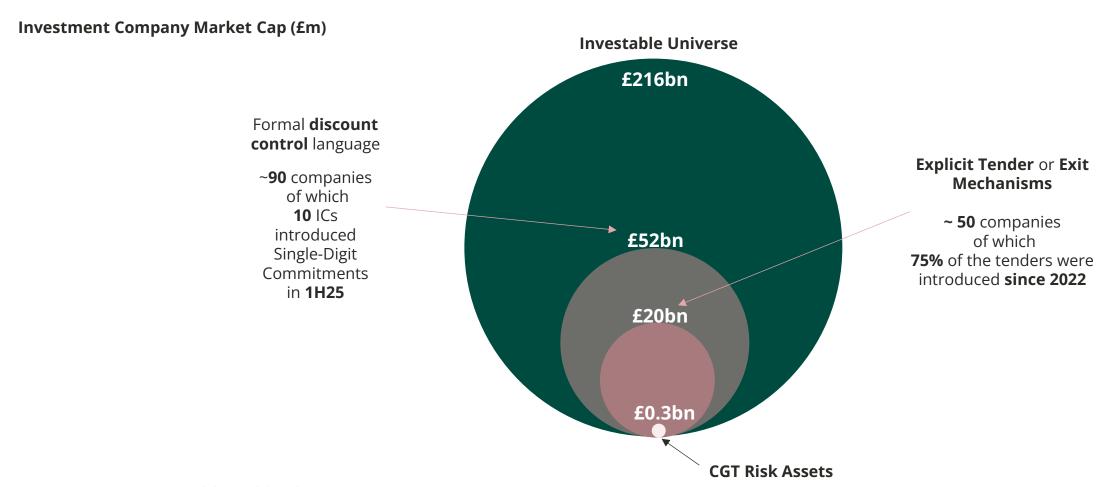
## Share buybacks have played a key role in discount control and capital allocation

### **Investment Trust Sector Average Discount 1973-2024**



### TRUST THE PROCESS

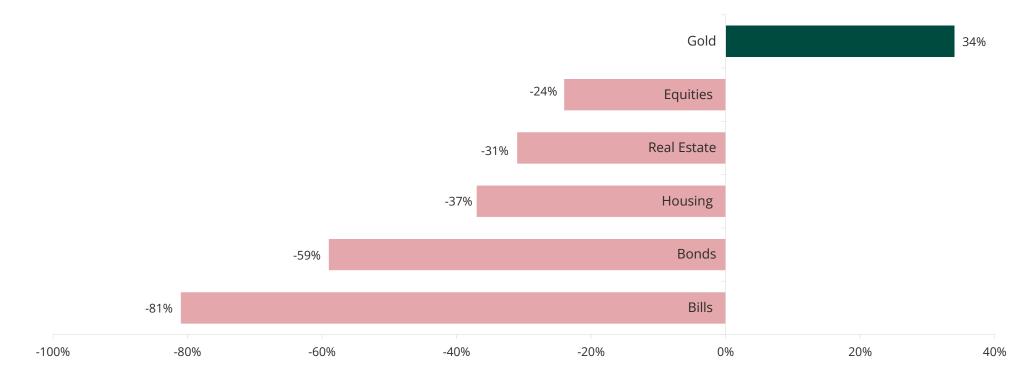
# Our opportunity set is growing



### TRUST THE PROCESS

# Very few asset classes have consistently performed well during rising inflation

Real returns vs. inflation 1900-2024<sup>1</sup>



### TRUST THE PROCESS

# Winchester House has been refurbished twice since I began in the city



### TRUST THE PROCESS

### Is property a real asset?

### **UK RPI Index and Land Securities Share Price (base=100)**



Source: Bloomberg L.P

"A restructuring of the investment trust sector offers good opportunity as discounts will further reduce".

"A rigorous process reduces apparent returns from the property sector. We currently find only a few opportunities".

Trust The Process: A Summary



#### TRIGGER WARNING

# Errmm, what exactly do these funny collections of letters actually do?





### TRIGGER WARNING

# Some context... it has been a tough few years for infrastructure



### TRIGGER WARNING

# Why were we against the deal? Well, it was the wrong assets, at the wrong time and the wrong price. (Other than that it's fine!)

- HICL was over-paying for TRIG's assets
- TRIG shareholders were being cashed out at a 10% discount to NAV
- HICL shareholders got no cash out
- The voting thresholds were 75% for TRIG shareholders but only 50% for HICL shareholders, despite this being as fundamental for each company
- The deal favoured the manager, InfraRed, in multiple ways:
  - Avoided a TRIG continuation vote
  - Created a poison pill with respect to bids for the combined entity
  - Created a poison pill with respect to tendering the management contract

### TRIGGER WARNING

# The deal was struck on an NAV for NAV basis which was entirely inappropriate

HICL & TRIG - Discounts to NAV prior to announcement (%)



### TRIGGER WARNING

# Why were we against the deal? Well, it was the wrong assets, at the wrong time and the wrong price. (Other than that it's fine!)

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# What is striking is that the proposed merger fails to meet the board's stated objectives

# Board Claim #1: Increased scale will attract new buyers





### TRIGGER WARNING

# So what did we actually do?

1. Published a letter quickly



Mike Bane HICL Infrastructure Plc One Bartholomew Close London EC1A 7BL

17 November 2025

#### Proposed merger with The Renewables Infrastructure Group

Dear Mike

As at 14 November 2025 funds advised by CG Asset Management held 18.5 m shares in HICL Infrastructure Plc (HICL).

We are appalled by the announcement of the proposed merger of HICL with The Renewables Infrastructure Group Limited (TRIG). The market reaction is telling, as we write this the share price c HICL is down more than 8% and the market cap has fallen by more than £190 m. The increase in TRIG's share price is less than half the fall of HICL's. The market's assessment, in line with our own, makes two points very clear:

- 1. this is an exceptionally poor transaction for HICL, and
- 2. in aggregate this proposal is value destructive.

We can see no strategic rationale for the transaction. TRIG's portfolio and HICL's portfolio are invested in entirely different asset classes and their combination will not result in material cost savings. If investors wish to have exposure to both these asset classes they can easily do so by buying shares in both TRIG and HICL. However, many investors, like us, have made an explicit decision not to be invested in TRIG and have no desire to be forced to do so by the board of HICL.

### TRIGGER WARNING

# So what did we actually do?

- 1. Published a letter quickly
- 2. Carried out extensive shareholder consultation

### TRIGGER WARNING

# We have built a coalition of the un-willing

### almitas capital

























### TRIGGER WARNING

# So what did we actually do?

- 1. Published a letter quickly
- 2. Carried out extensive shareholder consultation
- 3. Engaged with the press

### TRIGGER WARNING

# **Engaging with the press**

# Infrastructure giants to merge in 'lopsided' £5.3bn deal

Planned HICL and TRIG tie-up lambasted as an 'exceptionally poor transaction' by CG Asset Management, which controls £20 million of HICL stock

# Merryn Talks Money: The Controversial Investment Trust Deal



In this week's Merryn Talks Money market wrap, Merryn Somerset Webb and John Stepek sit down with Chris Clothier, Co-ClO of CGAM to discuss the proposed merger of two of the largest infrastructure investment trusts on the London market, HICL Infrastructure Company and The Renewables Infrastructure Group (TRIG). Fund managers at CGAM are "appalled" by the proposal. Clothier sits down with our usual hosts to explain why and what investors can do about it. The trio also talk about the upcoming budget and the collapse in central London house prices.

**MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS** 

25 NOV, 2025



# CGAM leads shareholder revolt against HICL merger

More than 10 HICL shareholders have united against its £5.3bn merger with TRIG, but the outcome still depends upon a few large owners.

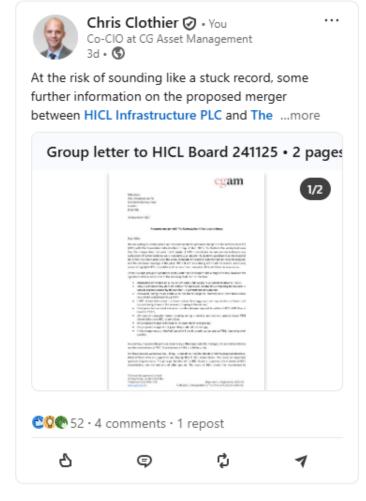
### TRIGGER WARNING

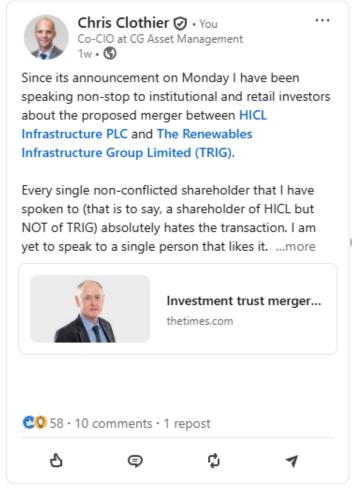
# So what did we actually do?

- 1. Published a letter quickly
- 2. Carried out extensive shareholder consultation
- 3. Engaged with the press
- 4. Made use of social media

### TRIGGER WARNING

# Making use of social media





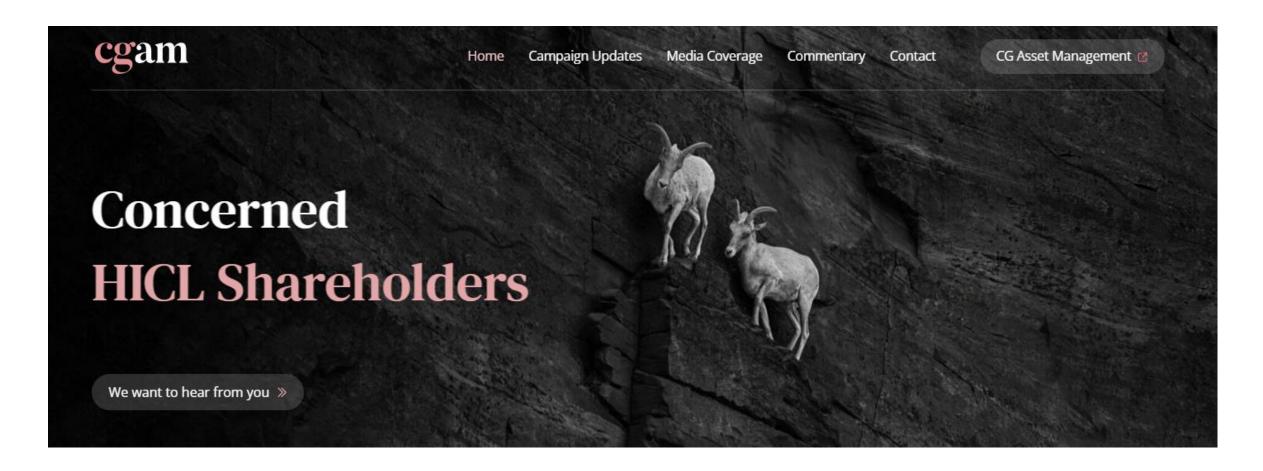
### TRIGGER WARNING

# So what did we actually do?

- 1. Published a letter quickly
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- 3. Engaged with the press
- 4. Made use of social media
- 5. Launched a website

### TRIGGER WARNING

### Launched a website: concernedhiclshareholders.co.uk



### TRIGGER WARNING

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- 6. Published a letter jointly with other investors

### TRIGGER WARNING

# So what did we actually do?

- 1. Published a letter quickly
- 2. Carried out extensive shareholder consultation
- 3. Engaged with the press
- 4. Made use of social media
- 5. Launched a website
- 6. Published a letter jointly with other investors
- 7. Sent a letter to the board on behalf of around 100 investors

CGAM INVESTOR DAY 2025 35

# Where are we now? Where next?



### WIZARD OF OZ ECONOMICS

# The dot com bubble was a coming-of-age event for me







"At 10 times revenues, to give you a 10-year payback, I have to pay you 100% of revenues for 10 straight years in dividends. Do you realize how ridiculous those basic assumptions are?
What were you thinking?"

SCOTT MCNEALY
SUN MICROSYSTEMS 2002

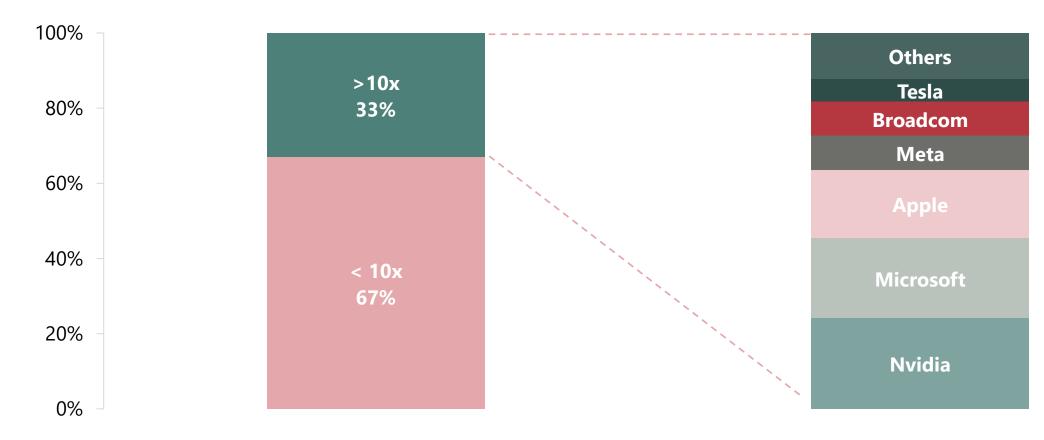
### WIZARD OF OZ ECONOMICS

# What portion of the S&P 500 trades above 10x revenues?



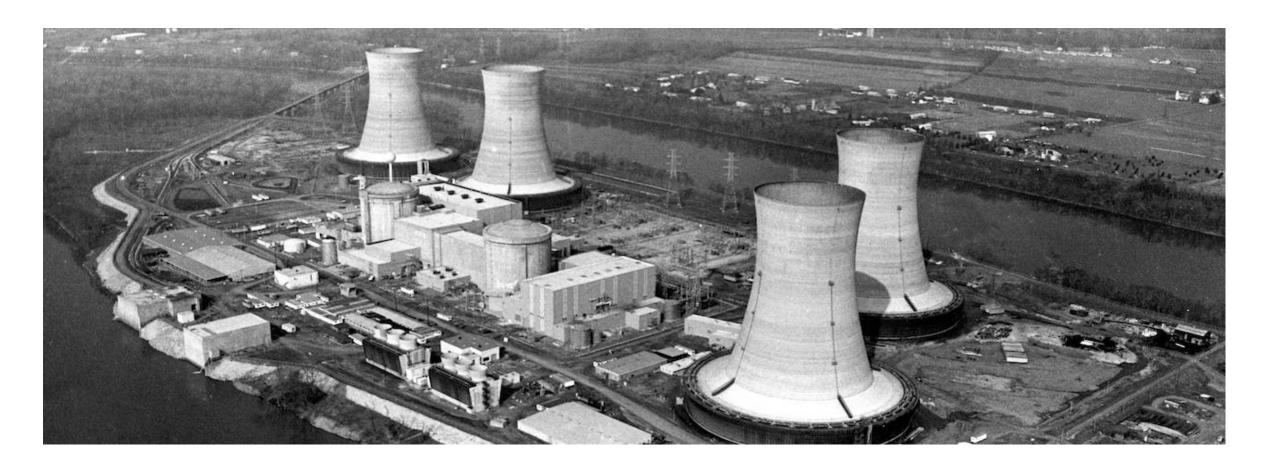
### WIZARD OF OZ ECONOMICS

# The > 10x revenue stocks are the royalty of the AI infrastructure buildout



### WIZARD OF OZ ECONOMICS

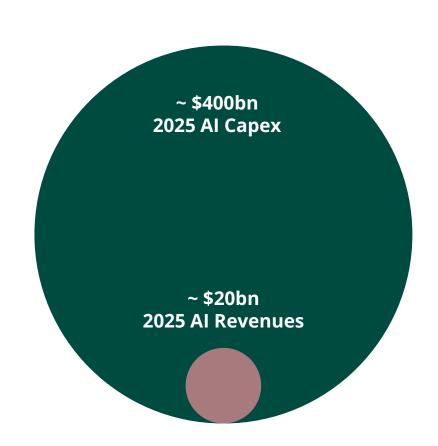
# AI has been the death knell of the capex light model



### WIZARD OF OZ ECONOMICS

# Current AI capex is many multiples of dot com capex

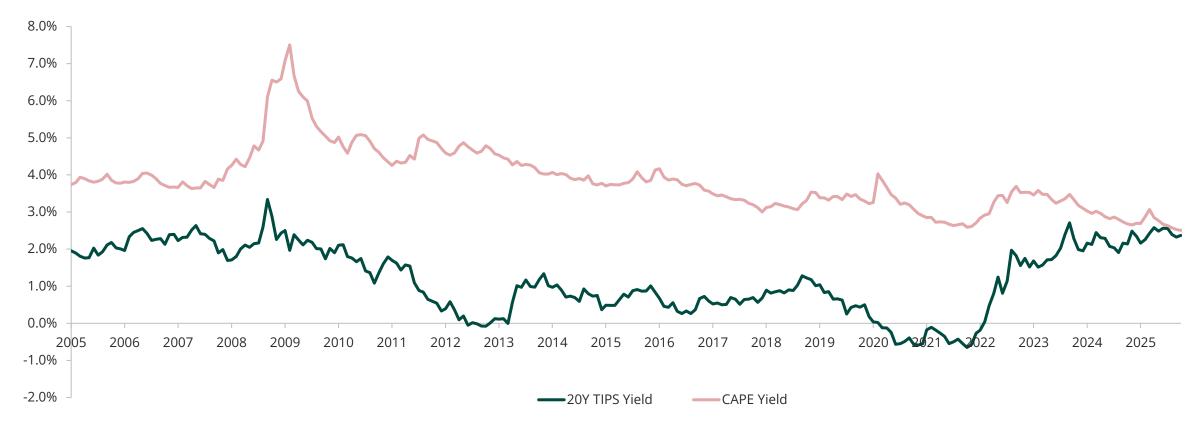




### WIZARD OF OZ ECONOMICS

# The equity risk premium or equity risk discount?

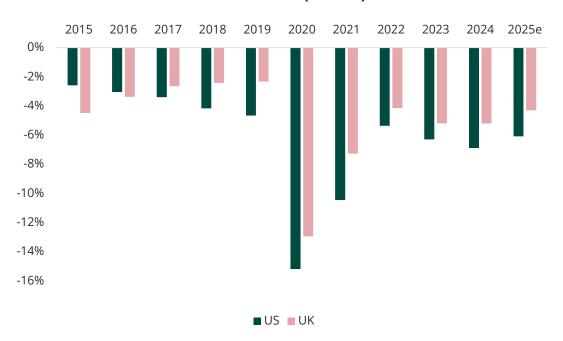
#### **CAPE YIELD vs 20 Year TIPS**



### WIZARD OF OZ ECONOMICS

# Run up of government debt is the second key leg of US growth

### US & UK Fiscal Balances 2015-2025e (% GDP)



### UK & US Government Debt to GDP (%)



### WIZARD OF OZ ECONOMICS

# Fine, but what is the catalyst?

**Politics** 

Geopolitics

**Slowing Economy** 

**Bond Market Weakness** 







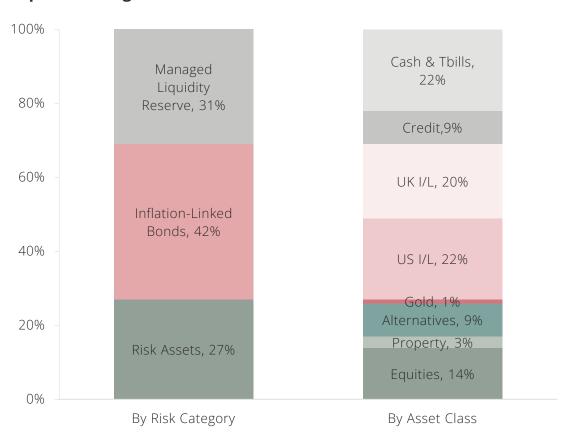


CGAM INVESTOR DAY 2025 46

### WIZARD OF OZ ECONOMICS

# Sometimes it pays to leave the dancefloor before the music stops

### **Capital Gearing Trust Asset Allocation October 2025**



### **Contribution by Asset Class LTM October 2025**

