



**HAWKSMOOR**  
FUND MANAGERS

***MI HAWKSMOOR  
VANBRUGH FUND***

***QUARTERLY REPORT  
Q2 2025***



*For investors who are looking to achieve both a positive return on their investments after inflation, and preserve capital over the medium term.*

## KEY POINTS THIS QUARTER

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- *Vanbrugh returned +8.4%, compared to the sector return of +3.8%*
- *We introduced three new holdings, and we exited three positions*
- *We increased cash and precious metals exposure*
- *We reduced exposure to listed equities, fixed income and real assets*

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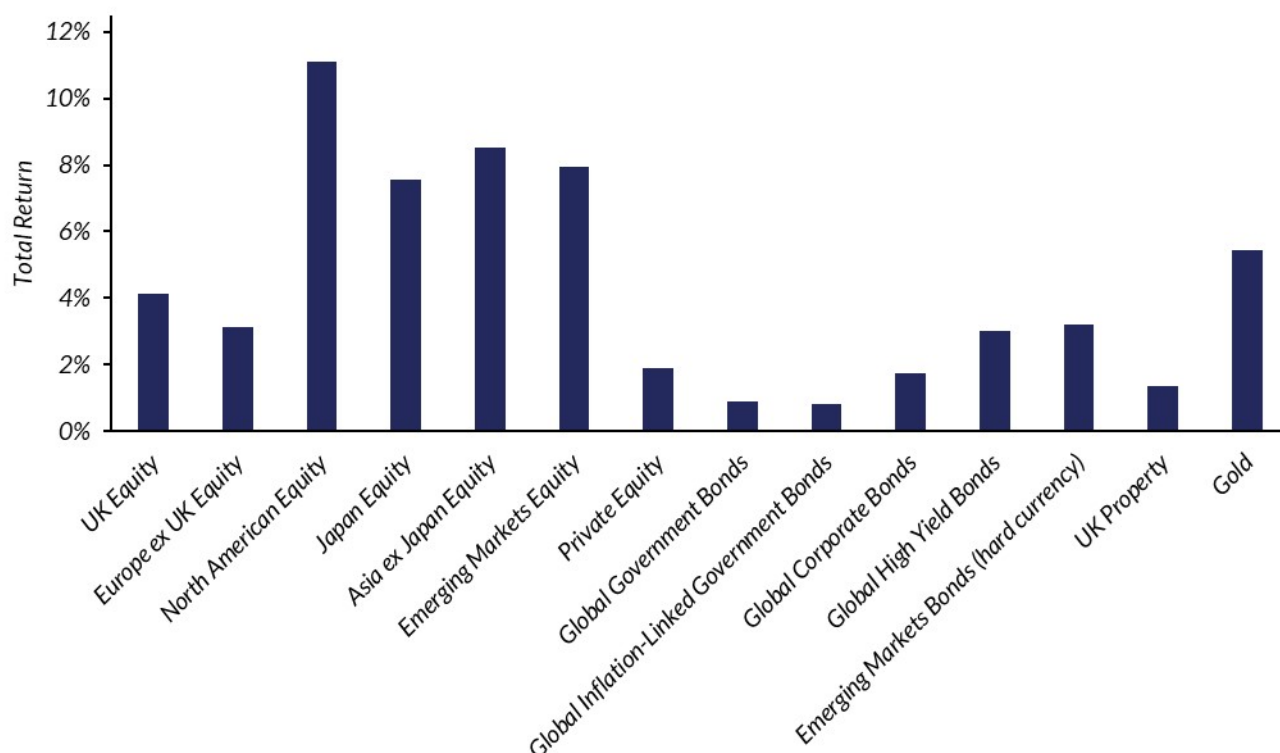
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# QUARTERLY MARKET PERFORMANCE



- Global equity markets staged a remarkable recovery from early April when US president Donald Trump shocked the world with his 'Liberation Day' tariffs. Even Israel's attack on Iran failed to have a lasting impact on investor sentiment with equities appreciating everywhere despite increased geopolitical risks and greater uncertainty regarding the trajectory of growth, inflation and monetary and fiscal policy. Despite being the focal point of these concerns, the US remarkably ended Q2 as the best performing major equity market in local currency terms. Returns for unhedged overseas investors were significantly diluted by dollar weakness, however, reflective perhaps of diminished confidence in US assets stemming from the Trump Administration's erratic policymaking. Other equity markets, particularly Asia and EM, enjoyed stellar quarterly returns whilst there was a marked rotation in UK equity market leadership where small and mid caps materially outperformed.
- Government bond yields moved modestly lower in most developed markets with the 10 year gilt yield ending the period 20bps lower at 4.5%. Credit spreads followed equity markets with the significant widening of early April fully reversed as risk sentiment improved.
- Gold had another strong quarter, benefitting from the weak dollar and heightened geopolitical risk.

Data: UK Equity - MSCI United Kingdom All Cap; Europe ex UK Equity - MSCI Europe ex UK; North American Equity - MSCI North America; Japan Equity - MSCI Japan; Asia ex Japan Equity - MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan; Emerging Markets Equity - MSCI Emerging Markets; Private Equity - IT Private Equity; Global Government Bonds - ICE BofA Global Government; Global Inflation-Linked Government Bonds - ICE BofA Global Inflation-Linked Government; Global Corporate Bonds - ICE BofA Global Government; Global High Yield Bonds - ICE BofA Global High Yield; Emerging Markets Bonds (hard currency) - ICE BofA US Emerging Markets External Sovereign; UK Property - IA UK Direct Property; Gold - WisdomTree Physical Gold USD.

Source: FE fundinfo local currency, 31/03/2025 to 30/06/2025. See MSCI and ICE disclaimers on final page.

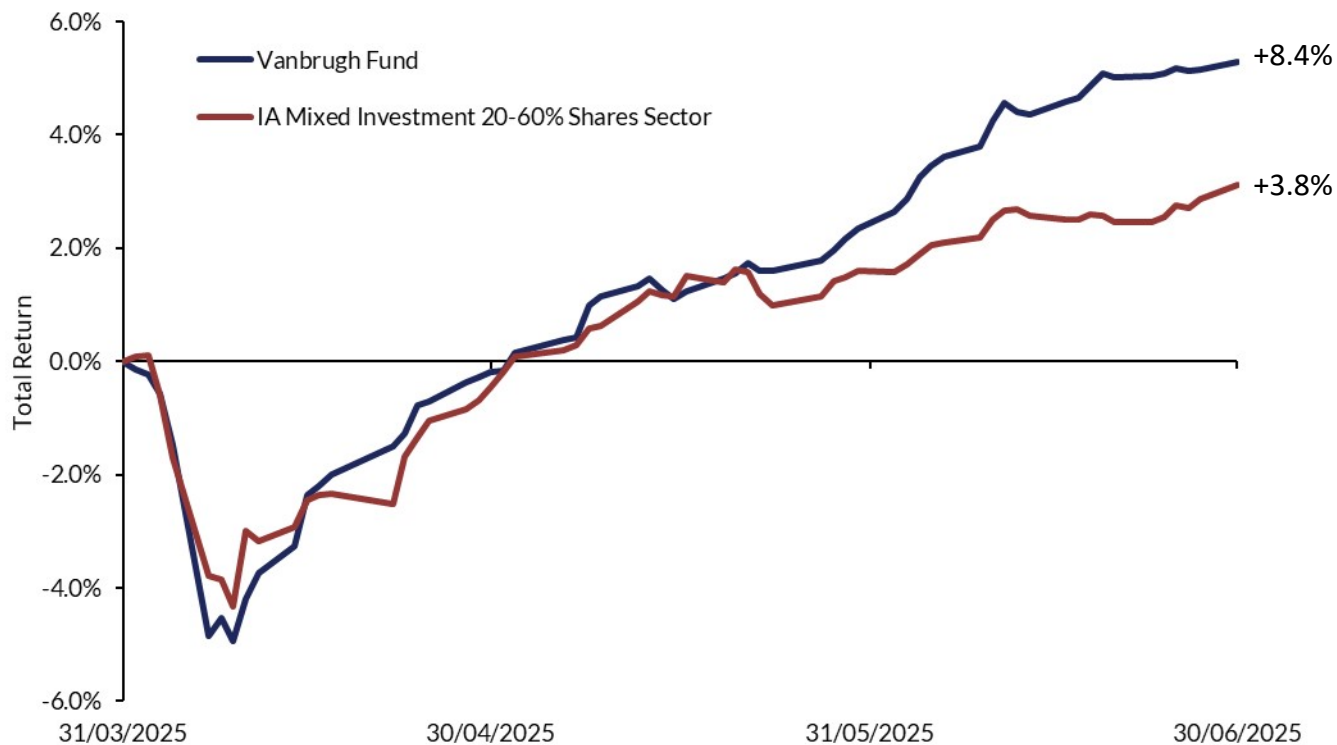
## QUARTERLY FUND PERFORMANCE

### Largest contributors:

- Konwave Gold Equity +0.49%
- Law Debenture Corp PLC +0.39%
- Strategic Equity Capital +0.34%

### Largest detractors:

- Smead US Value -0.13%
- iShares \$ Tips 0-5 years ETF -0.12%
- Harbourvest Global Private Equity -0.04%

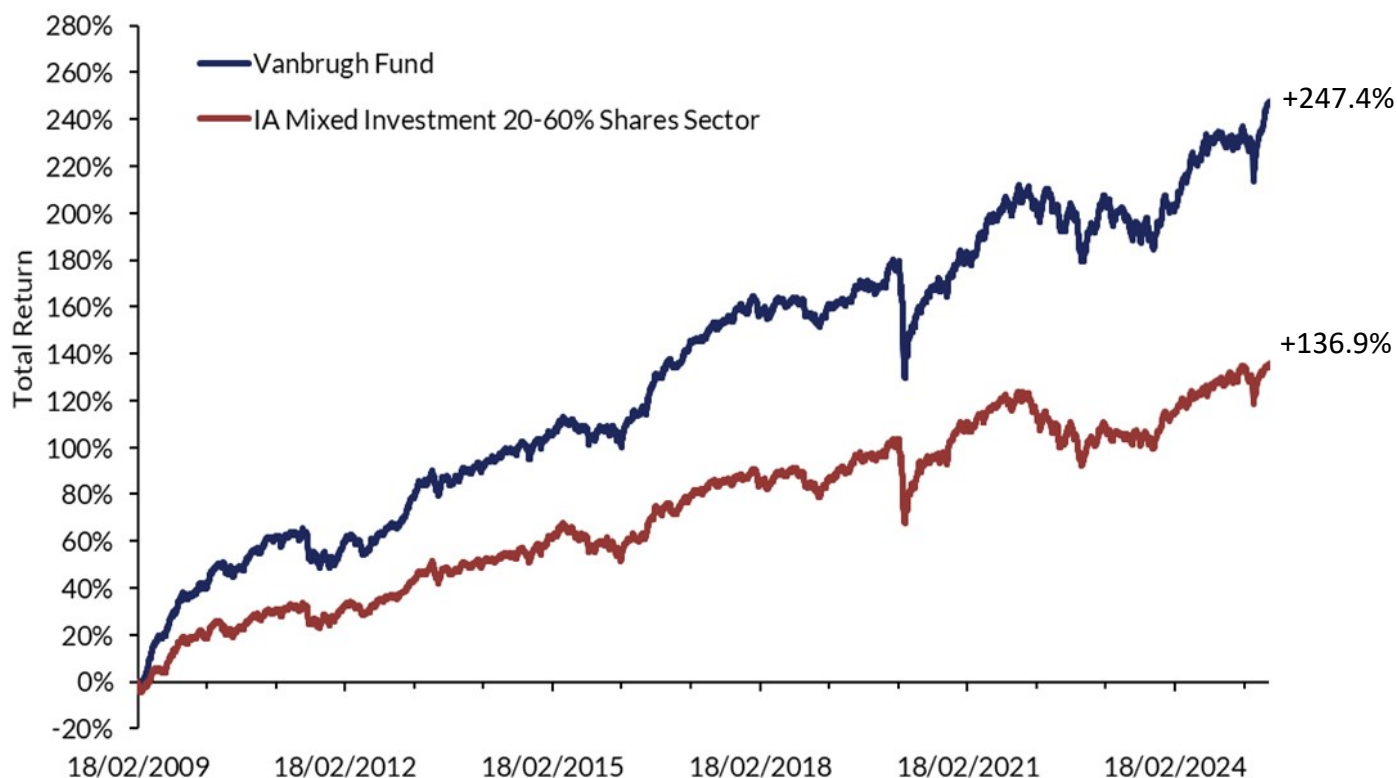


- Strong performance from physical gold translated through to strong performance for gold mining equities with Konwave Gold Equity the strongest contributor to returns with the fund rallying over 50% in the first half of the year.
- UK equities had another good period, with both Law Debenture (large caps) and Strategic Equity Capital (small caps) rallying sharply from the April lows. Small and mid caps caught up from the first quarter underperformance versus large caps, turbo-charging returns from this part of the portfolio.
- The biggest detractors were all investments with a significant exposure to the US dollar, which weakened versus sterling during the quarter. Smead US Value underperformed the US equity market, failing to keep up in the sharp rally from the market lows which was initially led by large cap growth stocks to which the value oriented portfolio is lowly exposed.

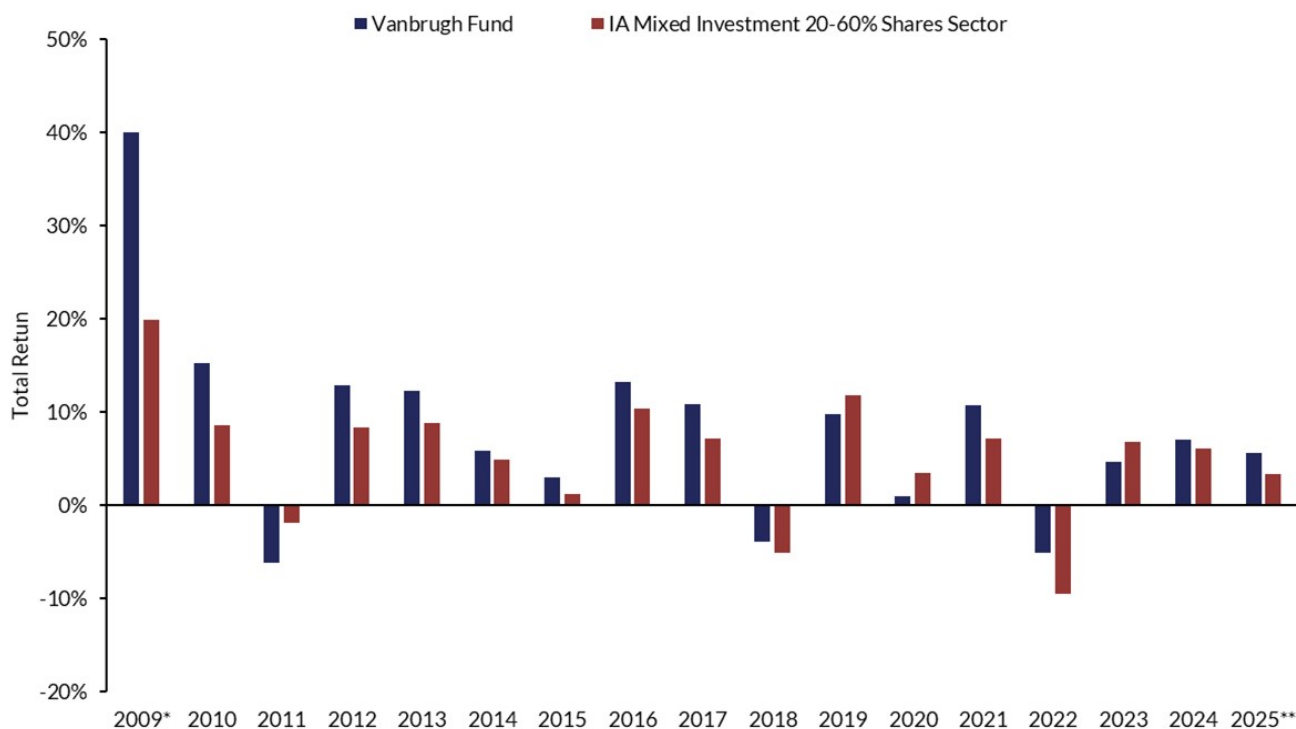
Source: FE fundinfo and internal, 31/03/2025 to 30/06/2025, must be held for entire period and uses month end weighting (text). FE fundinfo, 31/03/2025 to 30/06/2025 (chart).

## SINCE LAUNCH FUND PERFORMANCE

### Cumulative performance

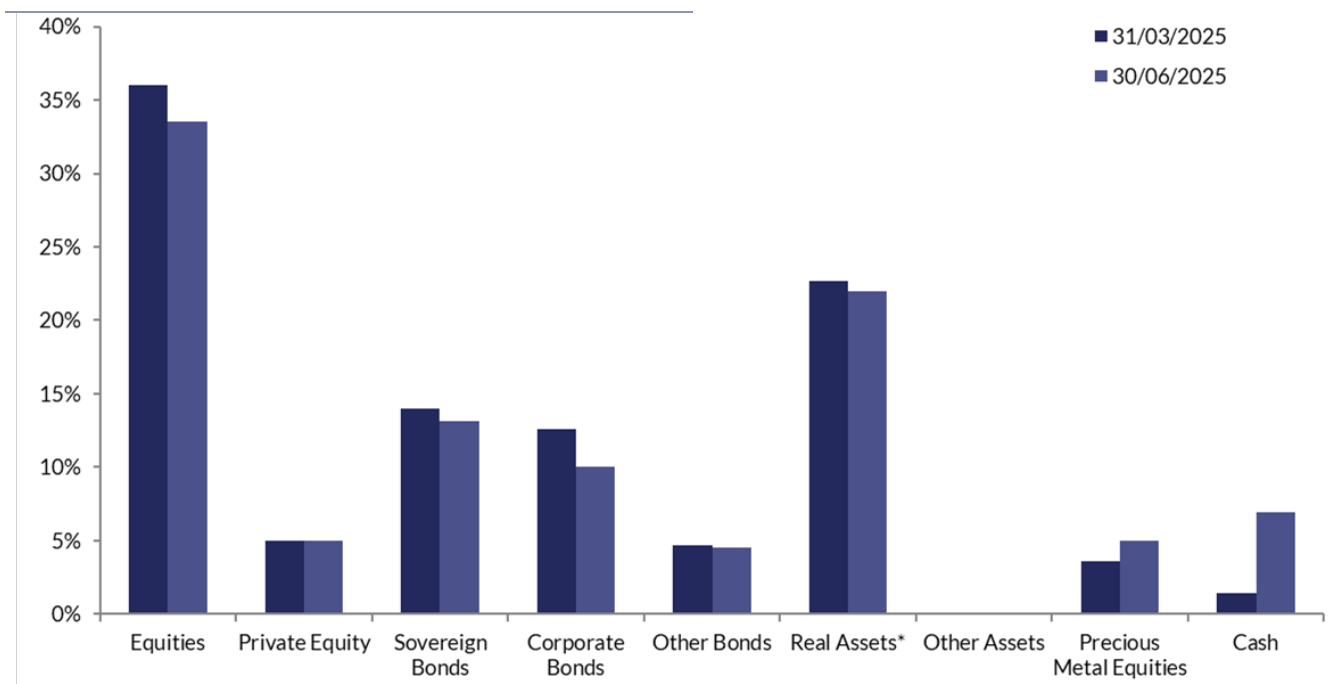


### Discrete calendar year performance



Source: FE fundinfo, 18/02/2009 to 30/06/2025 (top). \*From launch on 18/02/2009 (bottom). \*\* from 31/12/2024 to 30/06/2025.

## ACTIVITY



This chart calculates the asset breakdown on a look through basis of the underlying holdings, therefore there may be differences in the breakdown shown here and on page 7.

### Purchases:

- iShares UK Gilts 0-5yr UCITS ETF
- Foresight Solar Fund
- RiverNorth Relative Value

### Sales:

- Polar Capital Global Insurance
- Schroder Strategic Credit
- Urban Logistic REIT

### Summary:

- Dealing activity was elevated during April. In the initial market fall out from Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariff announcements, investment trust discounts widened. The team took the opportunity to reduce open ended fund exposure to top up investment trusts. Polar Capital Global Insurance, a defensive global equity fund, held up well in the initial declines and was exited alongside Schroder Strategic Credit to provide firepower to top up existing equity focused investment trusts. Due to the sharp recovery in equity markets, post period end Polar Capital Global Insurance was reintroduced and investment trust exposure reduced.
- Urban Logistics REIT was exited following the bid by London Metric, with the trust up over 50% year to date at the time of sale.
- Foresight Solar was introduced on a wide discount and offering an attractive starting dividend yield of c.10% with potential for dividend growth.
- iShares UK Gilts 0-5yr UCITS ETF was introduced, funded from a reduction in US TIPS exposure. This reduces exposure to the US dollar within the fund, and was done on the back of growing concerns about the defensive qualities of US government debt in weak market conditions given growing fiscal imprudence by the current administration.
- RiverNorth Relative Value was introduced, offering pure-play exposure to US investment trust discounts (hedge out market risk to isolate the discounts, then engage to close those discounts) via a highly experienced team.

Source: Internal, 30/06/2025, \*including Precious Metal Bullion.



# HOLDINGS

## Equities 42%

Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust  
Arcus Japan  
Artemis UK Select  
Augmentum Fintech  
Chikara Indian Subcontinent  
Chrysalis Investments  
CIM Dividend Income  
Foresight Solar Fund  
Harbourvest Global Private Equity  
Konwave Gold Equity  
Law Debenture Corp PLC  
M&G Japan Smaller Companies  
Nippon Active Value  
Oakley Capital Investments  
Odyssean Investment Trust  
Pacific North of South EM Income Opportunities  
Prusik Asian Equity Income  
Schroder Capital Global Innovation Trust  
Smead US Value  
Strategic Equity Capital  
The Mercantile Investment Trust  
VT De Lisle America  
VT Teviot UK Smaller Companies  
WS Lightman European

## Cash 8%

## Bonds 28%

Aegon European ABS  
Allianz Index-Linked Gilt  
BioPharma Credit  
GCP Infrastructure  
iShares \$ TIPS 0-5 years ETF (unhedged)  
iShares UK Gilts 0-5yr UCITS ETF  
Man Sterling Corporate Bond  
Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Opportunities  
RM Infrastructure Income  
TwentyFour Income

## Real Assets 21%

3i Infrastructure  
Achilles Investment Company  
Cordiant Digital Infrastructure  
Digital 9 Infrastructure  
FGEN Environmental Assets Group Ltd  
Greencoat UK Wind  
HICL Infrastructure  
International Public Partnerships  
Life Science REIT  
Phoenix Spree Deutschland  
Taylor Maritime  
The Renewables Infrastructure Group  
Tufton Oceanic Assets  
WisdomTree Core Physical Gold

## Other Assets 2%

RiverNorth Relative Value

# OUTLOOK

The dominant performance of index heavy, expensive US mega-cap growth stocks is coming under pressure from a change in narrative around the US market. The actions of President Donald Trump have been extraordinary: introducing penal tariffs on imports, disputing lawmakers, questioning the independence of the Federal Reserve, and significantly increasing the future debt burden of the nation with the introduction of his 'big, beautiful bill'. Our investment process is not reliant on trying to predict what will happen next in global politics, what the next inflation print will be, or the reaction function of central banks. Instead, we are focused on making sure Vanbrugh is well diversified, invested in portfolios of assets with attractive starting valuations that should underpin good long term returns for investors regardless of the short term gyrations in financial markets.

Concerns around US financial assets, which have dominated global capital markets over the past 15 years, may result in capital flowing into areas that have been left behind and where valuations are compelling: UK, European, and Asian equities, alternative asset classes like renewable and core infrastructure and property, defensive assets like physical gold and the related gold mining equities. These form a material part of Vanbrugh's portfolio.

In addition, the opportunity for idiosyncratic returns not dependent on the daily-changing mind of the US president are elevated. Discounts across the investment trust universe remain at wide levels, activism from shareholders to unlock that value is rising, and investment trust Boards in aggregate are increasingly focused on returning capital to shareholders through rising dividends and buybacks, as well as more extreme measures including tenders and winding vehicles up.

Source: Internal, 30/06/2025. Each fund has been allocated to an asset class for this breakdown, therefore there may be differences in the breakdown shown here and on the asset breakdown chart on page 6.

## CONTACT US

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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