

Statement on Budget 2014 – no effect on D Share offer

Investors may have seen the announcements in the Budget relating to VCTs. New investments in ROC and RHI based energy schemes will no longer be qualifying investments if they are made after Royal Assent of the Finance Bill, which is expected in July 2014.

The D share offer, which seeks to raise £20m of new investment for Ventus VCT plc and Ventus 2 VCT plc (the “Ventus Funds”), is structured such that the monies raised will be invested in pre-identified assets. Given the changes proposed in the Budget it is likely to be the last opportunity for investors to access wind investments as part of a new VCT offering.

One of the investments, a wind scheme at Halesworth in Suffolk, will be a ROC based investment. The D share offer was always structured to deploy capital into this project as soon as the monies had been raised under the D share offer. The Ventus Funds therefore anticipate making their final qualifying investment in this scheme in May 2014, far in advance of Royal Assent of the Finance Bill. Yesterday’s announcements therefore have no effect on the qualifying nature of our investment in this scheme.

D share proceeds will also be deployed in two hydro-electricity schemes. Our planned investments in these schemes fall under the Feed-in Tariff regime, which remains a qualifying investment for VCTs. In any event we again expect to deploy the capital in May 2014, in advance of Royal Assent.

The proposals in the Budget do not affect our existing ROC investments in the Ordinary and C share pools. Over the longer term however it is clear that new ROC based wind investments will not be qualifying investments for the Ventus Funds. The D share offer is therefore likely to be the last opportunity for investors to access wind investments as part of a new VCT offering.