

# Empiric Student Property plc

2024 Interim Results 15 August 2024

# Duncan Garrood

Chief Executive Officer



Empiric Student Property plc

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Financial results
- Business update
- Q&A



### **Continued Strong Progress**

### Revenue

LfL rental growth of **10.5% for AY 23/24** with **6%+ for AY 24/25** 

99% Occupancy for AY 23/24

92% Occupancy to date for AY 24/25

Revenue growth above inflation

### Margin and valuation

H1 Gross margin improved 0.5% to 72%

**Property valuation** £1.1bn, **up 1.3% net LfL** (+3.8% when adjusted for the impact of MDR)

EPRA NTA per share 122.8p, up 1.7%

### **Portfolio optimisation**

Total disposals £115m, **above book value in aggregate,** with a further two city exits achieved

Refurbished 173-bed Southampton hub site **reopening in September**, **securing strong rental growth** 

### Growth

**Acquisition** of two excellent opportunities in key top-tier cities

**Planning application submitted** for 200+ bed extension to Manchester hub site

Postgrad by Hello Student **JV in** exclusive talks at pivotal point

### **Customer service**

**Our highest ever** NPS up 5 points to +37, double the sector average

ESP highest customer satisfaction rate achieved at 87%

Secured >50% of eligible re-bookers, **another all-time high** 

### Dividend

1.75p paid and declared, **up 7.7%** on H1 23

**3.5p minimum dividend target** for FY 24

# Donald Grant

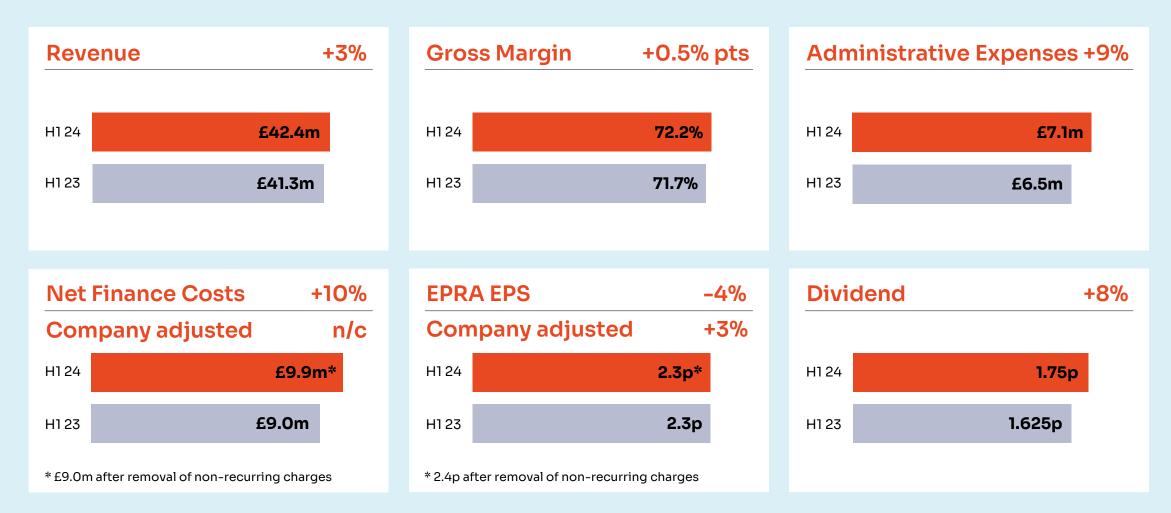
Chief Financial & Sustainability Officer



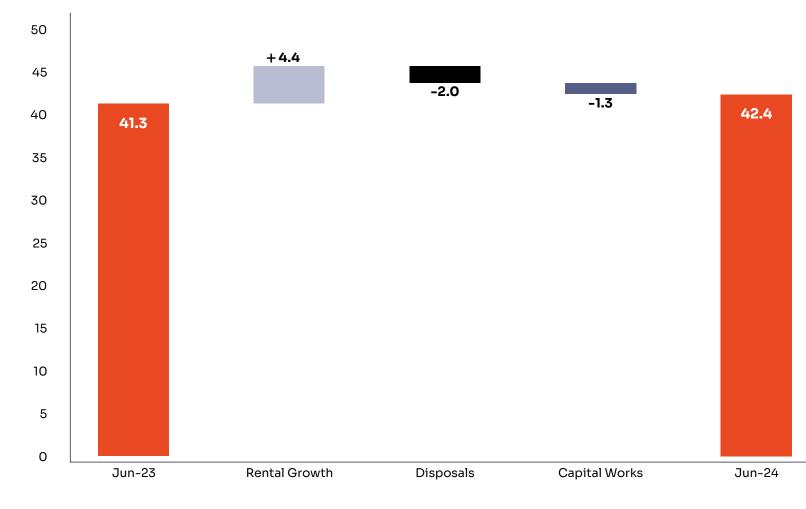
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# Financial Headlines | H1 2024

#### **Income Statement**



## **Evolution of Revenue (£m)**



Revenue growth **10,5%** like for like

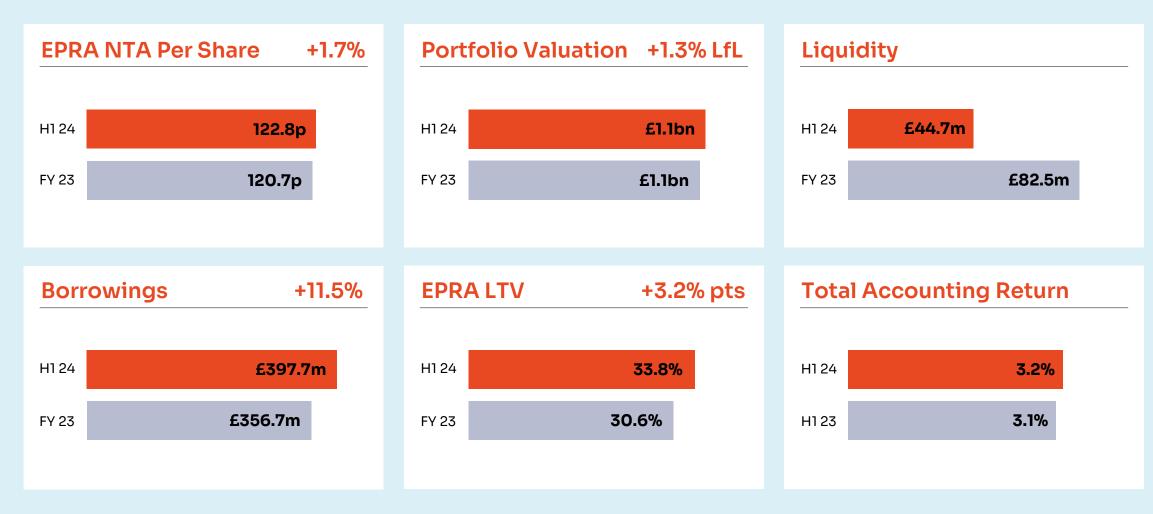
Capital works expected to add

£1.0m+

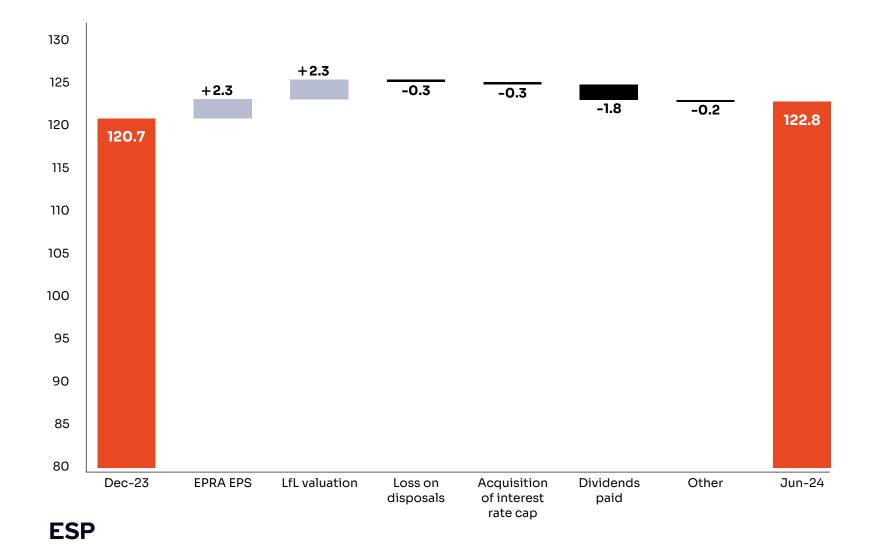
incremental income (annualised)

# Financial Headlines | H1 2024

**Balance Sheet** 



# **Evolution of EPRA NTA (p)**



#### **Operational Portfolio**

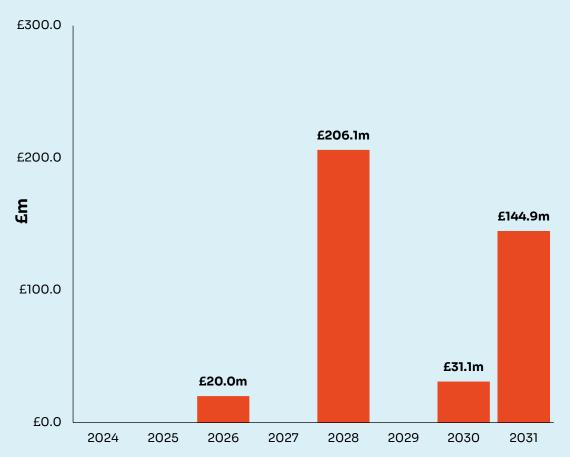


Reversionary yield

**5.5%** (captured from September)

# **Debt & Liquidity**

Drawn debt



#### 30 June 2024

Average ICR covenant

Weighted average term

**5.1** years

**1.9**x

(FY 23: 2.0x)

Weighted average cost of debt

4.6%

(FY 23: 4.3%)

Debt with interest rate protection

95%

(FY 23: 88%)

**EPRA LTV** 

(FY 23: 3.9 years)

33.8%

(FY 23: 30.6%)

Ungeared property value

£105.5m

Cash and undrawn facilities

**£44.7**m

(FY 23: £82.5m)

# **Capital Expenditure**

	Refurbishments	Fire safety work	Green initiatives
5 Year Plan: 2021-2025	<b>£36 million</b> on refurbishing buildings	<b>£46 million</b> on fire safety work on our buildings	<b>£12 million</b> on green initiatives to reduce energy consumption and costs
	(Target IRR of 9% - 11%)	(70% of properties certified) (NAV neutral)	(reduce energy consumption and improve performance)
Total invested since 2021	£29.4 million	£25.7 million	£3.7 million
Invested in H1 2024	£8.1 million	£8.5 million	£2.0 million
Forecast H2 2024	£2.7 million	£5.1 million	£2.5 million

## Financial Outlook | 2024

### Revenue occupancy | AY 24/25 Effectively full (>97%)

LfL growth >6%

### Costs 70% Gross margin C.£15M Administrative costs

Energy fix ends in September with £2m annualised increase anticipated

### Finance costs

**4.6%** Weighted average cost

### Operational beds | AY 24/25 c.7,700

Incl. c.200 beds returning post refurbishment

### Capital expenditure

£10m

Forecast investment in Refurbishment, Fire safety & Green initiatives in H2 2024

**Dividend 2024 3.5** Target reconfirmed, progressive, paid quarterly

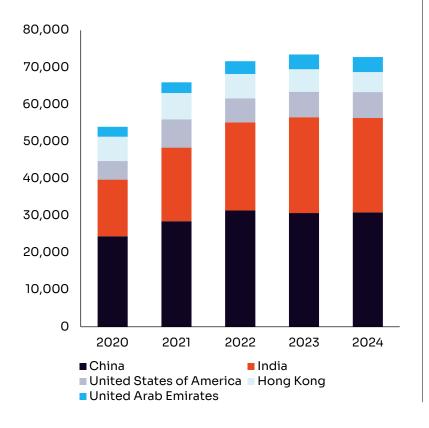
# Duncan Garrood

Chief Executive Officer

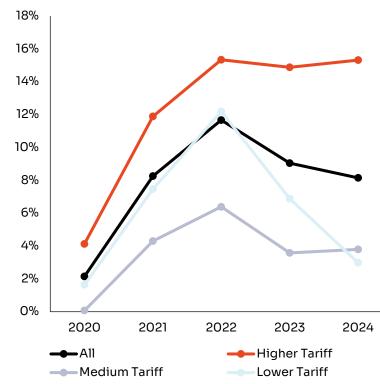


### UK Student Market Remains strong for target customers

**Top 5 International UCAS Undergraduate Applications** 2020 – 2024



UCAS Application Growth by Tariff (%) Undergraduate Applications 2020 - 2024



AY 24/25 vs AY 23/24

Applicants from China (ex HK)

**O.5%** to 30,860

Applications from UK 18 Yr olds

**0.6%** to 321,410

Applications to Higher Tariff Universities

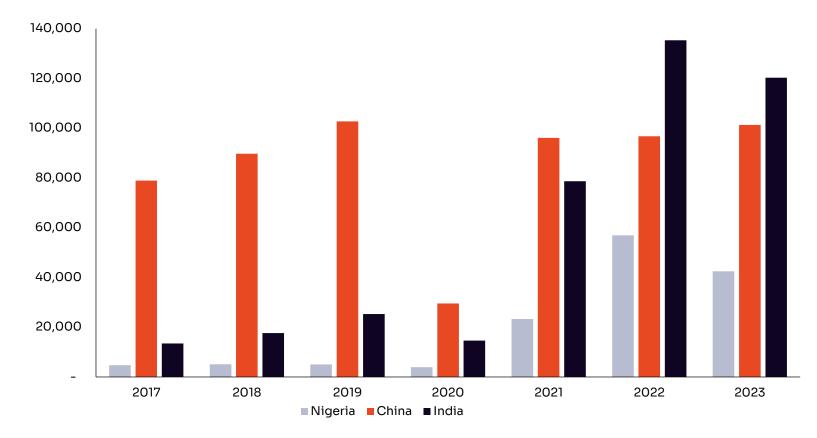
**O.4%** to 1,254,280

Overall Applicants down

**1.6%** to 656,770

### UK Student Visa Applications Remains strong for target market

**Issued Sponsored Study Visas – All Applications (incl. Postgraduates)** Whilst **China** grows, **India** falls



Decline in total International Student Visa applications continued in Q1 2024

Main applicant numbers remained robust with majority of decline from dependent applications

Record numbers of Hello Student bookings from international markets for AY24/25

### Commercial Growth – Our Key Strategies

### Solid infrastructure and innovation

Consistent and comprehensive processes



Provide great clustered buildings



Create memorable customer experiences



Leverage strong brands



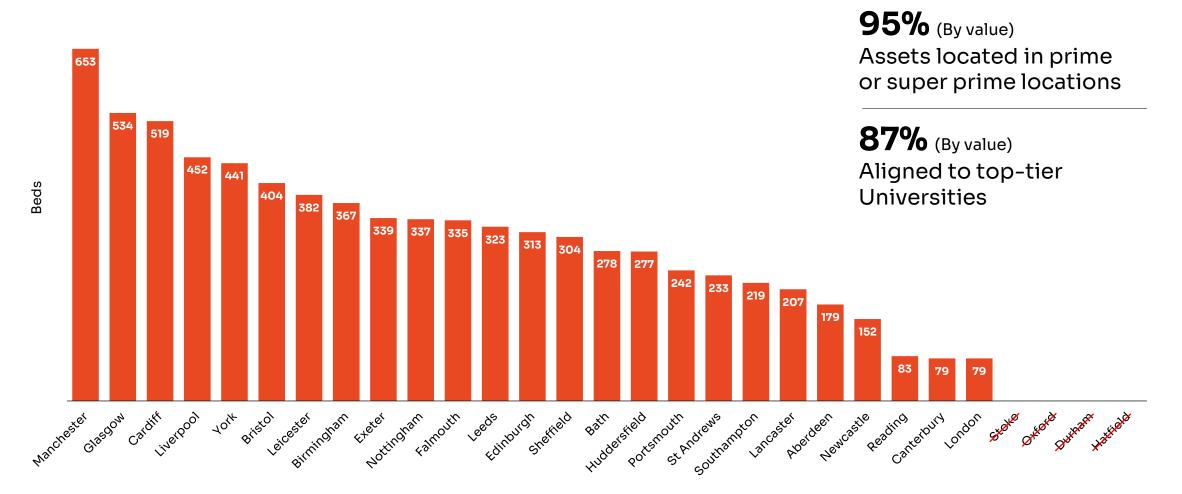
Develop people and drive performance



**Deliver ESG** 

# **Provide Great Buildings**

Current Operational Beds (c.7,750)



## **Growing the Portfolio and Returns**

Extending Existing Clusters With Operational Assets

**10%+ IRR** Unlevered returns

> 300+ Operational Beds Under Offer



Asset Transformations and Refurbishments Program

9-11% IRR Unlevered returns

> 500+ Beds Planned in 2025



Developments and Planning Enhancements

12%+ IRR Unlevered returns

> 300+ beds Planning Submitted



# Acquisitions – Growing a Prime Cluster

Claremont House, Glasgow

7.5%+ NIY AY24/25 10%+ IRR Forecast returns

**94 Beds (**54 Studios) Roof Terrace, lounge, gym and cinema

**Strong Cluster** 10 mins walk of ESP existing properties

**Refurbishment Upside** Ability to reposition and unlock further

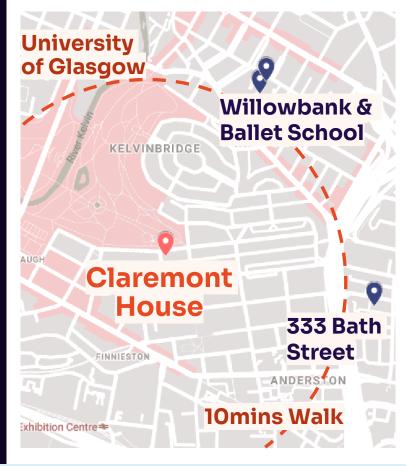
performance following full refurbishment

#### West End Location

Limited supply in micro location and builds on existing strong market share







## **Refurbishments – Creating Great Buildings**

#### Brunswick House, Southampton 173 rooms + Extended Amenity

#### **Rooms Upgraded**

All rooms refurbished including layout reconfiguration and creating more studios

#### **Increased Amenity**

Converting a retail unit into a new gym, private dining, co-working and lounges

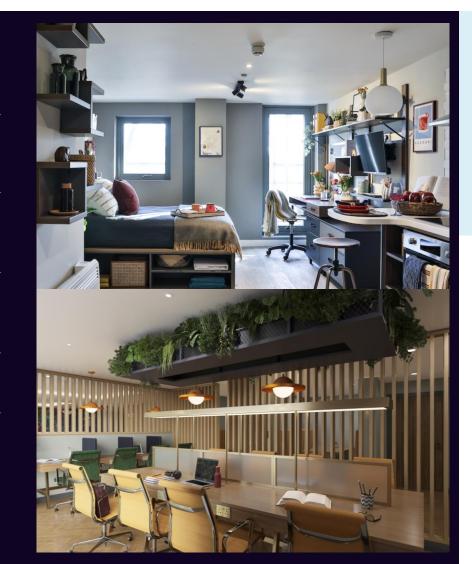
#### Decarbonised

ASHPs, solar panels and in room controls allowing removal of gas

#### >50% Rental Uplift

Increase from AY22/23 to AY24/25 achieved

#### **9%+ IRR** Comfortably delivering required return



#### **Refurbishment Program**

800+ rooms completed

#### £29.5m invested to date

9–11% IRR Target Unlevered returns

#### **Remaining Program**

10	760	8%
assets	beds	of Portfolio

#### AY25/26 Plan:

- 500+ Beds
- Reconfigure **shared apartments** into studios
- Rolling or Summer programs
- Complementing **Net Zero** pathway

# **Postgrad – Growing the Brand**

#### **Postgrad Summary**

18 assets

**1,298** beds

**17%** of Portfolio

#### Offering

Buildings **solely** for Postgraduate students

Predominantly **studios** 

Designed for sharing and **greater independence** 

**Embedded tech** to facilitate remote management

Hub based service and amenities via buildings in the cluster

Well located close to Universities







#### **JV Update**

Exclusive discussions at pivotal point

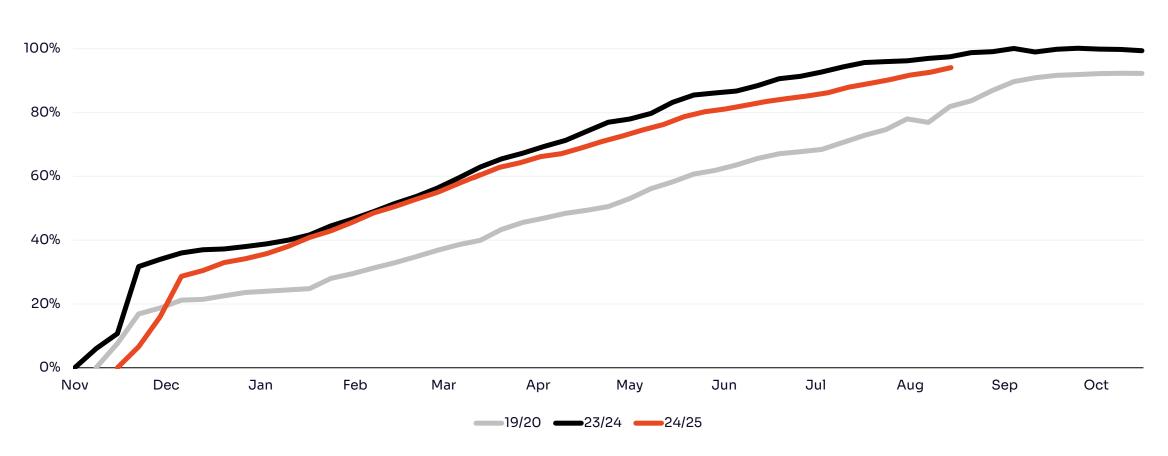
Refurbish assets to Postgrad

Expand the portfolio beyond initial assets

ESP and Hello Student to continue to manage JV properties

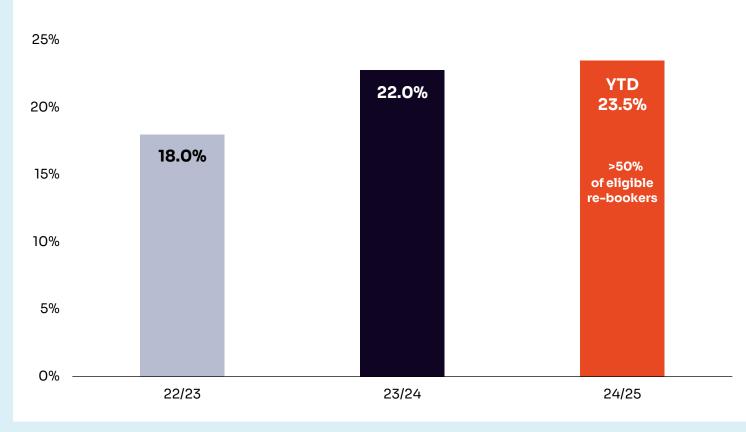
Utilising Hub and Spoke operating model

### **Revenue Occupancy** Bookings To Date AY 24/25



# Service experience leading to happy repeat customers

#### % Re-bookers



Excellent customer experience has led to a higher than ever re-booker rate

Wellbeing impact of our accommodation on our customers has **increased from 71% 2023 to 79% in 2024** 

Significantly higher customer satisfaction scores from minority groups than average across private halls

### **Best Ever Customer Experience Scores**



Hello Student NPS, **more than double** the score for all private halls at **+14** 

Customer Satisfaction Score (rating our accommodation as good or very good) **8% higher than the score for all private halls** 

**Award finalists for GSLI** 2024 Awards



## **Develop People and Drive Performance**

Continued focus on securing and supporting the best talent for future growth

### Coaching

Internal promotions at 59% over rolling 12 months

Variable compensation schemes **fully aligned** to strategic KPIs

**Leadership development** programmes implemented at all levels

Apprenticeship programme launched



### Coordination

Continued investment in **up-skilling our people** to support mental health and wellbeing

Quarterly review and feedback of internal customer service provided between functions to focus on continuous improvements and improved **Ways of Working** 

### Communication



**Engagement survey** feedback and action planning in progress

ESG initiatives and engagement shared across **multi channel communication** to support engagement

### Commitment

Team engagement at 78%

Retention at 82%

Good progress towards fundraising target for charity partner **Stop.Breathe.Think** 

>100 charity days by Team Members in H1 2024



### **Delivering Attractive Sustainable Returns**

**Revenue occupancy expectation** for AY 24/25 >97%

LfL rental growth +6%, above inflation

Portfolio management opportunities continue to deliver **attractive returns** 

Actively managing the portfolio to grow the quality and quantity of beds Drive EBITDA growth through growth and leverage operating platform

**Good operating margins 70%+** 

Minimum 3.5p dividend

# Appendix



## Income Statement | H1 2024

	Six months to 30 June 2024 £m	Six months to 30 June 2023 £m
Revenue	42.4	41.3
Property Expenses	(11.8)	(11.7)
Gross Profit	30.6	29.6
Gross Margin %	72.2%	71.7%
Administrative expenses	(7.1)	(6.5)
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Property	13.7	10.3
(Loss) / gain on fair valuation of derivatives	(0.6)	0.8
Loss on Disposal of Investment Property	(1.9)	(0.6)
	34.7	33.6
Net Finance Expense	(9.9)	(9.0)
Net Profit	24.8	24.6
Dividends paid/declared (pence)	1.75	1.625
EPRA earnings per share (pence)	2.3	2.3
Company adjusted earnings per share (pence)	2.4	2.3

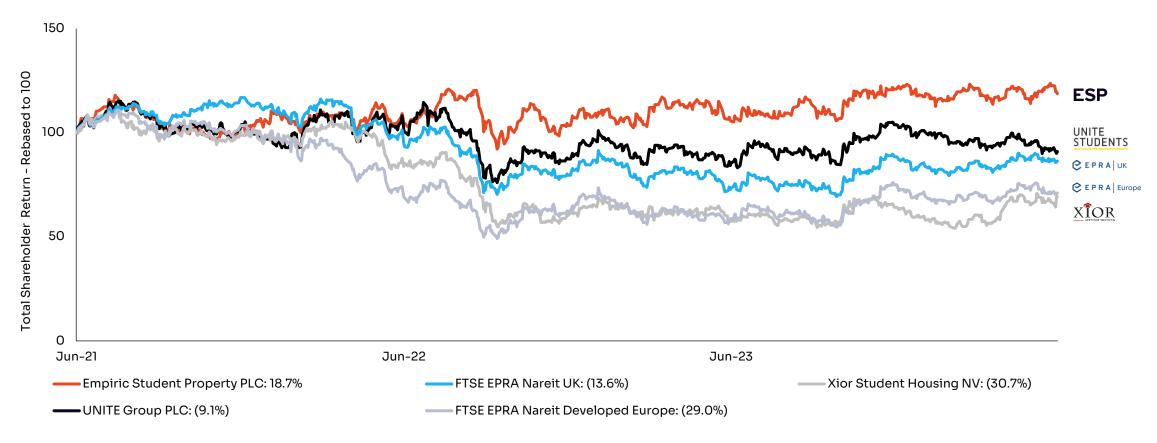
#### ESP

# Financial Position | H1 2024

	30 June 2024 £m	31 December 2023 £m
Investment property	1,119.1	1,075.7
Assets classified as held for sale	16.5	22.4
Cash on hand	44.7	40.5
Trade and other receivables	4.2	6.5
Intangible & right of use assets	5.4	4.3
Property, plant and equipment	1.0	0.8
Derivative financial instruments	1.2	0.1
Total Assets	1,192.1	1,150.3
Borrowings	397.7	356.7
Deferred income	12.3	34.9
Trade and other payables	32.7	23.4
Lease Liability	1.0	1.1
Total Liabilities	443.7	416.1
Net Assets	748.4	734.2
EPRA NTA per share (pence)	122.8	120.7

### **Listed Peers TSR Performance**

#### **European Student Housing**



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