# DIVISION OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

July 10, 2020

Via Email

Harry Pangas Dechert LLP 1900 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20006 harry.pangas@dechert.com

Re: Barings Capital Investment Corporation

Registration Statement on Form 10

File No. 000-56180

Dear Mr. Pangas:

On June 26, 2020, you filed a registration statement on Form 10 on behalf of Barings Capital Investment Corporation (the "Company"). We have reviewed the registration statement and have provided our comments below. Where a comment is made in one location, it is applicable to all similar disclosure appearing elsewhere in the registration statement. All capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meaning given to them in the registration statement.

Please respond to this letter within ten (10) business days by either amending the filing, providing the requested information, or advising us when you will provide the requested information. We may have additional comments after reviewing your responses to the following comments, or any amendment to the filing.

We note that the Company is voluntarily registering shares of its common stock under Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"). Please note that a filing on Form 10 goes effective automatically by lapse of time 60 days after the original filing date, pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12(g)(1). If our comments are not satisfactorily addressed within this 60-day time period, you should consider withdrawing the Company's Form 10 prior to its effectiveness, and re-filing a revised Form 10 that includes changes responsive to our comments. If the Company chooses not to withdraw its Form 10 registration statement, it will be subject to the reporting requirements of Exchange Act Section 13(a). Additionally, we will continue to review the filing until all of our comments have been satisfactorily addressed.

#### **LEGAL COMMENTS**

#### Page 1 – Explanatory Note

1. Please add the following:

- a. The Company is an "emerging growth company," as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012. As a result, the Company is eligible to take advantage of certain reduced disclosure and other requirements that are otherwise applicable to public companies including, but not limited to, not being subject to the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. See "Item 1. Business JOBS Act."
- b. The Commission maintains an Internet Website (http://www.sec.gov) that contains the reports mentioned in this section.
- 2. The fourth bullet point states, "We do not intend to list our shares on any securities exchange for what may be a significant time and we do not expect a secondary market in the shares to develop." In the prospectus, please add disclosure that specifies the Company's intentions regarding an exchange listing, a liquidation, and/or any other liquidity event. Please include an estimated timeframe for these events.
- 3. The second sentence of the fifth bullet point states, "Any capital returned to you through distribution will be disturbed after payment of fees and expenses." Please add an "s" after "distribution" and change "disturbed" to "distributed."

#### Page 4 – Item 1. Business

4. In the second paragraph of the section titled, "The Company," disclosure states,

We expect to conduct private offerings (the "Private Offering") of our Common Stock to investors in reliance on exemptions from the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). At the closing of any Private Offering, each investor will make a capital commitment (a "Capital Commitment") to purchase shares of our Common Stock pursuant to a subscription agreement entered into with us (a "Subscription Agreement"). Investors will be required to fund drawdowns ("Drawdowns") to purchase shares of our Common Stock up to the amount of their respective Capital Commitments on an as needed basis with a minimum of 10 calendar days' prior notice to the investors ("Drawdown Notice").

- a. Please supplementally indicate on which exemptions you will rely and the basis for your reliance.
- b. Please disclose in the prospectus what happens to investors that fail to honor their obligations.
- 5. In the last sentence of the second paragraph of the section titled, "The Company," disclosure states, "We anticipate commencing our loan origination and investment activities contemporaneously with the initial closing of the Private Offering, which is expected to occur in the second quarter of 2020 (the 'Closing')." Given that the second quarter of 2020 has passed, please revise the timeline accordingly.

- 6. In the first sentence of the first paragraph of the section titled, "Description of Business," disclosure states, "We are a financial services company that will primarily lend to and invest in senior secured private debt investments in performing, well-established middle-market businesses that operate across a wide range of industries." Please provide a plain English definition of "performing."
- 7. In the third sentence of the third paragraph of the section titled, "Description of Business," disclosure states, "Barings will employ fundamental credit analysis, and target investments in businesses with low levels of cyclicality and operating risk relative to other businesses in this market segment." Please provide a plain English definition of "cyclicality."
- 8. In the third paragraph of the section titled, "Description of Business," please disclose the expected credit quality and maturity of the Company's investments. Please include the term "junk bonds" in describing debt instruments that will be rated below investment grade or which, if unrated, would be rated below investment grade if they were rated.

#### Page 5 – Item 1. Business

9. In the first paragraph at the top of the page, disclosure states, "We will initially focus on investing in syndicated senior secured loans, bonds and other fixed income. We expect to transition to investing in predominately senior secured private debt investments in performing, well-established middle-market businesses that operate across a wide range of industries." Please add disclosure after this sentence explaining the difference between the initial and future investments.

#### **Page 6 – Investment Committee**

10. The "Investment Team" is defined on the previous page while the "Investment Committee" is defined on this page. Please explain what the differences are between the two groups.

#### Page 20 – Regulation as a Business Development Company

11. In the last sentence of the second paragraph, disclosure states, "We may also borrow amounts up to 5.0% of the value of our total assets for temporary *or emergency* purposes without regard to asset coverage (emphasis added)." The additional 5% is available only for temporary purposes, regardless of whether there are also emergency purposes. Please revise this section to indicate that the additional 5% borrowings described in this section are limited to borrowing for temporary purposes as that term is defined in section 18(g) of the 1940 Act.

#### Page 35 – Inability to Meet Investment Objective or Investment Strategy

12. It appears that the Company may hold a significant amount of covenant-lite loans. If the Company will hold a significant amount of covenant-lite loans, please revise your principal risks disclosure to include the heightened risks associated with covenant-lite loans.

## <u>Page 35 – There are potential conflicts of interest, including the management of other investment funds and accounts by Barings, which could impact our investment returns.</u>

13. Please disclose whether the Company has any policies and procedures for managing conflicts of interest, and if so, what those policies and procedures are.

#### Page 40 – PIK Interest Payments

- 14. Please disclose that, to the extent original issue discount instruments, such as zero coupon bonds and PIK loans, constitute a significant portion of the Company's income, investors will be exposed to typical risks associated with such income being required to be included in taxable and accounting income prior to receipt of cash, including the following:
  - a. The higher interest rates of PIK loans reflect the payment deferral and increased credit risk associated with these instruments, and PIK instruments generally represent a significantly higher credit risk than coupon loans;
  - b. PIK loans may have unreliable valuations because their continuing accruals require continuing judgments about the collectability of the deferred payments and the value of any associated collateral;
  - c. Market prices of zero-coupon or PIK securities are affected to a greater extent by interest rate changes and may be more volatile than securities that pay interest periodically and in cash. PIKs are usually less volatile than zero-coupon bonds, but more volatile than cash pay securities;
  - d. Because original issue discount income is accrued without any cash being received by the Company, required cash distributions may have to be paid from offering proceeds or the sale of Company assets without investors being given any notice of this fact;
  - e. The deferral of PIK interest increases the loan-to-value ratio, which is a measure of the riskiness of a loan;
  - f. Even if the accounting conditions for income accrual are met, the borrower could still default when the Company's actual payment is due at the maturity of the loan; and
  - g. Original issue discount creates risk of non-refundable cash payments to the adviser based on non-cash accruals that may never be realized.

#### Page 41 – Senior Securities

15. In the first sentence, disclosure states that the Company may issue debt securities or preferred stock. Please confirm that the Company does not intend to issue debt securities or preferred stock within a year of the effective date of the registration statement, or add appropriate disclosure.

### <u>Page 41 – We may invest in revolving credit facilities or make other similar financial commitments.</u>

16. In the first sentence of the first paragraph, disclosure states, "We may acquire or originate revolving credit facilities from time to time. Under a revolving credit facility, we may be required to fund amounts due in a shorter timeframe than the time in which we may be able to call capital from our investors. As a result, there is a risk that we may not have sufficient liquidity to fund all or a portion of the amounts due." Please explain to us whether the Company will make capital commitments that may be unfunded for some period of time. If so, please explain to us whether the Company will treat its unfunded commitments as senior securities under section 61 of the Investment Company Act. If the Company will have unfunded commitments that it will not treat as senior securities, please provide us with a representation that the Company reasonably believes that its assets will provide adequate cover to allow it to satisfy its future unfunded investment commitments, and include an explanation as to why the Company believes it will be able to cover its future unfunded investment commitments.

#### ACCOUNTING COMMENTS

#### Page 15 – Definition of "Floating Rate"

- 1. Please describe if the change in the calculation of incentive fees will require a shareholder vote for the change in advisory agreement.
- 2. It appears the initial floating rate will be based upon a 3 month LIBOR. After a transition event SOFR will be utilized. As SOFR is an overnight rate, please supplementally describe how the Company will adjust to a 3 month tenor and if it is expected that there will be a material difference between the rates upon transition.

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We remind you that the Company and its management are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of their disclosures, notwithstanding any review, comments, action or absence of action by the staff. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (202) 551-5166.

Sincerely, /s/ Lisa N. Larkin Lisa N. Larkin Senior Counsel

cc: Vincent Di Stefano, Branch Chief