The Fund's F Acc share class units returned -0.88% vs the S&P 500 Index ETF return of -2.21%, in sterling terms.

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The first three weeks of the month saw a continuation of the weakness in US equity markets, but the fall was halted by strong recovery in the last few days of the month, with the S&P 500 rising 6.6% in the final week. This was led by technology stocks but despite the recovery, the Nasdaq was still negative for the month, returning -2.05%. The best performing sector by far was energy, which rose 16.03% in the month, followed by utilities which were +4.31%. The energy sector has continued to perform well in part due to the rising oil price which was up another 9.53% in May and has delivered a positive return in every month this year. Natural Gas has also been very strong, +9.44% in the month, and both these inputs are adding pressure on consumers, as the cost of living continues to spiral higher.

We had some positive news for our largest holding, Eli Lilly. It has had a new drug approved for diabetes which helps patients lose weight. The drug, Mounjaro, is also in phase 3 clinical trials in obesity, and their most recent readout showed adults losing up to 22% of body weight. A safe and efficacious weight loss drug could be a multi-billion opportunity for Eli Lilly and it's likely to be a part of the weight loss program for many type 2 diabetic patients. We continue to like the Pharma group and healthcare more broadly and it is our biggest sector weighting.

# Market Outlook

The tone of the market continues to be defensive, and the action is risk-on sectors weak. There are intermittent rallies in sectors like tech and consumer discretionary, but they are not holding, as investors grapple with high inflation and slowing growth. There are pockets of the market which are performing better, and this is where we have the fund focused.

Our overweight positions continue to be Energy, Healthcare, Utilities and Staples and we have a cash position of around 8%. This elevated cash position will not be a constant and will ebb and flow as opportunities arise.

# Felix Wintle Fund Manager, VT Tyndall North American Fund, 31st May 2022

### Data sources: Bloomberg

#### **Contact Details:**

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