

Registered No. 05046791

## Wales & West Utilities Limited

Annual report and consolidated financial statements  
for the 364 day period ended 30 December 2014

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## Directors and advisors

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### Directors

Andrew Hunter	Chairman (R)
Graham Edwards	Chief Executive Officer (H)
Dominic Chan	(A, R, H)
Grant Hawkins*	(A from 27 March 2014)
Edmond Ip	
Hing Lam Kam	(R)
Duncan Macrae	(A, R, H)
Michael Pavia *	(A)
Charles Tsai	

Neil Henson	(Alternate Director to Graham Edwards)
Neil McGee	(Alternate Director to Dominic Chan)
Wendy Tong-Barnes	(Alternate Director to Hing Lam Kam)

*(A) Member of the Audit Committee of Wales & West Utilities Limited*

*(R) Member of the Remuneration Committee*

*(H) Member of the Health & Safety Committee*

*\* Independent non-executive director*

### Company secretary and registered office

Paul Millar

Wales & West House, Spooner Close, Celtic Springs, Coedkernew, Newport, NP10 8FZ

### Independent auditor

Deloitte LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

Cardiff, United Kingdom

### Principal bankers

Barclays Bank plc

One Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP

# Strategic report

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## **Strategy and objectives**

Wales & West Utilities Limited group's ("Company" or "Group" as the context requires) strategy is to continue to maintain the gas distribution network for which it is responsible in Wales and the South West of England as required under its Gas Transporters licence and by the Health and Safety Executive ("HSE"), whilst providing appropriate levels of customer and consumer service. Maintenance of the distribution network includes development to increase the number of consumers connected as well as regular repair and replacement to ensure that it is kept in a good operational state.

As a regulated business the Company is subject to price controls set by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets ("Ofgem") which define its allowed revenues. The current eight year price control commenced on 1 April 2013 under Ofgem's new RIIO (Revenue = Incentives, Innovation and Outputs) principles (The RIIO-GD1 price control). This price control defined allowed revenue in respect of operating expenditure, capital expenditure, replacement expenditure and a return on the Company's investment in the gas infrastructure asset.

Further information in respect of the regulatory environment is included within "The business model" section below.

Under this price control, Ofgem has stated that it may perform a mid-term review of the operation of the control for the first four years. It is currently anticipated that this review will be restricted to changes in obligations on the Gas Distribution Networks as a result of legislation changes, and improved understanding of the output measures introduced for the first time as part of the RIIO-GD1 price control.

In maintaining the gas distribution network, the Company expects to operate within the revenue constraints placed on it by Ofgem as part of the price control settlement. It also anticipates earning incentive income through exceeding certain targets set by Ofgem as part of the RIIO-GD1 price control.

In addition to the revenues permitted by Ofgem, the Company earns other revenues, predominantly through gas meter work. The Company aims to continue undertaking this work, where it is of benefit to the Company. However, it is anticipated that revenue will reduce with the planned introduction of smart metering across the UK's population of domestic electricity and gas meters.

## **The business model**

### **Business environment**

The Gas Distribution and Transmission Network in Great Britain comprises the National Transmission System and eight gas distribution networks. The National Transmission System is owned and operated by companies within the National Grid plc group.

The Company operates one of the independently owned gas distribution networks comprising the Wales and South West of England local distribution zones. Three other distribution networks are owned by independent operators. National Grid retained the remaining four local gas distribution networks. Together these eight companies represent the large majority of the gas distribution network in Great Britain. The gas transportation business comprises the development, administration, maintenance and operation of the Company's gas transportation system and the supply of gas transportation services.

There are other independent gas transporters which operate within the principal area of the Company's operation and the Company has contractual arrangements in place with them to ensure the safe passage of gas to their networks.

In addition to its gas distribution role, the Company also has obligations under its gas transporters licence to:

- provide 24 hour emergency response to all public reported gas escapes in Wales and South West England, irrespective of the cause (the significant majority of which are unrelated to the Company's distribution network);
- connect gas consumers to the distribution network, unless the consumer chooses to use another party to provide the connection; and
- provide meters to certain consumers if the consumer's gas supplier has not made alternative arrangements.

## Strategic report (continued)

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### The business model (continued)

#### **Regulatory environment**

The gas distribution business of the Company is regulated by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets ("Ofgem"). Ofgem operates under the direction and governance of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, which makes all major decisions and sets policy priorities for Ofgem. The mechanism for regulation of the Company's activities in gas distribution and metering is derived from:

- the Gas Act 1986 (as amended);
- the terms of its gas transporters licence granted under Section 7 of this Act; and
- the Utilities Act 2000.

The Company is also regulated by the Health and Safety Executive.

The Company submits Consolidated Regulatory Accounts, specified annual returns and a regulatory reporting pack to Ofgem annually, generally by the end of July following the 31 March regulatory year end.

#### **Results and operating performance**

The consolidated loss on ordinary activities before taxation for the 364 day period ended 30 December 2014 amounted to £41.4m (year ended 31 December 2013: loss of £54.1m). The consolidated loss attributable to shareholders amounted to £33.7m (year ended 31 December 2013: £48.2m).

The results of the Group for the 364 day period ended 30 December 2014 are set out in the consolidated profit and loss account on page 16.

The Company replaced 439kms of gas mains and replaced or reconnected the associated gas service pipes running from the gas mains to the consumer's meter at a cost of £74.5m during the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: 454kms at a cost of £77.4m). The replacement work was undertaken either because:

- (i) mains were required to be replaced under a programme defined by the Health and Safety Executive where all iron mains below 9" in diameter and within 30 metres of a property are to be replaced with plastic alternatives within a period of 30 years; or
- (ii) mains were required to be replaced under a programme defined by the Health and Safety Executive where all iron mains above 9" and less than 18" in diameter, within 30 metres of a property and in excess of a defined risk threshold are to be replaced within a period of 30 years; or
- (iii) the overall condition of the metallic main warranted replacement; or
- (iv) of a request (usually through a local authority as a result of a highways project) to move the gas infrastructure.

A further £0.8m (year ended 31 December 2013: £1.5m) was spent on Local Transmission System ("LTS") replacement projects.

Under Generally Accepted Accounting Practices in the United Kingdom these costs are charged as an operating cost.

In addition during the period ended 30 December 2014, the Company invested and capitalised £52.9m (year ended 31 December 2013: £70.7m), against which consumers contributed £10.0m (year ended 31 December 2013: £9.6m), on expanding and improving the gas distribution network.

#### **Organisational restructure**

An organisational restructure was undertaken between October and December 2012 to allow realignment of core activities with the aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation. The cost was £13.1m, saving £2.9m on the restructuring accrual as at 31 December 2012, and payments were largely incurred during the year ended 31 December 2013 with a further £0.1m incurred during the period ended 30 December 2014. The restructure resulted in a manpower reduction of 139 people which was achieved through a voluntary redundancy programme. The new organisational structure was effective from 1 January 2013 with employees placed on gardening leave where possible prior to a leaving date of 2 April 2013.

## Strategic report (continued)

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### **The business model (continued)**

An early retirement programme was announced by WWU on 15 October 2014 which was open to all staff who will reach 55 within two years of 30 December 2014. As a result the Company has offered early retirement to 58 people and £4.0m was accrued within the financial statements as an exceptional item for the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £nil).

### **Business review**

The Group's operating performance over the past twelve months has been satisfactory, with all standards of performance being achieved. In particular, targets for mains abandoned and replaced were met, as were targets in response to reported possible gas escapes, both within one and two hour time frames. The standards for achieving connection quotations and for completing connection activities within agreed timescales were also both met. There were 2,807 (year ended 31 December 2013: 2,453) complaints in the period ended 30 December 2014. The definition of a complaint is in line with The Gas and Electricity (Consumer Complaint Handling Standards) Regulations 2008.

There was one lost time injury ("LTIs") to contract labour during the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: seven LTIs, five to direct labour and two through WWU's contract partners).

In addition to meeting all operational standards for the period the Group also continued to work to improve operational efficiency.

### **Financial review**

#### *Basis of accounting*

The financial statements present the Group's results for the 364 day period ended 30 December 2014 and the financial position as at 30 December 2014. They have been prepared using the accounting policies shown on pages 20 to 23, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices in the United Kingdom.

For accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015, UK companies are generally required to account under FRS 102 rather than UK GAAP. The Group has deferred entry into FRS 102 for the following reasons:

- (i) to align accounting reference dates for statutory accounting and regulatory reporting to 31 March;
- (ii) to allow for comprehensive testing of IT systems changes; and
- (iii) to partially mitigate a potential adverse timing tax effect of adoption of FRS 102, being that tax relief for replex expenditure will change from being deductible as incurred to deductible as depreciated.

Therefore the financial year accounting reference dates have been amended as follows:

- (a) for the financial year ending on 31 December 2014, from 31 December 2014 to 30 December 2014;
- (b) for the financial year ending on 30 December 2015, from 30 December 2015 to 31 March 2016; and
- (c) thereafter, for each financial year, to 31 March of each year.

There were no changes in accounting policies adopted during the period.

#### *Segmental reporting*

In addition to providing the overall results and financial position in the financial statements, the Company provides a breakdown of those results and balances into a number of different business segments as required by the Licence within the Consolidated Regulatory Accounts prepared to 31 March every year.

#### *Liquidity, resources and capital expenditure*

Net cash inflow from operating activities for the period ended 30 December 2014 amounted to £191.4m (year ended 31 December 2013: £148.6m).

Investing activities absorbed net cash of £44.9m (year ended 31 December 2013: £58.4m) and net cash outflow from returns on investments and servicing of financing amounted to £105.6m (year ended 31 December 2013: £211.9m).

#### *Cashflow forecasting*

Both short term and long term cashflow forecasts are produced periodically to support liquidity management.

## Strategic report (continued)

### The business model (continued)

#### *Borrowings*

Details of net borrowings are disclosed in notes 10 and 11 and gross borrowings in note 12. Details of the Group's approach to financial risk management are set out in the Strategic report on page 8.

#### *Shareholder deficit*

Shareholder deficit at 30 December 2014 amounted to £975.1m (31 December 2013: £910.0m) as a result of a retained loss of £33.7m for the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £48.2m) and an actuarial loss on the pension scheme of £31.4m (year ended 31 December 2013: £27.0m).

The directors consider that the Group has performed satisfactorily during the period.

Details of the ownership of the Company are included in note 26. There were no movements in the authorised and issued share capital of the Company in the period.

#### **Fixed assets**

Freehold land and buildings are carried in the financial statements at depreciated historic cost of £14.6m (31 December 2013: £14.6m).

Investment in the network is essential for ensuring the security of the gas supply and the safety of the public. Gross capital expenditure in the Company's network was £52.9m (year ended 31 December 2013: £70.7m), offset by capital contributions of £10.0m (year ended 31 December 2013: £9.6m) and net replacement expenditure charged to the profit and loss account was £75.3m for the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £78.9m).

#### **Contractual relationships**

The Group has contractual relationships with many parties including directors, employees, suppliers and banking groups. The most significant in terms of their effect on the business of the Group is considered to be the relationship with Xoserve Limited, the company which provides gas throughput and billing information to the Group, which is used by the Group in setting its regulated gas distribution charges to gas transporters (note 7).

#### **Financing**

At 30 December 2014 Wales & West Utilities Finance plc ("WWUF"), a subsidiary of the Company, had in issue a series of guaranteed bonds, all of which are listed on the London Stock Exchange. Details of these issuances are set out below:

Nominal value	Coupon	Class	Issue date	Redemption date
£250m	6.25%	A	10 July 2009	30 November 2021
£200m	5.125%	A	2 December 2009	2 December 2016
£300m	5.75%	A	31 March 2010	29 March 2030
£100m	2.496% Index-linked	A	31 March 2010	22 August 2035
£115m	6.75%*	B	31 March 2010	17 December 2018/2036*
£250m	4.625%	A	4 November 2011	13 December 2023
£150m	5.0%	A	4 November 2011	7 March 2028

\* Legal maturity of the bond is 2036; however, the bond can be redeemed at the Group's sole option in 2018. If not redeemed in December 2018, the coupon for the bond increases to 3 month LIBOR + 9.4%, therefore management intends to refinance these borrowings by 2018 and as a result borrowings are disclosed as maturing within less than five years.

All of the bonds are unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by the Company and its immediate parent Wales & West Utilities Holdings Limited pursuant to a guarantee and security agreement entered into over the entire property, assets, rights and undertakings of each guarantor, in the case of the Company to the extent permitted by the Gas Act and its Gas Transporters Licence.

The cumulative net proceeds of the issue of these bonds, of £1,347.5m, were lent by WWUF to the Company to repay its existing financing and to fund further capital investment.

#### **Future developments**

The Group does not envisage any material changes in the activity of the Group for the foreseeable future. Other than those matters referred to above, there were no significant developments within the Group that occurred during the financial period under review.

## Strategic report (continued)

### Key performance indicators

The Group uses a number of key measures of operational and financial performance to plan and monitor its business activities. These measures are principally focused on the safe and effective operation of the gas network infrastructure asset. Measures of operational performance include:

- process safety – safety of the gas transportation assets,
- occupational safety and health - injuries, near misses and ill health,
- environment – waste disposal, energy usage and use of natural resources,
- the management of controllable costs in relation to the regulated business,
- the achievement of service levels and the minimisation of complaints,
- the achievement of capital and replacement programme targets and cost efficiency, and
- the reliability of the gas distribution network and other customer facing quality of service measures.

The directors believe that safety is paramount and, as a fundamental part of this, that all work related injuries and illnesses are preventable. Consequently the Group measures the level of injuries, incidents and near misses as a key operational performance indicator. In addition, process safety measures have been devised to measure both the 'health' of the infrastructure assets and their impact on the environment and the communities in which the Group works. Contractor performance is measured in the same way as direct employees.

Operational reliability is a core measure of the Group's success, and it is fundamental to the Group's relationships with Ofgem and the public. Reliability of the gas distribution network is monitored in a number of ways, including the number and duration of interruptions to consumers' gas supplies. The Group is required by Ofgem to meet a number of different service targets ("Overall Standards"), including attendance at gas escapes, notifying consumers in advance of planned interruptions and responding to complaints. The Company's licence also requires it to meet certain service targets for connections. Performance against these standards is reported to senior management every month and is reportable to Ofgem on an annual basis. Compensation payments are made to consumers under the Gas (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005, in the regrettable event that certain service standards are not met. Compensation payments for the period ended 30 December 2014 amounted to £0.2m (year ended 31 December 2013: £0.1m).

The Company measures service quality to assess the performance of management and staff in serving consumers, including a quarterly survey which is undertaken by an independent market research company, the results of which are published on the Company's website and are reported to Ofgem.

All regulatory standards of performance were achieved in the period ended 30 December 2014 and the year ended 31 December 2013. Key operational performance measures were;

		Period ended 30 December 2014	Year ended 31 December 2013	Nine months ended 31 December 2012	Year ended 31 March 2012
<b>Responding to gas escapes</b>					
1 hour target for uncontrolled escapes	97.0%	<b>98.6%</b>	98.1%	98.4%	98.6%
2 hour target for controlled escapes	97.0%	<b>99.6%</b>	99.4%	99.6%	99.6%
<b>Standards of performance</b>					
Issuing quotations	90.0%	<b>98.9%</b>	98.1%	99.2%	99.1%
Offer dates for work start and finish	90.0%	<b>99.9%</b>	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%
Jobs completed on agreed dates	90.0%	<b>94.0%</b>	95.1%	95.0%	95.2%
Responding to complaints	90.0%	<b>99.9%</b>	99.8%	99.7%	99.3%
<b>Customer complaints</b>					
Number of complaints		<b>2,807</b>	2,453	1,647	2,161
Number of jobs undertaken		<b>234,185</b>	260,955	98,955	150,000
Percentage complaints		<b>1.2%</b>	0.9%	1.7%	1.4%
<b>Upheld complaints</b>					
Ombudsman service		-	-	-	-

Upheld complaints are defined in The Gas and Electricity (Consumer Complaint Handling Standards) Regulations 2008.



## Strategic report (continued)

### Key performance indicators (continued)

Key financial performance measures of the Group were:

- operating cash flow, including management of working capital, and
- controllable costs.

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m	Nine months ended 31 December 2012 £m	Year ended 31 March 2012 £m
Turnover	417.3	406.3	277.0	350.9
Operating costs	(146.9)	(147.9)	(102.2)	(116.6)
Replacement expenditure	(75.3)	(78.9)	(70.0)	(97.3)
Operating profit before exceptional items and depreciation	195.1	179.5	104.8	137.0
Operating cashflows after exceptional items	191.4	148.6	60.7	116.3

### Principal risks and uncertainties

The management of the business and the execution of the Company's strategy are subject to a number of risks.

The Group has embedded risk management into its business decision-making process. Within the business, the risk management process continues to be based on assessments of operational, (including safety), financial and other business or project risks. Key business departments prepare and maintain risk registers that capture their key risks and the actions being taken to manage them. Senior management are closely involved at critical stages in the review process, owning their respective risks in the corporate risk register maintained by the Internal Audit department.

The key business risks facing the Company are set out below:

#### Operational

- maintenance of the gas distribution network and security of supply,
- health, safety and environmental compliance,
- appropriate investment in the network asset, and
- meeting mains replacement targets.

#### Regulatory

- compliance with the Company's licence obligations and standards of service, and
- impact of future price controls determined by Ofgem, including the effect of incentive mechanisms.

#### Employee

- retention of key individuals or the ability to recruit people with the right experience and skills from the local community.

The Group has a comprehensive approach to risk. The systems and processes implemented by the Group, together with the recruitment of appropriately qualified staff, are designed to mitigate the risks identified above. In addition, the Group undertakes regular reviews of its compliance with the requirements of the Gas Licence, standards of service and obligations with the Health and Safety Executive.

If more than one event occurs, it is possible that the overall effect of such events would compound the possible adverse effects on the Group.

On an annual basis, the Board, as the body with overall responsibility for the Group's system of internal control and for the monitoring of its effectiveness, undertakes a review of the internal processes. A key part of that process is the receipt of a Letter of Assurance from the Chief Executive, which consolidates the key matters of interest raised through the period end processes undertaken by the Group.

## Strategic report (continued)

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### Key performance indicators (continued)

#### **Financial risk management**

The Company's operations and capital structure expose it to a variety of financial risks that include the effects of changes in debt, pension deficit, credit risk, liquidity risk, interest rate risk and inflation risk. The Company has in place a risk management programme that seeks to limit the adverse effects on the financial performance of the Company by monitoring levels of debt finance and related finance costs. The Company also uses derivative financial instruments to manage interest rate and inflation risk.

The directors have delegated the responsibility of monitoring financial risk management to a sub-committee of the Board, The Treasury Committee. The policies set by the Board are implemented by the Company's finance department through the Treasury Committee.

#### *Commodity risk*

The Company is exposed to commodity volume risk through the purchase of "shrinkage gas" as a result of its operations. Shrinkage gas is the gas which leaks from the distribution network and also includes gas used by the Company and gas stolen from the network. This risk is managed through appropriate commodity purchases in the forward market.

The total gross cost for the period ended 30 December 2014 was £7.2m (year ended 31 December 2013: £9.5m). The gas is purchased through contracts renewed annually and these contracts typically fixed the price of gas a day ahead of purchase. That price risk is allowed for under the RIIO-GD1 regime and treated as a cost pass through, therefore price risk is negligible. The volume risk is closely monitored and is not considered a material risk given the relatively stable flows of gas through the network and consequent consumption volumes.

#### *Credit risk*

The Company has implemented policies that require appropriate credit checks on potential customers before sales are made. The amount of exposure to any individual counterparty is subject to a limit, which is reassessed on a regular basis.

Credit risk also arises from cash at bank, deposits with banks and financial institutions. For banks and financial institutions, only independently rated parties with a minimum short term rating of A2 with Standards & Poor's, F2 with Fitch or P-2 with Moody's; and a minimum long term rating of A- with Standards & Poor's or Fitch, or A3 with Moody's are accepted.

The amount of credit given to Gas Shippers is governed by Uniform Network Code ("UNC") regulations and guidelines. This provides for defined levels of unsecured credit with Gas Shippers based on Investment Grade Ratings ("IGRs") with any excess credit amounts being secured by Letters of Credit, Parent Company Guarantees or by way of Prepayment.

The value at risk is monitored on a daily basis and is again regulated by UNC criteria allowing a maximum credit limit usage of 100% (31 December 2013: 100%) which, if exceeded, allows the Company to apply sanctions.

The Company's overall exposure is also monitored and approved having regard to the levels of exposure within each IGR category.

#### *Liquidity risk*

The Company maintains adequate liquidity resources through a combination of cash balances (overnight or short term deposits) with approved counterparties and headroom under committed revolver facilities provided by core banks. Liquidity forecasting over short and medium term timescales is embedded within the Finance function as a core process and is periodically updated.

#### *Interest rate risk*

The Company has both interest bearing assets and interest bearing liabilities. The Company has a policy target for interest rate risk of a minimum of 85% fixed and a maximum of 15% floating.

#### *Inflation Risk*

The Group's revenue base is exposed to the effects of changes in inflation, the Group has entered into RPI Index Linked Swaps to mitigate the impact of these effects, and to support the overall hedging policy target for interest rate risk of a minimum of 85% fixed and a maximum of 15% floating.

## Strategic report (continued)

### Corporate and social

#### Health, safety and environment

##### Health and Safety

The Company's objective is to achieve zero work-related injuries, zero work-related ill health and zero injuries to members of the public. During the period ended 30 December 2014, there was one LTI through contract labour (year ended 31 December 2013 seven, direct labour: five contract labour: two), giving a 12 month frequency rate of 0.07 LTI's/100,000 hours worked (year ended 31 December 2013: 0.11 LTI's/100,000 hours worked) for direct labour.

The Company continues to make progress in the management of occupational illnesses with a comprehensive health surveillance and occupational health programme for industrial employees.

With a deployed work force (including contractors) of around 2,000, a multi-million pound replacement programme and the Company's core role of managing the safe and secure delivery of gas; the safety challenge is significant. The Company meets this challenge by having a comprehensive management system designed and certified to standards such as ISO 55001 and ISO 14001, with a structured risk management process at its core.

The Company believes that its safety performance is amongst the leaders in the sector. This valued position is targeted at being maintained through continued, vigilant implementation of its health, safety and environmental procedures. Nurturing a safety aware culture within the Company's workforce that sees clear accountability resting with line management, employees and contract partners is a key element of the Company's successful record.

##### Environment

The Company is also proud of its environmental achievements and again maintained certification to ISO 14001 environmental management. By utilising and developing industry-wide best practices, the Company has reduced its environmental impact. Key areas of focus have been climate change, the disposal of waste to landfill and the use of quarried stone. Protecting the environment is a key focus for the Company going forward, and the Company is constantly looking for ways to minimise the environmental impact of its past, present and future activities.

The Company continues to manage its portfolio of contaminated land sites. These sites are former manufacturing gas plants and can sometimes have a complex mix of contamination dating back over 100 years. The Company's remediation programme has a main focus on managing environmental risk.

##### Gender diversity

The group employed the following mix of staff as at 30 December 2014:-

Number	Male	Female	Total
Executive and directors	14	1	15
Senior managers	31	9	40
Other employees	1,074	188	1,262
Total employees	<u>1,119</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>1,317</u>

The Group is based in the UK and aims for a workforce that is representative of the societies in which we operate.

The Group is committed to ensuring equal opportunities in recruitment, career development, promotion, training and reward for all employees.

## Strategic report (continued)

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### Corporate and social (continued)

#### **Employment policies**

The Group recognises that its employees are key to both the present and future success of the Group and supports the fundamental belief that to maximise the potential of every individual there must be:

- a comprehensive framework of policies which are widely understood;
- appropriate investment in training and development;
- a supportive working environment; and
- employee participation and involvement in business matters.

All employees have regular opportunity to discuss their individual performance and development in a focused and proactive way. The Group seeks to maximise employees potential by identifying and developing talent and skills.

A comprehensive communications programme has been developed and is led by the Executive Team. During 2014 this ranged from a programme of interactive face to face colleague briefings by our Executive Team to individual team meetings and the re-launch of our in-house magazine which provides employees with a wide range of business, industry and personnel related information.

The Group continues to formally consult employees at all levels in the spirit of partnership and co-operation; the use of employee opinion and attitude surveys provide the Group with valuable information upon which to base future policy decisions with a new engagement survey launched in early 2015. In 2014 a comprehensive staff engagement programme was undertaken to redesign our business priorities and values, which were subsequently rolled out.

The Group offers equality of opportunity and support for disabled employees and maintains good links with external organisations to encourage involvement in the workplace of disabled members of the wider community.

The Group's policy for the employment of disabled persons gives full and fair consideration to all applications for employment made by such persons, having regard to their aptitudes and abilities and to the Group's operational requirements. Once employed, a career plan is developed so as to ensure suitable opportunities for each disabled person. Arrangements are made, where possible, for retaining employees who become disabled, to enable them to perform work identified as appropriate to their aptitudes and abilities in line with the Group's operational requirements. The Group operates an in-house Occupational Health function to ensure a continued focus on the health and well-being of the Group's workforce.

As part of our ongoing resourcing strategy we offered a voluntary early retirement programme to eligible staff during 2014. Three staff left on agreed terms in December 2014, with others due to leave on agreed dates during 2015 and 2016.

A comprehensive review of working arrangements was undertaken in conjunction with our Trade Unions to facilitate resource matching to workload. As a result a voluntary redundancy programme was undertaken between October and December 2012, with individuals leaving in April 2013 to allow realignment of core activities with the aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation.

#### *Training and development*

The Group has consistently sought to recruit and retain the best employees in its geography in order to provide the level of service which is expected.

The Group measures success in this area through employee retention. The Group had a turnover rate of 2.9%, in the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: 2.4%, 12.4% including leavers under the voluntary redundancy programme) and this compares favourably to the published Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development statistics which showed that the average in UK industry during 2013 was 11.9%.

To maintain appropriate retention rates the Group has continued its focus on succession planning and talent management. This ensures that workers with key skills and knowledge are retained and that there is a plan to replace them upon retirement.

## Strategic report (continued)

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### Corporate and social (continued)

#### **Employment policies (continued)**

The WWU Apprenticeship Programme is a 3-4 year training period, depending on the course of study undertaken. There are 4 purpose built in-house training centres for the apprentices to develop their practical and technical skills. Recruitment is undertaken on a targeted basis, ensuring that apprentices are recruited to areas of need.

The age profile of the industrial workforce is high and the Group will see a large number of leavers' during the next 5 years and beyond (19% of the current workforce are expected to retire before 2021). Our apprentice population has been recruited into the areas of "Emergency", "Mechanical Engineering" and "Electrical and Instrumentation" – key areas where skills are not readily available in the external market and training times can be up to 4 years.

Ensuring continuity of the key skills required within the Industry and enabling a full and proper knowledge transfer to take place will ensure that the Group is well placed to effectively undertake this work going forward. The number of apprentices employed since WWU started trading is 94, meaning that 13% of the industrial workforce has joined the Company via the WWU Apprenticeship Programme.

Within the last nine years the Company has also directly employed some 250 people previously employed by the Group's contract partners. This has tangible benefits to both the employees and the Group; not least the fact that it further refreshes the workforce, as this recruited population has a younger age profile.

**By order of the Board**



P Millar  
Company secretary  
26 March 2015

## Report of the directors

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The directors have pleasure in presenting the annual report to the shareholders of the Wales & West Utilities Limited group ("Company" or "Group" as the context requires) together with the audited consolidated financial statements for the 364 day period ended 30 December 2014 as presented on pages 16 to 46.

### Principal activities

The Group is principally engaged in the management of gas transportation assets. The Group provides gas distribution and meter work services throughout Wales and the South West of England.

On 1 December 2014 the Company changed its accounting reference date to 30 December 2014.

### History and development

The Company is a regulated gas transportation business owning and operating the principal gas distribution network in Wales and the South West of England consisting of some 32,400 kilometres of mains pipeline and a further 2,400 kilometres of Local Transmission Pipeline. The Company operates under a Gas Transporters Licence granted by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority and is responsible for the safety, development, maintenance and daily operation of the gas distribution network which it owns. Gas is transported on behalf of approximately 30 gas shippers through the Company's distribution pipelines to around 2.5 million consumers.

The Company is a privately owned company. Details of the immediate and ultimate parent companies are set out in note 26 to the financial statements.

### Dividend on ordinary shares

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend in respect of the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £nil).

### Directors

The names of the current directors of the Company are shown on page 1.

Changes in directors during the period and up to the date of signature of the annual report and financial statements are shown below, all other directors served throughout the period:

Charles Tsai	Resigned as alternate director and appointed director - 28 February 2014
Sui See Yuen	Resigned director – 28 February 2014
Grant Hawkins	Appointed director – 27 March 2014

### Company secretary

The name of the current company secretary of the Company is shown on page 1.

### Directors' service contracts and remuneration

Details of directors' remuneration are set out in note 3(a).

### Directors' interests

There were no significant contracts subsisting during or at the end of the period with the Group in which any director is or was materially interested (other than service contracts).

None of the directors has or has had a beneficial interest in the shares of the Company.

### Contributions for political purposes

During the period ended 30 December 2014, there have been no political donations (year ended 31 December 2013: £nil).

## Report of the directors (continued)

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### Going concern

The Group's financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the Group and Company is a going concern. In arriving at their decision to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, the directors have reviewed the Group's and Company's budget for 2015 and medium term business plans. The review included considering the cashflow implications of the plans and comparing these with the Group's and Company's cash resources and committed borrowing facilities and concluded that the Group and Company was in a position to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

### Consolidated Regulatory Accounts

The Gas Transporters Licence, under which the Company operates, requires specific accounting statements to be published. Copies of the Consolidated Regulatory Accounts for the Group for the regulatory year ending 31 March 2015 will be available from the company secretary after 31 July 2015.

### Qualifying indemnity

On 5 June 2008, the Group entered into a qualifying indemnity, within the meaning of section 235 of the Companies Act 2006, in favour of the directors of the Group's subsidiary, Wales & West Pension Scheme Trustees Limited.

### Disclosure of information to auditor

In the case of each person who is a director at the time when the report is approved under section 419 of the Companies Act 2006:

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

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Deloitte LLP have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditor and are deemed to be reappointed, subject to certain specified circumstances under s487 of the Companies Act 2006.

### By order of the Board



P Millar  
Company secretary  
26 March 2015

## **Directors' responsibilities statement for the financial statements**

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The directors are responsible for preparing the annual strategic report, report of the directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under that law the directors have prepared the Group and Company financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Company and of the profit or loss of the Group and 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 Group 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 Group and the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**By order of the Board**



P Millar  
**Company secretary**  
**26 March 2015**



## **Independent auditor's report to the members of Wales & West Utilities Limited**

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We have audited the financial statements of Wales & West Utilities Limited for the period ended 30 December 2014 which comprise the Consolidated profit and loss account, the Consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses, the Consolidated and parent company reconciliation of movements in shareholders' deficit, the Consolidated and parent company balance sheets, the Consolidated cash flow statement, the principal accounting policies and the related notes 1 to 27. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

### **Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor**

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group's and the parent company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements 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 audits. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and the parent company's affairs as at 30 December 2014 and of the Group's loss for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion the information given in the Strategic report and the Report of the Directors for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

*Nigel Thomas.*

Nigel Thomas (Senior statutory auditor)  
for and on behalf of Deloitte LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
Cardiff, United Kingdom  
31 March 2015

## Consolidated profit and loss account for the 364 day period ended 30 December 2014

		Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
Continuing operations	Note		
<b>Turnover</b>		<b>417.3</b>	<b>406.3</b>
<b>Net operating costs</b>	2(a)	<b>(284.9)</b>	<b>(278.0)</b>
Operating profit before replacement expenditure, exceptional items and depreciation		<b>270.4</b>	<b>258.4</b>
Replacement expenditure	2(a)	<b>(75.3)</b>	<b>(78.9)</b>
Exceptional items	2(b)	<b>(2.8)</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Depreciation	6	<b>(59.9)</b>	<b>(54.2)</b>
Operating profit		<b>132.4</b>	<b>128.3</b>
<b>Operating profit</b>	2	<b>132.4</b>	<b>128.3</b>
Interest receivable and similar income	4(a)	<b>26.3</b>	<b>25.9</b>
Interest payable and similar charges	4(b)	<b>(200.1)</b>	<b>(208.3)</b>
<b>Loss on ordinary activities before taxation</b>		<b>(41.4)</b>	<b>(54.1)</b>
Tax on loss on ordinary activities	5	<b>7.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Loss for the financial period/year attributable to ordinary shareholders</b>	18	<b>(33.7)</b>	<b>(48.2)</b>

## Consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses for the 364 day period ended 30 December 2014

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
Loss for the financial period/year attributable to ordinary shareholders	(33.7)	(48.2)
Actuarial loss on pension scheme (note 25)	(31.4)	(27.0)
Total recognised losses relating to the period/year	<u>(65.1)</u>	<u>(75.2)</u>

There are no material differences between the loss on ordinary activities before taxation and the loss for the financial period/year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

## Consolidated and Company reconciliation of movements in shareholders' deficit for the 364 day period ended 30 December 2014

Group and Company	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
Total recognised losses relating to the financial period/year	(65.1)	(75.2)
Net increase in shareholders' deficit	(65.1)	(75.2)
At 1 January	(910.0)	(834.8)
At 30 December/31 December	<u>(975.1)</u>	<u>(910.0)</u>

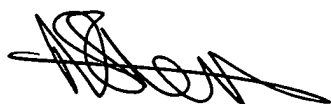
## Balance sheets at 30 December 2014

		Group		Company	
	Note	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	6	1,298.9	1,306.3	1,298.9	1,306.3
Investments	7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
		<b>1,299.0</b>	<b>1,306.4</b>	<b>1,299.1</b>	<b>1,306.5</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	8	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6
Debtors	9	44.6	47.4	44.6	47.4
Cash at bank and in hand	22	42.4	41.2	42.4	41.2
		<b>90.5</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>92.2</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10(a)	(726.6)	(686.7)	(2,094.5)	(2,050.7)
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		<b>(636.1)</b>	<b>(594.5)</b>	<b>(2,004.0)</b>	<b>(1,958.5)</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>662.9</b>	<b>711.9</b>	<b>(704.9)</b>	<b>(652.0)</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	10(b)	<b>(1,533.3)</b>	<b>(1,531.2)</b>	<b>(165.5)</b>	<b>(167.3)</b>
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>	16	<b>(33.7)</b>	<b>(38.8)</b>	<b>(33.7)</b>	<b>(38.8)</b>
<b>Net liabilities before pension liability</b>		<b>(904.1)</b>	<b>(858.1)</b>	<b>(904.1)</b>	<b>(858.1)</b>
<b>Pension liability</b>	25	<b>(71.0)</b>	<b>(51.9)</b>	<b>(71.0)</b>	<b>(51.9)</b>
<b>Net liabilities including pension liability</b>		<b>(975.1)</b>	<b>(910.0)</b>	<b>(975.1)</b>	<b>(910.0)</b>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>					
Called up share capital	17	30.7	30.7	30.7	30.7
Profit and loss account	18	(1,005.8)	(940.7)	(1,005.8)	(940.7)
<b>Total shareholders' deficit</b>		<b>(975.1)</b>	<b>(910.0)</b>	<b>(975.1)</b>	<b>(910.0)</b>

The financial statements on pages 16 to 46 were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 26 March 2015 and were signed on its behalf by:



Graham Edwards  
Chief Executive Officer



Neil Henson  
Director

# Consolidated cashflow statement for the 364 day period ended 30 December 2014

		Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
	Note		
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Net cash inflow from continuing operating activities	19	191.4	148.6
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>		<b>191.4</b>	<b>148.6</b>
<b>Returns on investments and servicing of finance</b>			
Dividends received		0.4	0.4
Interest received in respect of RPI index-linked swap contracts		14.5	16.2
Interest received in respect of interest rate swaps		6.6	6.6
Interest received – other		0.2	3.7
Interest paid in respect of RPI index-linked swap contracts		(1.2)	(0.9)
Interest paid in respect of interest rate swaps		(1.8)	(1.8)
Interest paid – other external debt		(74.3)	(77.7)
Interest paid on loan from parent undertaking		(50.0)	(50.0)
Payments in respect of RPI index-linked swap contracts		-	(108.4)
<b>Net cash outflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance</b>		<b>(105.6)</b>	<b>(211.9)</b>
<b>Taxation</b>			
UK corporation tax received		0.5	1.4
<b>Tax received</b>		<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(55.9)	(69.7)
Capital contributions received		10.0	9.6
Proceeds of disposal of tangible fixed assets		1.0	1.7
<b>Net cash outflow from investing activities</b>		<b>(44.9)</b>	<b>(58.4)</b>
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) before financing</b>		<b>41.4</b>	<b>(120.3)</b>
<b>Financing</b>			
Debt issue costs	20	(0.2)	(1.1)
Cash transferred from short-term deposit	22	-	150.0
Repayment of borrowings - revolver facilities	20	(40.0)	(20.0)
<b>Net cash (outflow)/inflow from financing</b>		<b>(40.2)</b>	<b>128.9</b>
<b>Increase in cash at bank and in hand</b>	21	<b>1.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>

## Principal accounting policies

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The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards applicable in the United Kingdom and comply with the Companies Act 2006. A summary of the principal Group accounting policies, which have been consistently applied in both the current period and the prior year, is shown below.

### Changes in accounting policy

There have been no changes in accounting policy during the current period.

### Basis of accounting

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified for the fair valuation exercise undertaken on the acquisition of the gas distribution business in 2005 and in respect of the valuation of pension assets and liabilities.

The directors are satisfied that the Group and Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements, as set out in the report of the directors on page 13.

### Basis of consolidation

The Group financial statements consolidate the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertakings drawn up to 30 December. The results of subsidiaries acquired or sold are consolidated for the periods from or to the date on which control passed. Acquisitions are accounted for under the acquisition method. They are de-consolidated from the date that control ceases.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for the acquisition of subsidiaries by the Group.

Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between Group companies are eliminated.

### Related party transactions

The Company is a 100% owned subsidiary of Wales & West Utilities Holdings Limited and is included in the consolidated financial statements of Wales & West Gas Networks (Holdings) Limited. Consequently, under the terms of FRS 8 "Related Party Transactions", the Company is exempt from disclosing related party transactions with entities that are part of the Wales & West Gas Networks (Holdings) Limited group.

### Turnover

Turnover represents the sales value derived from the distribution of gas together with the sales value derived from the provision of other services to customers during the period. Turnover is billed on a monthly basis and excludes value added tax within the UK.

Turnover from the distribution of gas is partially derived from the value of units supplied during the period and includes an estimate of the value of units supplied between the date of the last meter reading and the period end and from the capacity requested by shippers. No liability is recognised when revenues received or receivable exceed the maximum amount permitted by regulatory agreement and reductions will be made to future prices to reflect any over-recovery.

## Principal accounting policies (continued)

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### Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets, which include assets in which the Group's interest comprises legally protected statutory or contractual rights of use, are included in the balance sheet at their cost less accumulated depreciation. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset, payroll and other costs incurred which are directly attributable to the construction of tangible fixed assets.

Additions represent the purchase or construction of new assets and extensions or significant increases in the capacity of existing tangible fixed assets. Contributions received towards the cost of tangible fixed assets are included in creditors as deferred income and amortised on a straight line basis to the profit and loss account over the estimated economic lives of the assets.

No depreciation is provided on freehold land or assets in the course of construction. Other tangible fixed assets are depreciated, on a straight line basis, at rates estimated to write off their book values over their estimated useful economic lives. In assessing estimated economic lives, which are reviewed on a regular basis, consideration is given to any contractual arrangements and operational requirements relating to particular assets. Unless otherwise determined by operational requirements, the depreciation periods for the principal categories of tangible fixed assets are, in general, shown below:

Principal depreciation periods are:

Freehold buildings	up to 50 years
Leasehold land and buildings	over the period of the lease
Gas distribution network assets:	
Mains, services and regulating equipment	30 to 65 years
Storage	40 years
Meters	5 to 20 years
Vehicles, plant and equipment	3 to 10 years

All assets are depreciated on a straight line basis.

Following a review of asset lives acquired at business acquisition from National Grid in 2005 the useful economic life of certain infrastructure assets has been increased but remains within the range stated above.

Replacement expenditure represents the costs of planned maintenance of mains and services assets by replacing or lining sections of pipe. This expenditure is principally undertaken to repair and to maintain the safety of the network and is therefore expensed as incurred. Expenditure which enhances the performance of the mains and services assets is treated as an addition to tangible fixed assets.

### Impairment of fixed assets

Impairments of fixed assets are calculated as the difference between the carrying values of the net assets of the income generating unit and their recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is defined as the higher of net realisable value or estimated value in use at the date the impairment review is undertaken. Net realisable value represents the net amount that can be generated through sale of the assets. Value in use represents the present value of expected future cash flows discounted using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the income generating unit, for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

Impairment reviews are carried out if there is some indication that an impairment may have occurred, or where otherwise required, to ensure that fixed assets are not carried above their estimated recoverable amounts.

Impairments are recognised in the profit and loss account.

## Principal accounting policies (continued)

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### Leased assets

Where assets are financed by leasing arrangements which transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset to the lessee (finance leases), the assets are treated as if they had been purchased and the corresponding capital cost is shown as an obligation to the lessor. Leasing payments are treated as consisting of a capital element and finance costs, the capital element reducing the obligation to the lessor and the finance charges being written off to the profit and loss account over the period of the lease in reducing amounts in relation to the written down amount. The assets are depreciated over the shorter of their estimated useful lives and the lease period.

All other leases are regarded as operating leases. Rental costs arising under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

### Grants, customer contributions and infrastructure charges

Grants, customer contributions and infrastructure charges relating to gas infrastructure assets and expenditure on other fixed assets are treated as deferred income and recognised in the profit and loss account over the expected useful economic lives of the related assets.

### Investments

Long term investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost less amounts written off or provided to reflect permanent diminutions in value.

### Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value with cost being determined on a weighted average basis which takes account of any provision necessary to recognise damage and obsolescence.

### Financial liabilities

Debt is initially measured at fair value, which is the amount of the net proceeds after deduction of directly attributable issue costs, with subsequent measurement at amortised cost. Debt issue costs and discounts on issue are recognised over the expected term of the instruments.

### Decommissioning and environmental costs

Decommissioning and environmental costs, based on discounted future estimated expenditures, are provided for in full. The unwinding of the discount is included within the profit and loss account as a financing charge.

### Financial instruments

Derivative financial instruments ("derivatives") are used by the Group for the management of interest rate and RPI index-linked exposures. The principal derivatives used include nominal interest rate swaps and RPI index-linked swaps.

All transactions are undertaken, or maintained, with a view to providing a commercial hedge of the interest and inflation risks associated with the Group's underlying business activities and the financing of those activities. Amounts payable or receivable in respect of interest rate swaps RPI index-linked swaps are recognised in the profit and loss account over the economic lives of the agreements or underlying position being hedged, either within net interest or disclosed separately where deemed exceptional.



## Principal accounting policies (continued)

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### Pension costs

The Group operates one pension scheme which has defined benefit and defined contribution sections.

The pension costs in respect of the defined contribution section of the pension scheme comprise contributions payable in respect of the period.

The assets of the defined benefit section of the scheme are measured using closing market values at the balance sheet date. Pension scheme liabilities are measured using the projected unit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liability.

The increase in the net present value of the liabilities of the defined benefit scheme expected to arise from employee service in the period is charged to operating profit. The net of the expected return on the scheme's assets and the increase during the period in the present value of the scheme's liabilities, arising from the passage of time, are included in other finance income or costs, as appropriate.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses.

### Taxation

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

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 group's taxable profits and its results as stated in the financial statements that arise from the inclusion of gains and losses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements.

A net deferred tax asset is regarded as recoverable and therefore recognised only to the extent that, 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 balances are not discounted.

### Exceptional items

These are items of an unusual or non-recurring nature incurred by the Group and include restructuring costs and material provision and accrual charges or credits taken through the profit and loss account.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 1. Company profit and loss account

As permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the profit and loss account of the Company has not been included in these financial statements. The loss after taxation for the period within the financial statements of the Company was £33.7m (year ended 31 December 2013: £48.2m) and the actuarial loss on the pension scheme included in the consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses was £31.4m (31 December 2013: £27.0m). The loss transferred from reserves was £33.7m (year ended 31 December 2013: £48.2m).

### 2. Operating profit

(a) Operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):-

		Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
	Note		
<u>Continuing operations:</u>			
Staff costs	3(b)	74.0	73.6
Own work capitalised		(16.6)	(16.5)
Depreciation: Own assets	6	59.9	54.2
Less amortisation of customer contributions		(2.5)	(2.1)
Less amortised grants		(0.1)	(0.1)
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(0.6)	(1.2)
Replacement expenditure		75.3	78.9
Rentals under operating leases:			
Hire of plant and equipment		2.4	2.8
Other		0.6	0.3
Exceptional items ~ restructuring costs	2(b)i	4.1	(3.0)
Exceptional items ~ net decrease in provisions	2(b)ii,16	(2.0)	-
Exceptional items ~ holiday pay on overtime	2(b)iii	0.7	-

Own work capitalised includes direct labour and ancillary costs.

#### (b) Exceptional items

The exceptional items relate to:-

- i) an early retirement programme was announced by WWU on 15 October 2014 which was open to all who will reach 55 within two years of 30 December 2014. As a result the Company has offered early retirement to 58 people and £4.0m was accrued within the financial statements as an exceptional item for the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £nil).

An organisational restructure was undertaken between October and December 2012 to allow realignment of core activities with the aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation. The cost was £13.1m, saving £2.9m on the estimated restructuring accrual as at 31 December 2012, and payments were mainly incurred during the year ended 31 December 2013 with a further £0.1m incurred in the period ended 30 December 2014. The restructure resulted in a manpower reduction of 139 people which has been achieved through a voluntary redundancy programme. The new organisational structure was effective from 1 January 2013 with employees placed on gardening leave where possible prior to a leaving date of 2 April 2013.

- ii) the environmental and holder demolition provision. The review of costs incurred and the timing of work done in the period ended 30 December 2014, gave rise to a net decrease in the provision of £2.0m (note 16) (year ended 31 December 2013: £nil).
- iii) holiday pay due on overtime and other elements of variable pay following an EU ruling in 2014. WWU has accrued £0.7m in respect of a potential claim from employees at 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £nil).

## Notes to the financial statements

### 2. Operating profit (continued)

#### (c) Auditor remuneration

##### Services provided by the Group's auditor

During the period/year the Group obtained the following services from the Group's auditor:

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £000	Year ended 31 December 2013 £000
Fees payable to the Group's auditor for the audit of parent entities and the consolidated financial statements:	48.5	47.0
Fees payable to the Group's auditor and its associates for other services:		
The audit of the Company's subsidiaries pursuant to legislation	9.0	9.0
Assurance services related to group reporting	40.5	37.0
Assurance services related to regulatory reporting	72.8	75.0
Other assurance services	21.9	46.9
Tax compliance services	88.9	113.2
Tax advisory services	235.2	390.8
	<b>516.8</b>	<b>718.9</b>
	Period ended 30 December 2014 £000	Year ended 31 December 2013 £000
<u>Fees in respect of the pension scheme:</u>		
Audit of pension scheme	15.9	16.6

## Notes to the financial statements

### 3. Directors and employees

#### (a) Directors' emoluments and interests

Directors' emoluments:

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £000	Year ended 31 December 2013 £000
Fees	76.8	50.0
Salary payments (including benefits in kind)	415.0	358.7
Performance related bonus (see below)	399.3	433.0
Pension contributions	23.7	12.0
Contributions in lieu of pension	98.8	73.0
	<b>1,013.6</b>	<b>926.7</b>

One director is a member of the defined contribution section of the Group pension scheme. All other directors make their own pension arrangements.

Performance related bonuses in respect of service by the directors for the year will be payable. Bonuses are payable subject to the achievement of certain targets. These include safety, standards of service, customer satisfaction and financial.

The amount disclosed in respect of the period ended 30 December 2014 represents the bonus approved by the Remuneration Committee in respect of services for the year ended 31 December 2014.

The performance bonus is apportioned between an amount due as a lump sum payable after the period/year end, and the balance payable under a long term incentive plan. The amount due under the long term incentive plan is payable three years after the period in which the award arose.

The performance bonus is conditional on the director remaining in office on the payment date.

No director had any interest over shares in the Company.

Highest paid director:

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £000	Year ended 31 December 2013 £000
Salary payments (including benefits in kind)	415.0	358.7
Performance related bonus (see above)	399.3	433.0
Pension contributions	23.7	12.0
Contributions in lieu of pension	98.8	73.0
	<b>936.8</b>	<b>876.7</b>
Accrued company pension	<b>79.9</b>	<b>422.1</b>

## Notes to the financial statements

### 3. Directors and employees (continued)

#### (b) Staff costs

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
Wages and salaries	56.1	57.1
Social security costs	5.8	5.8
Pension costs (note 25)	12.1	10.7
	<b>74.0</b>	<b>73.6</b>

Of the above, £13.1m (year ended 31 December 2013: £13.4m) has been capitalised. Redundancy costs of £0.2m (2013: £3.6m) were paid through payroll and included within restructuring costs disclosed within exceptional items in note 2b(i).

#### (c) Average monthly number of employees during the period/year (excluding directors)

	Period ended 30 December 2014 Number	Year ended 31 December 2013 Number
Regulated gas distribution activities	1,319	1,362
Other activities	2	2
	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,364</b>

### 4. Interest

#### (a) Interest receivable and similar income

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
Income from fixed asset investments	0.4	0.4
On RPI index-linked swaps	14.5	16.0
On interest rate swaps	6.6	6.7
On current asset investments	-	0.8
Other interest receivable	0.2	0.4
Other finance income – net pensions (note 25)	4.6	1.6
	<b>26.3</b>	<b>25.9</b>

#### (b) Interest payable and similar charges

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
On external debt	75.3	77.7
On RPI index-linked derivative contracts – accretion expense	30.5	40.0
On loans from parent undertaking	87.3	83.5
On RPI index-linked swaps	1.2	1.0
On interest rate swaps	1.8	1.8
Amortised issue costs and discount	2.1	2.3
On unwinding of discounts on provisions (note 16)	1.7	1.8
Other	0.2	0.2
	<b>200.1</b>	<b>208.3</b>

## Notes to the financial statements

### 5. Tax on loss on ordinary activities

#### (a) Analysis of credit in the period/year

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
<b>The credit for taxation is made up as follows:</b>		
<b>Current tax</b>		
UK corporation tax on losses of the period/year	(7.0)	(7.1)
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	(0.7)	1.2
<b>Total current tax (note 5(b))</b>	<b>(7.7)</b>	<b>(5.9)</b>
<b>Deferred tax</b>		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	-	-
<b>Total deferred tax</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total tax credit on loss on ordinary activities</b>	<b>(7.7)</b>	<b>(5.9)</b>

The £7.0m (year ended 31 December 2013: £7.1m) tax credit reflects amounts due from Group undertakings in respect of balancing payments under the debt cap rules during the period/year.

#### (b) Factors affecting the current tax credit for the period/year

The current tax assessed for the period/year is different to the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 21.5% (31 December 2013: 23.25%). The differences are explained below:

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
Loss on ordinary activities before tax	(41.4)	(54.1)
Loss on ordinary activities before tax multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 21.5% (31 December 2013: 23.25%)	(8.9)	(12.5)
<b>Effects of:</b>		
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	(0.1)	2.6
Prior period adjustment in respect of land remediation relief	(0.6)	(1.0)
Adjustment in respect of land remediation relief	-	(0.4)
Tax effect of expenses that are not deductible in determining taxable profit/(loss)	15.6	15.9
Non taxable income	(0.1)	(0.1)
(Utilisation)/generation of tax losses	(8.1)	0.6
Accelerated capital allowances	(3.6)	(5.3)
Short term timing differences	0.8	(3.0)
Short term timing differences in respect of pension scheme	(2.7)	(2.7)
<b>Current tax credit for period/year (note 5(a))</b>	<b>(7.7)</b>	<b>(5.9)</b>

A deferred tax asset has not been recognised in respect of accelerated capital allowances and tax losses with a tax value of £24.8m (31 December 2013: £36.4m) as there is insufficient evidence that the asset will be recoverable. This figure has been updated in line with the actual tax treatment of the Group's fixed assets in their corporation tax computations as submitted to HM Revenue & Customs.

The fall in the future tax rate to 20% from 1 April 2015 is not expected to materially affect the future tax charge.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 6. Tangible assets

#### Group and Company

	Freehold land and buildings £m	Leasehold land and buildings £m	Gas distribution network assets £m	Vehicles, plant and equipment £m	Assets under construction £m	Total £m
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 January 2014	15.1	5.1	1,644.3	165.1	28.5	1,858.1
Additions	-	-	-	-	52.9	52.9
Disposals	(0.1)	-	(0.2)	(11.4)	-	(11.7)
Transfers in period	0.4	0.7	47.7	17.7	(66.5)	-
<b>At 30 December 2014</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>1,691.8</b>	<b>171.4</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>1,899.3</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>						
At 1 January 2014	0.5	3.2	447.4	100.7	-	551.8
Charge for the period	0.3	0.4	42.0	17.2	-	59.9
Disposals	-	-	(0.2)	(11.1)	-	(11.3)
<b>At 30 December 2014</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>489.2</b>	<b>106.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>600.4</b>
<b>Net book amount</b>						
<b>At 30 December 2014</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1,202.6</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>1,298.9</b>
At 31 December 2013	14.6	1.9	1,196.9	64.4	28.5	1,306.3

No impairment charge is required as a result of a review of the carrying value of fixed assets based on value in use calculations. These calculations use pre-tax cashflow projections based on financial budgets approved by the directors and the regulatory price control. Cashflows beyond this period are extrapolated using estimates. The discount rates used are pre-tax and reflect specific business risks.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 7. Fixed asset investments

Group	Unlisted investments £m
<b>Cost</b>	
At 30 December 2014 and 31 December 2013	<u>0.1</u>
<b>Amounts written off</b>	
At 30 December 2014 and 31 December 2013	<u>-</u>
<b>Net book amount</b>	
At 30 December 2014 and 31 December 2013	<u>0.1</u>

The unlisted fixed asset investment represents the Group's shareholding in Xoserve Limited. The Group's shareholding represents 10% (31 December 2013: 10%) of the issued share capital of Xoserve Limited.

Company	Unlisted investments £m
<b>Cost</b>	
At 30 December 2014 and 31 December 2013	<u>0.2</u>
<b>Amounts written off</b>	
At 30 December 2014 and 31 December 2013	<u>-</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 30 December 2014 and 31 December 2013	<u>0.2</u>

An unlisted fixed asset investment of £0.1m (31 December 2013: £0.1m) represents the Company's shareholding in Xoserve Limited. The Company's shareholding represents 10% (31 December 2013: 10%) of the issued share capital of Xoserve Limited.

An unlisted fixed asset investment of £0.1m (31 December 2013: £0.1m) represents the entire issued share capital of Wales & West Utilities Finance plc comprising 50,000 shares of £1 each. Wales & West Utilities Finance plc has bonds listed on the London Stock Exchange.

In addition, the Company owns the entire issued share capital of Wales & West Utilities Pension Scheme Trustees Limited, which is non-trading and comprises 2 shares of £1 each.

The directors believe that the carrying value of the investments is supported by their underlying net assets.

### 8. Stocks

#### Group and Company

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Raw materials and consumables	<u>3.5</u>	<u>3.6</u>

The replacement cost of stocks is not materially different from their carrying value.



## Notes to the financial statements

### 9. Debtors

#### Group and Company

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	39.8	38.1
Prepayments and accrued income	4.2	8.9
Corporation tax recoverable	0.6	0.4
	<b>44.6</b>	<b>47.4</b>

### 10. Creditors

		Group		Company	
	Note	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
<b>(a) Other creditors falling due within one year:</b>					
Payments received on account		8.9	8.3	8.9	8.3
Trade creditors		9.0	8.7	9.0	8.7
Other taxation and social security		12.1	10.4	12.1	10.4
Other creditors		2.4	2.6	2.4	2.6
Customer capital contributions		2.5	2.2	2.5	2.2
Accruals and deferred income		77.3	70.5	54.1	47.1
Capital grant		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Amounts owed to parent undertaking		614.3	583.9	614.3	583.9
Amount owed to subsidiary undertaking		-	-	1,391.1	1,387.4
		<b>726.6</b>	<b>686.7</b>	<b>2,094.5</b>	<b>2,050.7</b>
<b>(b) Amounts falling due after more than one year:</b>					
Borrowings	11	1,366.8	1,402.9	(1.0)	39.0
Liability for index-linked swap contracts	13(d)	66.8	36.3	66.8	36.3
Trade creditors		0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4
Capital grant		0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
Customer capital contributions		98.6	90.7	98.6	90.7
		<b>1,533.3</b>	<b>1,531.2</b>	<b>165.5</b>	<b>167.3</b>

## Notes to the financial statements

### 11. Borrowings

	Group		Company	
	30 December 2014	31 December 2013	30 December 2014	31 December 2013
	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Repayable as follows:</b>				
In more than one year but not more than two years	198.9	-	-	-
In more than two years but not more than five years	113.0	350.8	(0.8)	39.0
In more than five years	1,054.9	1,052.1	(0.2)	-
	<b>1,366.8</b>	<b>1,402.9</b>	<b>(1.0)</b>	<b>39.0</b>

- i) At 30 December 2014 Wales & West Utilities Finance plc had in issue guaranteed bonds with a nominal value of £1,365.0m (31 December 2013: £1,365.0m) and a book value of £1,367.8m (31 December 2013: £1,363.9m). Included in the book value is £18.0m (31 December 2013: £16.0m) of accrued inflation on the index linked bond. The guaranteed bonds have legal maturities ranging between December 2016 and December 2036, as outlined in the following table:

Nominal value	Coupon	Class	Issue date	Redemption date	Book value
£250m	6.25%	A	10 July 2009	30 November 2021	£248.0m
£200m	5.125%	A	2 December 2009	2 December 2016	£198.9m
£300m	5.75%	A	31 March 2010	29 March 2030	£294.0m
£100m	2.496% Index linked	A	31 March 2010	22 August 2035	£117.4m
£115m	6.75%*	B	31 March 2010	17 December 2018/2036*	£113.8m
£250m	4.625%	A	4 November 2011	13 December 2023	£248.0m
£150m	5.00%	A	4 November 2011	7 March 2028	£147.7m
<b>£1,365m</b>					<b>£1,367.8m</b>

- \* Legal maturity of the bond is 2036; however, the bond can be redeemed at the Group's sole option in 2018. If not redeemed in December 2018, the coupon for the bond increases to 3 month LIBOR + 9.4%, therefore management intends to refinance these borrowings by 2018 and as a result borrowings are disclosed as maturing within less than five years.

All of the bonds are unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by the Company and its immediate parent, Wales & West Utilities Holdings Limited, pursuant to a guarantee and security agreement entered into over the entire property, assets, rights and undertakings of each guarantor, in the case of the Company to the extent permitted by the Gas Act and its Gas Transporters Licence.

- ii) As at 30 December 2014, the Company had borrowed £nil (31 December 2013: £40.0m) under its revolving credit facilities which mature in December 2018, with a book value at 30 December 2014 of £0.8m debit representing unamortised credit facility fees (31 December 2013: £39.0m credit, net of credit facility fees of £1.0m). The floating interest rates on drawings under these facilities ranged from LIBOR + 0.60% to LIBOR + 1.65%.

In December 2013, the Company refinanced its medium term committed revolving bank facilities for a five year term ending December 2018. The senior secured Class A capex facility for £125.0m and the Class B bank facility for £25m were replaced with the similar facilities at lower costs. The refinancing also increased the size of the 364 day debt service reserve liquidity facility from £55.0m to £70.0m.

- iii) On 4 December 2014, the Company signed a £160m European Investment Bank capex facility for a twelve year term which matures in December 2026. The book value at 30 December 2014 of £0.2m debit represents unamortised loan fees, as the facility remained undrawn at 30 December 2014. The interest rate on this loan is determined when the facility is drawn down and is calculated on a LIBOR + basis.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 12. Gross borrowings

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Gross value of other loans	1,365.0	1,405.0

The maturity profile of the Group's gross borrowings, excluding bank overdrafts, was as follows:

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
In more than one year but not more than two years	200.0	-
In more than two years but not more than five years	115.0	355.0
In more than five years	1,050.0	1,050.0
	1,365.0	1,405.0

The difference between gross borrowings as disclosed above and net borrowings as disclosed in notes 10 and 11 reflect the unamortised element of the debt arrangement fees of £16.2m (31 December 2013: £18.1m) and the accrued inflation on the index-linked bond of £18.0m (31 December 2013: £16.0m).

### 13. Financial instruments and risk management

#### (a) Interest rate and RPI index-linked swaps

The Group has entered into nominal interest rate swap arrangements in order to manage the nominal interest rate exposure of the Group and not for trading or speculative purposes.

The Group has entered into RPI index-linked interest rate swaps to mitigate the impact of RPI inflation on the RPI index-linked revenues which the Company/Group receives as part of its license obligation under the price control settlement and to support the overall hedging policy target of a minimum 85% fixed and maximum 15% floating.

No derivatives have been entered into for trading or speculative purposes, which are prohibited by the Group's Treasury policy. All interest rate swaps and RPI index-linked swap contract counterparties rank ahead of all other senior secured creditors.

#### Group and Company

##### Interest rate swaps

As at 30 December 2014, the Company held an interest rate swap with a notional principal of £40.0m (31 December 2013: £40.0m) which fixes the interest rate of floating liabilities held by the Group. The interest rate on this swap at 30 December 2014 was 5.19% (31 December 2013: 5.19%). The maturity date of this swap is November 2018 (31 December 2013: November 2018).

As at 30 December 2014, the Company held further interest rate swaps with a notional principal of £234.4m (31 December 2013: £234.4m), which were undertaken to support the policy target of a minimum 85% fixed and maximum 15% floating. The interest rates on the pay leg of these swaps at 30 December 2014 is floating LIBOR (31 December 2013: floating LIBOR). The maturity date of these swaps range between November 2018 and March 2030 (31 December 2013: between November 2018 and March 2030). These maturities are subject to break clauses phased from 31 March 2016 to 31 March 2024. The Group intends to continue to extend break dates well in advance of the due dates.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 13. Financial instruments and risk management (continued)

#### (a) Interest rate and RPI index-linked swaps (continued)

##### RPI Index-linked swaps

As at 30 December 2014, the Group held RPI index-linked swaps with a notional principal of £1,004.0m (31 December 2013: £1,004.0m). The interest rates on the pay leg of these swaps at 30 December 2014 ranged between 0.87% and 2.23% (fixed) plus RPI (31 December 2013: 0.87% and 2.23% (fixed) plus RPI). The maturity dates of these swaps range between November 2023 and November 2039 (31 December 2013: between November 2023 and November 2039). These maturities are subject to break clauses. Of the total notional of £1,004.0m, £700.0m of these swaps have self-executing break dates and are phased over time with £140.0m notional breaking every two years from 31 March 2018 to 31 March 2026. The Group intends to continue to extend break dates well in advance of the due dates. The remaining £304.0m of RPI index-linked swaps do not have any such break clauses.

#### (b) Interest rate composition of gross borrowings

After taking account of the interest rate swaps and RPI index-linked swaps entered into by the Company, the fixed and floating interest rate profile of the Group's gross borrowings, including intra-group indebtedness, was:

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Fixed rate	783.0	792.8
Fixed real rate	1,104.0	1,104.0
Floating rate	85.0	85.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,972.0</b>	<b>1,981.8</b>

Borrowings with a fixed real rate comprise £100.0m of 2.496% index-linked bonds (31 December 2013: £100.0m) and £1,004.0m (31 December 2013: £1,004.0m) of other borrowings hedged by index-linked swaps which have the effect of index-linking the interest rate to the RPI. The interest rates on these swaps at 30 December 2014 ranged between 0.87% and 2.23% (fixed) plus RPI (31 December 2013: 0.87% and 2.23% (fixed) plus RPI). The maturity dates of these swaps range between November 2023 and November 2039 (31 December 2013: between November 2023 and November 2039). These maturities are subject to break clauses. Of the total notional of £1,004.0m, £700.0m of these swaps have self-executing break dates and are phased over time with £140.0m notional breaking every two years from 31 March 2018 to 31 March 2026. The Group intends to continue to extend break dates well in advance of the due dates. The remaining £304.0m of RPI index-linked swaps do not have any such break clauses.

The above analysis includes £607.0m (31 December 2013: £576.8m) of intra-group indebtedness to the immediate parent undertaking. Interest was chargeable on these loans at 15% (31 December 2013: 15%) on the fixed element of £85.0m at 30 December 2014 (31 December 2013: £85.0m) and LIBOR + 14.0% (31 December 2013: LIBOR + 14.0%) on the floating element of £522.0m at 30 December 2014 (31 December 2013: £491.8m).

#### (c) Interest rate profile of fixed rate borrowings

After taking account of the interest rate swaps and RPI index-linked swaps entered into by the Group, the weighted average interest rate profile of the Group's gross borrowings at 30 December 2014, including intra-group indebtedness, together with the weighted average period for which the rate is fixed, was:

Currency	Weighted average interest rate		Weighted average period for which rate is fixed	
	30 December 2014 %	31 December 2013 %	30 December 2014 Years	31 December 2013 Years
Sterling: Fixed rate	4.84	5.04	11.4	11.4
Fixed real rate	3.64	3.61	9.5	10.5
Intercompany fixed rate	15.00	15.00	0.3	0.3

## Notes to the financial statements

### 13. Financial instruments and risk management (continued)

#### (c) Interest rate profile of fixed rate borrowings (continued)

The fixed real rates exclude the indexation charge applicable to the index-linked bonds and index-linked swaps. The index-linked swaps fix the real interest rate cost. The variable inflation is charged to interest payable and is accrued during the period.

#### (d) Maturity profile of financial instruments

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m	Weighted average period until maturity 30 December 2014 Years	31 December 2013 Years
Liability for index-linked swap contracts	66.8	36.3	1.3	2.3
Liability for index-linked bonds	18.0	16.0	20.7	21.7
	<b>84.8</b>	<b>52.3</b>		

The liability for index-linked swap contracts represents the accrued inflation on those instruments. All index-linked swaps held by the Group have a contracted payment date at 30 December 2014 for the accrued inflation of 31 March 2016 (2013: 31 March 2016).

The liability for index-linked bonds represents the accrued inflation and is repayable at maturity in August 2035.

#### (e) Borrowing facilities

Undrawn committed borrowing facilities were:

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Committed bank borrowing facilities	310.0	150.0
Drawn	-	(40.0)
<b>Undrawn committed facilities</b>	<b>310.0</b>	<b>110.0</b>

The £310m of facilities at 30 December 2014 comprised revolver facilities for £150m and the £160m facility signed with the European Investment Bank in December 2014. This latter facility is expected to be fully drawn by April 2016.

#### (f) Fair values of financial instruments

In the table below, the fair value of short term borrowings, current asset investments, cash at bank and in hand and bank loans approximates to book values due to the short maturity of these instruments after reflecting £1.0m (31 December 2013: £1.0m) of unamortised debt fees.

All of the guaranteed bonds are listed on the London Stock Exchange. The fair value of the guaranteed bonds has been calculated using the 30 December 2014 quoted prices.

The fair values of the derivative financial instruments represent the present value of expected future cash flows from those instruments, discounted at LIBOR. These fair values are expected to convert to cash over the life of the instruments, although earlier termination would accelerate cash flow settlement.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 13. Financial instruments and risk management (continued)

#### (f) Fair values of financial instruments (continued)

	30 December 2014	
	Book value £m	Fair value £m
<b>Primary financial instruments held or issued to finance the Group's operations:</b>		
Guaranteed bonds	(1,367.8)	(1,642.3)
Bank loans	1.0	-
Cash at bank and in hand	42.4	42.4
	<u>(1,324.4)</u>	<u>(1,599.9)</u>
<b>Derivative financial instruments held to manage the interest rate profile and matched by primary financial instruments:</b>		
Index-linked swaps	(78.5)	(843.3)
Interest rate swaps	0.4	28.1
	<u>(1,402.5)</u>	<u>(2,415.1)</u>

The fair value of derivative financial instruments matched to primary financial instruments relates to long term borrowings with a book value of £1,366.8m (31 December 2013: £1,402.9m) which have been included within the primary financial instruments issued to finance the Group's operations at a fair value of £1,642.3m (31 December 2013: £1,573.4m), which is the redemption value of those borrowings.

The difference between net borrowings as disclosed above and gross borrowings as disclosed in note 12 reflect cash at bank and in hand the unamortised element of the debt arrangement fees of £16.2m (31 December 2013: £18.1m) and the accrued inflation on the index-linked bond of £18.0m (31 December 2013: £16.0m).

#### (g) Unrealised losses on derivative financial instruments

Whilst accrued accretion expense and other accruals in respect of these instruments are recorded within the financial statements the fair value of unrealised losses on derivative financial instruments is not recognised in the financial statements. These instruments are held to manage the Group's interest rate and inflation exposures and the resultant interest charges are made in the accounting periods to which they relate. The table below analyses the composition of the unrealised fair value losses (note 13(f)).

	Total losses £m
At 1 January 2014	(697.9)
Movement in fair value	<u>(117.3)</u>
<b>At 30 December 2014</b>	<u><b>(815.2)</b></u>
<b>Of which:</b>	
Losses relating to 2015 or later years	<u>(737.1)</u>
	<u><b>(737.1)</b></u>

The difference between the total losses and the losses relating to 2015 or later years is the net amount accrued in the financial statements of £78.1m (31 December 2013: £48.2m) in respect of liability for index-linked swap contracts.

The total fair value of £737.1m may differ materially to the ultimate cost of settling the derivative instruments in cash and remains sensitive to movements in forward LIBOR and RPI rates.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 14. Capital commitments

#### Group and Company

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	7.1	7.7

In order to meet regulatory and service standards, the Group and Company has longer term capital expenditure obligations within the regulated gas distribution business, which include investments to meet shortfalls in performance and condition, and to provide for new demands and growth.

The determination for the eight year regulatory period commenced 1 April 2013 and ends 31 March 2021 includes capital and replacement investment of £1,006.0m (in 2009/10 prices).

### 15. Leasing commitments

At 30 December 2014 and 31 December 2013 there were revenue commitments, in the ordinary course of business in the next year to the payment of rentals on non-cancellable operating leases expiring:

#### Group and company

	Land and buildings		Others	
	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Within one year	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
Between two and five years	0.2	-	0.9	0.7
After five years	0.2	0.4	-	-
	0.5	0.5	1.3	1.2

### 16. Provisions for liabilities

#### Group and Company

		30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Insurance provision	(a)	1.5	1.8
Environmental and holder demolition provision	(b)	11.7	15.9
Onerous interest rate swap contracts provision	(c)	15.1	15.8
Wayleaves provision	(d)	5.4	5.3
		33.7	38.8

## Notes to the financial statements

### 16. Provisions for liabilities (continued)

#### (a) Insurance provision Group and Company

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
At 1 January	1.8	2.0
Unwinding of discount (note 4(b))	0.2	0.1
Utilised in the period/year	(0.5)	(0.3)
At 30 December/31 December	1.5	1.8

The insurance provision is the estimate of liabilities in respect of past events incurred by the business. In accordance with insurance industry practice, these estimates were based on experience from previous years and there is, therefore, no identifiable payment date.

#### (b) Environmental and holder demolition provision Group and Company

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
At 1 January	15.9	19.0
Unwinding of discount (note 4(b))	1.1	1.4
Increase in the period/year	-	0.5
Released in the period/year	(2.0)	(0.5)
Utilised in the period/year	(3.3)	(4.5)
At 30 December/31 December	11.7	15.9

The environmental and holder demolition provision represents the estimated environmental restoration and remediation costs relating to a number of sites owned and managed by the Group. During the period the Group has reassessed the provision. The provision has been discounted to its estimated net present value. The anticipated timing of the cashflows for statutory decontamination is expected to be incurred over the period until 2050.

#### (c) Onerous interest rate swap contract provision Group and Company

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
At 1 January	15.8	16.5
Utilised in the period/year	(0.7)	(0.7)
At 30 December/31 December	15.1	15.8

During the period ended 31 March 2006 the Group acquired from Wales & West Gas Networks (Senior Finance) Limited an interest rate swap contract with a notional value of £924m. This contract was recorded in the financial statements of the Group at its negative fair value on transfer of £50.4m and was offset by an equivalent reduction in the amount that the Group owed Wales & West Gas Networks (Senior Finance) Limited through its intercompany account. The provision is being amortised on a straight line basis over the contract life.



## Notes to the financial statements

### 16. Provisions for liabilities (continued)

#### (d) Wayleaves provision Group and Company

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
At 1 January	5.3	5.0
Unwinding of discount (note 4(b))	0.4	0.3
Utilised in the period/year	(0.3)	-
At 30 December/31 December	<u>5.4</u>	<u>5.3</u>

The wayleaves provision is provided to cover the costs associated with rectifying gas distribution assets which are the subject of ineffective easements or wayleaves. The provision is expected to be utilised over the period until 2020.

### 17. Called up share capital

	30 December 2014 £	31 December 2013 £
Authorised: 30,675,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>30,675,000</u>	<u>30,675,000</u>
Allotted, called up and fully paid: 30,675,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>30,675,000</u>	<u>30,675,000</u>

### 18. Profit and loss account

	Group £m	Company £m
At 1 January 2014	(940.7)	(940.7)
Loss for the financial period/year	(33.7)	(33.7)
Actuarial loss on pension scheme (note 25)	(31.4)	(31.4)
At 30 December 2014	<u>(1,005.8)</u>	<u>(1,005.8)</u>
Pension liability recorded in reserves	<u>134.2</u>	<u>134.2</u>
Profit and loss reserves excluding pension liability	<u>(871.6)</u>	<u>(871.6)</u>

## Notes to the financial statements

### 19. Net cash inflow from operating activities

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
<u>Continuing operations:</u>		
Operating profit	132.4	128.3
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	59.9	54.2
Amortisation of capital contributions	(2.5)	(2.1)
Amortisation of grants	(0.1)	(0.1)
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(0.6)	(1.2)
Net decrease/(increase) in stocks	0.1	(0.5)
Net decrease/(increase) in debtors	2.9	(2.6)
Net increase in creditors	11.8	0.3
Restructuring payments	(0.2)	(12.7)
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	(8.0)	(10.3)
Movements in provisions for liabilities	(4.3)	(4.7)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>191.4</u>	<u>148.6</u>

### 20. Analysis of changes in financing in the period/year

	Share capital		Long term loans	
	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
At 1 January	30.7	30.7	1,386.9	1,405.7
Debt issue costs	-	-	(0.2)	(1.1)
Amortisation of issue costs and discount	-	-	2.1	2.3
Bank debt repaid	-	-	(40.0)	(20.0)
At 30 December/31 December	<u>30.7</u>	<u>30.7</u>	<u>1,348.8</u>	<u>1,386.9</u>

### 21. Analysis of changes in cash in the period/year

Group and company		30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
	Note		
At 1 January	22	41.2	32.6
Net cash inflow	22	1.2	8.6
At 30 December/31 December	22	<u>42.4</u>	<u>41.2</u>

## Notes to the financial statements

### 22. Analysis of cash and cash deposits

#### Group and company

		30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m	Change in period 30 December 2014 £m	Change in year 31 December 2013 £m
	Note				
Cash at bank and in hand	21	42.4	41.2	1.2	8.6
Current asset investments – cash on short-term deposit		-	-	-	(150.0)
		<b>42.4</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>(141.4)</b>

### 23. Reconciliation of net cash flow to decrease/(increase) in net debt

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
Increase in cash as per cash flow statement	1.2	8.6
Debt issue costs	0.2	1.1
Amortisation of issue costs and discount	(2.1)	(2.3)
Cash transferred from short-term deposit	-	(150.0)
Bank debt repaid	40.0	20.0
Decrease/(increase) in net debt	<b>39.3</b>	<b>(122.6)</b>
At 1 January	<b>(1,345.7)</b>	<b>(1,223.1)</b>
At 30 December/31 December	<b>(1,306.4)</b>	<b>(1,345.7)</b>

	Note	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Borrowings	10(b)	(1,366.8)	(1402.9)
Less: Index-linked bond accretion	13(d)	18.0	16.0
Debt	20	<b>(1,348.8)</b>	<b>(1,386.9)</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	22	42.4	41.2
Net debt		<b>(1,306.4)</b>	<b>(1,345.7)</b>

### 24. Directors' and officers' loans and transactions

No loans or credit transactions with any directors, officers or connected persons subsisted during the period or were outstanding at the end of the period.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 25. Pension scheme

The Group operates one pension scheme which has defined benefit and defined contribution sections.

#### Defined benefit section

The Group operates a funded defined benefit pension scheme, the Wales & West Utilities Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"). The Scheme funds are administered by trustees and are independent of the Group's finances. Contributions are paid to the Scheme in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions agreed between the Trustees and the Group.

A full actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2013 was completed by Lane Clark & Peacock and showed a deficit of £92.1m. The calculations carried out to produce the results of that valuation were updated to the accounting date by an independent qualified actuary in accordance with FRS17. As required by FRS17, the value of the defined benefit liabilities were measured using the projected unit method.

The key FRS17 assumptions used for the Scheme are set out below, along with the fair value of assets, a breakdown of the assets into the main asset classes, the present value of the FRS17 liabilities and the net deficit of assets below the FRS17 liabilities (which equals the gross pension liability).

Financial assumptions	30 December 2014	31 December 2013
Inflation assumption	3.10% pa	3.45% pa
Discount rate	3.60% pa	4.45% pa
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	3.10% pa	3.45% pa
Rate of increase in salaries	3.85% pa	4.20% pa
<b>Mortality assumptions</b>		
Life expectancy of a male aged 60	28	27
Life expectancy of a male currently age 40 from age 60	30	30

The assets in the scheme (excluding the Defined Contribution Section of the Scheme and the members' AVC funds) and the expected rates of return at 30 December 2014 and 31 December 2013 were:

#### Asset distribution and expected return

	30 December 2014		31 December 2013	
	Expected return % pa	Fair value £m	Expected return % pa	Fair value £m
Equities	7.00	151.7	8.10	143.4
Bonds	2.50	152.1	3.60	125.0
Property	5.00	18.9	6.10	16.2
Diversified Growth Fund	6.00	94.8	7.10	80.5
Cash	0.50	1.7	0.50	2.0
Total market value of assets		<u>419.2</u>		<u>367.1</u>

## Notes to the financial statements

### 25. Pension scheme (continued)

The expected long term rate of return on net assets has been derived so as to be consistent with market yields at the accounting date and previous periods accounting disclosures.

Equities – As at 30 December 2014 it is assumed that equities will return 4.5% above the return on long duration Government bonds.

Property – As at 30 December 2014 it is assumed that property will return 2.5% above the return on long duration Government bonds.

Government Bonds – As at 30 December 2014 it is assumed that Government bonds will achieve a return in line with the annualised gross redemption yield on UK Gilts all stocks over 15 year index.

Diversified Growth Fund – As at 30 December 2014 it is assumed that the diversified growth fund will achieve a return 3.5% above the return on long duration Government bonds.

Cash – As at 30 December 2014 it is assumed that cash will achieve a return equal to the Bank of England Base Rate.

The following amounts at 30 December 2014 and 31 December 2013 were measured in accordance with the requirements of FRS17:

Balance sheet	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Total fair value of assets	419.2	367.1
FRS17 value of liabilities	(490.2)	(419.0)
Deficit in the scheme	(71.0)	(51.9)

The scheme is represented on the balance sheet at 30 December 2014 as a liability under FRS17 which amounts to £71.0m (31 December 2013: £51.9m).

Over the period ended 30 December 2014, contributions by the Group of £18.5m (year ended 31 December 2013: £26.8m, which included a £7.3m additional contribution in relation to the voluntary redundancy programme) were made in respect of members of the defined benefit section. In addition, £0.6m (year ended 31 December 2013: £0.5m) has been set aside by the Group outside of the Scheme during the period in order to meet the Scheme's expenses. At 30 December 2014 £nil (31 December 2013: £nil) was accrued in respect of contributions due to the defined benefit section.

A deferred tax asset in respect of the pension deficit with a tax value of £14.2m (31 December 2013: £10.4m) has not been recognised as there is insufficient evidence that the asset will be recoverable.

It has been agreed that the ongoing employer contribution will be at a rate of 37.7% (year ended 31 December 2013: 37.7%) of pensionable salary plus an allowance for expenses. In addition, the Group has agreed a 15 year deficit recovery plan following the 31 March 2013 actuarial valuation with contributions of £10.1m per annum for the three years ending 31 March 2016, £12.5m per annum until 31 March 2020 and £5.6m per annum until 31 March 2028.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 25. Pension scheme (continued)

The following amounts have been recognised in the financial statements in the period ended 30 December 2014 and the year ended 31 December 2013 under the requirements of FRS17:

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
<b>Profit and loss account</b>		
Analysis of amounts charged to operating costs:		
Current service cost (employer's part only)	10.5	9.2
Total operating charge	10.5	9.2
Analysis of amounts charged to other finance costs:		
Expected return on pension scheme assets	23.1	17.8
Interest on post retirement liabilities	(18.5)	(16.2)
Net income to finance income	4.6	1.6

The scheme is closed to new entrants and, under the method used to calculate pension costs in accordance with FRS17, the cost as a percentage of covered pensionable payroll will tend to increase as the average age of the membership increases.

The following amounts have been recognised within the statement of total recognised gains and losses under FRS17:

	Period ended 30 December 2014 £m	Year ended 31 December 2013 £m
Actual return less expected return on scheme assets	17.3	16.2
Experience gains on obligations	-	2.2
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of the obligation	(48.7)	(45.4)
Actuarial loss recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses	(31.4)	(27.0)
Cumulative actuarial loss recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses	(134.2)	(102.8)

## Notes to the financial statements

### 25. Pension scheme (continued)

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

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Opening defined benefit obligations	419.0	367.7
Current service cost	10.5	9.2
Curtailment loss	-	(1.3)
Interest cost	18.5	16.2
Employee contributions	0.9	0.8
Benefits paid	(7.7)	(16.8)
Actuarial loss	49.0	43.2
Closing defined benefit obligations	490.2	419.0

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

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m
Opening fair value of Scheme assets	367.1	330.8
Expected return on assets	23.1	17.8
Employer contributions	18.5	26.8
Employee contributions	0.9	0.8
Contributions due	-	(8.6)
Benefits paid	(7.7)	(16.8)
Actual less expected return on assets	17.3	16.3
Closing fair value of Scheme assets	419.2	367.1

Amounts for the last five periods are as follows:

	30 December 2014 £m	31 December 2013 £m	31 December 2012 £m	31 March 2012 £m	31 March 2011 £m
Defined benefit obligations	(490.2)	(419.0)	(367.7)	(329.1)	(285.3)
Total assets	419.2	367.1	330.8	297.0	259.7
Deficit	(71.0)	(51.9)	(36.9)	(32.1)	(25.6)
Experience adjustments on the obligation	-	2.2	(3.6)	0.4	0.4
Experience adjustments on Scheme assets	17.3	16.2	(2.8)	2.8	(0.6)

#### Defined contribution scheme

The Group also operates a defined contribution scheme for staff.

The employer paid £1.6m during the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £1.5m) in respect of defined contribution members.

## Notes to the financial statements

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### 26. Immediate and ultimate parent companies

The immediate parent company is Wales & West Utilities Holdings Limited and the ultimate parent company and controlling party is Wales & West Gas Networks (Holdings) Limited. Wales & West Gas Networks (Holdings) Limited is the parent undertaking of the largest group of undertakings to consolidate these financial statements at 30 December 2014. Wales & West Utilities Holdings Limited is the parent undertaking of the smallest group of undertakings to consolidate these financial statements. Copies of the annual consolidated financial statements of Wales & West Gas Network (Holdings) Limited and Wales & West Utilities Holdings Limited may be obtained from The Company Secretary, Wales & West Gas Networks (Holdings) Limited, Wales & West House, Spooner Close, Celtic Springs, Coedkernew, Newport, NP10 8FZ.

The shares in the ultimate parent company, Wales & West Gas Networks (Holdings) Limited are owned equally by West Gas Networks Limited and Western Gas Networks Limited. These two companies are ultimately owned by a consortium comprising Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited (Hong Kong) (30%), Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited (Bermuda) (30%), Power Assets Holdings Limited (Hong Kong) (30%) and the Li Ka Shing Foundation (Hong Kong) (10%).

### 27. Related party transactions

#### a) Xoserve Limited

The Group owns 10% (31 December 2013: 10%) of the issued share capital of Xoserve Limited ("Xoserve"). Xoserve is owned jointly by the UK Gas Distribution companies and National Grid Group as owner of the gas transmission business in the UK.

Xoserve provides gas throughput (meter reading) and billing information to the Group which is used by the Group in setting its regulated gas distribution charges to gas transporters. The cost to the Group of Xoserve providing these services was £5.2m in respect of the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £5.0m), of which £1.1m was charged to capital (year ended 31 December 2013: £1.2m).

#### b) Seabank Power Limited

The Group provides Seabank Power Limited ("Seabank Power") group with an emergency callout, pipeline inspection and maintenance service. Seabank Power is 50% owned by Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited (Hong Kong) and 50% owned by Power Assets Holdings Limited (Hong Kong). Both companies hold a 30% interest in the Company's ultimate parent company Wales & West Gas Networks (Holdings) Limited. These services are provided on normal commercial terms. The income to the Group in respect of services to Seabank Power was £0.1m for the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £0.1m).

#### c) Hutchison Whampoa Limited

Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited (Hong Kong), a company which holds a 30% interest in the Company's ultimate parent company Wales & West Gas Networks (Holdings) Limited, owns 49.97% of Hutchison Whampoa Limited ("HWL"). HWL owns 78.16% of Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited (Bermuda), a company which holds 30% of the shares of Wales and West Gas Networks (Holdings) Group. During the period ended 30 December 2014 the Group has been invoiced by Hutchison International Limited for the following services negotiated by HWL.

Oracle Unlimited Deployment Programs Licencing agreement - cost to the Group £0.1m for the period ended 30 December 2014 (year ended 31 December 2013: £0.1m). The contract is for 3 years from 1 April 2013.