Northern Gas Networks Limited Regulatory Accounts 2015/2016 Incorporating information on charges and apportionments

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## Important information

The financial information contained in these statements does not constitute Statutory Accounts within the meaning of Section 434 of the Companies Act 2006. Statutory Accounts for Northern Gas Networks Limited ("NGN") (the "company") for the year ended 31 March 2016, to which this financial information partly relates, will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The auditors will make a report under Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 on those Statutory Accounts. The auditor's opinion on the company's Statutory Accounts is addressed to, and for the benefit of, the members of the company and not for any other person or purpose. The auditors have clarified that the opinion on those Statutory Accounts will be prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. The auditors do not accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom their audit report on the Statutory Accounts is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by their prior consent in writing. The Statutory Accounts of the company can be obtained from the company Secretary, Northern Gas Networks Limited, 1100 Century Way, Thorpe Park Business Park, Colton, Leeds, LS15 8TU, and will be available on our website, www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk.

## The obligation to produce Regulatory Accounts

The obligation to prepare and publish Regulatory Accounts for NGN is placed on NGN by Standard Special Condition A30 of its Gas Transporter Licence (the "Licence") granted under Section 7 of the Gas Act 1986 (the "Act"). The principal requirements of Standard Special Condition A30, in respect of the year ended 31 March 2016, are that for each of the NGN Total, Transportation, Metering, De Minimis and Other activities, the Regulatory Accounts must:

- separately identify and fairly present the revenues, costs, assets, liabilities, reserves and provisions of, or reasonably attributable to, that business;
- have the same content and format as the most recent or concurrent Statutory Accounts of NGN and conform to UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102, "FRS 102"), in so far as reasonably practicable;
- separately show in appropriate detail the amounts of any revenues, costs, assets, liabilities, reserves or provisions which have been charged from or to any non-NGN business of the Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited ("NGNH") group, or which have been determined by apportionment ("charges and apportionments");
- be subject to audit by NGN's statutory auditors;
- be published, except for the information on charges and apportionments, which has been removed from the public document in accordance with paragraph 24 of Standard Special Condition A30: and
- include a strategic report, corporate governance statement and a Directors' report as if the company was quoted.

The Regulatory Accounts now have the same accounting period as the Statutory Accounts; there are no differences in accounting policies applied and the balance sheets at 31 March 2016 are identical. As such, no reconciliation between the Regulatory Accounts and Statutory Accounts is needed.

## **Businesses and price controls**

These Regulatory Accounts include the following businesses of NGN:

#### **Transportation business**

The Transportation business comprises the development, administration, maintenance and operation of NGN's gas transportation system and the supply of gas transportation services.

#### **Metering business**

The Metering business comprises the provision of metering services, which includes the provision, installation and maintenance of gas metering equipment. It is subject to price control in respect of the provision of domestic metering services.

#### **De Minimis**

The De Minimis activities of NGN are not subject to price control, but must be carried on within the terms of the Licence. These terms include restrictions on the level of those activities with respect to the overall level of the regulated businesses, unless the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the "Regulator") has otherwise consented.

#### Other activities

Other activities as set out in Standard Special Condition A30 paragraph 2(e) comprise those activities to which the Licence relates to which the Regulator has given its consent in writing in accordance with sub-paragraph 3(d) of Standard Special Condition A36. These activities are specifically the service agreements entered in to with National Grid Gas plc ("NGG") on sale of the network. These activities would otherwise have been classified as De Minimis with the exception of the Network Innovation Competition (NIC) activities which are classed as Excluded Services as set out in Special Conditions 4b and 4c. All De Minimis and Other activities arise as a result of the Transportation business. These activities are not subject to price control.

### Regulatory licence conditions

NGN's Licence contains special licence conditions, which include requirements on NGN:

- only to carry on certain activities;
- to ensure that it has sufficient operational and financial resources to carry out its business:
- to use reasonable endeavours to maintain an investment grade credit rating as the issuer of corporate debt; and
- to deal on an arm's length basis and on normal commercial terms with other companies in the NGNH company and not to give new guarantees for them.

If NGN is in material default of any of these conditions it can be prohibited from declaring and paying a dividend.

## Strategic report

The Strategic Report has been prepared to fulfil the requirements of Standard Special Condition A30 to provide information to the Regulator and should not be relied upon by any other party or for any other purpose.

The Strategic Report contains certain forward looking statements that are made by the Directors in good faith based on the information available to them at the time of their approval of this report and these statements should be treated with caution due to the inherent uncertainties, including both economic and business risk factors, underlying any such forward looking information.

This is the first time the accounts are presented under Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) which has meant restatement of our prior year figures. Details of the transition to FRS 102 are shown in note 23.

#### Review of the business

The company's business strategy is to provide, develop and maintain a safe and secure gas distribution pipeline system for the provision of gas supplies to the people and the businesses within the distribution network, being the North and North East of England. The company's vision of success is to be consistently benchmarked by Ofgem and the Health and Safety Executive ("HSE") as being in the top two comparable utilities in safety management, efficiency and customer service, which in turn will generate benefit for customers, employees and the shareholders of the company.

NGN's business model used to implement this strategy includes productivity improvement whilst complying with regulatory obligations and achieving the standards of service required. This will ensure continual investment in the network and the sharing of these efficiencies with customers through the regulatory price controls, whilst maintaining acceptable financial returns to the shareholders. Specific performance objectives within our business model which will enable the company to achieve the business strategy include:

- Maintaining and developing a reliable and safe network;
- Compliance with Licence requirements and other regulatory and legal obligations;
- Meeting regulated service standards;
- Maintaining high standards of corporate governance;
- Being a responsible corporate citizen in the region;
- Maintaining a corporate culture of performance and continuous improvement;
- Maintaining strong relationships with all key stakeholders;
- A relentless customer focus;
- Maintaining a strong investment grade credit rating; and
- Maintaining acceptable financial returns to shareholders.

#### Financial and operational review

#### Financial performance

#### Revenue and operating profit

Operating profit for the year is £199.7m compared to the prior year of £210.5m with increased revenue in 2015/16, largely due to RPI, offset by operating cost increases of £15.3m.

#### Finance charges

The net finance charge for NGN for the year ended 31 March 2016 was £49.9m (2015 - £56.6m) which principally represents interest payments for ongoing investment programmes and working capital funding requirements.

#### Taxation

The tax credit for the year was £0.1m (2015 - £34.0m cost) which represents an effective tax charge of 0.0% (2015 – 22.1%). The tax charge and effective tax rate is low in the year as a result of the change in UK corporation tax rate to 18%.

#### Cash flow

Net cash inflow from operating activities for the year ended 31 March 2016 was £262.6m (2015 - £273.5m).

#### Capital expenditure ("Capex")

Capital expenditure (cash) for the year was £155.1m (2015 - £154.6m) which mainly represents investment in network assets and the development of new IT systems used to support many of NGN's operational business activities.

#### Financial position

#### Balance sheet

At 31 March 2016 the net assets of the company were £554.8m (2015 - £485.8m), the movement mainly driven by retained profits, partly offset by dividend payments. At the date of signing the accounts there are no post balance sheet events which impact the balance sheet position of NGN.

#### Capital structure

NGN has debt before financing costs of £1,255.4m (2015 - £1,220.2m) comprising:

- Bank loans of £12.0m (2015 £5.0m) which carry interest at LIBOR plus a margin of 0.4%;
- European Investment Bank ("EIB") loans of £343.2m (2015 £315.0m) which have interest terms which vary by facility as set out in note 14; and
- Intercompany loans of £900.2m (2015 £900.2m).

#### Strategic Report continued

The intercompany loans comprise interest bearing loans of £900.2m of which £250.0m is repayable in 2027 and £255.0m is repayable in 2035 which both carry interest at 4.875%, £198.2m is repayable in 2019 with interest at 5.875% and £197.0m is repayable in 2040 with interest of 5.625%. A margin to cover related costs is added to all interest bearing loans. The maturity of the EIB and bank loans are set out in notes 13 and 14.

#### Credit ratings

NGN continues to maintain its strong investment grade credit rating with a Moody's Investor Services rating of Baa1 and a Standard & Poor's rating of BBB+.

#### Segmental results

The directors consider that the company has only one class of business and the Board do not use any segmental analysis of performance. The regulatory accounts are split into four business sections as detailed on page 2, however this is solely for compliance with NGN's Gas Transport Licence.

#### Operational performance

NGN has achieved all of its key operational Guaranteed Standards of Service and Licence Conditions for the regulatory year ended 31 March 2016.

#### Key performance indicators

The key financial and non-financial performance indicators used by the Board of Directors in their monitoring of the company, focus on the areas of safety management, efficiency and customer service. All of the targets for the below KPI's have been achieved:

	31 March 2016	31 March 2015
Financial performance efficiency		
Operating profit	£199.7m	£210.5m
Dividends paid	£80.0m	£76.6m
Senior net debt/regulatory asset value	64.9%	64.3%
Operational performance - customer services Quarterly customer satisfaction survey for repair, replacement and connections	9 out of 10	9 out of 10
Operational performance - safety		
Number of lost time injuries to employees and contractors	2	1
Reported injuries to members of the general public	1	0

#### Future prospects

The directors consider the future prospects of the company to be consistent with performance within shown within these regulatory accounts.

#### Corporate and social responsibility

#### Social responsibility

NGN is a socially responsible corporate citizen in the region covered by the network. The company is working to help combat fuel poverty in the region by investing in network extensions with social landlords and local authorities to further improve energy efficiency and sustainability.

NGN assist the gas industry to raise the profile of carbon monoxide poisoning, with school visits, an ongoing carbon monoxide campaign, and through supporting the Dominic Rodgers Trust.

#### Contractual relationships

The company has contractual relationships with many parties including directors, employees, suppliers and banking groups. However, none are considered essential in terms of their effect on the business of the company except the relationship with xoserve Limited, which provides information, data processing, invoicing and other supply point administration services to the company, which is used by the company for invoicing its regulated gas distribution charges to gas transporters.

#### Procurement policy

The objectives of NGN's procurement policy are to:

- minimise the end to end supply chain costs of providing goods, works and services that satisfy NGN's requirements;
- procure goods and services competitively, and efficiently in accordance with policy;
- ensure the selection of goods, works and services minimises the whole life costs of the NGN assets and maximises energy efficiency;
- minimise societal risk by ensuring that decisions consider quality, safety and environmental credentials including use of fair trade products;
- ensure early and active two way engagement with stakeholders to ensure that the procured solution is exactly what is needed; and
- establish and maintain an efficient number of suppliers trading through the appropriate commercial and contractual terms.

#### **Employees**

NGN, as an equal opportunities employer, ensures that no job applicant receives less favourable treatment because of his or her age, colour, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status or sexuality or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which are irrelevant to performance and the company's needs.

NGN places considerable value on the involvement of its employees and has continued to keep them informed on matters affecting them as employees and on the various factors affecting the performance of the company. This is achieved through both formal and informal meetings. Employees are consulted regularly on a wide range of matters affecting their current and future interests. Some employees are eligible to receive an annual bonus related to the overall financial and operational performance of the company.

The NGN workforce at the balance sheet date is detailed below:

	Male	Female	Total
Director (excl non-exec)	1	0	1
Senior manager	7	1	8
Other employee	61	53	114
Total	69	54	123

The above figures exclude subcontractors and employees working for subsidiary companies.

#### **Environment**

The company recognises the importance of its environmental responsibilities and undertakes its operations in an environmentally sensitive manner, complying with all relevant legislative requirements. The company is committed to the protection of the environment in the region it serves. The company's environmental management systems are certified under ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001. This helps the Directors deal proactively with future environmental issues and legislation and assist in the development of environmentally beneficial projects.

The company is committed to reducing its carbon footprint, one of the biggest causes being gas leaking from our network and which is being addressed primarily through its continued network replacement programme. NGN are investing in biomethane innovation, the aim being to reduce the use of fossil fuels in the future. Additional details of how the company is reducing its carbon emissions can be found within the Directors' Report.

#### Key developments in the year

Key developments in the regulatory year include:

#### Efficiency

- We have commenced a "future ready" review whereby we are looking ahead to 2021 to ensure our cost base is suitable;
- Increase our in-house IT development capability, reducing external spend;
- NIC funding awarded to the company for the Leeds hydrogen project; and
- Ongoing technology refresh enabling automation.

#### Customer

- NGN continue to push a 90in60 process whereby 90% of customer complaints are resolved in 60 minutes; and
- NGN have won several customer focused prizes within the year including Considerate Construction National Site Awards and the North East Contact Centre Award for 2015.

#### Safety

- Developed an interactive training process which has increased operational focus; and
- Established a new and improved contractual health and safety framework for contractors working for NGN.

#### Outlook

The Directors expect the general level of activity to remain stable given the certainty provided by the RIIO-GD1 price control outcome which runs to 2021.

There are a number of potential risks and uncertainties which could have a material impact on NGN's long term performance. The Risk Management Committee is responsible for reviewing the risk profile of the business and risk management processes. The Committee has a formal risk management policy and framework. For further information about the Risk Management Committee see the Corporate governance statement. The company's principal risks and uncertainties are set out below.

#### Regulatory environment, revenue and costs

The gas industry is subject to extensive legal and regulatory obligations and controls which NGN must comply with. The application and possible changes of these laws, regulations and regulatory standards could have an adverse affect on the operations and financial position of NGN or in the case of financial misreporting, a potential fine.

#### Mitigation

NGN engages with the regulatory authority extensively at all levels of seniority to understand future plans and potential impacts on the business. The business respond to all potential changes which impact on the business and seek to mitigate

#### Strategic Report continued

any adverse impacts. The business has in place an extensive set of policies and procedures to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory obligations.

#### Health and safety

There is a risk that an incident within the network leads to injury to an employee, contractor or a member of the general public. Any such incident could have an adverse effect on the reputation of NGN, or lead to potential prosecution and reduced productivity.

#### Mitigation

Health and Safety is our priority. The business has an Environment Health & Safety team that ensure compliance with our management safety system and monitor it on a monthly basis with key KPIs.

#### Network performance

If the network assets were to fail it could result in a loss in supply of gas to customers and associated adverse publicity and an unexpected increase in costs.

#### Mitigation

The company have a set of policies and procedures we adhere to ensure the integrity of the network and ensure that the people who work on the network are qualified and competent.

#### **Employees**

The success of NGN depends to a significant extent on the contribution of its employees and the employees of operational contractors. Fair and effective recruitment, training and employee development are critical to the successful functioning and progression of the business. The ability to adapt in a climate of change is dependent on the appointment and retention of a high calibre, competent, flexible, quality conscious and customer focused workforce all of whom are committed to business success and are given appropriate training.

#### Mitigation

NGN's succession planning strategies mean that development of existing staff is crucial. Effective resourcing and selection processes also play a positive role in improving the image of the company in the community it serves.

The company, as an equal opportunities employer, ensures that no job applicant receives less favourable treatment because of his or her age, colour, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status or sexuality or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which are irrelevant to performance and the company's needs.

#### Financial risk management objectives and policies

The company's financial instruments, other than derivatives, comprise debt borrowings, cash and various items, such as trade debtors and trade creditors that arise directly from its operations. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to finance the company's operations.

The company also enters into derivative transactions, principally interest rate swaps. The purpose of such transactions is to manage the interest rate risks arising from the company's sources of finance.

The main risks arising from the company's financial instruments are interest rate risk, currency risk and liquidity risk. The Directors have reviewed and agreed policies for managing each of these risks and these are summarised below.

#### Interest rate risk

The long term approach adopted in minimising interest rate exposures on debt is as follows:

- To have a balanced debt portfolio comprising a mixture of nominal (and index-linked) debt aiming to achieve a degree of alignment with the Regulator's broad approach to setting cost of debt allowances and so as to maintain a debt portfolio consistent with those of comparable utility companies; and
- To structure debt maturities and interest rate hedges in such a way as to provide protection against adverse movements in the indexed regulatory cost of debt allowance.

#### Liquidity risk

The maturities of all debt and committed debt facilities other than amortising loans, are managed such that at any one time all have a time to maturity of more than one year and that at least 50% by value have a time to maturity of more than two years. Debt and facility maturities are staggered to avoid excessive concentrations in any twelve month period as well as the period around regulatory reset dates where possible.

#### Currency risk

No exposures are currently identified. Regular monitoring procedures will identify material risks as they arise. Currency risk management is only used to hedge underlying commercial exposures. Therefore trading in currency is prohibited and if an underlying exposure ceases to exist then the corresponding hedge is closed out immediately.

Any non-sterling borrowings and associated service costs are hedged into sterling at the time the commitment to draw down is made.

By order of the Board,

M J Horsley (Director) 19 July 2016

## **Directors' report**

The Directors present their annual report on the affairs of the company, together with the accounts and auditor's report, for the year ended 31 March 2016. The Corporate governance statement forms part of this report. There are no significant events since the balance sheet date which impact the regulatory accounts. An indication of likely future developments in the business of the company and details of the use of financial instruments are included in the strategic report. The following disclosures have been disclosed in the strategic report but are cross referenced here: business review including KPI's, principal risks and uncertainties, and future prospects.

#### **Dividends**

The directors do not recommend payment of a final dividend. Interim dividends of £0.64 per share were paid on 19 June 2015 and of £2.65 per share were paid on 21 December 2015 making a total of £3.29 per share for the year, which equates to £80.0m (2015 - £76.6m).

#### Future developments and events after the balance sheet date

From 1 April 2013, the RIIO-GD1 price control (RIIO-GD1) commenced, which gives NGN security over regulated revenue until 31 March 2021. The directors therefore expect the general level of activity to remain stable.

#### **Financial Instruments**

Financial Instruments have been disclosed within note 15 and associated risks discussed within the Strategic Report.

#### **Going Concern**

The company's business activities, performance and position, together with its principal risks and uncertainties likely to affect its future development and performance are set out above and in the strategic report. In addition note 15 to the accounts includes further details of the company's net debt position and details of its derivatives and other financial instruments. The company is able to pay its liabilities as they fall due.

The directors have made enquiries and reviewed the forecasts, including sensitivity analysis, and in light of the finance facilities available, have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Regulatory accounts.

#### Disabled employees

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered. bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of employees becoming disabled every effort is made to ensure that their employment with the company continues and that appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the company that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical with that of all other employees.

#### Capital structure

Details of the authorised and issued share capital, together with details of any movements in the company's issued share capital during the year, and the rights of each share class are shown in note 17. On 27 January 2015 the company settled a £24.3m intercompany loan held with Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited in exchange for the issue of company ordinary shares of equal value.

There are no specific restrictions on the size of a holding nor on the transfer of shares, which are both governed by the general provisions of the Articles of Association and prevailing legislation. The directors are not aware of any agreements between holders of the company's shares that may result in restrictions on the transfer of securities or on voting rights.

There are no employee share schemes. No person has any special rights of control over the company's share capital and all issued shares are fully paid.

With regard to the appointment and replacement of directors, the company is governed by its Articles of Association, the Companies Act and related legislation. NGN is not a listed entity, but is required to prepare a Corporate governance statement as if it were by the requirements of Standard Special Condition A30. The Articles themselves may be amended by special resolution of the shareholders. The powers of directors is discussed in the Corporate governance statement on page 9.

#### Directors

The Directors, who served throughout the year except as noted, were as follows:

A Hunter (Chairman)

M J Horsley (Chief Executive Officer)

H L Kam

C T Wan

N McGee

S Leona

D Macrae

L S Chan

C Tsai

P Rogerson – independent non executive

J Burnham - independent non executive

Given the shareholders are companies each of which has Board representation, biographical details on the directors proposed for election or re-election are not provided. Board meeting attendance details are provided within the Corporate governance statement.

#### Political contributions

No political donations were made in the current or prior year.

Directors' report continued

#### Substantial shareholdings

The company is owned by a consortium as detailed in note 22.

#### **Environment and Carbon Reporting**

The company is committed to reducing its carbon emissions under Regulatory Instructions and Guidance (RIGS). The overall target is a year-on-year emissions reduction of c0.5% across RIIO-GD1.

#### Organisational boundary, responsibility and methodology

We have reported using an operational control approach, reporting on all material emissions which NGN are accountable for across the entire business covering all work streams and geography. Details of what has been included within each scope is listed in the table below. Unreported emissions, which would form part of scope 3, are deemed insignificant compared to shrinkage. These include employee commuting, some forms of waste generated in operations, end of life treatment of solid products and some gas emissions.

The emissions reduction program is managed by the Head of HS&E within the company, supported by the senior management team and Board as needed. Reported data has not been externally verified, as permitted by Ofgem, due to robust internal processes.

Reported emissions follow 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Guidance (June 2013)' as provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The conversion factors used for emission disclosures follow Ofgem quidance.

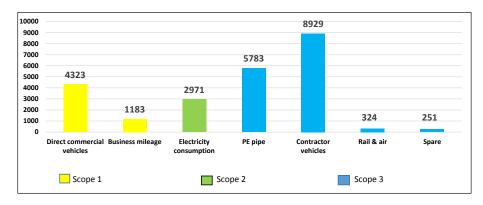
#### Performance and emissions reduction management

Reported figures cover the 2015/16 and prior regulatory year. We have also shown emissions as an intensity ratio against turnover, to enable comparison over time.

Business Carbon Footprint	Performance								
	tonnes	of CO₂e		CO₂e per rnover					
	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15					
Shrinkage	445,641	410,028	1.07	0.997					
Scope 1: energy consumption (excl electricity), commercial vehicles and business miles	5,505	6,185	0.013	0.015					
Scope 2: electricity consumption	2,971	3,059	0.007	0.007					
Scope 3: indirect emissions – PE pipe, contractor vehicle, rail, air and ferry travel	15,287	16,298	0.037	0.040					
Total	469,404	435,570	1.129	1.059					

As shown in the table shrinkage remains the key element of emissions which is being targeted through efficient gas pressure management, gas escape management and gas mains replacement. Other activity to reduce emissions include fleet upgrading, vehicle route planning, driver efficiency tracking, use of carbon efficient technology in depot and office refurbishments, increased use of teleconferencing and a contractor carbon awareness program.

Further analysis of scopes 1 - 3 is shown below.



'Spare' represents car hire and transmission and distribution losses, as defined by Defra.

#### Auditor

Each of the Directors at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Director has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a Director to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

The Directors have put in place appropriate arrangements for Deloitte LLP to be reappointed as auditor for the ensuing year.

By order of the Board,

M J Horsley (Director) 19 July 2016

## **Corporate governance statement**

NGN is not a listed entity, but is required to prepare a Corporate governance statement as if it were by the requirements of Standard Special Condition A30. As an unlisted company NGN is not required to comply with the principles of corporate governance contained in The UK Corporate Governance Code which is appended to the Listing Rules of the Financial Services Authority, however best practice under Standard Special Condition A30 means that these principles are applied, or if not applied the reason for non-compliance is disclosed.

This statement has been prepared solely for the Regulator to fulfil the requirements of Standard Special Condition A30 paragraph 9(e) and should not be relied upon by any other party or for any other purpose.

#### Corporate governance statement

The company is committed to pursuing leading governance practices as appropriate. Corporate governance is clearly defined, with each shareholder having Board representation. The corporate governance principles of the company emphasise a quality Board, sound internal control and transparency and accountability to all shareholders.

How the Board Operates

The Board is responsible for:

- the overall corporate governance of the company including approving the strategic direction and values;
- monitoring financial and operational performance;
- monitoring corporate responsibility including health, safety and environmental matters;
- ensuring adequate systems for the identification and management of risk;
- approving dividend payments; and
- evaluating the performance and remuneration of senior management.

The Board is comprised of directors who are appointed by the shareholders, except for the two Independent Directors, and are independent of the day to day management of the company with the exception of the CEO who is a Board member and part of the company management team. Due to the nature of the Shareholder Agreement in place for NGN which entitles each shareholder to a relevant number of seats on the Board, NGN's Shareholder Appointed Board Directors are representatives from each Shareholder, and so the Shareholders are already appropriately protected as they are involved in making all the key business decisions. As such some aspects of the UK Corporate Governance Code are not applicable for NGN. The Board ensures that the company has robust corporate governance arrangements and has full access to both the internal and external auditors and to management.

The Board is also responsible to the shareholders for the performance of the company in both the short and long term and seeks to balance the best interests of

the company with the objective of enhancing shareholder value. Day to day management of the business and the implementation of corporate strategy and policy initiatives are formally delegated by the Board to the CEO and senior management team as set out in the delegations of authority.

#### Business Model

The company generates and preserves value over the longer term by ensuring the business model as detailed within the Strategic report is adhered to. A key aspect of this is adherence to its Licence conditions as detailed on page 2.

Application of the business model within the set Licence conditions ensures appropriate shareholder returns and drives value to customers.

NGN has no material activities outside of the regulatory ring fence so the governance around this is uncomplicated with no issues for NGN's longer term financial viability.

NGN participate in the industry code governance arrangements, such as the Joint office which are approved by OFGEM to promote competition and efficient operations.

Evaluation of the Board and Senior Management Team (SMT) Evaluation of the performance of the Board is conducted by virtue of their appointments being made and monitored by the shareholders. The Nominations Committee has responsibility for the appointment of Independent Directors. The performance of the CEO is assessed by the Board Directors on an annual basis under the remit of the Remuneration Committee. The performance of each SMT member is assessed annually by the CEO as part of NGN's performance management process.

#### **Board Members**

At 31 March 2016 the Board comprised eleven Directors of which two were independent non-executive. The position of the Chairman of the Board is held by A Hunter who is also an Executive Director of the ultimate controllers as set out in note 22 and has certain other directorships as set out in those companies' annual reports. The position of Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") is held by M J Horsley. These positions are separate with a view to maintaining an effective segregation of duties between management of the Board and the day to day management of the business. P Rogerson and J Burnham are independent non-executive members of the Board. NGN has a licence requirement to have two independent Directors and their role is to bring an independent view to the Board / Committees based on their own personal knowledge and experience. All Board members are listed within the Directors' report.

All Directors make an active contribution to the affairs of the Board. The Company Secretary is responsible to the Board for ensuring that all Board procedures are followed and ensuring that the Board is briefed on all legislative, regulatory and corporate governance developments and that the Board has regard to them when making decisions.

#### Corporate governance statement continued

#### **Board Meetings**

The Board hold at least five scheduled meetings throughout the year.

Comprehensive papers are presented to the Board both for information and approval which facilitate debate on the performance and future direction of the company. The number of Board meetings held during the year and attendees, including alternates, at the Board meetings is detailed below:

16	2014/15						
Attendees	Date	Attendees					
11 out of 11	20 May 2014	9 out of 11					
4 August 2015 10 out of 11		7 out of 11					
10 out of 11	5 August 2014	11 out of 11					
11 out of 11	23 September 2014	10 out 11					
11 out of 11	21 November 2014	11 out of 11					
8 out of 11	27 January 2015	11 out of 11					
	11 out of 11 10 out of 11 10 out of 11 10 out of 11 11 out of 11 11 out of 11	Attendees         Date           11 out of 11         20 May 2014           10 out of 11         23 July 2014           10 out of 11         5 August 2014           11 out of 11         23 September 2014           11 out of 11         21 November 2014					

#### Committees

The Board has six committees, as listed below, to assist in the execution of its duties and to allow a detailed consideration of complex issues. The Committees are chaired by N McGee with the exception of the Remuneration Committee and Nominations Committee which are chaired by A Hunter.

All Board Members are entitled to attend all Committees, the minimum requirement being a quorum of at least two members from different Shareholders. Within NGN, there are no specific Directors assigned to the various Sub-Committee meetings. The Terms of Reference of the Board Sub-Committees allows any Board Director to attend Sub-Committee meetings and so generally the attendance of the Committees is also largely the same as for the Board which is reported in the Regulatory Accounts. The Sub-Committee's do however have a named Chairman. The Committee structures and charters are reviewed on a bi-annual basis. The Committees support the CEO with advice on matters of governance and adequacy of controls in terms of operational and risk management.

#### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee assists the Board with its responsibilities for financial reporting, maintaining an efficient system of internal control and internal and external audit processes. In addition, the Committee provides an avenue for communication between internal audit, the external auditors and the Board. The activities of the Committee are reported to and considered by the Board. The Committee also reviews auditor independence where non-audit services are provided and the auditors confirm their independence as part of their reporting to the Audit Committee.

#### Compliance Committee

The Compliance Committee assists the Board with its responsibilities to oversee compliance with obligations determined by statute, legislation, regulation (including licence obligations), contract or agreement. This Committee considers, inter alia,

reports on the application of the regulatory compliance process which covers licence and network code obligations.

#### Risk Management Committee

The Risk Management Committee is responsible for reviewing the risk profile of the business and oversight of risk management processes. The Committee provides the Board with regular reports of activities and findings. The business has a formal Risk Management Policy. In addition, an integrated risk management framework is in place that includes a regular review of the business risk exposures. At each meeting of the risk management committee, the high level risk register is considered including any movement in the assessment of risk or changes in measurement or relative position to each other.

#### **Treasury Committee**

The Treasury Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to compliance with its Treasury Policy, strategy and procedure development. The Committee recommends any changes or amendments as appropriate. It also ensures that management undertakes to identify, monitor and manage treasury risks in a manner consistent with corporate strategy and objectives and its Treasury Policy.

#### Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Board on overall Remuneration Policy of the company and determines the salary and bonus entitlement for the executive director, the senior management team and all other employees. The activities of the Remuneration Committee are reported to the Board at least annually.

#### Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee exists to consider potential changes to Independent membership and assess the performance of these Directors.

The Independent Directors were appointed on a three year basis and it is expected that the Nominations Committee will convene before the end of 2016 to consider an evaluation process.

Attendance including alternates of committees in the 2015/16 regulatory year is shown below:

Date of Committee	Audit Committee	Compliance Committee	Risk Management Committee	Treasury Committee	Remuneration Committee	Nominations Committee
4 August 2015	6 out of 7	7 out of 8	7 out of 8	7 out of 8	n/a	n/a
27 October 2015	5 out of 7	6 out of 8	6 out of 8	6 out of 8	n/a	n/a
26 January 2016	7 out of 7	8 out of 8	8 out of 8	8 out of 8	9 out of 9	n/a

The above represents compliance with the requirement for a quorum of two members.

#### Corporate governance statement continued

#### Internal control framework

The company has a number of internal control policies which outline management responsibilities and help safeguard the company's assets. It is designed to manage rather than eliminate risks which may be material to the achievement of the company's business objectives. Internal controls are continually reviewed as processes change and are verified by way of a rolling internal audit work programme.

#### Internal audit

The company has an internal audit function which undertakes independent appraisals and provides assurance on adequacy and effectiveness of business controls. All internal audit work is carried out according to the relevant best practice standards.

### Licence obligation compliance

The company ensures compliance through application of an internal control framework as noted above. NGN has a Regulation Director to ensure any changes to licence obligations are known to ensure continued compliance.

## Directors' responsibilities for preparing separate Regulatory Accounts

The Directors are required by Standard Special Condition A30 to prepare Regulatory Accounts for each financial period. These Regulatory Accounts must fairly present the revenues, costs, assets, liabilities, reserves, provisions and cash flows of, or reasonably attributable to, the NGN Total business, the Transportation business, the Metering business, the De Minimis business and Other activities.

The Directors consider that, in preparing the Regulatory Accounts, the company has used appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates and all applicable accounting standards have been followed. The Directors also consider that it is appropriate to prepare the Regulatory Accounts on the going concern basis.

The Directors have responsibility for ensuring that the company and its related undertakings keep accounting records in such a form that the revenues, costs, assets, liabilities, reserves and provisions of, or reasonably attributable to, each of the businesses are separately identifiable in the accounting books and records of the company and its related undertakings from those of any other business.

The Directors have responsibility for ensuring that the Regulatory Accounts fairly present the revenues, costs, assets, liabilities, reserves and provisions of, or reasonably attributable to, each business.

The Directors have responsibility to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the Regulatory Accounts have the same content and format in respect of the businesses to which they relate as the Statutory Accounts of NGN, are consistently prepared, comply with applicable licence conditions, that they conform to best commercial accounting practices including all relevant accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board currently in force and that the accounting policies used are stated.

The Directors have responsibility to ensure that the Regulatory Accounts show separately and in appropriate detail the amounts of any revenues, costs, assets, liabilities, reserves or provisions that have been charged from or to any non-NGN business of the NGNH group, or that have been determined by apportionment, where they relate to goods or services received or supplied for the purposes of the Transportation, Metering or De Minimis businesses or Other activities.

The Directors, having prepared the Regulatory Accounts, have requested the auditor to take whatever steps and to undertake whatever inspections they consider to be appropriate for the purpose of enabling them to give their Independent Auditor's report.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Regulatory Accounts are published and, where they are published on the Internet, for the maintenance and integrity of the website. Uncertainty regarding legal requirements is compounded, as information published on the Internet is accessible in many countries with different legal requirements relating to the preparation and dissemination of accounts.

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority ("the Regulator") and Northern Gas Networks Limited ("the Company")

We have audited the Regulatory Accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2016 which comprise the profit and loss accounts, the statements of comprehensive income, the balance sheets, the cash flow statements, the statement of changes in equity, the statement of accounting policies and the related notes numbered 1 to 24. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Standard Special Condition A30 of the Gas Distribution Licence (the "Regulatory Licence") and the accounting policies set out in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

This report is made, on terms that have been agreed, solely to the company and the Regulator in order to meet the requirements of Standard Special Condition A30 of the Regulatory Licence. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company and the Regulator those matters that we have agreed to state to them in an independent auditor's report, in order (a) to assist the company to meet its obligation under the Regulatory Licence to procure such a report and (b) to facilitate the carrying out by the Regulator of its regulatory functions, 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 Regulator, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Regulator, the Directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Directors are responsible for preparing the Regulatory Accounts and for their proper presentation in accordance with the basis of preparation and accounting policies as set out in the notes to the Regulatory Accounts. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the Regulatory Accounts in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland), except as stated in the 'Scope of the audit of the Regulatory Accounts', below and having regard to the guidance contained in Audit 05/03 'Reporting to Regulators of Regulated Entities'. Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### Scope of the audit of the Regulatory Accounts

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Regulatory Accounts sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the Regulatory Accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.

This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, except as noted below, and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Directors; and the overall presentation of the Regulatory Accounts. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information, being the Strategic Report, the Directors' report, the Corporate governance statement and the Directors' responsibilities statement, in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited Regulatory Accounts and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the

knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

We have not assessed whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the company where these are laid down by Standard Special Condition A30 of the Regulatory Licence. Where Standard Special Condition A30 of the Regulatory Licence does not give specific guidance on the accounting policies to be followed, our audit includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies adopted in respect of the transactions and balances required to be included in the Regulatory Accounts are consistent with those used in the preparation of the statutory accounts of Northern Gas Networks Limited. Furthermore, as the nature, form and content of Regulatory Accounts are determined by the Regulator, we did not evaluate the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information, which would have been required if we were to express an audit opinion under International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

#### **Opinion on Regulatory Accounts**

In our opinion the Regulatory Accounts:

- present fairly in accordance with Standard Special Condition A30 of the Regulatory Licence and the accounting policies, the financial position of the company as at 31 March 2016 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- present fairly in accordance with Standard Special Condition A30 of the Regulatory Licence and the company's accounting policies.

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority and Northern Gas Networks Limited (continued)

#### Other matters

The nature, form and content of Regulatory Accounts are determined by the Regulator. It is not appropriate for us to assess whether the nature of the information being reported upon is suitable or appropriate for the Regulator's purposes. Accordingly we make no such assessment.

Note 24 to the Regulatory Accounts include disclosures of amounts charged to or from related parties of, and other businesses of, the company. Paragraph 24 of the company's Standard Special Condition A30 permits removal of this disclosure when the accounts are made available to any party other than the Regulator. Accordingly, the Regulatory Accounts may be presented with or without these notes, whilst still complying with Standard Special Condition A30.

Our opinion on the Regulatory Accounts is separate from our opinion on the Statutory Accounts of the company, which are prepared for a different purpose. Our audit report in relation to the statutory accounts of the company (our "Statutory audit") 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 Statutory audit work is undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in a Statutory auditor's report and for no other purpose. In these circumstances, to the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our Statutory audit work, for our Statutory audit report, or for the opinions we have formed in respect of that Statutory audit.

Scott Bayne FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor) For and on behalf of Deloitte LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor Leeds, United Kingdom

19 July 2016

## Statement of accounting policies

#### **Basis of accounting**

The Regulatory Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards and Standard Special Condition A30 of the Licence.

The accounting policies have all been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year, subject to changes following adoption of FRS 102 as detailed in note 23.

The company is not required to prepare company accounts as it is a wholly owned subsidiary of NGNH which prepares consolidated accounts which are publicly available.

The functional currency is considered to be pound sterling because this is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates. The regulated accounts are presented in pound sterling.

Income, costs, assets and liabilities of the company, which are not directly attributable to specific businesses or activities, are apportioned to those businesses or activities in accordance with the activities giving rise to the income, costs, assets or liabilities.

NGN has licence conditions for regulatory purposes requiring NGN to meet a number of Regulatory Conditions (set out in detail on page 2) including restrictions on fund raising, business activities, dividend payments and granting of guarantees.

#### Going concern

The Directors' report includes a note stating that the directors consider the business to be a going concern at the time of the approval of the Annual Report and accounts.

#### Intangible assets - goodwill

Goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiary undertakings and businesses, representing any excess of the fair value of the consideration given over the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired, is capitalised and written off on a straight line basis over its useful economic life, which is estimated to be 40 years in line with the acquired asset base. Provision is made for any impairment.

#### Intangible assets - licence

The Gas Transporter Licence (licence) has been recognised as a separately identifiable intangible asset, the value of which has been derived from an independent valuation. The licence has been capitalised and written off on a straight line basis over its useful economic life, which is estimated to be 40 years in line with the acquired asset base. Provision is made for any impairment.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Cost includes internal labour costs and finance costs incurred which are directly attributable to the construction of tangible fixed assets.

Contributions received towards the cost of tangible fixed assets are included in creditors as deferred income and credited on a straight-line basis to the profit and loss account over the estimated economic lives of the assets. No residual values are assumed.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land and assets in the course of construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value, of each asset on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Mains and services	55 to 65 years
Storage	40 years
Plant and machinery	10 to 30 years
Freehold buildings	50 years
Leasehold land and buildings	Lesser of lease period and 50 years
Motor vehicles and office equipment	3 to 10 years
Replacement expenditure	60 years

#### Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less provision for impairment. Current asset investments are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

#### Replacement expenditure (repex)

Replacement expenditure represents the cost of planned maintenance of the gas mains and services assets by replacing sections of pipe. This expenditure is principally undertaken to maintain the safety of the network and is capitalised following adoption of FRS 102 on 1 April 2015. Prior to adoption of FRS 102 this activity was expensed.

#### **Taxation**

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

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date. Timing differences are differences between the company's taxable profits and its results as stated in the Regulatory Accounts that arise from the inclusion of gains and losses in tax assessments in years different from those in which they are recognised in the Regulatory Accounts.

Statement of accounting policies continued

A net deferred tax asset is regarded as recoverable and therefore recognised only when, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred tax is not recognised when fixed assets are revalued unless by the balance sheet date there is a binding agreement to sell the revalued assets and the gain or loss expected to arise on sale has been recognised in the Regulatory Accounts. Neither is deferred tax recognised when fixed assets are sold and it is more likely than not that the taxable gain will be rolled over, being charged to tax only if and when the replacement assets are sold.

Deferred tax is measured at the average UK tax rates that are expected to apply in the years in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on UK tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date. Deferred tax is measured on a non-discounted basis.

#### **Decommissioning and environmental costs**

Decommissioning and environmental costs, based on discounted future estimated expenditures are provided for in full and where appropriate a corresponding tangible fixed asset is also recognised. The unwinding of the discount is included within the profit and loss accounts as a financing charge.

#### Turnover

Turnover represents income receivable for the distribution of gas and provision of other services in the normal course of business, net of Value Added Tax. Turnover includes an assessment of transportation services supplied to customers between the date of the last meter reading and the year end. Turnover is recognised in the month the service is provided

#### Pension costs

The company has obligations for a defined benefit scheme. The amounts charged to operating profit are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments which are included within operating costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the profit and loss account if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The interest cost and the expected return on assets are shown as a net amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in the statement of total recognised gains and losses.

The defined benefit scheme is funded with the assets of the scheme held separately from those of the company, in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to the scheme liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The

resulting defined benefit asset or liability, net of the related deferred tax, is presented separately after other net assets on the face of the balance sheet. The company also operates defined contribution schemes. The amount charged to the profit and loss account in respect of pension costs and other post-retirement benefits is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

#### Leases

Assets held under finance leases and other similar contracts, which confer rights and obligations similar to those attached to owned assets, are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are depreciated over the shorter of the lease terms and their useful economic lives. The capital elements of future lease obligations are recorded as liabilities, while the interest elements are charged to the profit and loss accounts over the period of the leases to produce a constant rate of charge on the balance of capital repayments outstanding. Hire purchase transactions are dealt with similarly, except that assets are depreciated over their useful economic lives.

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term, even if the payments are not made on such a basis. Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are similarly spread on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where the period to the review date on which the rent is first expected to be adjusted to the prevailing market rate is shorter than the full lease term, in which case the shorter period is used.

#### **Financial instruments**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

#### Financial assets and liabilities

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction.

If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the company intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

- a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.
- b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.
- c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).
- d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.
- e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the company transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the company, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

#### **Derivative financial instruments**

The company only holds or issues derivative financial instruments to manage interest rate exposures or commodity price risks in respect of expected gas usage. The principal derivatives used are interest rate swaps. The company does not hold or issue any derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes. Interest rate swaps are entered into for the purpose of matching or eliminating risk from potential movements in interest rates associated with the borrowing requirements of the company. The interest rate swaps are accounted for at fair value on the balance sheet with movements in fair value being recognised through either the profit and loss account or cash flow hedge reserve.

#### Fair value accounting

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

#### Statement of accounting policies continued

#### Hedge accounting

The company designates certain derivatives as hedging instruments in cash flow hedges. At the inception of the hedge relationship, the entity documents the economic relationship between the hedging instrument and the hedged item, along with its risk management objectives and clear identification of the risk in the hedged item that is being hedged by the hedging instrument. Furthermore, at the inception of the hedge the company determines and documents causes for hedge ineffectiveness.

Amounts payable or receivable in respect of the interest rate swaps are recognised within net interest payable in the profit and loss account over the life of the financial instrument.

## Critical accounting judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty *Investments*

The directors consider the value of the company investment to be supported by the value of future cash flow received and net assets of the investment.

#### **Provisions**

The valuation of provisions includes estimation of future cash outflows, the estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about the carrying values of liabilities that are not readily available. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis and discussed in further details in note 16.

#### Fair value of financial instruments

Some of the company's assets and liabilities are measured at fair value for financial reporting purposes. In estimating the fair value of an asset or a liability, the company uses market-observable data to the extent it is available. Information about the valuation technique is disclosed in note 15.

#### Pension arrangements

Note 21 contains information about the principle actuarial assumptions used in the determination of defined benefit pension obligations. These key assumptions include discount rates, the expected return on net assets, inflation and mortality rates and have been determined following advice received from an independent qualified actuary.

#### Taxation

Liabilities recognised are determined by reference to the likelihood of settlement to be made to tax authorities and tax assets represent the best estimate of recoverable amounts based on forecasts.

#### Accrued income

Revenue is billed in the month following the distribution of gas and provision for other services, an estimation of the month's revenue is calculated based using market-observable data and volumes. The estimation and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis and historical accuracy is tracked.

## **Profit and loss accounts**

For the years ended 31 March

					Other						Other		
		Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities (i)	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities (i)	Corporate	Total
	Notes	2016 £'000	2016 £'000	2016 £'000	2016 £'000	2016 £'000	2016 £'000	2015 £'000	2015 £'000	2015 £'000	2015 £'000	2015 £'000	2015 £'000
Turnover	1	415,081	467	21	192	-	415,761	409,599	1,269	316	136	-	411,320
Cost of sales		(12,716)	(467)	(21)	(192)	-	(13,396)	(15,449)	(464)	(293)	(136)	-	(16,342)
Gross profit		402,365	-	-	-	-	402,365	394,150	805	23	-	-	394,978
Other operating expenses	2	(202,700)	-	-	(7)	-	(202,707)	(183,458)	(974)	-	-	-	(184,432)
Operating profit (loss)		199,665	-	-	(7)	-	199,658	210,692	(169)	23	-	-	210,546
Net finance charges	3	(49,857)	-	-	-	-	(49,857)	(56,643)	-	-	-	-	(56,643)
Profit (loss) on ordinary activities before		,					, ,						, , ,
taxation	4	149,808	-	-	(7)	-	149,801	154,049	(169)	23	-	-	153,903
Tax on profit (loss) on ordinary activities	7	132	-	-	-	-	132	(34,047)	35	(5)	-	-	(34,017)
Profit (loss) for the year		149,940	-	-	(7)	-	149,933	120,002	(134)	18	-	-	119,886

All results arise from continuing operations.

Profit for the year is all attributable to the equity shareholders of the company.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these profit and loss accounts.

(i) 'Other activities' as set out in Standard Special Condition A30 paragraph 2(e) comprise those activities to which the Licence relates to which the Regulator has given its consent in writing in accordance with sub-paragraph 3(d) of Standard Special Condition A36. These activities are specifically the service agreements entered in to with NGG on sale of the network. These activities would otherwise have been classed as De Minimis with the exception of Network Innovation Competition (NIC) activities which are classed as Excluded Services as set out in Special Condition 4c and b. All De Minimis and Other activities arise as a result of the Transportation business.

## **Balance sheets**

As at 31 March

					Other					<b>+</b>			
		Transportation 2016	Metering 2016	De Minimis a 2016	activities (i) 2016	Corporate (ii) 2016	Total <b>2016</b>	Transportation 2015	Metering 2015	De Minimis 2015	(i) C <b>2015</b>	Corporate (ii) 2015	Total <b>2015</b>
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets													
Intangible assets	9	119,917	-	-	-	=	119,917	124,028	-	-	-	-	124,028
Tangible assets	10	2,244,408	-	-	5,417	=	2,249,825	2,155,162	-	-	2,346	-	2,157,508
Investments	11	104	-	-	-	2,105	2,209	104	-	=		2,105	2,209
		2,364,429	-	-	5,417	2,105	2,371,951	2,279,294	-	-	2,346	2,105	2,283,745
Current assets													
Debtors	12	378,852	-	-	-	-	378,852	365,240	-	-	-	-	365,240
Cash at bank and in hand		=	-	-	1,247	3,761	5,008	=	-	=	3,142	5,419	8,561
		378,852	-	-	1,247	3,761	383,860	365,240	-	-	3,142	5,419	373,801
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(97,903)	-	-	(5,395)	(40,329)	(143,627)	(63,862)	-	-	(5,289)	(53,073)	(122,224)
Net current (liabilities) assets		280,949	-	-	(4,148)	(36,568)	240,233	301,378	-	-	(2,147)	(47,654)	251,577
Total assets less current liabilities		2,645,378	-	-	1,269	(34,463)	2,612,184	2,580,672	-	-	199	(45,549)	2,535,322
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one													
year	14	(1,708,037)	-	-	(4,837)	-	(1,712,874)	(1,654,333)	-	-	(4,846)	-	(1,659,179)
Provisions for liabilities excluding pension liability	16	(344,527)	-	-	-	-	(344,527)	(390,302)	-	-	-	-	(390,302)
Net assets (liabilities) including pension liability		592,814	-	-	(3,568)	(34,463)	554,783	536,037	-	-	(4,647)	(45,549)	485,841
Capital and reserves													
Called-up share capital	17	-	-	-	-	24,328	24,328	-	-	-	-	24,328	24,328
Hedging reserve		-	-	-	-	(30, 136)	(30,136)	-	-	-	-	(26,482)	(26,482)
Profit and loss accounts		-	-	-	-	560,591	560,591	-	-	-	-	487,995	487,995
Shareholders' funds		-	-	-	-	554,783	554,783	-	-	-	-	485,841	485,841

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these balance sheets.

- (i) 'Other activities' as set out in Standard Special Condition A30 paragraph 2(e) comprise those activities to which the Licence relates to which the Regulator has given its consent in writing in accordance with sub-paragraph 3(d) of Standard Special Condition A36. These activities are specifically the service agreements entered in to with NGG on sale of the network. These activities would otherwise have been classed as De Minimis with the exception of Network Innovation Competition (NIC) activities which are classed as Excluded Services as set out in Special Condition 4c and b. All De Minimis and Other activities arise as a result of the Transportation business.
- (ii) 'Corporate' comprises those assets, liabilities, capital and reserves which relate to the NGN business as a whole.

The Regulatory Accounts on pages 1 to 45 inclusive were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 19 July 2016 and signed on its behalf on 19 July 2016 by:

M J Horsley - Director

## Statements of comprehensive income For the years ended 31 March

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Profit (loss) for the financial year	149,940	-	-	(7)	=	149,933	120,002	(134)	18	-	-	119,886
Re-measurement of net defined liability	2,900	-	-	-	-	2,900	(16,851)	-	=	-	-	(16,851)
Cash flow hedges – losses arising during the year	(4,644)	-	-	-	-	(4,644)	(11,836)	-	-	-	-	(11,836)
Tax relating to components of other comprehensive												
income	753	-	-	-	-	8,737	7,631	-	-	-	-	7,631
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the	148.949	_	_	(7)	_	148.942	98,946	(134)	18	_	_	98,830
year	140,343	_	_	(1)	_	140,542	30,340	(134)	.0	_	_	30,030

Profit for the year is all attributable to the equity shareholders of the company

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements of total recognised gains and losses.

## Statements of changes in equity For the year ended 31 March 2016

	Called up share capital £'000	Hedging reserve £'000	Profit and loss account £'000	Total £'000
At 31 March 2014 as previously stated	-	-	52,270	52,270
Changes on transition to FRS 102 (see note 23)	-	(18,907)	387,670	368,763
At 1 April 2014 as restated	-	(18,907)	439,940	421,033
Release of group loan	24,328	=	-	24,328
Profit for the financial year	-	-	119,886	119,886
Re-measurement of net defined benefit liability	-	-	(13,481)	(13,481)
Net change in fair value of cash flow hedge transferred to the income statement	-	1,158	-	1,158
Net movement on cash flow hedges	-	(8,733)	-	(8,733)
Total comprehensive income and movement in share capital	24,328	(7,575)	106,405	123,158
Dividends paid on equity shares	-	-	(58,350)	(58,350)
At 31 March 2015 as restated	24,328	(26,482)	487,995	485,841
Profit for the financial year	-	-	149,933	149,933
Re-measurement of net defined benefit liability	-	-	2,663	2,663
Net change in fair value of cash flow hedge transferred to the income statement	-	1,159	-	1,159
Net movement on cash flow hedge	-	(4,813)	-	(4,813)
Total comprehensive income	-	(3,654)	152,596	148,942
Dividends paid on equity shares	-	-	(80,000)	(80,000)
At 31 March 2016	24,328	(30,136)	560,591	554,783

## **Cash flow statements**

For the years ended 31 March

		_			Other	_					Other	_	
		Transportation 2016	Metering 2016	De Minimis 2016	activities 2016	Corporate 2016	Total <b>2016</b>	Transportation 2015	Metering 2015	De Minimis 2015	activities 2015	Corporate 2015	Total <b>2015</b>
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	18	261,498	-	-	1,078	-	262,576	264,203	4,182	23	5,042	-	273,450
Cash flow from investing activities													
Interest received		57	-	-	10	-	67	43	-	-	6	-	49
Interest paid		(45,717)	-	-	-	-	(45,717)	(44,883)	-	-	-	-	(44,883)
Taxation – UK corporation tax paid		(20,578)	-	-	-	-	(20,578)	(9,581)	-	-	-	-	(9,581)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(152,133)	-	-	(2,983)	-	(155,116)	(153,976)	1,238	-	(1,906)	-	(154,644)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		709	-	-	-	-	709	1,684	-	-	-	-	1,684
-		(217,662)	-	-	(2,973)	-	(220,635)	(206,713)	1,238	-	(1,900)	-	(207,375)
Cash flow from financing activities													
Dividends paid		(80,000)	-	-	-	-	(80,000)	(76,600)	-	-	-	-	(76,600)
Repayment of borrowings		-	-	-	_	-	-	(18,000)	_	-	-	-	(18,000)
Withdrawal of borrowings		35,158	-	-	-	-	35,158	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000
Expenses on issue of new loans		(652)	-	-	-	-	(652)	-	-	-	-	-	· -
·		(45,494)	-	-	-	-	(45,494)	(64,600)	-	-	-	-	(64,600)
(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1,658)	-	-	(1,895)	-	(3,553)	(7,110)	5,420	23	3,142	-	1,475
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		5,419	_	-	3,142	_	8,561	12,529	(5,420)	(23)	_	-	7,086
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		3,761	-	-	1,247	-	5,008	5,419	-	- ()	3,142	-	8,561
2 3 3 3 4 5 1 4 5 1 5 4 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1					.,		-,000				-,		2,00.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these cash flow statements.

<sup>(</sup>i) 'Other activities' as set out in Standard Special Condition A30 paragraph 2(e) comprise those activities to which the Licence relates to which the Regulator has given its consent in writing in accordance with sub-paragraph 3(d) of Standard Special Condition A36. These activities are specifically the service agreements entered in to with NGG on sale of the network. These activities would otherwise have been classed as De Minimis with the exception of Network Innovation Competition (NIC) activities which are classed as Excluded Services as set out in Special Condition 4c and b. All De Minimis and Other activities arise as a result of the Transportation business.

## **Notes to the Regulatory Accounts**

### 1. Turnover

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Transportation and Metering	415,081	467	-	-	-	415,548	409,599	1,269	-	-	-	410,868
Other income	-	-	21	192	-	213		-	316	136	-	452
	415,081	467	21	192		415,761	409,599	1,269	316	136	-	411,320

All turnover arises in the UK.

## 2. Other operating expenses

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Distribution costs	166,995	-	-	7	-	167,002	154,583	974	-	-	-	155,557
Administrative expenses	35,705	-	-	-	-	35,705	28,875	-	-	-	-	28,875
	202,700	-	-	7	-	202,707	183,458	974	-	-	-	184,432

## 3. Net finance charges

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest payable and similar charges	45,731	-	-	-	-	45,731	44,604	-	-	-	-	44,604
Investment income	(515)	-	-	-	-	(515)	(470)	-	-	-	-	(470)
Other finance charges	4,641	-	-	-	-	4,641	12,509	-	-	-	-	12,509
	49,857	-	-	-	-	49,857	56,643	-	-	-	-	56,643

Interest payable and similar charges

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank loans and overdrafts	(1,519)	-	-	-	-	(1,519)	(3,107)	-	-	-	=	(3,107)
Intercompany interest payable	48,631	-	-	-	-	48,631	48,590	-	-	-	=	48,590
	47,112	-	-	-	-	47,112	45,483	-	-	-	-	45,483
Finance costs capitalised	(1,381)	-	-	-	-	(1,381)	(879)	-	-	-	-	(879)
	45,731	-	-	-	-	45,731	44,604	-	-	-	-	44,604

Finance costs have been capitalised based on a capitalisation rate of 3.8% (2015 - 3.7%).

## 3. Net finance charges (continued)

Investment income

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from fixed asset investments	(453)	-	-	-	-	(453)	(420)	-	-	-	-	(420)
Interest receivable and similar income	(62)	-	-	-	-	(62)	(50)	-	-	-	=	(50)
	(515)	-	-	-	-	(515)	(470)	-	-	-	-	(470)

## Other finance charges

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair value movement on financial investments	4,076	-	-	-	-	4,076	12,179	-	-	-	-	12,179
Exchange rate differences	10	-	-	-	-	10	(30)	-	-	-	-	(30)
Unwinding of discount on provisions	158	-	-	-	-	158	2,183	-	-	-	-	2,183
Net return on pension scheme	397	-	-	-	-	397	(1,823)	-	-	-	-	(1,823)
	4,641	-	-	-	-	4,641	12,509	-	-	-	-	12,509

**4. Profit (loss) on ordinary activities before taxation**Profit (loss) on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging / (crediting):

	Transportation 2016 £'000	Metering 2016 £'000	De Minimis 2016 £'000	Other activities 2016 £'000	Corporate 2016 £'000	Total <b>2016</b> £'000	Transportation 2015	Metering 2015 £'000	De Minimis 2015 £'000	Other activities 2015 £'000	Corporate 2015 £'000	Total <b>2015</b> £'000
Depreciation and amounts written off tangible fixed assets												
- owned	64,759	-	-	26	-	64,785	48,115	4,568	-	4	-	52,687
- held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	7	-	-	-	-	7	5	-	-	-	-	5
Amortisation of intangible assets included in administrative												
expenses	4,111	-	-	-	-	4,111	4,112	-	-	-	-	4,112
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(553)	-	-	-	-	(553)	(437)	(217)	-	-	-	(654)
Operating lease rentals – other	43	-	-	-	-	43	31	-	-	-	-	31

## 4. Profit (loss) on ordinary activities before taxation (continued)

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

	Transportation 2016 £'000	Metering 2016 £'000	De Minimis 2016 £'000	Other activities 2016 £'000	Corporate 2016 £'000	Total 2016 £'000	Transportation 2015	Metering 2015 £'000	De Minimis 2015 £'000	Other activities 2015 £'000	Corporate 2015 £'000	Total <b>2015</b> £'000
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the		2,000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000
Company's annual accounts	70	-	-	-	-	70	68	-	-	-	-	68
Fees payable to the company's auditor and its associates for other services to the company - The audit of the company's subsidiaries pursuant to												
legislation	34	-	-	-	-	34	33	-	-	-	-	33
Total audit fees	104	-	-		-	104	101	-	-	-	-	101
Fees payable to the company's auditor and its associates for other services to the company												
- Other services pursuant to legislation	57	-	-	-	-	57	50	-	-	-	-	50
- Tax services	178	-	-	-	-	178	173	-	-	-	-	173
- Other services	32	-	-	-	-	32	6	-	-	-	-	6
Total non-audit fees	267	-	-	-	-	267	229	-	-	-	-	229

## 5. Payroll costs and employees

## a) Payroll costs

				Other						Other		
	Transportation 2016 £'000	Metering 2016 £'000	De Minimis 2016 £'000	activities 2016 £'000	Corporate 2016 £'000	Total <b>2016</b> £'000	Transportation 2015 £'000	Metering 2015 £'000	De Minimis 2015 £'000	activities 2015 £'000	Corporate 2015 £'000	Total <b>2015</b> £'000
Wages and salaries	8,815	-	-	-	-	8,815	7,572	-	-	-	-	7,572
Social security costs	900	-	-	-	-	900	644	-	-	-	-	644
Pension costs	9,994	-	-	-	-	9,994	642	-	-	-		642
	19,709	-	-	-	-	19,709	8,858	-	-	-	-	8,858

Other pension costs include only those included within other operating expenses. Items reported elsewhere are excluded.

### b) Average number of employees

				Otner						Otner		
	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Administration	125	-	-	-	-	125	105	-	=	-	-	105
	125	-	-	-	-	125	105	-	-	-	-	105

#### 6. Directors' remuneration

Remuneration

The remuneration of the Directors was as follows:

	Non-Execu	tive Directors	Executive	Directors
	2016	2015	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Emoluments	70	70	769	739
Amounts receivable (other than shares) under long term incentive schemes	-	-	197	214
	70	70	966	953

Pensions

No Directors were members of pension schemes (2015 - nil).

Highest paid Director

The above amounts for remuneration include the following in respect of the highest paid Director:

	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000
Emoluments	966	953
	966	953

Transactions

There have been no transactions with Directors in the year (2015 - £nil) other than as set out above in respect of remuneration.

## 7. Tax on profit (loss) on ordinary activities

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Current tax	2 000	2 000
UK corporation tax	37,519	19,586
Adjustments in respect of prior years	1,284	(573)
Total current tax	38,803	19,013
Deferred tax		
Current year - origination and reversal of timing differences	(6,816)	12,621
Effect of decrease in tax rate on opening liability	305	-
Adjustments in respect of prior years	(32,424)	2,383
Total deferred tax	(38,953)	15,004
Total tax on profit (loss) on ordinary activities	(132)	34,017

#### 7. Tax on profit (loss) on ordinary activities (continued)

The differences between the total current tax shown above and the amount calculated by applying the standard rate of UK corporation tax to the profit before tax is as follows:

	1 otal 2016 £'000	l otal <b>2015</b> £' <b>000</b>
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	149,801	153,903
Tax on profit on ordinary activities at standard UK corporation tax rate of 20% (2015 - 21%)	29,960	32,633
Effects of:		
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	1,083	824
Income not taxable in determining taxable profit	(1,046)	(350)
Differences in tax rates	(31,718)	(900)
Adjustments in respect of prior years	1,589	1,810
Current tax charge for the year	(132)	34,017

The company earns its profits in the UK, therefore the tax rate used for tax on profit on ordinary activities is the standard rate for UK corporation tax, being 20% (2015 – 21%), effective within the period.

The company's planned level of capital investment is expected to remain at similar levels as current investment. Therefore it expects to be able to claim capital allowances in excess of depreciation in future years, at a similar level to the current year.

#### 8. Dividends paid and declared on equity shares

	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000
Equity shares:		
- interim dividend of £0.64 (2015 - £2.40) per ordinary share	15,500	58,350
- interim dividend of £2.65 (2015 - £nil) per ordinary share	64,500	-
	80,000	58,350

Total

Total

The company is prohibited from declaring a dividend or other distribution unless it has certified to the Regulator that it is in compliance in all material respects with certain regulatory obligations, including a requirement to ensure it has sufficient financial resources and facilities to enable it to carry on its business and a requirement to use all reasonable endeavours to maintain an investment grade rating (see Regulatory licence conditions on page 2).

## 9. Intangible fixed assets

## **Transportation and Total**

	Licence £'000	Goodwill £'000	Total <b>£'000</b>
Cost at 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	161,200	3,257	164,457
Amortisation at 1 April 2015	39,628	801	40,429
Charge for the year	4,030	81	4,111
Amortisation at 31 March 2016	43,658	882	44,540
Net book value at 31 March 2016	117,542	2,375	119,917
Net book value at 31 March 2015	121,572	2,456	124,028

## 10. Tangible fixed assets

Net book value at 31 March 2015	1,558	2,070,261	9,245	44,593	29,505	2,155,162
Net book value at 31 March 2016	2,138	2,145,784	11,667	47,669	37,150	2,244,408
Depreciation at 31 March 2016	2,634	377,265	6,504	68,875	-	455,278
Disposals	-	(261)	(4,125)	(3,999)	-	(8,385)
Charge for the year	603	51,027	1,710	11,426	-	64,766
Depreciation at 1 April 2015	2,031	326,499	8,919	61,448	-	398,897
Cost at 31 March 2016	4,772	2,523,049	18,171	116,544	37,150	2,699,686
Transfers	642	11,913	1,874	5,925	(20,354)	
Disposals	-	(396)	(4,146)	(3,998)	-	(8,540)
Additions	541	114,772	2,279	8,576	27,999	154,167
Cost at 1 April 2015	3,589	2,396,760	18,164	106,041	29,505	2,554,059
Transportation	Land and buildings £'000	Gas distribution assets £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Other equipment £'000	course of construction £'000	Total <b>£'000</b>
					Assets in the	

## 10. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

					Total
			£'000	£'000	£'000
			2,242	108	2,350
			2,492	605	3,097
			(919)	919	-
			3,815	1,632	5,447
			-	4	4
			-	26	26
			-	30	30
			3,815	1,602	5,417
			2,242	104	2,346
				Assets in the	
Land and buildings	Gas distribution assets	Motor vehicles	Other equipment	course of construction	Total
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
3,589		· ·	106,041	31,747	2,556,409
541			,	30,491	157,264
-	. ,		, , ,	-	(8,540)
	- '			, ,	-
4,772	2,524,681	18,171	116,544	40,965	2,705,133
2,031	326,503	8,919	61,448	-	398,901
603	51,053	1,710	11,426	-	64,792
-	(261)	(4,125)	(3,999)	-	(8,385)
2,634	377,295	6,504	68,875	-	455,308
2,138	2,147,386	11,667	47,669	40,965	2,249,825
1,558	2,070,365	9,245	44,593	31,747	2,157,508
175	-	-	-	-	175
184	-	-	-	-	184
	buildings £'000 3,589 541 - 642 4,772 2,031 603 - 2,634 2,138 1,558	\$\frac{\capacito 000}{3,589}  2,396,868 541  115,377 -  (396) 642  12,832 4,772  2,524,681 2,031  326,503 603  51,053 -  (261) 2,634  377,295 2,138  2,147,386 1,558  2,070,365	buildings £'000         assets £'000         vehicles £'000           3,589         2,396,868         18,164           541         115,377         2,279           -         (396)         (4,146)           642         12,832         1,874           4,772         2,524,681         18,171           2,031         326,503         8,919           603         51,053         1,710           -         (261)         (4,125)           2,634         377,295         6,504           2,138         2,147,386         11,667           1,558         2,070,365         9,245	Land and buildings   Serious   Ser	Company   Comp

Assets in the

course of Gas distribution

Undepreciated land equates to £774,000 (2015 - £774,000). Cumulative finance costs capitalised included in the cost of tangible fixed assets amount to £9,181,000 (2015 - £7,800,000).

#### 11. Fixed asset investments

	i otai	ı ota <b>ı</b>
	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000
Subsidiary undertakings	2,105	2,105
Other investment	104	104
	2,209	2,209

The company has an investment in the following subsidiary undertakings:

Subsidiary undertaking	Country of incorporation	Principal activity	Holding	%
Northern Gas Networks Finance Plc	England & Wales	Financing	49,999 ordinary shares of £1	100
Northern Gas Networks Operations Limited	England & Wales	Gas Network Operations	2 ordinary shares of £1	100
Northern Gas Networks Pensions Trustee Limited	England & Wales	Pension Scheme Trustee	1 ordinary share of £1	100

The other investment represents a 10.38% shareholding in xoserve Limited, which provides information, data processing, invoicing and other supply point administration services to the company. Xoserve Limited is registered in England & Wales.

The company also holds 1 ordinary share of £1 in Smart Energy Code Company Limited (registered in England and Wales) which represents a holding of 1.15%.

Subsidiary undertakings

	and Total £'000
Cost and net book value	
At 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	2,105

Corporate

Transportation

Other investment

	and Total
	£'000_
Cost and net book value	
At 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	104

### 12. Debtors

	Transportation 2016	Metering 2016	De Minimis 2016	Other activities 2016	Corporate 2016	Total <b>2016</b>	Transportation 2015	Metering 2015	De Minimis 2015	Other activities 2015	Corporate 2015	Total <b>2015</b>
Amounts falling due within one year	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Trade debtors	1,335	-	-	-	-	1,335	780	-	-	-	-	780
Prepayments and accrued income	49,656	-	-	-	-	49,656	49,305	-	-	-	-	49,305
Other debtors	2	-	=	-	-	2	80	-	-	-	-	80
Derivative financial assets	2,944	-	-	-	-	2,944	1,555	-	-	-	-	1,555
	53,937	-	-	-	-	53,937	51,720	-	-	-	-	51,720
Amounts falling due after more than one year												
Derivative financial assets	324,915	-	-	-	-	324,915	313,520	-	-	-	-	313,520
	378,852	-	-	-	-	378,852	365,240	-	-	-	-	365,240

## 13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering		activities	Corporate		Transportation	Metering	De minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank loans	11,403	-	-	-	-	11,403	4,600	-	-	-	=	4,600
Payments received on account	3,065	-	-	-	-	3,065	1,001	-	-	-	-	1,001
Trade creditors	959	-	-	-	-	959	386	-	-	-	=	386
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	-	40,329	40,329	-	-	-	-	53,073	53,073
UK corporation tax	53,028	-	-	-	-	53,028	34,930	-	-	-	-	34,930
Other taxation and social security	6,957	-	-	-	-	6,957	3,230	-	-	-	=	3,230
Accruals and deferred income	7,357	-	-	5,395	-	12,752	4,109	-	-	5,289	=	9,398
Derivative financial liabilities	15,134	-	-	-	-	15,134	15,606	-	-	-	-	15,606
	97,903	-	-	5,395	40,329	143,627	63,862	-	-	5,289	53,073	122,224

Bank loans comprise a revolving capital facility of £12.0m repayable on 29 April 2016 available to be redrawn until 2 October 2020 and carry interest at LIBOR plus a margin of 0.4%. At 31 March 2016 bank loans include unamortised fees of £597,000.

## 14. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering		activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation		De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank loans	343,124	-	-	-	-	343,124	314,962	-	-	-	-	314,962
Amounts owed to group undertakings	900,130	-	-	-	-	900,130	900,130	-	-	-	-	900,130
Deferred income	90,054	-	-	4,837	-	94,891	85,559	-	-	4,846	-	90,405
Derivative financial liabilities	374,729	-	-	-	-	374,729	353,682	-	-	-	-	353,682
	1,708,037	-	-	4,837	-	1,712,874	1,654,333	-	-	4,846	-	1,659,179

At 31 March 2016 bank loans include unamortised fees of £2,127,000. The bank loans comprise eight loans as detailed below.

Principal value (£m)	Interest terms	Repayable on
25.0	3 month LIBOR + 0.36%	23 January 2023
100.0	3 month LIBOR + 0.62%	30 March 2024
25.0	3 month LIBOR + 0.55%	24 June 2024
60.0	3 month LIBOR + 0.46%	30 July 2024
40.0	Fixed rate of 3.446%	20 December 2024
33.2	3 month LIBOR + 0.86%	25 March 2034
30.0	3 month LIBOR + 0.53%	31 March 2027
30.0	3 month LIBOR + 0.63%	29 February 2028

The amounts owed to group undertakings is an interest bearing loan of £505.0m with £250.0m repayable in 2027 and £255.0m repayable in 2035 with interest of 4.875%, an interest bearing loan of £198.2m repayable in 2019 with interest of 5.875%, and £197.0m repayable in 2040 with interest of 5.625%. A margin to cover related costs is added to all interest bearing loans.

## 15. Derivatives and other financial instruments

The carrying values of the company's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

	31 March <b>2016</b> £'000	31 March 2015 £'000
Financial assets		
Measured at fair value through the profit and loss account		
- Derivative financial assets	210,356	209,200
Measured at fair value and designated in an effective hedge relationship		
- Derivative financial assets	117,503	105,875
Measured at undiscounted amount receivable		
- Trade and other debtors (see note 12)	1,337	860
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment		
- Fixed asset investments (see note 11)	2,209	2,209
	331,405	318,144

	31 March 2016 £'000	31 March 2015 £'000
Financial liabilities		
Measured at fair value through the profit and loss account		
- Derivative financial liabilities	235,779	231,909
Measured at fair value and designated in an effective hedge relationship		
- Derivative financial liabilities	24,048	18,828
- Other financial liabilities – bonds	130,036	118,551
Measured at amortised cost		
- Loans payable (see notes 13 and 14)	354,527	319,562
Measured at undiscounted amount payable		
- Trade and other creditors (see note 13)	4,024	1,387
- Amounts owed to group undertakings (note 13 and 14)	940,459	953,203
	1,688,873	1,643,440

The company's income, expense, gains and losses in respect of financial instruments are summarised below:

	Year ended 31 March <b>2016</b> £'000	Year ended 31 March 2015 £'000
Interest income and expense on items at amortised cost		
- Total interest payable on financial liabilities at amortised cost	52,778	53,316
- Total interest receivable on financial assets measured at amortised cost	(62)	(51)
Interest income and expense on derivatives		
- Total interest receivable on financial assets measured at fair value through the P&L		
	(34,184)	(34,735)
- Total interest payable on financial liabilities measured at fair value through the P&L		
	21,363	21,915
- Total interest payable on financial assets designated in an effective hedging relationship		
	-	15
- Total interest payable on financial liabilities designated in an effective hedging relationship		
	5,334	4,010
Fair value gains and losses		
- On financial assets measured at fair value through the profit and loss account		
	3,978	(71,254)
- On financial liabilities measured at fair value through the profit and loss account		
	(81)	72,701
- On derivative financial assets designated in an effective hedging relationship		
	113	(77,119)
- On derivative financial liabilities designated in an effective hedging relationship		
	66	87,852
	49,305	56,649

The maturity of the carrying value of the company's derivatives in hedging relationships split between less than 1 year and greater than 1 year.

	Current (less	than 1 year)	Greater tha	ın 1 year
	31 March 16	31 March 15	31 March 16	31 March 15
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Derivatives that are designated and effective as hedging instruments carried at fair value				
Assets	-	6	117,503	105,869
Interest rate swaps				
Liabilities				
Interest rate swaps	-	-	(24,048)	(18,828)
	-	6	93,455	87,041

Interest rate swaps are valued at present value of future cash flows estimated and discounted based on the applicable yield curves derived from quoted interest rates, adjusted for the Group's own credit risk when determining the fair value of derivatives liabilities and for counterparty credit risk when determining the fair value of derivatives assets.

The following table details the notional principal amounts and remaining terms of interest rate swap contracts outstanding:

Interest rate swap contracts designated as hedges of variable interest rate risk of recognised financial liabilities:

	Average contract fixed interest rate		Notional principal value as at 31 March		Fair va as at 31	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
	%	%	£,000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Outstanding receive floating pay fixed contracts						
Less than 1 year		0.50		70 500		
1 to 2 years 2 to 5 years	- -	0.56 -	- -	72,500 -	-	6
5 years +	2.51	2.96	305,000	202,500	(24,048)	(18,828)
			305,000	275,000	(24,048)	(18,822)

The interest rate swaps settle on a quarterly basis. The floating rate on the interest rate swaps is three month LIBOR. The Company will settle the difference between the fixed and floating interest rate on a net basis.

The receive floating pay fixed contracts that are designated as hedges are designed to swap the floating rate on various loans from the European Investment Bank to fixed rate for periods of up to ten years.

The hedged cash flows are expected to occur and to affect profit or loss over the period to maturity of the interest rate swaps.

	Average contract fixed interest rate		Notional principal value		Fair value	
			as at 31	March	as at 31 March	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
	%	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Outstanding pay floating receive fixed contracts						
5 years plus	4.88	4.88	490,000	505,000	117,503	105,869
			490,000	505,000	117,503	105,869

The forward-starting interest rate swaps settle on a semi-annual basis in the case of the floating rate legs and on an annual basis in the case of the fixed rate leg. The floating rate on the interest rate swaps is six month LIBOR.

Interest will be settled on a gross basis as the settlement dates for the fixed and floating rate legs do not coincide.

The swaps hedge the exposure to changes in the fair value of the underlying bonds that are attributable to changes in interest rates.

#### 16. Provisions for liabilities excluding pension liability

		Transportation and Total								
	Contractor Claims	Restructuring	Environmental restoration	Deferred tax	Other	Total				
	£,000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				
At 1 April 2015	601	8,691	9,327	349,366	6,768	374,753				
Charged to profit and loss account	-	7,821	-	(38,953)	300	(30,832)				
Deferred tax in relation to pension scheme	-	-	-	(2,078)		(2,078)				
Utilised in the year	(601)	(2,444)	(528)	-	(602)	(4,175)				
Unwinding of discount	-	-	124	-	34	158				
At 31 March 2016	-	14,068	8,923	308,335	6,500	337,826				

Provision for net defined benefit scheme deficit (see note 21)

6,701

344,527

#### 16. Provisions for liabilities excluding pension liability (continued)

The provision for contractor claims relates to claims received from primary contractors in respect of work variations and final invoice valuations upon closing out contracts and represents the best estimate of the amounts required to settle these claims, which is expected mainly within one year of the balance sheet date. Estimated costs of an over 55 early retirement programme offered to employees over 55. The timing of the utilisation of the other provision is inherently uncertain although the directors expect that such utilisation will occur mainly within two year from the balance sheet date. The restructuring provision value represents the net present value of anticipated liabilities at the balance sheet date, and is expected mainly to realise beyond one year from the balance sheet date. Estimated environmental restoration costs are provided where the company has a legal obligation to restore sites at the balance sheet date. The provision represents the estimated net present value for statutory decontamination of old gas manufacturing sites. It also reflects the obligations associated with other environmental damage. Other provisions relate to the estimated net present value of future claims in relation to past public and employer's liability events. The timing of the utilisation of the environmental and other provisions is inherently uncertain although the Directors expect that such utilisation will occur mainly beyond one year from the balance sheet date.

#### Deferred tax

	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000
Accelerated capital allowances	76,771	82,220
Other timing differences	231,564	267,146
	308.335	349.366

#### 17. Called-up share capital

	2016	2016	2015	2015
	Number	£'000	Number	£'000
Allotted, called-up and fully paid				
Ordinary shares of £1 each	24,328,476	24,328	24,378,476	24,328

## 18. Cash flow statements

Reconciliation of operating profit to operating cash flow

				Other						Other		
	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total	Transportation	Metering	De Minimis	activities	Corporate	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Operating profit (loss)	199,665	-	-	(7)	-	199,658	210,692	(169)	23	-	-	210,546
Depreciation and amortisation	68,877	-	-	26	-	68,903	52,232	4,568	-	4	-	56,804
(Profit) loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	(553)	-	-	-	-	(553)	(437)	(217)	=	-	-	(654)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	(13,612)	-	-	-	-	(13,612)	3,687	-	=	-	-	3,687
Increase (decrease) in creditors	11,938	-	-	1,059	-	12,997	10,616	-	=	5,038	-	15,654
Decrease in provisions	3,946	-	-	-	-	3,946	(3,566)	-	=	-	-	(3,566)
Adjustment for pension funding	(8,763)	-	-	-	-	(8,763)	(9,021)	-	-	-	-	(9,021)
Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities	261,498	-	-	1,078	-	262,576	264,203	4,182	23	5,042	-	273,450

#### 19. Related party transactions

There have been no transactions with directors in the year (2015 - £nil) other than remuneration as disclosed in note 6. During the year the Company purchased services in the ordinary course of business from related parties as follows:

	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000
Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited	235	152
UK Power Networks (Transport) Limited	-	3,050
Northumbrian Water Limited	121	47
VLS Limited	1,400	1,505

Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited is a company whose ultimate parent undertaking is CK Hutchison Holdings Limited. There was £nil within creditors (CHED Services Limited, a company controlled by Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited) at 31 March 2016 (2015 - £69,000).

Northern Gas Networks Limited, Northumbrian Water Limited and UK Power Networks (Transport) Limited are part of the same group and VLS is 50% owned by Northumbrian Water Limited. The balances within creditors with these companies at the balance sheet date was £175,000 VLS Limited and £1,000 with Northumbrian Water Limited. For regulatory purposes only, in accordance with Standard Condition 1, Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited and Power Assets Holdings Limited are deemed to be ultimate controllers of these companies.

As a subsidiary undertaking of Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited, the company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard 8 "Related party disclosures" from disclosing transactions with other members of the group headed by Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited.

#### 20. Financial commitments

Future total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	7,568	6,297
- over five years	6,930	5,360
- between two and five years	492	493
- between one and two years	134	38
- within one year	12	406
Expiry date:		
	£'000	£'000
	2016	2015
	Land and buildings	Land and buildings

#### c) Other commitments

The company has entered in to a Guarantee and Reimbursement Agreement with FGIC UK Limited ("FGIC") in conjunction with its subsidiary Northern Gas Networks Finance Plc ("the Issuer") in relation to the bonds issued by that company in November 2005 of £505.0m. The company guarantees the punctual payment of any and all sums and fees due to FGIC and undertakes to pay any amount due from the Issuer but not paid by it. The company also indemnifies FGIC against any loss or liability suffered, if any obligation guaranteed by FGIC is, or becomes, unenforceable, invalid or illegal. The amount of the loss or liability under the indemnity is equal to the amount FGIC would otherwise have been entitled to recover.

**21. Pension arrangements**The company has obligations for a defined benefit pension scheme.

The amounts recognised in the balance sheets are as follows:

	2015 £'000	2015 £'000
Present value of funded obligations	427,139	440,181
Fair value of plan assets	(418,967)	(420,745)
Deficit	8,172	19,436
Related deferred tax asset	(1,471)	(3,887)
Net liability	6,701	15,549
Amounts in the balance sheets		
- Liabilities	6,701	15,549
The total amounts recognised in the profit and loss accounts are as follows:		
	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Amount charged to operating profit		
Current service costs	5,919	6,447
Past service costs	3,810	1,343
<u>Total</u>	9,729	7,790
Amount credited to net finance charges		
Interest costs	14,267	16,113
Expected return on plan assets	(13,870)	(17,936)
Net return on pension scheme	397	(1,823)
Total	10,126	5,967
The total amounts recognised in the statements of total recognised gains and losses are as follows:		
	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Actuarial gains (losses)	2,900	(16,851)
The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the statements of total recognised gains and losses is as follows:		
The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the statements of total recognised gains and losses is as follows.		
	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Actuarial losses	(61,450)	(64,350)

## 21. Pension arrangements (continued)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	440,181	363,300
Service costs	5,919	6,447
Past service costs	3,810	1,343
Interest cost	14,267	16,113
Member contributions	465	538
Actuarial losses (gains)	(17,756)	65,106
Benefits paid	(19,730)	12,666
Expenses paid	(17)	
Closing defined benefit obligation	427,139	440,181

Changes in the fair value of plan assets are as follows:

	2016	2015
	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of plan assets	420,745	349,871
Expected return	13,870	17,936
Actuarial gains (losses)	(14,856)	48,255
Employer contributions	18,490	16,811
Member contributions	465	538
Benefits paid	(19,730)	(12,666)
Expenses paid	(17)	
	418,967	420,745

The major categories of plan assets as a percentage of the total plan assets are as follows:

	2016	2015
	%	%
Equity securities	18.1	23.9
Debt securities	63.8	50.5
Property	63.8 9.3	8.0
Property Other	8.8	17.6

To determine the overall expected rate of return on plan assets the company considered the current level of expected returns on risk free investments (primarily government bonds), the historical level of the risk premium associated with the other asset classes in which the assets are invested and the expectations for future returns of each asset class in the plan. The expected return for each asset class was then weighted, based on the asset allocation in the plan to develop the assumption for the expected rate of return on plan assets.

#### 21. Pension arrangements (continued)

The actual return on plan assets is as follows:

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Actual return on plan assets	(986)	66,191

Principal actuarial assumptions at the balance sheet date (expressed as weighted averages) are:

2016	2015
3.6%	3.3%
3.5%	3.4%
3.0%	2.9%
3.0%	2.9%
22.2 years	22.0 years
24.4 years	24.2 years
	3.6% 3.5% 3.0% 3.0% 22.2 years

The company also operates defined contribution schemes for which the pension charge for the year amounted to £474,000 (2015 - £428,000). At 31 March 2016 unpaid contributions amounted to £4,000 (2015 - £3,000).

#### 22. Ultimate controlling party

The Directors regard Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales, as the ultimate parent company and ultimate controlling party. For regulatory purposes only, in accordance with Standard Condition 1, Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited and Power Assets Holdings Limited are also deemed to be ultimate controllers, both of which are listed on the Hang Seng Index.

Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited is the parent company of the largest and smallest group of which the company is a member and for which group accounts are drawn up. Copies of the Annual Accounts are available from 1100 Century Way, Thorpe Park Business Park, Colton, Leeds, LS15 8TU and at www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk.

The shareholders of Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited are a consortium consisting of:

PG (April) Limited (47.1%) Beta Central Profits Limited (41.3%) SAS Trustee Corporation (11.6%).

#### 23. Explanation of transition to FRS 102

This is the first year that the company has presented its accounts under FRS 102 issued by the Financial Reporting Council. The following disclosures are required in the year of transition. The last accounts were under previous UK GAAP were for the year ended 31 March 2015 and the date of transition to FRS 102 was therefore 1 April 2015. As a consequence of adopting FRS 102, a number of accounting policies have changed to comply with that standard.

#### Replacement expenditure

The company's network of metallic pipes is being replaced with polyetheline pipes. This activity, referred to as repex, is treated as capital expenditure under FRS 102 whereas it was expensed under the previous UK GAAP.

#### **Diversions**

Diversions have previously been accounted for on a net basis (cost less contribution) within repex expenditure. Under FRS 102, consistent with repex the cost is now treated as a fixed asset with the contribution as a deferred contribution in creditors. The depreciation of the asset and the amortisation of the contribution is then charged / credited to the profit and loss account over the life of the relevant asset.

#### 23. Explanation of transition to FRS 102 (continued)

#### Financial instruments (IAS 39)

On transition to FRS 102, NGN adopted IAS 39 for financial instrument reporting to give continuity with the shareholder group reporting. The adjustments on transition are to recognise the fair value of NGN's interest rate swaps and hedged bonds as at 1 April 2015.

The future movements in the fair value of the instruments are then charged / credited to the profit and loss account or hedging reserve. In respect of the swaps and bonds that were recognised at fair value on transition the corresponding reserve and hedging reserve balances will reach zero as each instrument reaches maturity.

#### Deferred tax on opening asset valuation

Under FRS 102 there is a requirement to account for the balance of the deferred tax on the fair value uplift of fixed assets acquired on acquisition of the gas transportation licence in 2005, which is then amortised over 40 years since acquisition, consistent with the treatment of intangible assets.

#### Intangible Asset - Gas Transporter Licence

The value of the Gas Transporter Licence (licence) has previously been included within the total value of goodwill. Under FRS 102 intangible assets acquired can be recognised separately if the fair value can be measured reliably. NGN have undertaken an exercise to value the licence and as such the licence is now disclosed as an intangible asset. There is no impact on shareholder funds as a result of this change and therefore it is not listed as an adjustment in the table below.

#### Reconciliation of equity

	At 31 March <b>2015</b> £'000	At 1 April <b>2014</b> £'000
Equity shareholders fund under previous UK GAAP	(57,750)	52,270
Repex and diversions	598,761	526,192
Financial instruments (IAS 39)	(43,370)	(25,909)
Deferred tax on opening asset valuation	(127,300)	(131,520)
Total FRS 102 adjustments	428,091	368,763
Equity shareholders' funds under FRS 102	485,841	421,033

#### Notes to the reconciliation

#### Reconciliation of profit or loss for the year ended 31 March 2015

	2 000
Profit for the financial year under previous UK GAAP	52,983
Repex and diversions	72,567
Financial instruments (IAS 39)	(9,884)
Deferred tax on opening asset revaluation	4,220
Profit for the financial period under FRS 102	119,886

£,UUU

#### 24. Charges and apportionments

The following tables show the amounts included within the profit and loss accounts and balance sheets of the Transportation, Metering, De Minimis and Other activities businesses, which have been charged from or to any non-NGN business of NGNH, in relation to the supply of goods or services, or which have been determined by apportionment for the years ended 31 March 2015 and 31 March 2014. The full names of the other subsidiary undertakings of NGNH referred to in this note are provided in note 26(e).

#### a) Charges from or to other NGNH businesses within NGN's profit and loss accounts

Description of charge	Details of charge	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Net interest			
Interest on intercompany loan	Interest on intercompany loan from NGNF	48,631	48,590
Cost of sales			
Non formula cost of sales	Non formula cost of sales recharged by NGNOL	243	228
Distribution expenses			
Operational costs	Opex and repex (pre FRS 102) activity recharged by NGNOL	56,191	149,398
		105.065	198.216

Transportation Transportation

Transportation Transportation

#### b) Charges from or to other NGNH businesses within NGN's balance sheets

Description of charge	Details of charge	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Tangible assets Tangible fixed asset additions	Capex and repex (post FRS 102) spend recharged by NGNOL	157.264	0 406
Accrued income	Capex and repex (post r No 102) spend recharged by NGNOL	157,264	8,486
Capital contributions Intercompany	Income against capex spend recharged by NGNOL	(8,645)	(5,217)
Intercompany Intercompany trading account	Unpaid charges due to NGNOL/NGNF/NGNH (note 13)	(40,329)	(33,182)
Group loans	Interest bearing loans with NGNF (note 14)	(900,130)	(900,130)

On 27 January 2015 the company released a £24.3m intercompany loan with Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited in exchange for the issue of ordinary shares of equal value, issued at par.

#### c) Charges from ultimate controllers or subsidiaries of ultimate controllers within NGN's profit and loss accounts

There have been no charges for goods and services for the purpose of the business, from ultimate controllers or subsidiaries of ultimate controllers and other NGNH businesses during the year that have been included in NGN's profit and loss accounts.

#### d) Charges from ultimate controllers or subsidiaries of ultimate controllers within NGN's balance sheets

There have been no charges from ultimate controllers or subsidiaries of ultimate controllers and other NGNH businesses during the year that have been included in NGN's balance sheets. There are no amounts owed by other undertakings in the NGNH Group in the current and prior year. Details of amounts owed to other undertakings in the NGNH group are shown in notes 13 and 14.

#### e) Definitions

The following table sets out the full names of other undertakings within the NGNH group and ultimate controllers and their subsidiaries referred to above.

Short name	Full name
NGNH	Northern Gas Networks Holdings Limited
NGNF	Northern Gas Networks Finance Plc
NGNOL	Northern Gas Networks Operations Limited

There were no amounts included in the profit and loss account or the balance sheets which were not directly attributable to specific businesses and which were determined by apportionment.