

13 May 2024

Liontrust Economic Advantage team appoints Natalie Bell as named manager of UK Smaller Companies and UK Micro Cap funds

[Liontrust](#), the specialist asset management company, has appointed Natalie Bell as a named manager of the Liontrust UK Smaller Companies and Liontrust UK Micro Cap funds.

Natalie joined Liontrust in 2021 as part of the Responsible Capitalism team, where she led engagement with investee companies across the full suite of Liontrust funds. She was appointed to the Economic Advantage team in August 2022 and has since supported on the day-to-day management of the funds, building her knowledge of the holdings and contributing to decisions on new additions, exits and trading. Prior to joining Liontrust, Natalie spent a number of years working in corporate governance and policy at EY and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

Anthony Cross, Head of the Liontrust Economic Advantage team, commented: *“Since moving across into fund management, Natalie has consistently impressed us with her diligence and skill in analysing companies. She has quickly become an integral member of the team, and her recent tenacity in leading our efforts to lobby for government support for the UK equity market has been especially notable. Natalie’s promotion to become a named manager of the UK Smaller Companies and UK Micro Cap funds is richly deserved and a natural step in her continued career progression.”*

Natalie Bell, fund manager, Liontrust Economic Advantage team added; *“As someone who is passionate about the UK market and the power of smaller companies, I am very proud to be stepping up as a named manager of the Liontrust UK Smaller Companies and UK Micro Cap funds. They have a strong heritage and I look forward to building on their success as part of this highly experienced team.”*

Natalie will continue to work closely on the other Economic Advantage funds with the existing named managers and Alexander Game, CFA, who was recently announced as a new hire for the Economic Advantage team and who starts at Liontrust today. Natalie’s appointment and Alexander’s arrival are very positive milestones in the ongoing development and evolution of the team.

The UK Smaller Companies and UK Micro Cap funds apply the [Economic Advantage](#) investment process. The Liontrust UK Smaller Companies Fund has one of the longest track records in the IA UK Smaller Companies sector, having been managed by Anthony Cross and his team for over 26 years. The Liontrust UK Micro Cap Fund launched in March 2016 as a dedicated vehicle for investors to access the smallest companies listed on the stock market. Both funds are ranked 1st in the IA UK Smaller Companies sector since their respective launch dates in January 1998 and March 2016 *.

* Source: Financial Express, as at 30.04.24, total return, bid-to-bid, net of fees, income reinvested.

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Notes to Editors:

Liontrust

Liontrust is an independent, specialist asset manager established in 1995, listed on the London Stock Exchange in 1999. Headquartered on the Strand in London with additional offices in Edinburgh and Luxemburg, Liontrust had £27.6 billion in AuMA as at 12 April 2024. Liontrust seeks to enable investors to enjoy a better financial future through investing in a range of global equities, fixed income, sustainable investment and multi-asset portfolios and funds.

Liontrust Economic Advantage team and funds

The Liontrust Economic Advantage team manages the Special Situations, GF Special Situations, UK Growth, GF UK Growth, UK Smaller Companies and UK Micro Cap funds. The Economic Advantage process seeks to identify companies that possess intangible assets which produce barriers to competition and provide a durable competitive advantage that allows the companies to defy industry competition and sustain a higher than average level of profitability for longer than expected. In the fund managers' experience, the hardest characteristics for competitors to replicate are three classes of intangible asset: intellectual property, strong distribution channels and significant recurring business.

Further details on the Economic Advantage team can be found [HERE](#)

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Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income generated from it can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. You may get back less than you originally invested.