Npower Limited

Directors' report and financial statements

Registered number: 3653277

31 March 2001

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Directors' report

The directors present their report on the affairs of Npower Limited (Npower or the Company), together with the financial statements and independent auditors' report for the year ended 31 March 2001.

Change of name

On 1 December 2000, the company changed its name from National Power (Engery Co) Limited to Npower Limited.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Company and its subsidiaries are the marketing and supply of electricity and natural gas and related services to domestic, commercial and industrial consumers.

Activities and results

Npower Limited forms part of the Innogy Holdings plc retail business, which is a national energy supply business selling electricity, gas and other services. Following the purchase of Yorkshire Electricity and asset swap of Northern Electric's supply business for the Yorkshire distribution business in April and September 2001 respectively, Npower now meets the needs of more than seven million homes and businesses.

The Company's ultimate parent company, Innogy Holdings plc, was formed in December 1999 and was the vehicle into which National Power PLC demerged its principal UK trading activities in October 2000.

The Company's loss on ordinary activities before taxation and after exceptional costs for the period was £146,400,000 (2000: £5,300,000). The Company has taken advantage of Section 228 of the Companies Act 1985 and consequently consolidated financial statements are not presented.

Dividend

The directors do not recommend payment of a dividend.

Charitable contributions

The Company made no political contributions during the year. Donations to charities registered in the United Kingdom amounted to £185,730 (2000: £31,347).

Directors and their interests

The directors who served during the year and subsequently are as follows:

Dr BM Count SP Fletcher

No director is beneficially interested in the loan capital of Innogy Holdings plc.

No director has any beneficial interest in the share or loan capital of any subsidiary of Innogy Holdings plc or any beneficial interest in any contracts of the Company.

The beneficial interest of the directors who held office at the end of the financial year and their families, and the options to subscribe for the share capital of the ultimate holding company, Innogy Holdings plc, are disclosed in the financial statements of the ultimate holding company.

Health and safety

The Company regards the health and safety of its employees as an essential integrated feature of our operations. We have published an overall policy and guidelines and procedures appropriate to each of our workplaces have been issued to managers.

Directors' report (continued)

Employees

The Company is committed to the development of all staff in the organisation. Staff are encouraged to maintain personal development plans and the company provides financial support to employees to pursue training opportunities.

Regulatory accounts

Npower Limited is no longer required by the terms of its licence conditions to produce Regulatory Accounts in respect of the activity which it undertakes under its own Second Tier Licence and as agent of Midlands Electricity plc under the terms of its Public Electricity Supply ("PES") licence.

Creditor payment policy

Npower Limited recognises the need to observe the highest standards of business practice in its role as buyer and seller. Its parent companies, National Power PLC and then Innogy Holdings plc subscribed to the CBI's Prompt Payment Code since 1992 and has formally adopted British Standard 7890 Methods for Achieving Good Payment Performance in Commercial Transactions and this is an achievement and a standard that Npower Limited and its subsidiary companies are seeking to emulate. Npower Limited's average number of days outstanding in respect of trade creditors calculated in accordance with the Companies Act, at 31 March 2001 was 42 days (2000: 37 days).

The Euro

The Innogy Holdings plc group continues to assess the business impact of the introduction of the Euro, and is actively involved in providing input to industry wide groups, discussing the impact and issues at implementation. Current system developments are being scoped reflecting Euro related considerations.

Auditor

An elective resolution has been passed in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 1985 dispensing with the requirement to appoint auditors annually. The directors have been authorised to fix the remuneration of the auditors.

By order of the board

Q D FULL

SP Fletcher
Director

Windmill Hill Business Park Whitehill Way Swindon SN5 6PB

29 January 2002

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 and of the profit or loss for that period. In preparing those 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, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the 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 have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.



KPMG Audit Plc

8 Salisbury Square London EC4Y 8BB

Independent auditors' report to the members of Npower Limited

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and, as described on page 3, the financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in the United Kingdom by statute, the Auditing Practices Board and by our profession's ethical guidance.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the Company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the Company is not disclosed.

Basis of audit 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 March 2001 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

KPME Andil /k

Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor 29 January 2002

Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2001

	Note	Year ended 31 March	Period ended 31 March
		2001	2000
		Total	Total
		£m	£m
Turnover	1	1,366.7	788.7
Cost of sales before exceptional operating costs	Γ	(1,167.5)	(687.9)
Exceptional operating costs	5	(206.2)	-
Cost of soles often automal enquestion agents	-	(1.252.5)	(697.0)
Cost of sales after exceptional operating costs	L	(1,373.7)	(687.9)
Gross profit		(7.0)	100.8
Other operating costs		(128.4)	(90.0)
	-		
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before exceptional interest and taxation		(135.4)	10.8
Interest payable and similar charges	2	(11.0)	(16.1)
	-		
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation	3	(146.4)	(5.3)
Tax on loss on ordinary activities	6	1.4	(1.4)
Retained loss for the financial period		(145.0)	(6.7)

All amounts are derived from continuing operations.

The comparative information is for the period from incorporation on 21 October 1998 to 31 March 2000. The company commenced trading on 30 June 1999.

There were no recognised gains or losses in the current or preceding period other than the loss for the period.

Movements on reserves are set out in note 14 to the financial statements.

Balance sheet at 31 March 2001

£m 555.1
7.5
25.0
587.6
245.0
11.1
256.1
423.6)
167.5)
420.1
395.4)
24.7

1.0
30.4
(6.7)
24.7

These financial statements were approved by the Board of directors on January 2002 and were signed on its behalf by:

SP Fletcher Director S. I Hall

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Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the period, is set out below.

Basis of preparation

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

Notwithstanding that the Company has net liabilities, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The ultimate parent company has provided assurances that it will provide such funding as required to enable the Company to trade and meet its financial obligations as they fall due for at least the next twelve months.

Group accounts

The Company is exempt under Section 228 of the Companies Act 1985 from the requirement to prepare group financial statements and to deliver them to the Registrar of companies. The financial statements therefore present information about the Company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The Company is included within the consolidated financial statements of Innogy Holdings plc, the Company's ultimate parent undertaking, which is incorporated in Great Britain.

Turnover

Turnover comprises the value of sales of goods and services, excluding VAT, in the normal course of business. The Company operates in one class of business, the marketing and supply of electricity and related services, and in one geographical segment, the United Kingdom.

Cash flow statement

Under Financial Reporting Standard 1 the Company is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement on the grounds that Innogy Holdings plc, the Company's ultimate parent undertaking, includes the Company's cash flows in its own published consolidated cash flow statement.

Goodwill

In accordance with FRS10: Goodwill and Intangible Assets, goodwill arising on acquisitions, being the difference between the fair value of the purchase consideration and the fair value of the identifiable net assets/liabilities of an acquired business, is capitalised and amortised in equal annual instalments over its useful service life, normally a period not exceeding 20 years.

Impairment reviews are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of FRS 11.

Investments

Unlisted investments are stated at cost less provisions for impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at original cost less accumulated depreciation. In the case of assets constructed by the Company, related works and commissioning costs are included in cost. Assets in the course of construction are included in tangible fixed assets on the basis of expenditure at the balance sheet date.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets to their residual value evenly over their estimated useful lives. Estimated useful lives are reviewed periodically, taking into account commercial and technological obsolescence as well as normal wear and tear, provision being made for any permanent diminution in value.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

The depreciation charge is based on the following estimates of useful lives:

Freehold buildings

20 years straight line

Short leasehold land and buildings

period of lease

Office equipment and furniture

5 years

Computer software costs

5 years

Depreciation of computer software costs commences when the related software becomes operational.

Hedging policy

Npower Limited seeks to manage its exposure to electricity price volatility by entering into arms length trading contracts with the Innogy plc (its immediate parent company) and through external contracts in accordance with the terms of Supply Licence granted by OFGEM. The contracts in place at the year end are in accordance with requirements established under the New Electricity Trading Arrangements ("NETA") which commenced on 27 March 2001.

The external contracts include the purchase of output from renewable sources and also from generation embedded within distribution networks of the Public Electricity Suppliers.

Pension costs

Pension contributions into defined benefit schemes are charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives. The regular cost is attributed to individual years using the projected unit credit method. Variations in pension costs, which are identified as a result of actuarial valuations, are amortised over the average expected remaining working lives of employees. Any differences between the amounts funded and the amounts charged to the profit and loss account are treated as either provisions or prepayments in the balance sheet. Details of the schemes are disclosed within the notes to these accounts.

Contributions payable under money-purchase schemes are charged to the profit and loss account as they fall due.

Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account evenly over the term of the lease.

Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the loss for the period and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes. Provision is made for deferred tax, using the liability method, only to the extent that it is probable that an actual liability or asset will crystallise in the foreseeable future.

2 Interest payable and similar charges

	Year ended	Period ended
	31 March	31 March
	2001	2000
	£m	£m
Interest arising on unwinding of provision	3.3	16.1
Interest on settlement of PPA	7.1	=
Other	0.6	-
	11.0	16.1
	 -	

Interest arising on unwinding of provision represents the interest charge required to adjust the discounted value of the fair value provisions raised in accordance with FRS7 on the acquisition of the retail supply business to represent the correct net present value at the balance sheet date. These fair value provisions were utilised during the current financial year as described in note 5.

Interest on settlement of PPA represents interest payable on settlement of long term power purchase contracts.

3 Loss on ordinary activities before taxation

Loss on ordinary activities before taxation is stated	Year ended 31 March 2001 £m	Period ended 31 March 2000 £m
after charging		
Amortisation of capitalised goodwill	28.8	21.6
Depreciation	1.7	0.2
Auditors' remuneration (audit fees)	0.1	0.1
Operating lease rentals - land and buildings	0.2	0.3
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	0.1	-

Fees paid to KPMG Audit Plc and its associates for non audit services amounted to £270,000 (2000: £13,000).

4 Staff costs

The average monthly number of employees (including executive directors) was:	Year ended 31 March 2001 Number	Period ended 31 March 2000 Number
Selling, customer service and administrative staff	1,047	861
The number of employees at 31 March 2001 was 1,331 (2000: 901).		
The aggregate remuneration comprised: Wages and salaries	Year ended 31 March 2001 £m 21.1 1.9	Period ended 31 March 2000 £m
Social security costs Other pension costs	24.1	1.1 0.9 ———————————————————————————————————
The remuneration of the directors was as follows: Emoluments	211	162

No director was a member of the Company's defined contribution scheme in the year.

5 Exceptional operating items

Exceptional operating items comprise the following:

Exceptional operating items comprise the following:		
	Year ended	Period ended
	31 March	31 March
	2001	2000
	£m	£m
Restructuring of long term power purchase contracts – cost of sales	206.2	-
Redundancy and associated costs - other operating costs	-	4.1
		

The Power Purchase Agreement with Teeside was bought out in the period at a cash cost of £517 million. This was charged against the existing provision with the balance of £206.2 million treated as exceptional.

6 Taxation

UK taxation:	Year ended 31 March 2001 £m	Period ended 31 March 2000 £m
Deferred tax credit/(charge) at 30% (Note 12)	1.4	(1.4)
7 Intangible assets		Goodwill £m
Cost		
At 1 April 2000 Goodwill adjustment		576.7 (0.2)
At 31 March 2001		576.5
Amortisation		
At 1 April 2000		21.6
Provision for the year		28.8
At 31 March 2001		50.4
Net book value		
At 31 March 2001		526.1
At 31 March 2000		555.1
		— ————————————————————————————————————

The final settlement for the purchase of MEB has not yet been made. The goodwill adjustment represents a revision to the estimated settlement of the purchase consideration.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £m	Computer software £m	Office equipment and furniture £m	Assets in the course of construction £m	Total £m
Cost					
At 1 April 2000	1.6	4.4	0.7	2.1	8.8
Additions	-	0.1	2.4	33.8	36.3
Transfers	1.3	3.0	3.2	(7.5)	-
Disposals	-	-	(0.2)	-	(0.2)
					
At 31 March 2001	2.9	7.5	6.1	28.4	44.9
					
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2000	0.1	1.1	0.1	-	1.3
Charge for the year	-	0.3	1.4	-	1.7
Disposals	-	-	(0.1)	-	(0.1)
			 -		
At 31 March 2001	0.1	1.4	1.4	-	2.9
		=			
Net book value					
At 31 March 2001	2.8	6.1	4.7	28.4	42.0
		====			 _
At 31 March 2000	1.5	3.3	0.6	2.1	7.5
					

9 Fixed asset investments

	Shares in subsidiary undertakings £m
Cost and net book value	
At 1 April 2000	25.0
Additions	2.6
	
At 31 March 2001	27.6

The Company's trading subsidiary undertakings at 31 March 2001 are detailed below. All of the subsidiary undertakings are incorporated in Great Britain.

	Proportion of nominal value of issued shares of	
Identity of shares held	that class	Nature of business
3,862,500 `A` ordinary shares	100%	Energy supply
3,862,500 `B` ordinary shares	100%	
2 ordinary shares	100%	Energy supply
2 ordinary shares	100%	Sales and marketing
1 ordinary share	100%	Financial services
1 ordinary share	100%	Telecommuncations
	3,862,500 `A` ordinary shares 3,862,500 `B` ordinary shares 2 ordinary shares 2 ordinary shares 1 ordinary share	value of issued shares of that class 3,862,500 `A` ordinary shares 3,862,500 `B` ordinary shares 2 ordinary shares 2 ordinary shares 100% 2 ordinary shares 100% 1 ordinary share 100%

10 Debtors

	2001 £m	2000 £m
Trade debtors	115.9	125.2
Amounts due from group companies	269.9	28.4
Prepayments and accrued income	148.6	91.4
Other tax and social security	10.8	-
	545.2	245.0
	==	

Included within prepayments and accrued income is £147.3m (2000: £91.4m) relating to income for electricity supplied but not billed to customers as at the period end. At the end of the previous period £82.7m relating to unbilled income had been included within trade debtors. The prior period comparative has therefore been restated, as the Directors believe that including all unbilled income within prepayments and accrued income provides a more accurate analysis of the receivable balances. All amounts fall due within one year.

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2001	2000
	Lm	£m
Trade creditors	108.0	103.4
Customer payments in advance	57.0	54.8
Loans due to group companies	1,031.0	219.5
Other amounts due to group companies	43.8	27.8
Other tax and social security	0.3	0.7
Accruals and deferred income	34.3	17.4
		
	1,274.4	423.6
		

The loans due to group companies are subject to annual renewal by agreement with the ultimate holding company. Such loans have therefore been included within current liabilities. As at the date of approval of these financial statements the Directors are not aware of any intention of the ultimate holding company to require repayment of such funding, other than by way of transfer of surplus funds arising within the company's operations.

12 Provisions for liabilities and charges

	Deferred taxation	Provision for onerous contracts	Reorganisation provision	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
At 1 April 2000	1.4	389.9	4.1	395.4
Created/(released) in the year	(1.4)	3.3	_	1.9
Utilised in the year	-	(393.2)	(2.4)	(395.6)
At 31 March 2001	-	-	1.7	1.7
				

12 Provisions for liabilities and charges (continued)

The provision for onerous contracts represented a provision raised in respect of PPA contracts which were viewed as onerous at the date of the acquisition of the MEB retail supply business. The provision was raised on a discounted basis in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 7, and thus additions have been made to the provision during the course of the year to reflect the un-winding of the discounting effects. Utilisation represents usage of the provision to match electricity purchases made at greater than market value under this agreement during the current financial period and the settlement of the outstanding periods of the contracts as described in note 5.

The reorganisation provision represents the balance of the provision for redundancy and related costs in respect of a business re-organisation.

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation accounted for in the balance sheet and the potential amounts of deferred taxation at 30% (2000: 30%) are:

	2001	2000
Full potential deferred tax liabilities	£m	£m
Accelerated capital allowances	(1.7)	_
Other timing differences	-	(110.7)
Total deferred tax liabilities provided	(1.7)	(110.7)
Full potential deferred tax assets		
Tax losses	93.3	109.3
Total gross deferred tax assets	93.3	109.3
Less deferred tax asset not recognised	(91.6)	-
Total deferred tax asset recognised	1.7	109.3
Net deferred tax asset/(liability) recognised	-	(1.4)
Deferred tax provided		
		2001
The movement on deferred taxation is as follows:		£m
At 1 April 2000		(1.4)
Credit to profit and loss account		1.4
At 31 March 2001		-

13 Share capital			
		2001	2000
		£m	£m
Authorised:			
1,500,000 ordinary shares of £1 each		1.5	1.5
Allotted, called up and fully paid:		4.0	4.0
1,000,001 ordinary shares of £1 each		1.0	1.0
			
14 Reserves			
11 10011103	3.5		
	Merger	Profit and loss account	Total
	reserve £m	Lm	£m
	~III	AIII	2,111
At 1 April 2000	30.4	(6.7)	23.7
Retained loss for the financial period	-	(145.0)	(145.0)
			
At 31 March 2001	30.4	(151.7)	(121.3)
15 Reconciliation of movements in equity shareholders' fund	de .		
13 Reconculation of movements in equity shareholders fund	13		
		2001 £m	2000
		£m	£m
Retained loss for the period		(145.0)	(6.7)
New share capital subscribed		-	31.4
			
Net (reduction in)/addition to equity shareholders' funds		(145.0)	24.7
Opening equity shareholders' funds		24.7	-
			
Closing equity shareholders' funds		(120.3)	24.7
-			

16 Capital and financial commitments

Capital commitments at 31 March 2001, for which no provision has been made in these financial statements were as follows:

ionows.	2001 £m	2000 Lm
Contracted but not provided	14.0	0.9
		 =
Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:		
	2001	2000
	Land and	Land and
	buildings	buildings
	£m	£m
Expiry date:		
- within one year	_	0.2
- over one year but less than five years	0.1	_
- more than five years	0.6	0.2
	<u>~</u>	
	0.7	0.4

17 Related party transactions

As a wholly owned subsidiary of Innogy Holdings plc the Company has taken advantage of the exemption under Financial Reporting Standard 8 Related party disclosures, not to provide information on related party transactions with other undertakings within the Innogy Holdings plc group. Note 19 gives details of how to obtain a copy of the published financial statements of Innogy Holdings plc.

18 Pensions

The majority of pensions are funded through the industry-wide scheme, the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (ESPS) which is a defined benefit scheme with assets invested in separate trustee-administered funds. The ESPS is divided into sections, one of which is the Innogy Holdings section.

An actuarial valuation of the ESPS is carried out every three years by a professionally qualified actuary, who recommends the rates of contribution payable, by each employer. The Company has taken separate advice from a professionally qualified actuary in order to determine the pension cost to be included in the accounts under Statement of Accounting Practice 24. The latest available review of the assets and liabilities in Innogy's section of the ESPS for accounting purposes was undertaken as at 31 March 1998, using the projected unit credit method. The assumptions which have the most significant effect on the results of the review are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rates of increase in salaries and pensions. It was assumed that the annual investment return would be 2.75% higher than the annual general increase in salaries and 4.5% higher than the annual increases in pensions. Dividends are expected to grow at 5.0% per annum, with allowance made for the loss of tax credits on UK equities.

At 31 March 1998, the market value of the Innogy Holdings ESPS assets was £2,595 million and the actuarial value covered 105% of the benefits that had accrued to members after allowing for expected future increases in earnings and benefit improvements granted to members following the formal valuation of the Innogy Holdings section of the ESPS as at 31 March 1998.

18 Pensions (continued)

The Innogy Group Pension Scheme (IGPS) was set up on 30 September 1999 primarily for employees within the retail business. Since its inception membership has been opened to employees throughout the Company who did not previously have the opportunity to join a defined benefit scheme. In December 2000, former members of the National Power Senior Staff Pension Scheme were transferred into the IGPS. Company contributions to this scheme were at the rate of 6% of members' pensionable earnings with an additional 23% of members pensionable earnings in respect of Executive Directors.

The Innogy Group Defined Contribution Scheme (IGDCS) was set up on 1 June 2000. For new employees the Company pays 4% contributions matching those of the member.

During the year ended 31 March 2001, Innogy Holdings contributed to the ESPS at the rate of 6% of members' pensionable earnings.

The pension charge for the period amounted to £1,071,000, being £1,020,000 for defined benefit schemes and £51,000 in respect of the money purchase based scheme (2000: £900,000, £625,000 in respect of the defined benefit schemes and £275,000 in respect of the money purchase based scheme). There were no prepaid or accrued contributions at the 31 March 2001 or 2000.

19 Controlling and parent Company

On the demerger of the UK business out of National Power PLC on 30 September 2000 the company's ultimate parent and controlling company became Innogy Holdings plc which is incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales. The company's immediate parent company is Innogy plc. Copies of the financial statements of Innogy Holdings plc are available from the company secretary at Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon SN5 6PB.