Registered number: 04125315

# **FLEXTECH BROADBAND LIMITED**

# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016



# **COMPANY INFORMATION**

**Directors** 

R D Dunn M O Hifzi

Company secretary

G E James

Registered number

04125315

Registered office

Bartley Wood Business Park Hook

Hampshire RG27 9UP

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#### DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

#### Principal activities and business review

The principal activity of the company was, and will continue to be, to provide funding to fellow group companies.

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Virgin Media Inc. (Virgin Media) which is itself a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Global plc (Liberty Global).

The Virgin Media Inc. consolidated group (the group) operates under the Virgin Media brand in the United Kingdom (UK) and Republic of Ireland (Ireland).

The group provides video, broadband internet, fixed-line telephony and mobile services in the UK and Ireland to both residential and business-to-business (B2B) customers. The group is one of the largest providers of video, broadband internet and fixed-line telephony services in terms of the number of customers in the UK and Ireland. The group believes its advanced, deep-fibre cable access network enables it to offer faster and higher quality broadband services than its digital subscriber line, or DSL, competitors. As a result, it provides its customers with a leading, next-generation broadband service and one of the most advanced interactive television services available in the UK and Irish markets.

The group provides mobile services to its customers using a third-party network through mobile virtual network operators (MVNO) arrangements.

In addition, through the Virgin Media Business brand, the group offers a broad portfolio of B2B voice, data, internet, broadband and managed services solutions to small businesses, medium and large enterprises and public sector organisations in the UK and Ireland.

At 31 December 2016, the group provided services to approximately 5.7 million residential cable customers on its network. The group is also one of the largest MVNO by number of customers, providing mobile telephony services to 2.4 million contract mobile customers and 0.6 million prepay mobile customers over third party networks. At 31 December 2016, 83% of residential customers on the group's cable network received multiple services and 62% were "triple-play" customers, receiving broadband internet, video and fixed-line telephony services from the group.

Liberty Global is the largest international cable company with operations in more than 30 countries and its market-leading triple-play services are provided through next-generation networks and innovative technology platforms that connected 25 million customers subscribing to 50 million television, broadband internet and telephony services. In addition at 31 December 2016, Liberty Global served 10 million mobile subscribers and offered WiFi service across 5 million access points.

#### **Future outlook**

The directors will continue to review management policies in light of changing trading and market conditions. Further detail of the future outlook of the group, including consideration of the impact of the UK referendum in June 2016 and the withdrawal from the European Union, is provided in Virgin Media Inc.'s financial statements and annual report for 2016, which are available from the company secretary at Virgin Media, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UP.

#### Results and dividends

The profit for the year, after tax, amounted to £37,751,000 (2015 - £15,706,000).

The directors have not recommended an ordinary dividend (2015 - £nil).

#### Directors

The directors who served during the year and thereafter were as follows:

R D Dunn M O Hifzi

The directors of the company have been indemnified against liability in respect of proceedings brought by third parties, subject to the conditions set out in the Companies Act 2006. Such qualifying third party indemnity provision is in force for directors serving during the financial year and as at the date of approving the Directors' report.

### Going concern

After making suitable enquiries, the directors 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 these financial statements.

#### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

#### **Audit exemption**

Virgin Media Finance PLC issued a guarantee against all outstanding liabilities to which the company is subject as at 31 December 2016, until they are satisfied in full. The guarantee is enforceable against Virgin Media Finance PLC by any person to whom the company is liable in respect of those liabilities. Since Virgin Media Finance PLC is the smallest group to which the company's accounts are consolidated, the company has taken advantage of the exemption from audit of its individual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 by virtue of section 479A of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board on 2 June 2017 and signed on its behalf.

M O Hifzi Director

#### DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 101 'Reduced Disclosure Framework'. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained
  in the financial statements; and
- 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

# PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	2016 £000	2015 £000
Exceptional administrative income		6,630	1,272
Operating profit	4	6,630	1,272
Income from shares in group undertakings		20,738	6
Other interest receivable and similar income	5	22,942	14,429
Interest payable and similar expenses	6	(12,559)	(1)
Profit before tax		37,751	15,706
Tax on profit	7	•	_
Profit for the year	_	37,751	15,706

The notes on pages 7 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

There was no other comprehensive income or expenditure for 2016 or 2015 other than that included in the profit and loss account.

All results were derived from continuing operations.

# FLEXTECH BROADBAND LIMITED REGISTERED NUMBER: 04125315

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	<del></del>		
	Note	2016 £000	2015 £000
Fixed assets			
Investments	8	-	-
	_		
Current assets			
Debtors due within one year	9	649,213	852,021
	_	649,213	852,021
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(294,663)	(535,222)
Net current assets	_	354,550	316,799
Net assets	_	354,550	316,799
Capital and reserves	=	-	
Share capital	11	-	-
Profit and loss account	12	354,550	316,799
Shareholder's funds	-	354,550	316,799
	=		<del></del>

The directors consider that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The company's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 27-June 2017.

R D Dunn

Director

The notes on pages 7 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

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# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Share capital £000	Profit and loss account £000	Shareholder's funds £000
At 1 January 2016	-	316,799	316,799
Comprehensive income for the year  Profit for the year	-	37,751	37,751
Total comprehensive income for the year	•	37,751	37,751
At 31 December 2016	-	354,550	354,550

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Share capital	Profit and loss account	Shareholder's funds
	£000	£000	2000
At 1 January 2015	1,670,600	(1,369,507)	301,093
Comprehensive income for the year			
Profit for the year	-	15,706	15,706
Total comprehensive income for the year	•	15,706	15,706
Capital reduction	(1,670,600)	-	(1,670,600)
Transfer to profit and loss account	-	1,670,600	1,670,600
At 31 December 2015	-	316,799	316,799

The notes on pages 7 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

#### 1. Company information

Flextech Broadband Limited (the "company") is a private company incorporated, domiciled and registered in the United Kingdom. The registered number is 04125315 and the registered address is Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UP.

The company is exempt by virtue of section 400 of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirement to prepare group financial statements. These financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group.

#### 2. Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies is set out below. All accounting policies have been applied consistently, unless noted below.

#### 2.1 Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, and under the historical cost basis in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and Financial Reporting Standard 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework ("FRS 101"). The amendments to FRS 101 (2014/15 Cycle) issued in July 2015 have been applied.

In preparing these financial statements, the company applies the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU ("Adopted IFRSs"), but makes amendments where necessary in order to comply with Companies Act 2006 and has set out below where advantage of the FRS 101 disclosure exemptions has been taken.

The company's parent undertaking, Virgin Media Finance PLC includes the company in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements of Virgin Media Finance PLC are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and are available to the public and may be obtained from Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UP.

In these financial statements, the company has applied the exemptions available under FRS 101 in respect of the following disclosures:

- a cash flow statement and related notes;
- comparative period reconciliations for share capital;
- disclosures in respect of related party transactions with fellow group undertakings;
- disclosures in respect of capital management;
- the effects of new but not yet effective IFRSs;
- disclosures in respect of the compensation of key management personnel; and
- disclosures of transactions with a management entity that provides key management personnel services to the company.

#### 2.2 Dividend income

Income is recognised when the company's right to receive payment is established.

#### 2.3 Investments

Investments are recorded at cost, less provision for impairment as appropriate. The company assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that an investment may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the company makes an estimate of the investment's recoverable amount. Where the carrying amount of an investment exceeds its recoverable amount, the investment is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount. A previously recognised impairment loss is reversed only if there was an event not foreseen in the original impairment calculations, such as a change in use of the investment or a change in economic conditions. The reversal of impairment loss would be to the extent of the lower of the recoverable amount and the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the investment in prior years.

#### 2.4 Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are stated at their recoverable amount. Provision is made when the amount receivable is not considered recoverable and the amount is fully written off when the probability for recovery of a balance is assessed as being remote.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

#### 2. Accounting policies (continued)

#### 2.5 Deferred tax

Deferred tax is provided using the liability method on temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes at the reporting date.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences, except:

- When the deferred tax liability arises from the initial recognition of goodwill or an asset or liability in a transaction that
  is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither the accounting profit nor taxable
  profit or loss.
- In respect of taxable temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries, associates and interests in joint ventures, when the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences can be controlled and it is probable that the temporary differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for all deductible temporary differences, the carry forward of unused tax credits and any unused tax losses. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the deductible temporary differences, and the carry forward of unused tax credits and unused tax losses can be utilised, except:

- When the deferred tax asset relating to the deductible temporary difference arises from the initial recognition of an
  asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither
  the accounting profit nor taxable profit or loss.
- In respect of deductible temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries, associates and interests
  in joint ventures, deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that the temporary
  differences will reverse in the foreseeable future and taxable profit will be available against which the temporary
  differences can be utilised.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each reporting date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be utilised. Unrecognised deferred tax assets are reassessed at each reporting date and are recognised to the extent that it has become probable that future taxable profits will allow the deferred tax asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the year when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax relating to items recognised outside profit or loss is recognised outside of profit or loss.

Deferred tax items are recognised in correlation to the underlying transaction either in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are offset if a legally enforceable right exists to set off current tax assets against current income tax liabilities and the deferred taxes relate to the same taxable entity and the same tax authority.

#### 3. Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the process of applying the company's accounting policies which are described above, management has not made any critical judgements that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements, except for:

#### Recoverability of intercompany debtors

Intercompany debtors are stated at their recoverable amount less any necessary provision. Recoverability of intercompany debtors is assessed annually and a provision is recognised if any indications exist that the debtor is not considered recoverable.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

#### 4. Operating profit

The operating profit is stated after crediting:

	2016 £000	2015 £000
Release of intercompany debtor impairment provision	6,630	4,949
Impairment of investments	-	(3,677)

Recoverability of intercompany debtors is assessed annually. Based on the impairment review of inter-company indebtedness as at 31 December 2016, and a wider group restructure, the directors concluded on a release of provision against amounts due from group undertakings totalling £6,630,000 (2015 - £4,949,000).

The carrying value of investments are assessed annually. Based on these reviews, and following a wider group restructure, the directors concluded on a provision for impairment of £nil (2015 - £3,677,000).

The directors received no remuneration for qualifying services as directors of this company. All directors' remuneration is paid by and disclosed in the financial statements of Virgin Media Limited.

The company does not have any directly employed staff and is not charged an allocation of staff costs by the group.

#### 5. Other interest receivable and similar income

		2016 £000	2015 £000
	Interest on amounts owed by group undertakings	22,942	14,429
6.	Interest payable and similar expenses		
		2016 £000	2015 £000
	Interest on amounts owed to group undertakings	12,559	1

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

Tax on profit		
	2016 £000	2015 £000
Current tax	2000	2000
Total current tax	•	-
Deferred tax		
Total deferred tax		-
Tax on profit		-
The tax assessed for the year is lower than (2015 - lower than) the standard rate 20.00% (2015 - 20.25%). The differences are explained below:	of corporation tax	in the UK of
	2016 £000	2015 £000
Profit before tax	37,751	15,706
Profit multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 20.00% (2015 - 20.25%)  Effects of:	7,550	3,180
Expenses not taxable	-	744
Group relief claimed without payment	(2,077)	(2,921)
Income not taxable	(5,473)	(1,003)
Total tax charge for the year	-	-

#### Factors affecting current and future tax charges

A reduction in the UK corporation tax rate from 20% to 19% (effective from 1 April 2017) was substantively enacted on 26 October 2015. A further reduction to 17% (effective from 1 April 2020) was substantively enacted on 6 September and fully enacted on 15 September 2016. This will reduce the company's future current tax charge accordingly.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

#### 8. Investments

As at 31 December 2016, the company held investments in the following companies:

Name of Company		Holdings	Proportion held	Nature of Business
Direct shareholdings				
Flextech (1992) Limited		Ordinary	100%	Telecoms
Flextech Interactive Limited		Ordinary	100%	Holding
Indirect shareholdings				
ntl Victoria II Limited	Φ	Ordinary	100%	Holding
Screenshop Limited		Ordinary	100%	Dormant

All companies are registered at Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UP.

#### Φ Companies dissolved post year end

The carrying value of the investments has been written down to nil in previous years (2015 - £nil)

#### 9. Debtors

	2016 £000	2015 £000
Amounts owed by group undertakings	649,213	852,021
<del>-</del>		
The analysis of amounts owed by group undertakings is:		
	2016	2015
	£000	£000
Loans advanced by group undertakings	462,583	706,317
Other amounts owed by group undertakings	376,349	346,833
Impairment provision on amounts owed by group undertakings	(189,719)	(201,129)
	649,213	852,021

Amounts owed by group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

10.	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
		2016 £000	2015 £000
	Amounts owed to group undertakings	294,663	535,222
		294,663	535,222
	The analysis of amounts owed to group undertakings is:		
		2016 £000	2015 £000
	Loans advanced to group undertakings	271,820	524,237
	Other amounts owed to group undertakings	22,843	10,985
		294,663	535,222
	Amounts owed to group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.		
11.	Share capital		
		2016 £	2015 £
	Allotted, called up and fully paid		
	1 Ordinary share of £1	1	1

#### 12. Reserves

#### Profit and loss account

Includes all current and prior period retained profits and losses.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

#### 13. Contingent liabilities

Fellow group undertakings are party to a senior secured credit facility with a syndicate of banks. As at 31 December 2016, this comprised term facilities that amounted to £3,595 million (2015 - £2,198 million) and an outstanding balance of £nil (2015 - £148 million) which was borrowed under a revolving facility of £675 million (2015 - £675 million). Borrowings under the facilities are secured against the assets of certain members of the group.

In addition, a fellow group undertaking has issued senior secured notes which, subject to certain exceptions, share the same guarantees and security which have been granted in favour of the senior secured credit facility. The amount outstanding under the senior secured notes at 31 December 2016 amounted to £5,024 million (2015 - £5,132 million). Borrowings under the notes are secured against the assets of certain members of the group.

In January 2017, a fellow group undertaking issued senior secured notes with a principal amount of £675 million. The new senior secured notes rank pari passu with the group's existing senior secured notes and senior secured credit facility, and subject to certain exceptions, share in the same guarantees and security granted in favour of its existing senior secured notes. The net proceeds were used to redeem in full £640.0 million outstanding principal amounts of existing senior secured notes.

In February 2017, a fellow group undertaking entered into a new term loan facility with an aggregate principal amount of £865 million. The new term loan facility will rank pari passu with the group's existing senior secured notes and senior secured credit facility, and subject to certain exemptions, share in the same guarantees and security granted in favour of its existing senior secured notes. The net proceeds were used to repay in full £849.4 million outstanding principal amounts under the senior secured credit facility.

In March 2017, a fellow group undertaking completed an offer to exchange existing senior secured notes with an aggregate principal amount of £521 million due January 2021 for new senior secured notes with an aggregate principal amount of £521 million due January 2025. The new senior secured notes rank pari passu with the group's existing senior secured notes and senior secured credit facility, and subject to certain exceptions, share in the same guarantees and security granted in favour of its existing senior secured notes.

The company has joint and several liabilities under a group VAT registration.

#### 14. Parent undertaking and controlling party

The company's immediate parent undertaking is Telewest Communications Networks Limited.

The smallest and largest groups of which the company is a member and in to which the company's accounts were consolidated at 31 December 2016 are Virgin Media Finance PLC and Liberty Global plc, respectively.

The company's ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party at 31 December 2016 was Liberty Global plc.

Copies of group accounts referred to above which include the results of the company are available from the company secretary, Virgin Media, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UP.

In addition copies of the consolidated Liberty Global plc accounts are available on Liberty Global's website at www.libertyglobal.com.