REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1997

Directors

M E Bates
K J H Malde BA, FCCA
M T J Sismey-Durrant BSc, MPhil, FCIB

Secretary

P H Green, Solicitor

Registered Office

Bank House Primett Road Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 3UQ

Registered Number

2169927 England

Auditors

Deloitte & Touche Stonecutter Court 1 Stonecutter Street London EC4A 4TR



Report of the directors

The directors have pleasure in submitting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1997.

Activity

The principal activity is that of a parent undertaking providing a range of banking services through its subsidiary undertakings. The group contains an authorised institution under the Banking Act 1987.

Results and Dividends

The results for the year are set out in the profit and loss account on page 5. An interim dividend of £2,500,000 (1996 - £2,000,000) was paid during the year. The directors do not recommend the payment of a final dividend (1996 - £nil).

Directors and directors' interests

The present Board of Directors is shown on page 1. All the directors served office throughout the year. At no time during the year have the directors or their families had any beneficial interest in the shares of the company or any other company within the group. None of the directors had a material interest in any contract significant to the company's business.

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of the profit of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

A resolution for the re-appointment of Deloitte & Touche as auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board

P H GREEN Secretary

24 March 1998

Report of the Auditors to the Members of Confederation Financial Services (UK) Limited

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 9 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 7.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 2 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 1997 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Deloitte & Touche.

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Stonecutter Court

1 Stonecutter Street

London EC4A 4TR

25 March 1998

Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 1997

	Note	1997 £000	1996 £000
Income from group undertakings	2	2,500	2,000
Tax on profit on ordinary activities		-	-
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		2,500	2,000
Dividend	4.	(2,500)	(2,000)
Retained profit for the financial year	6	-	

A statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been included as there were no recognised gains or losses or movements in shareholders' funds for the current or previous financial year other than those already dealt with in the profit and loss account.

All activities arise from continuing operations.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1997

	Notes	1997 £000	1996 £000
Fixed Assets			
Investments			
Shares in group undertakings	7	30,100	27,600
Other investments		1	1
		30,101	27,601
Capital and Reserves			
Called up share capital	5	30,001	27,501
Profit and loss account	6	100	100
Total Shareholders' funds		<u>30,101</u>	<u>27,601</u>
Attributable to Equity Shareholders		101	101
Attributable to Non-Equity Shareholders		30,000	<u>27,500</u>
7 2000 2000 200 200 200 200 200 200 200		30,101	<u>27,601</u>

Approved by the Board of Directors

Director 24 March 1998

Director

24 March 1998

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1997

1. PARENT UNDERTAKING

The immediate parent undertaking and controlling party is Confederation U.K. Holdings plc, a company registered in England and Wales. The accounts of the immediate parent undertaking are available from Bank House, Primett Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 3UQ. The ultimate parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party is Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, a mutual company incorporated in Canada. The annual report of the ultimate parent undertaking can be obtained from the Company Secretary, Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, Sun Life Centre, 150 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M59 1J9, Canada.

2. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Income from Group Undertakings

Income from group undertakings is accounted for on a received basis and an interim dividend of £2,500,000 (1996 - £2,000,000) was received from a subsidiary undertaking.

Investments

The investments are shown at cost less any permanent diminution in value of the investments.

3. DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

None of the directors received any emoluments in respect of direct services to the company in the current and the previous year.

The administrative expenses for the company are negligible and are borne by a subsidiary undertaking.

4. DIVIDENDS

An interim dividend of 8.33 pence (1996 - 7.27 pence) per share was paid on the cumulative redeemable preference shares.

5.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1997

CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL	<u>1997</u> £000	<u>1996</u> £000
Authorised 1,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	1,000	1,000
50,000,000 (1996 - 29,000,000) cumulative redeemable preference shares of £1 each	50,000 51,000	29,000 30,000
Called up, allotted and fully paid 1,252 ordinary shares of £1 each 30,000,000 (1996 - 27,500,000) cumulative	1	1
redeemable preference shares of £1 each	30,000 30,001	$\frac{27,500}{27,501}$

On 12 March 1997, the company's authorised cumulative redeemable preference share capital was increased by £21,000,000 to £50,000,000. The called up, allotted and fully paid capital was increased on 6 June 1997 by £2,500,000 through the issue of 2,500,000 cumulative redeemable preference shares of £1 each, to support the Exeter Trust Limited (formerly Exeter Bank Limited) acquisition.

The company is entitled at any time to redeem, at par, all or any of the cumulative redeemable preference shares.

6.	PROFIT AND LOSS RESERVE	<u>1997</u> £000	<u>1996</u> £000
	At 1 January	100	-
	Retained profit for the year At 31 December	100	100 100

7. SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS

Investment in group undertaking was increased on 6 June 1997 to support the acquisition during the year.

The company's wholly owned subsidiary undertakings incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales unless otherwise stated are:

Subsidiary Undertaking	Principal Activity
Sun Banking Corporation Limited	Providers of a range of banking services.
Sun Banking (Jersey) Limited* (Channel Islands)	Offshore banking.
Confederation Mortgage Services (UK) Limited*	Provision of residential mortgages.
Primett Property Management Limited*	Provision of property management

services.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1997

SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS continued 7.

Subsidiary Undertaking

Principal Activity

Confederation Property Services Limited

Franchising estate agency.

Exeter Trust Limited (formerly Exeter Bank Limited)* Provision of commercial mortgage

and asset backed lending

Sunexeter Limited** (formerly Exeter Trust Limited)

Non-trading

Exeter Trust Insurance Services Limited**

Non-trading

Exeter Trust Financial Services Limited***

Provision of asset backed lending

COMMITMENTS 8.

The company undertook a guarantee for two property lease agreements in the name of a subsidiary undertaking and at the balance sheet date, the annual commitments under these operating leases are as follows:-

Operating leases which expire:

Over five years

34,176

51,676

These commitments are partially matched by rental income receivable from sub letting arrangements on similar terms and conditions as the head leases and is as follows:-

Over five years

30,000

^{*}wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Sun Banking Corporation Limited

^{**}wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Exeter Trust Limited

^{***}wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Exeter Trust Insurance Services Limited