

# Prime People Plc Interim Report

for the six months ended 30 September 2017

2017

# PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT For the six months ended 30 September 2017

Contents	Page
Chairman's statement	1
Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of comprehensive income	4
Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of financial position	5
Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of changes in equity	6
Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of cash flow	7
Notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated report	8



9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

# **Prime People Plc**

# **Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Interim Report** for the six months ended 30 September 2017

#### **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

#### Overview

I am pleased to report the results for Prime People Plc for the half-year ended 30 September 2017.

Market conditions in the period became more challenging for our overseas businesses whereas our businesses in the UK performed well. The outcome for the period reflects the overseas businesses' performance and the Company's expenditure on, and commitment to long term growth internationally and to supporting new business lines across the Group.

Net Fee Income ("NFI") in the period for the Group was £6.15m (2016: £6.33m). The profit before tax for the first half, on a like for like basis, was £0.70m (2016: £0.76m).

The interim dividend will be 1.75p per share (2016: 1.75p).

#### **Financial Results**

Group revenue was 1.83% lower than the same period last year at £11.27m (2016: £11.48m).

Net Fee Income ("NFI") in the period for the Group was £6.15m (2016: £6.33m). Our UK business showed strong NFI performance with an increase to £3.84m (2016: £3.40m). Our overseas NFI was £2.31m (2016: £2.93m).

Administrative costs for the group were £5.50m during the period (2016: £5.57m). Whilst continuing to exercise careful cost control, we have invested in the growth and diversification of our businesses increasing consultant headcount across the Group by 3%.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (cont)**

The reduction in profit before taxation in the period to £0.65m, after exceptional costs of £50,000 in the period relating to the acquisition of Command Recruitment, (2016: £0.76m) is the result of lower levels of activity in our overseas businesses and fixed staff costs associated with talent investment.

In the UK profit before tax grew to £0.51m from £0.10m in the same period in the prior year, driven by good growth in NFI in both our permanent and contract businesses.

Our Asia business, which covers the Group activities in Hong Kong and Singapore, closed the period with profit before tax of £0.26m (2017: £0.60m). The regional performance was affected by Chinese capital control policies, which resulted in reduced demand in our core real estate market. Action has been taken to refocus business development activity and to address training needs. This is having positive outcomes and we expect an improved performance from the region in the second half of the year.

Our business in Dubai is reported under Rest of the World below and represents 3.04 per cent of Group's activities. The business experienced reduced NFI of £0.19m (2016: £0.33m). The business has relatively high fixed costs and the slower than expected development of a new revenue stream together with staff movements resulted in a negative contribution in the period of £0.12m. Performance from the region is expected to improve in the second half.

The charge for taxation of £0.14m (2016: £0.16m) is based on the expected annual effective tax rate of 19% (2016: 20%).

Basic earnings per share for the period were 4.16p (2016: 4.92p).

#### **Cash Flow**

The Group continues to maintain a strong net cash position. At the end of the period the Group had net cash of £2.57m (2016: £1.34m). Following payment of £1.00m for the acquisition of the interest in Command Recruitment Group (H.K.) Limited, the Group cash held as at the date of this statement was £1.86m.

#### Dividend

The Board will be declaring an interim dividend of 1.75p (2016: 1.75p) payable on 24 November 2017 to those shareholders whose names are on the register on 17 November 2017.

# Command Recruitment Group (H.K.) Limited

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017, shortly after the half year's end, our Hong Kong subsidiary, Macdonald and Company Limited acquired 60 per cent of the equity capital of Command Recruitment Group (H.K.) Limited ("CMD") for consideration of HK\$9.9 million (£1.0 million).

The consideration for the acquisition was funded from the Group's existing cash reserves. The key management of CMD will remain with the business post-acquisition and they, as a group, will retain the remaining 40 per cent of CMD's equity capital. Under the terms of the shareholders' agreement, the Group has the option to purchase CMD's remaining equity capital after 30 June 2018.

CMD specialises in providing professional and executive staff for the construction & engineering, design & development, infrastructure and professional services sectors. The transaction adds considerably to the Group's client reach and our span of services in the Asia Pacific and Middle East regions. The fit with our current business is complementary and we have identified a range of opportunities arising from the investment.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (cont)**

We are very pleased to welcome Command and its people to the Group and look forward to working with them.

#### Outlook

Subject to economic circumstances in the regions in which we operate remaining in their current state, we expect the businesses to perform in the second half at least in line with levels achieved in the first half.

The present focus for the Group is to maximize the returns from recent investment in businesses and people, to improve productivity and increase profitability.

#### **Robert Macdonald**

Executive Chairman 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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Robert Macdonald, Executive Chairman Donka Zaneva-Todorinski, Finance Director

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Elizabeth Bowman - Nomad Julian Morse - Sales

# PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the six months ended 30 September 2017

		Six months 30 September 2017	30 September 2016	Year ended 31 March 2017
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revenue Cost of sales	3	11,271 (5,123)	11,477 (5,151)	24,213 (11,115)
Net fee income Administrative expenses		6,148 (5,501)	6,326 (5,566)	13,098 (11,194)
Operating profit		647	760	1,904
Profit before taxation Income tax expense	4	647 (139)	760 (155)	1,904 (292)
Profit for the period/year		508	605	1,612
Other comprehensive (loss)/ income Exchange (loss)/ gain on translating for		(170)	206	270
Other Comprehensive loss for the poof tax	eriod/ year, net	(170)	206	270
Total comprehensive income for the	period/year	338	811	1,882
Attributable to:				
Equity shareholders of the parent		338	811	1,882
Earnings per share Basic earnings per share Diluted earnings per share	6	4.16p 4.06p	4.92p 4.79p	13.14p 12.97p

The above results relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form an integral part of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim report.

PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 30 September 2017

		30 September	30 September	31 March
	Note	2017 £'000	2016 £'000	2017 £'000
Assets	2,000			
Non-current assets				
Goodwill		9,769	9,769	9,769
Property, plant and equipment		228	167	136
Deferred tax asset		43		43
		10,040	9,936	9,948
Current assets				
Trade and other receivables	9	4,735	5,473	5,101
Cash and cash equivalents		2,569	1,336	2,409
		7,304	6,809	7,510
Total assets		17,344	16,745	17,458
Liabilities Current Liabilities				
Trade and other payables Current tax liabilities	10	2,221 84	2,363 165	2,310 75
Current tax habilities			103	
		2,305	2,528	2,385
Non-current liabilities Deferred tax liabilities		_	6	
		-	6	
Total liabilities		2,305	2,534	2,385
Net assets		15,039	14,211	15,073
Capital and reserves attributable to t	the Company's eq			
Called up share capital		1,229	1,229	1,229
Capital redemption reserve		9 (45)	9 (12)	9
Treasury shares		(45) 5 371	(13) 5,371	(21) 5,371
Share premium account Merger reserve		5,371 173	173	173
Share option reserve		329	359	280
Currency translation differences		563	669	733
Retained earnings		7,410	6,414	7,299
Equity shareholders funds		15,039	4,211	15,073

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form an integral part of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim report.

# PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the six months ended 30 September 2017

	nded 30 Septer Called up share capital	Capital redem- ption reserve	Treasury shares	Share premium account	Merger reserve	Share option reserve	Translation Reserve	Retained earnings	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April 2016 Profit for the period	1,229	9	(21)	5,371	173	300	463	5,892 605	13,416 605
Other comprehensive income Shares purchased for	-	-	-	-	-	-	206	-	206
treasury	-	-	(86)	-	-	-	-	-	(86)
Shares issued from treasury	-	_	11	-	_	_	-	-	11
Adjustment on share disposal	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	(83)	-
Adjustment in respect of share options	-	-	-	-	-	59	-	-	59
At 30 September 2016	1,229	9	(13)	5,371	173	359	669	6,414	14,211
Profit for the period	-		-	-	-	-	-	1007	1007
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	-	64
Adjustment in respect of share options	-	-	-	_	-	(79)	-	108	29
Shares purchased for treasury	-	-	(25)	-	-	-	-	-	(25)
Shares issued from treasury	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Adjustment on share disposal	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	(15)	-
Dividend	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(215)	(215)
At 31 March 2017	1,229	9	(21)	5,371	173	280	733	7,299	15,073
Profit for the period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	508	508
Other comprehensive (loss)/income	-	_	-	-	_	-	(170)	-	(170)
Shares purchased for treasury	-	-	(24)	-	-	-	-	-	(24)
Adjustment in respect of share options Dividend	-	-	-	-	-	49	-	(397)	49 (397)
At 30 September 2017	1,229	9	(45)	5,371	173	329	564	7,410	15,039

PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW For the six months ended 30 September 2017

	Six mo 30 September 2017	Year ended 31 March 2017	
Note	£'000	2016 £'000	£'000
Cash generated from underlying operations 7	1,028	517	1,981
Income tax paid	(128)	(240)	(521)
Net cash from operating activities	900	277	1,460
Cash flows from investing activities Net purchase of property, plant and equipment	(149)	(25)	(53)
Net cash used in investing activities	(149)	(25)	(53)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Issue of ordinary share capital	-	-	2
Shares issued from treasury	-	11	115
Shares purchased for treasury Dividend paid to shareholders	(24) (397)	(86)	(111) (215)
Net cash used in financing activities	(421)	(75)	(209)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	330	177	1,198
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	/year 2,409	953	953
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes	(170)	206	258
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period/year	2,569	1,336	2,409

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form an integral part of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim report.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT

For the six months ended 30 September 2017

#### 1. General information

Prime People Plc ('the Company') and its subsidiaries (together 'the Group') is an international recruitment services organisation with offices in the United Kingdom, the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region from which it serves an international client base. The Group offers both permanent and contract specialist recruitment consultancy for large and medium sized organisations.

Prime People Plc is the Group's ultimate parent company. The Company is a limited liability company incorporated and domiciled in the United Kingdom. The address of Prime People Group's registered office and its principal place of business is 2 Harewood Place, London, W1S 1BX, England. Prime People Group's shares are quoted on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) of the London Stock Exchange. The registered number of the company is 1729887.

This unaudited condensed consolidated interim report for the six months ended 30 September 2017 (including comparatives) is presented in GBP 000, and was approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 8 November 2017.

Copies of the interim results are available at the Company's registered office and on the Company's website – <a href="https://www.prime-people.co.uk">www.prime-people.co.uk</a>.

This unaudited condensed consolidated interim report does not constitute statutory accounts of the Group within the meaning of section 434 of the Companies Act 2006. The financial information for the year ended 31 March 2017 has been extracted from the statutory accounts for that year, which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified and did not contain a statement under section 498 of the Companies Act 2006.

### 2. Basis of preparation

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim report for the six months ended 30 September 2017 has been prepared using accounting policies consistent with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs") and in accordance with 'IAS 34, Interim financial reporting', as adopted by the European Union. The condensed consolidated interim report should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 which were prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union.

The Group was profitable for the period and has considerable financial resources comprising £2.57m of net cash at 30 September 2017. After making enquiries, the Directors have formed a judgement, at the time of approving the six months results, that there is a reasonable expectation that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, a period of not less than 12 months. For this reason the Directors continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the condensed set of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, using the same accounting policies as those used in the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 and which are also expected to apply for the year ended 31 March 2018.

The directors expect the adoption of IFRS 15 may have an impact on revenue recognition and related disclosures. It is not practicable to provide a reasonable estimate of the impact of IFRS 15 until a detailed review has been completed. The detailed review will be disclosed in the Annual Report for financial year ending 31.03.2018.

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT

For the six months ended 30 September 2017

#### 2. Basis of preparation (continued)

The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the Group for the purposes of preparation of the condensed consolidated interim report.

# 3. Segment reporting

#### (a) Revenue and net fee income by geographical region

Revenue			Net fo			
	Six m	onths ended	Year ended	Six mo	nths ended	Year ended
	30 September	30 September	31 March	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2017	2016	2017	2017	2016	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
UK	8,963	8,547	18,558	3,840	3,396	7,443
Asia	2,121	2,601	5,075	2,121	2,601	5,075
Rest of World	187	329	580	187	329	580
	11,271	11,477	24,213	6,148	6,326	13,098

All revenues disclosed by the group are derived from external customers and are for the provision of recruitment services. The accounting policies of the reportable segments are the same as the Group's accounting policies. Segment profit before taxation represents the profit earned by each segment after allocations of central administration costs.

#### (b) Revenue and net fee income by classification

Revenue			Net fe			
	Six months ended		Year ended	Six mo	Year ended	
	30 September	30 September	31 March	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2017	2016	2017	2017	2016	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Permanent						
- UK	3,227	2,724	6,004	3,152	2,721	5,991
- Asia	2,121	2,601	5,075	2,121	2,601	5,075
- Rest of World	d <b>187</b>	329	580	187	329	580
Contract (UK)	5,736	5,823	12,554	688	675	1,452
	11,271	11,477	24,213	6,148	6,326	13,098

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT

For the six months ended 30 September 2017

## (c) Profit before taxation by geographical region

	Six months ended		
	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2017	2016	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000
UK	508	103	823
Asia	256	600	1,035
Rest of World	(117)	57	46
Profit before taxation	647	760	1,904

Operating profit is the measure of profitability regularly viewed by the Board, which collectively acts as the Chief Decision Maker. Consequently, no segmental analysis of interest or tax expenses is provided.

## (d) Segment Assets and Liabilities by Geographical Region

	Total	Total assets		abilities
	30September 2017 £'000	30September 2016 £'000	30September 2017 £'000	30September 2016 £'000
UK	13,153	12,680	1,834	1,645
Asia	3,683	3,381	435	632
Rest of World	508	684	36	77
Total	17,344	16,745	2,305	2,363

The analysis above is of the carrying amount of reportable segment assets and liabilities. Segment assets and liabilities include items directly attributable to a segment and include income tax assets and liabilities.

#### 4. Income tax expense

The charge for taxation on profits for the interim period amounted to £139k (2016: £155k) an effective rate of 19% (2016: 20%).

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT

For the six months ended 30 September 2017

#### 5. Dividends

	Six months of	ended	Year ended
	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2017	2016	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Final dividend for 2017: 3.25p per share (2016: 0.00p per share) Interim dividend for 2017 1.75p per share (2016: 1.75p per share)	397	-	215
	397	-	215

The interim dividend for 2018 of 1.75 pence (2017: 1.75 pence paid on 25 November 2016), was approved by the board on 8 November 2017 and will be paid on 24 November 2017 to those shareholders whose names are on the register on 17 November 2017.

#### 6. Earnings per share

Earnings per share (EPS) are calculated by dividing the profit attributable to ordinary shareholders by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period.

Fully diluted earnings per share is calculated by adjusting the weighted average number of ordinary shares by existing share options assuming dilution through conversion of all existing options.

Earnings and weighted average number of shares from continuing operations used in the calculations are shown below:

	Six mont	Year ended	
	30 September 2017 £'000	30 September 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000
Retained profit for basic and diluted earnings per share	508	605	1,612
	Number	Number	Number
Weighted average number of shares used for basic earnings per share Dilutive effect of share options	12,244,023 302,018	12,274,923 334,998	12,271,923 195,634
Diluted weighted average number of shares used for diluted earnings per share	12,546,041	12,609,921	12,467,557

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT

For the six months ended 30 September 2017

# **Earnings per share** (continued)

	Six mon	ths ended	Year ended
	30 September 2017	30 September 2016	31 March 2017
	£'000 Pence	£'000 <b>Pence</b>	£'000 <b>Pence</b>
Basic earnings per share	4.16p	4.92p	13.14p
Diluted earnings per share	4.05p	4.79p	12.97p

# 7. Reconciliation of profit before tax to cash flow from operating activities

	Six mont	hs ended	Year ended
	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2017	2016	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Profit before taxation	647	760	1,904
Adjust for:			
Depreciation	56	88	158
Share option reserve movement	50	59	89
Operating cash flow before changes in working capital	753	907	2,151
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	365	(536)	(162)
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(90)	146	(8)
Cash generated from underlying operations	1,028	517	1,981

# 8. Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

	Six mont	Year ended	
	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2017	2016	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in period/year	330	177	1,198
Net funds at the start of the period/year	2,409	953	953
Other non-cash changes	(170)	206	258
Net funds at the end of the period/year	2,569	1,336	2,409

# NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT For the six months ended 30 September 2017

# 9. Trade and other receivables

	30 September 2017	30 September 2016	31 March 2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Trade receivables	2,521	2,866	2,435
Allowance for doubtful debts	(20)	(42)	(24)
Prepayments and accrued income	2,167	2,577	2,618
Other receivables	67	72	72
	4,735	5,473	5,101

# 10. Trade and other payables

	30 September 2017 £'000	30 September 2016 £'000	31 March 2017 £'000
Trade payables Other taxes and social security Other payables Accruals and deferred income	182 774 328 937	182 590 290 1,301	108 667 330 1,205
	2,221	2,363	2,310

# 11. Treasury Shares

At 30 September 2017, the total number of ordinary shares held in Treasury and their values were as follows:

	30 September 2017 Number £'000		30 September 2016 Number	£'000
As at 1 April Shares purchased for treasury	21,276 27,900	21 24	21,276 101,000	21 86
Shares issued from treasury	-	-	(107,000)	(11)
Equity reclassification on disposal of treasury shares	-	-	-	(83)
As at 30 September	46,176	45	21,276	13
Nominal value		5		2
Market value		47		15

#### NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT

For the six months ended 30 September 2017

#### 12. Related Party Transactions

Prime People Plc provides various management services to its subsidiary undertakings. These services take the form of centralised finance and operations support. The total amount charged by the Company to its subsidiaries during the period is £352k (2016: £262k). The balance owed to the subsidiary undertakings at the year end is £689k (2016: £837k).

#### 13. Subsequent events

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017, shortly after the half year's end, our Hong Kong subsidiary, Macdonald and Company Limited acquired 60 per cent of the equity capital of Command Recruitment Group (H.K.) Limited ("CMD") for consideration of HK\$9.9 million (£1.0 million).

The consideration for the acquisition was funded from the Group's existing cash reserves. The key management of CMD will remain with the business post-acquisition and they, as a group, will retain the remaining 40 per cent of CMD's equity capital.

The disclosure required under IFRS3 paragraph B64 have not been made because the initial accounting for the business combination is still ongoing, in particular, the fair value of the separable intangibles is still being considered



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