

PARAGON PENSION INVESTMENTS GP LIMITED

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 30 September 2022

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

Sections of this Annual Report, including but not limited to the Directors' Report may contain forward-looking statements with respect to certain of the plans and current goals and expectations relating to the future financial condition, business performance and results of the Paragon Pension Investments GP Limited ('the Company'). These statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as 'anticipate', 'estimate', 'expect', 'intend', 'will', 'project', 'plan', 'believe', 'target' and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements. These have been made by the directors in good faith using information available up to the date on which they approved this report, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements for any reason other than in accordance with its legal or regulatory obligations (including under the UK Market Abuse Regulation).

By their nature, all forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty because they relate to future events and circumstances that are beyond the control of the Company and depend upon circumstances that may or may not occur in the future that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. There are also a number of factors that could cause actual future financial conditions, business performance, results or developments to differ materially from the plans, goals and expectations expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements and forecasts. As a result, you are cautioned not to place reliance on such forward-looking statements as a prediction of actual results or otherwise.

These factors include, but are not limited to: material impacts related to foreign exchange fluctuations; macro-economic activity; the impact of outbreaks, epidemics or pandemics, and the extent of their impact on overall demand for the Company's services and products; potential changes in dividend policy; changes in government policy and regulation (including the monetary, interest rate and other policies of central banks and other regulatory authorities in the principal markets in which the Company operates) and the consequences thereof; actions by the Company's competitors or counterparties; third party, fraud and reputational risks inherent in its operations; the UK's exit from the EU; unstable UK and global economic conditions and market volatility, including currency and interest rate fluctuations and inflation or deflation; the risk of a global economic downturn; acts of terrorism and other acts of hostility or war and responses to, and consequences of those acts; technological changes and risks to the security of IT and operational infrastructure, systems, data and information resulting from increased threat of cyber and other attacks; general changes in government policy that may significantly influence investor decisions (including, without limitation, actions taken in support of managing and mitigating climate change and in supporting the global transition to net zero carbon emissions); societal shifts in customer financing and investment needs; and other risks inherent to the industries in which the Company operates.

Nothing in this Annual Report should be construed as a profit forecast.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their Annual Report prepared in accordance with Schedule 7 to the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the audited Financial Statements of Paragon Pension Investments GP Limited ('the Company'), a company registered in Scotland with registration no: SC569102, for the year ending 30 September 2022.

The directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies under section 415A of the Companies Act 2006. As the Company is entitled to the small companies' exemption under section 414A of the Companies Act 2006, no strategic report has been prepared.

BUSINESS REVIEW AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

During the year the Company operated in the United Kingdom. The principal activity of the Company is to hold investments in The Paragon Pension Partnership LP. The Company made an investment during the preceding period which is held at the year end. The directors consider that the Company has performed satisfactorily given the prevailing economic climate and will continue to do so. The directors are not aware, at the date of this report, of any likely major changes in the Company's activities in the next year.

The Company's profit and loss account is shown on page 10. No dividend was paid during the year.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Company's primary financial assets and liabilities are with other group companies; therefore the directors do not consider that the Company is exposed to any significant cash flow, credit or liquidity risks.

The UK economy in the current year has been impacted by a number of significant pressures, initially the ongoing impacts of the Covid pandemic and latterly inflationary pressures, rising interest rates and geopolitical impacts resulting from Russian actions in Ukraine. These factors have caused major economic disruption within the UK and global economy with their ultimate impacts remaining uncertain, over both the short and longer terms.

The Company has established processes in place and proved on a through-the-cycle basis which will allow it to support its customers through any adverse economic conditions and optimise outcomes for both customers and investors.

After considering the above, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This is further supported by the Group holding sufficient cash resources to support the Company's obligations as they fall due. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Financial Statements.

DIRECTORS

The directors throughout the year and subsequently were:

K G Allen

R J Woodman

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

AUDITOR

The directors have taken all necessary steps to make themselves and the Company's auditor, KPMG LLP, aware of any information needed in preparing the audit of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year, and, as far as each of the directors is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor are unaware.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 418 (2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Having regard to the benefits of all Group entities sharing the same auditor, the directors resolved that KPMG LLP should also be appointed as auditor of the Company and a resolution for the appointment of KPMG LLP as the auditor of the Company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Board of Directors

and signed on behalf of the Board



K G Allen

Director

17 February 2023

Registered office: 65 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH12 5HD

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT, THE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the Company financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK accounting standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 101 *Reduced Disclosure Framework*.

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company's profit or loss for that period. In preparing each of the Company financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable, relevant and reliable
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- assess the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the parent Company and enable them to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Under applicable law and regulations, the directors are also responsible for preparing a Directors' Report that complies with that law and those regulations.

Responsibility statement of the directors in respect of the annual financial report

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge:

- the financial statements, prepared in accordance with the applicable set of accounting standards, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole
- the directors report includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the issuer and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that they face

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT, THE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

We consider the annual report and accounts, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Group's position and performance, business model and strategy.

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on behalf of the Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K G Allen', written in a cursive style.

K G Allen

Director

17 February 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PARAGON PENSION INVESTMENTS GP LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the Financial Statements of Paragon Pension Investments GP Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 30 September 2022 which comprise the profit and loss account, the balance sheet, the statement of movement in equity and the related notes 1 to 11, including the accounting policies in note 10.

In our opinion the Financial Statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 30 September 2022 and of the company's profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 101 *Reduced Disclosure Framework*; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Company in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The directors have prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to liquidate the Company or to cease its operations, and as they have concluded that the Company's financial position means that this is realistic. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the directors' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the Company's business model and analysed how those risks might affect the Company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate;
- we have not identified, and concur with the directors' assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Company will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PARAGON PENSION INVESTMENTS GP LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of directors, Internal Audit and inspection of policy documentation as to the Company's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, including the Internal Audit function, and the Company's channel for 'whistleblowing', as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- Reading Board minutes.
- Using analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, taking into account possible pressures to meet profit targets and our overall knowledge of the control environment, we perform procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that the Company management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition.

We performed procedures including identifying journal entries to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included those posted and approved by the same user and those including specific descriptors.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to non-compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the directors and other management (as required by auditing standards), and from inspection of the Company's regulatory and legal correspondence and discussed with the directors and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related companies' legislation), distributable profits legislation and taxation legislation and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Company is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation or the loss of the Company's license to operate. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: money laundering, financial crime, certain aspects of company legislation recognising the financial nature of the Company's activities and its legal form. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PARAGON PENSION INVESTMENTS GP LIMITED (CONTINUED)

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Directors' report

The directors are responsible for the directors' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover those reports and we do not express an audit opinion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the directors' report and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report;
- in our opinion the information given in those reports for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion those reports have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Directors' responsibilities

As explained more fully in their statement set out on page 4, the directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF PARAGON PENSION INVESTMENTS GP LIMITED (CONTINUED)**

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Michael Davidson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

1 Sovereign Square

Sovereign Street

Leeds

LS1 4DA

17 February 2023

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Operating income		1,667	1,667
Operating expenses		-	-
Operating profit, being profit on ordinary activities before taxation		<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	1,667	1,667
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	3	(317)	(317)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
		1,350	1,350

All activities derive from continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the profit for the current and preceding years, and consequently a separate statement of comprehensive income has not been presented.

BALANCE SHEET

30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
ASSETS EMPLOYED					
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	4		100		100
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors falling due within one year	5		7,470		5,803
			<u>7,570</u>		<u>5,903</u>
FINANCED BY					
EQUITY SHAREHOLDER'S FUNDS					
Called up share capital	6	100		100	
Profit and loss account		5,804		4,454	
		<u>5,904</u>		<u>4,554</u>	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7		1,666		1,349
			<u>7,570</u>		<u>5,903</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 17 February 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors



K G Allen

Director

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN EQUITY

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Share capital £	Profit and loss account £	Total equity £
<i>Total comprehensive income for the year</i>			
Profit for the year	-	1,350	1,350
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	1,350	1,350
<i>Transactions with owners</i>			
Issue of shares	-	-	-
Net movement in equity in the year	-	1,350	1,350
Opening equity	100	4,454	4,554
Closing equity	100	5,804	5,904

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

	Share capital £	Profit and loss account £	Total equity £
<i>Total comprehensive income for the year</i>			
Profit for the year	-	1,350	1,350
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	1,350	1,350
<i>Transactions with owners</i>			
Issue of shares	-	-	-
Net movement in equity in the year	-	1,350	1,350
Opening equity	100	3,104	3,204
Closing equity	100	4,454	4,554

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Paragon Pension Investments GP Limited ('the Company') is a company domiciled in the United Kingdom and incorporated in Scotland under the Companies Act 2006 with company number SC569102. The address of the registered office is 65 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH12 5HD. The nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report.

These financial statements are presented in pounds sterling, which is the currency of the economic environment in which the Company operates.

The remaining notes to the accounts are organised into three sections:

- Analysis – providing further analysis and information on the amounts shown in the primary financial statements
- Financial Risk – providing information on the Company's management of its principal financial risks
- Basis of preparation – providing details of the Company's accounting policies and of how they have been applied in the preparation of the financial statements

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - ANALYSIS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The notes set out below give more detailed analysis of the balances shown in the primary financial statements and further information on how they relate to the operations, results and financial position of the Company.

2. OPERATING PROFIT, BEING PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION BEFORE TAXATION

The Company's audit fee of £804 (2021: £696) for the current year was paid by a fellow group company.

The Company has no employees and the directors received no remuneration during the year. Non audit fees provided to the Group are disclosed in the accounts of the parent company and the exemption from disclosure of fees payable to the Company's auditor in respect to non-audit services in these financial statements has been taken.

3. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

a) Tax charge for the year

	2022 £	2021 £
Current tax		
Corporation tax	317	317
Total current tax	<u>317</u>	<u>317</u>

b) Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

	2022 £	2021 £
Profit before tax	1,667	1,667
UK corporation tax at 19% (2021: 19%) based on the profit for the year	<u>317</u>	<u>317</u>

The standard rate of corporation tax in the UK applicable to the Company in the period was 19.0% (2021: 19.0%), based on currently enacted legislation. During the previous period, legislation was substantively enacted that will increase the rate to 25% with effect from 1 April 2023.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - ANALYSIS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

4. INVESTMENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Cost and valuation		
At 30 September	100	100

The investments above represent 0.01% in Paragon Pension Partnership LP.

The limited partnership is registered in Scotland and its undertakings are consolidated in the accounts of the Company's ultimate parent Company (note 11).

5. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Amounts due from group companies	7,470	5,803

6. CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL

	2022 £	2021 £
Allotted:		
100 ordinary shares of £1 each (fully paid)	100	100

7. CREDITORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Amounts due to group companies	1,349	1,032
Corporation tax	317	317
	1,666	1,349

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS – FINANCIAL RISK

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The note below describes the processes and measurements which the Company use to manage their exposure to financial risks including credit, liquidity, interest rate and foreign exchange risk.

8. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Company's primary financial assets are with other group companies; therefore, the directors do not consider that the Company is exposed to any significant cash flow, credit or liquidity risks.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS – BASIS OF PREPARATION**YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The notes set out below describe the accounting basis on which the Company prepare their accounts, the particular accounting policies adopted by the Company and the principal judgements and estimates which were required in the preparation of the financial statements.

They also include other information describing how the accounts have been prepared required by legislation and accounting standards.

9. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom ('UK') accounting standards. Disclosures have been made in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 – 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' ('FRS 101').

As permitted by FRS 100 – 'Application of Financial Reporting Requirements' ('FRS 100') the Company has applied the measurement and recognition requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the UK (UK-adopted international accounting standards) ('UK-IAS') but makes amendments where necessary in order to comply with the Companies Act 2006 and has set out below where advantage of disclosure exemptions provided by FRS 101 has been taken.

On 31 December 2020, EU-adopted International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS') was brought into UK law and become UK-IAS, with future changes to IFRS being subject to endorsement by the UK Endorsement Board. In preparing these financial statements in accordance with FRS 101, the Company Financial Statements transitioned to UK-adopted international accounting standards (as described above) in its first financial year commencing after 1 January 2021. There is no impact on recognition, measurement or disclosure in the period reported as a result of this change.

The particular accounting policies adopted have been set out in note 10.

Adoption of new and revised reporting standards

In the preparation of these financial statements, no new accounting standards are being applied for the first time.

Standards not yet adopted

There are no standards and interpretations in issue but not effective which address matters relevant to the Company's accounting and reporting.

10. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The particular accounting policies applied are described below.

Accounting convention

The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Going concern

The financial statements of the Company for the year ended 30 September 2022 have been prepared on the going concern basis, as defined in IAS 1 – 'Presentation of Financial Statements'. In order to prepare financial statements on this basis the directors must conclude that the management does not intend to liquidate the Company or cease trading, and that the Company has the ability to continue to trade and will be able to satisfy its liabilities as they fall due. Particular focus is given to the Group's financial forecasts to ensure the adequacy of resources available for the Company to meet its business objectives on both a short term and strategic basis.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS – BASIS OF PREPARATION

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

10. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**Going concern (continued)**

The Group has a formalised process of budgeting, reporting and review. The Group's planning procedures forecast its profitability, capital position, funding requirement and cash flows on a company by company basis.

In compiling the most recent forecast, for the period commencing 1 October 2022, particular attention was paid to the potential consequences of the uncertain economic outlook for the UK on the Group's operations, customers, funding and prospects, both in the short and long term. These considerations include the increased cost of living, rising interest rates and the impacts of Russia's intervention in Ukraine, as well as the long-term after effects of the Covid pandemic. To evaluate these impacts a number of different scenarios with impacts of varying duration and severity were examined. In common with the Group's approach to IFRS 9, the economics used in the forecasting process were updated in October 2022 based on updated external projections.

On the basis of this analysis, the directors have concluded that the Company is able to continue as a going concern for at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements and that therefore it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of these financial statements.

Current tax

Current tax, including UK corporation tax, is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Amounts owed by or to group companies

The balances owed by or to other group companies are carried at the current amount outstanding less any provision.

Fixed assets - Investments

The Company's investments in subsidiary companies are shown at cost less provision for impairment.

Disclosures

In preparing these financial statements the Company has taken advantage of the exemptions from disclosure provided by FRS 101 in respect of:

- The requirement to produce a cash flow statement and related notes
- Disclosures in respect of transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries
- Disclosures in respect of capital management
- The effects of new, but not yet effective IFRSs
- Disclosures in respect of key management personnel
- Disclosures of transactions with a management entity which provides key management personnel services to the Company

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS – BASIS OF PREPARATION

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

10. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Disclosures (continued)

As the consolidated financial statements of Paragon Banking Group PLC, the ultimate parent undertaking of the Company, include equivalent disclosures the Company has also taken advantage of these further exemptions provided by FRS 101:

- Certain disclosures required by IFRS 13 – ‘Fair Value Measurement’
- Certain disclosures required by IFRS 7 – ‘Financial Instruments Disclosures’

The Company presently intends to continue to apply these exemptions in future periods.

11. ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY

The smallest and largest group into which the Company is consolidated, and the Company's immediate and ultimate parent company and ultimate controlling party is Paragon Banking Group PLC, a company registered in England and Wales.

Copies of the Group's financial statements are available from that company's registered office at 51 Homer Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QJ.