

Company Registration No. 05107527 (England and Wales)

# **Abstract Legal Holdings Limited**

## **Report and Unaudited Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 December 2020



# **Abstract Legal Holdings Limited**

## **Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
Company information	2
Directors' report	3
Statement of comprehensive income	5
Statement of financial position	6
Statement of changes in equity	7
Notes to the financial statements	8

# **Abstract Legal Holdings Limited**

## **Company Information**

<b>Directors</b>	D J L Whitmore A L Wilford
<b>Company number</b>	05107527
<b>Registered office</b>	58 Mosley Street Manchester M2 3HZ United Kingdom

# **Abstract Legal Holdings Limited**

## **Directors' Report**

### **For the year ended 31 December 2020**

The Directors present their report, together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

#### **Principal activities**

The principal activity of Abstract Legal Holdings Limited ("the Company") is a holding company of a group of companies whose principal activity is the assistance of individuals with personal injury claims. The Company is incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales.

#### **Results, dividends and key performance indicators**

The results for the year are set out on page 5. The Company did not trade in the current or preceding year. The Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend in respect of the current year (2019: £nil).

#### **Directors**

The Directors in office at any time during the financial year and up to the date of this report are:

- D J L Whitmore
- A L Wilford

#### **The Covid-19 pandemic**

Since March 2020, the UK has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic with continued social distancing restrictions in place. The Directors of the Company have assessed the ability for the ultimate parent undertaking, Slater and Gordon UK Holdings Limited ("the Group") to support the Company to continue on a going concern basis.

#### **Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Company is a member of the Slater and Gordon Consolidated Group whose ultimate parent entity is Slater and Gordon UK Holdings Limited. The Company is under common management of the Group and benefits from Group support when needed. In concluding that the going concern basis is appropriate, the Directors have relied upon a letter of support from Slater and Gordon UK Holdings Limited which confirms that funds will be made available to the Company as required for at least 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements.

At 31 December 2020, the Group had net assets of £107.9 million and cash of £13.8m million. The Group has prepared cash flow forecasts for the foreseeable future, based on key assumptions around the achievement of revenues, which demonstrate cash self-sufficiency in the Group. Management have considered the level of new instructions and the likely future value of this work together with the forecasts and projected cash flow patterns of the Group for the foreseeable future being a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The Group manages its financing via a shareholder loan facility which, including accrued interest, is £33.8m as at 31 December 2020 and is fully drawn down (2019: £30.0m). The shareholders' loans due to expire on 22 December 2021 have been extended to 31 May 2024 under their existing terms. The Group also takes advantage of a working capital facility to ensure that the short-term liquidity of the business is also managed, and the Group can fulfil its obligations when they fall due. The working capital facility has £20.9m drawn at 31 December 2020 (2019: £16.5m).

On 14 December 2021, the Group agreed a new Super Senior Incremental Facility with its shareholders. The Group has committed to additional funding of £5.0m (Tranche A) and a further £5.0m is available but not yet committed (Tranche B). This facility is due to expire on 31 May 2024 and accrues interest at 10% PIK interest per annum.

The Group has considered the impacts the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the cashflow forecasts. The Group has based the FY21 and FY22 forecasts on a prudent level of intake growth as the economy continues to recover, with road traffic volumes returning to pre Covid-19 levels, the lifting of social restrictions and the reopening of court facilities, which could have a positive impact on revenue and cash received into the business.

# **Abstract Legal Holdings Limited**

## **Directors' Report (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2020**

### **Going concern (continued)**

Under the cashflow forecast, the Group would have significant headroom over its shareholder covenants at the lowest point at any given month end in FY21 and FY22. The 2022 cash receipts would need to fall by over 5% each month in 2022, for the cash balance to fall below the shareholder covenant at any given month end.

The Company's projections for the period to December 2022 including receipts and payments indicate that the Group expects to be able to discharge its obligations to all stakeholders. Business activity and cash flows are monitored on a regular weekly basis and continue to be satisfactory. Regular financial forecasts are prepared to monitor the Group's funding requirements through retained profits and borrowing facilities, and projected compliance with shareholders covenants.

Management have reasonable expectations that the Group has adequate resources to continue trading for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, management continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for preparing these financial statements.

### **Statement of Directors' responsibilities**

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

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework". 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 Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

### **On behalf of the board**



A L Wilford  
**Director**

21 December 2021  
58 Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3HZ

**Abstract Legal Holdings Limited**  
**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2020**

There was no profit and loss or other comprehensive income generated during the current or comparative year.

The notes on pages 8 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Abstract Legal Holdings Limited

## Statement of Financial Position

At 31 December 2020

	Notes	31 December 2020 £'000	31 December 2019 £'000
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Investments	4	-	-
		-	-
<b>Current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	5	1,875	1,875
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,875</b>	<b>1,875</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,875</b>	<b>1,875</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	(1,912)	(1,912)
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>(1,912)</b>	<b>(1,912)</b>
<b>Net liabilities</b>		<b>(37)</b>	<b>(37)</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Called-up share capital	7	67	67
Accumulated losses		(104)	(104)
<b>Total shareholders' deficit</b>		<b>(37)</b>	<b>(37)</b>

The notes on pages 8 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.

For the year ended 31 December 2020, the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary companies.

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the Company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 393, 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the Company.

The financial statements were approved by the board of Directors and authorised for issue on 21 December 2021.



**A L Wilford**  
Director

**Company Registration No. 05107527**

# **Abstract Legal Holdings Limited**

## **Statement of Changes in Equity**

**For the year ended 31 December 2020**

	<b>Called-up share capital</b>	<b>Accumulated losses</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2018</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>(104)</b>	<b>(37)</b>
Total comprehensive result for the year	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>(104)</b>	<b>(37)</b>
Total comprehensive result for the year	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>(104)</b>	<b>(37)</b>

The notes on pages 8 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.



# Abstract Legal Holdings Limited

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

### 1. Accounting policies

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies adopted by the Company in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

#### a) Basis of preparation

Abstract Legal Holdings Limited (the "Company") is a private company limited by shares, incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 2006 and domiciled in the United Kingdom. The address of the Company is shown on page 2. The nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report on page 3. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and is assessed on page 3 in the Directors' Report.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101, 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' (FRS 101) and the Companies Act 2006. FRS 101 sets out a reduced disclosure framework for a 'qualifying entity' as defined in the standard which addresses the financial reporting requirements and disclosure exemptions in the individual financial statements of qualifying entities that otherwise apply the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS's) as issued by the IASB.

The Company's financial statements are presented in Pound Sterling (GBP), its functional currency. All values are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds (£000) except when otherwise indicated. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements are separate financial statements. Slater and Gordon UK Holdings Limited is both the smallest and largest parent company preparing consolidated financial statements and are available to the public and can be obtained as set out in note 9.

#### b) Compliance with accounting standards

FRS 101 sets out amendments to IASB-adopted IFRS's that are necessary to achieve compliance with the Act and related Regulations. The Company adopted the following amendments to IFRS's from 1 January 2020:

Amendments to IFRS 3	<i>Definition of a 'business'</i>
Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8	<i>Definition of 'material'</i>
Conceptual Framework	<i>Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS's</i>

The adoption of the amendments listed above did not have any impact on the amounts recognised in prior and current periods. No impact is expected in future periods.

The following disclosure exemptions from the requirements of IFRS's have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements, in accordance with FRS 101:

- Information relating to the Company's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital has not been given.
- IAS 1 "*Presentation of financial statements*", a statement of cash flows has not been presented.
- The categories of financial instrument and nature and extent of risks arising on these financial instruments have not been detailed.
- The valuation techniques applied to assets and liabilities held at fair value have not been disclosed.
- IAS 24 "*Related party disclosures*", including related party transactions between two or more wholly owned members of the group have not been disclosed.

Where relevant, equivalent disclosures have been given in the Group accounts of Slater and Gordon UK Holdings Limited.

**Abstract Legal Holdings Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2020**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**c) Amendments to IFRS's in issue but not yet effective**

At the date of authorisation of these financial statements, the Company has not applied the following amendments to IFRS's that have been issued but are not yet effective:

IFRS 17	<i>Insurance Contracts (effective from 1 January 2023)</i>
Amendments to IAS 37	<i>Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets (effective from 1 January 2022)</i>
Amendments to IAS 1	<i>Presentation of financial statements (effective from 1 January 2023)</i>
Annual improvements to IFRS 2018-2020	<i>Effective from 1 January 2022</i>
Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16	<i>Interest rate benchmark reform (effective from 1 January 2021)</i>

The Directors do not expect that the amendments to the Standards listed above will have a material impact on the financial statements of the Company in future periods.

**d) Significant accounting estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRS 101 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies. During the current and prior year there were no areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements.

**e) Investments**

Investments are stated at cost. Impairment reviews are carried out if there is an indication that the carrying value of the investments may have been impaired. Any impairment loss is charged to the statement of comprehensive income during the reporting period in which the loss is incurred.

**f) Trade and other receivables**

Trade receivables are held at amortised cost less any impairment provisions and this equates to their recoverable value.

Collectability of intercompany and related party balances is reviewed at each reporting period. Management considers whether an impairment is required based upon recoverability. Debts that are known to be uncollectable are written off when identified.

**g) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

**h) Trade and other payables**

Trade and other payables are obligations to pay for services that have been provided to the Company prior to the end of the financial year which are unpaid. Trade and other payables are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less.

# Abstract Legal Holdings Limited

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2020

### 2. Employee information

The Company had no employees in the current or prior year. Directors' emoluments for both the current and prior year were settled on behalf of the Company by a group company, Slater and Gordon (UK) 1 Limited.

### 3. Taxation

The Company has incurred no tax charge in the current or prior year.

A reduction to the UK corporation tax rate down from 19% to 17% was announced in the 2016 Budget and enacted on 15 September 2016 (to be effective from 1 April 2020). However, the 2020 Budget announced that this reduction in rate would be reversed with 19% being maintained from 1 April 2020.

An increase to the UK corporation tax rate from 19% to 25% was announced in the 2021 Budget and was substantively enacted on 24 May 2021.

### 4. Investments

	31 December 2020	31 December 2019
	£'000	£'000
Investments	-	-

The Company has the following investments in subsidiaries:

Name	Principal Activity	Country of incorporation	Class of shares	Ownership
				31 December 2020 and 2019
Access to Compensation Limited	Non-Legal	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%
Accident Advice Helpline Direct Limited	Non-Legal	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%
Accident Advice Helpline Limited	Dormant	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%
Cab Claims Limited	Dormant	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%
Claim 4 Limited	Dormant	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%
Liberty Protect Limited	Non-Legal	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%

At 31 December 2020, the Company's investment is held at cost of £1 in each subsidiary (2019: £1 in each subsidiary).

As such, the Company has not prepared consolidated financial statements as the retained earnings account and statement of financial position balance sheet on a consolidated basis would be unchanged (section S402 has been adopted from the Companies Act 2006).

### 5. Trade and other receivables

	31 December 2020	31 December 2019
	£'000	£'000
Amounts owed by related parties	1,875	1,875

Amounts owed by related parties do not attract interest and are repayable on demand.

# Abstract Legal Holdings Limited

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2020

### 6. Trade and other payables

	31 December 2020 £'000	31 December 2019 £'000
Amounts owed to related parties	1,912	1,912

Amounts owed to related parties do not attract interest and are repayable on demand.

### 7. Share capital

	31 December 2020 £'000	31 December 2019 £'000
<b>Allotted, called up and fully paid</b>		
66,512 ordinary shares of £1 each	67	67

### 8. Contingent liabilities

The Company is party to a GBP currency Super Senior Facility Agreement ("SSFA") dated 22 December 2017, amended 14 December 2021, pursuant to which the Company's direct parent company, Slater & Gordon (UK) 1 Limited, is a borrower having fully drawn the facility. The principal and accrued interest under the facility at 31 December 2020 were £33.8m (2019: £30.0m). Pursuant to the terms of the SSFA, the Company has given a cross-guarantee (along with other UK Group companies) in relation to all liabilities outstanding under the SSFA in favour of the Finance Parties (as defined under the SSFA), which are all shareholders of Slater and Gordon UK Holdings Limited, the ultimate parent company.

The Company is also party to a debenture dated 22 December 2017 (the "Debenture"), amended 14 December 2021, pursuant to which the Company (together with other UK Group companies) covenants with GLAS Trust Corporation Limited (acting as Security Trustee for itself and the Secured Parties (as defined in the Debenture), which are all shareholders of Slater and Gordon UK Holdings Limited, the ultimate parent company) that it will on demand pay all liabilities outstanding under the SSFA (and associated finance documents) when they are due and payable and grants security over all of its assets in favour of GLAS Trust Corporation Limited (acting as Security Trustee for itself and the Secured Parties).

### 9. Ultimate parent company

The immediate parent is Slater & Gordon (UK) 1 Limited, a company registered in England and Wales.

The ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party is Slater and Gordon UK Holdings Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales and is both the smallest and largest parent company preparing group financial statements. Copies of the consolidated accounts of Slater and Gordon UK Holdings Limited can be obtained from 58 Mosley Street, Manchester, England, M2 3HZ.