

WoDS Transmission plc

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2019/20

Registered in England and Wales. Company number: 9309507

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Glossary

Strategic Report

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Introduction

This Strategic Report explains the operations of WoDS Transmission plc (“the Company”) and the main trends and factors underlying the development and performance of the Company during the year ended 31 March 2020, as well as those matters which are likely to affect its future development and performance.

The ultimate parent company of the Company is WoDS Transmission TopCo Limited (“TopCo”), a company incorporated and registered in Jersey.

The Company’s principal activity is to provide an electricity transmission service to National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited (“NGESO”), being the electricity transmission system operator for Great Britain. Electricity transmission system operator responsibilities for Great Britain were transferred from National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“NGET”) to NGESO with effect from 1 April 2019.

The Company owns and operates a transmission system that electrically connects an offshore wind farm generator to the onshore electricity transmission system owned by NGET.

Background

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (“Ofgem”), supporting government initiatives, has developed a regulatory regime for electricity transmission networks connecting offshore wind farms to the onshore electricity system. A key feature of this regime is that each new tranche of transmission assets required by offshore generators will be owned and operated by offshore transmission owners (“OFTOs”). OFTOs are subject to the conditions of a transmission licence.

The Company holds an Offshore Electricity Transmission Licence (“the Licence”), awarded by The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (“the Authority”) that became effective from 20 August 2015. This Licence, amongst other matters, permits and requires the Company to maintain and operate the West of Duddon Sands offshore electricity transmission assets for the period the Licence is in force. The Company’s offshore electricity transmission system exports the output of the West of Duddon Sands wind farm to NGET’s onshore electricity transmission system.

The Electricity and Gas (Internal Markets) Regulations 2011 require all transmission system operators such as the Company to be certified as complying with the unbundling requirements concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity (“the third package”). The Company has been issued a certificate pursuant to Section 10D of the Electricity Act 1989 by the Authority confirming its compliance with the third package requirements. The Company has ongoing obligations and is required to make certain ongoing declarations to the Authority pursuant to the Licence to ensure compliance with the terms of the certificate which it has met through to the date of this report.

The Company’s offshore electricity transmission system

The Company transmits the electrical power of the West of Duddon Sands wind farm from the offshore connection point of the Company’s electrical assets with the electrical assets owned by the windfarm to the onshore connection point of the Company’s assets with the electricity transmission system of NGET. The roles and responsibilities of parties at electrical connection points are dealt with through Interface Agreements and industry codes.

The West of Duddon Sands offshore wind farm comprises 108 turbines, with a combined capacity of around 389 megawatts (“MW”) and is located in the East Irish Sea approximately 14 km from the nearest coast on Walney Island, Cumbria. The power that is generated by the wind farm is transported to shore by the Company and connects into the NGET system at Heysham in Lancashire.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

The wind farm turbines are interconnected in “strings” by medium voltage (33kV) submarine cables that act as a power collection and transport system. The medium voltage cables are owned by the windfarm and run to the offshore electricity substation that is owned by the Company. At the offshore electricity substation, the voltage is “stepped up” to 132kV by electrical transformers and then transported to land by two high voltage submarine cables buried in the sea floor. At landfall, the submarine cables are joined to land cables that run to the Company’s onshore electricity substation at Heysham. At the Heysham substation the power factor of the electricity is corrected using reactive compensation equipment and the transported power is then connected into NGET’s electricity transmission system.

The Company’s long-term business objectives

The Company is a special purpose vehicle formed to hold the Licence. Its non-financial objectives are, therefore, consistent with the objectives of the Licence. The Company will achieve these objectives by ensuring its compliance with the Licence; industry codes and legislation; and by operating and maintaining its transmission system in accordance with good industry practice.

The Company’s financial objective is to provide financial returns to its parent undertaking, WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited (“WoDSH” or “HoldCo”) at least consistent with, or in excess of, the business plan that supported its tender offer for the West of Duddon Sands offshore transmission system. The Company will achieve this objective by:

- meeting its net cash generating targets by operating the transmission system at availability levels equal to, or higher than, the Licence target;
- maintaining an efficient financing structure that is, as a minimum, as efficient as that contemplated by the business plan; and
- controlling costs and seeking efficiency improvements.

Future Developments

The Company’s primary purpose is to operate its offshore electricity transmission system in compliance with the offshore electricity transmission licence which it has been awarded and generate returns based on this objective - no change to this objective is likely in the future.

The Company’s operating model

The Company’s operating model is to outsource all of its management and its operations and maintenance (“O&M”) activities. O&M activities are outsourced to a third-party specialist O&M provider. Management services are outsourced to Frontier Power Limited (“FPL”) through a Management Services Agreement (“MSA”). In addition, other accounting services, company secretarial services and administrative support are provided to the Company by Infrastructure Managers Limited (“IML”). As part of its general asset management responsibilities FPL fulfils the role of an ‘informed buyer’ to ensure that the outsourced O&M services are of the required quality to ensure that the Company meets its Licence obligations and complies with good industry practice. The Company mitigates the performance risk of its outsourced service providers through a contracting process.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

The Company's approach to managing the business

The Company's general approach to the management and operation of its business is based on ensuring that the right balance is achieved between cost, quality, performance, innovation and financial returns so as to optimise the cost of its services to the end consumer. In doing so the Company:

- has a relentless focus on transmission system availability;
- recognises that the inherently hazardous nature of the Company's assets and operations requires an extraordinary focus on Health, Safety and the Environment ("HS&E");
- has the right people working safely to standards using the right processes, technology and systems;
- has implemented a risk management approach that ensures that risks are assessed, managed and reported appropriately; and
- has adopted a governance framework that enforces compliance with law, regulations and licence conditions.

Principal regulatory, industry contracts and industry code matters

The Company enjoys benefits and is subject to a number of regulatory and contractual obligations arising from and including: the Licence; the Transmission Owner Construction Agreement ("TOCA") with NGET and the System Operator – Transmission Owner Code ("STC") with NGET prior to 31 March 2019 and with NGESO from 1 April 2019. The Company's operations are also subject to a range of industry-specific legal requirements.

Summaries of some of the major features of the Licence, industry contracts and electricity code matters are described as follows:

Licence obligations

Under the terms of the Licence the Company is required to carry out its licenced activities and have in place governance arrangements that ensure (amongst other obligations) that the Company does not provide cross-subsidies to, or receive cross-subsidies from, any other business of the Licensee or of any affiliate. In addition, the Licence places restrictions on the Company's activities and how it conducts its transmission activities. In carrying out its transmission activities it must do so in a manner that does not confer upon it an unfair commercial advantage, in particular, in relation to any activity that does not relate to the operation of the offshore transmission business.

A failure by the Company to materially comply with the terms of the Licence could ultimately lead to the revocation of the Licence. The Directors take very seriously their obligations to comply with the terms of the licence and have processes, procedures and controls in place to ensure compliance.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Regulated revenue and incentives

The Licence awarded by the Authority to the Company determines how much the Company may charge for the OFTO services that it provides to NGESO (prior to 1 April 2019 this service was provided to NGET). In any relevant charging year which runs from 1 April through to the following 31 March all such charges are determined in accordance with the requirements of the Licence. The Licence also provides the Company with an incentive to ensure that the offshore transmission assets are available to transmit electricity by reference to the actual availability of the Company's transmission system in any given calendar year versus the regulatory target. The regulatory target availability is 98% of the total megawatt hour capacity of the Company's electricity transmission system (as determined by the Company's Services Capability Specification in any given calendar year, or part thereof).

Transmission charges are based on the target transmission system availability of 98% and increase on 1 April following any given calendar year end by reference to the rate of increase in the UK retail price index ("RPI") in the 12-month period through to the previous September. The revenue derived from charges based on this target availability represents the Company's "base revenue". For the avoidance of doubt, the Company's transmission charges are not exposed to commodity risk and are not exposed to any generation risk.

As previously noted, the Licence contains mechanisms to incentivise the Company to provide the maximum possible electricity transmission system availability, having regard to the safe running of the system. The Licence includes incentives to maximise availability on a monthly basis with higher targets and higher potential penalties or credits, in the winter months and lower targets and lower potential penalties or credits, in the summer months. These incentive mechanisms are designed to encourage the Company to proactively manage transmission system availability across the year by focusing maintenance activities, which could lower transmission system availability, into those months with the lowest targets and related penalties or credits.

If the achieved transmission system availability is different to the target availability, then there is a mechanism contained within the Licence that could potentially affect the Company's charges and hence its revenue in future periods. The Licence provides for adjustments to "base revenue" where the OFTO's system availability performance is different from the target system availability. If transmission system availability in any given calendar year is in excess of the target availability level, then credits are "earned" and if availability is less than target then penalties accrue. These availability credits and penalties are measured in megawatt hours ("MWhrs"). The Company is then permitted or required under the Licence, as the case may be, to change its prices to convert the availability credits earned or penalties accrued into a financial adjustment to "base revenue". The maximum availability credit which the Company can "earn" and then collect in charges in any one charging year is the financial equivalent of 5% of base revenue for the immediately preceding charging year and the maximum availability penalty that can be reflected in charges for any one charging year is the financial equivalent of 10% of base revenue for the immediately preceding charging year. Availability credits and penalties that arise in the first and final period of operations reflect a partial period of operations and the financial impact on charges is apportioned accordingly.

Notional availability penalties and credits as measured in MWhrs are recorded on a monthly basis during the calendar year. If at the end of any calendar year there is a cumulative net credit this net credit is eligible for conversion as a financial adjustment to charges during the following charging year. The financial conversion of availability credits and penalties is carried out by reference to the "base revenue" for the charging year immediately prior to the charging year that the credits/penalties adjust charges.

Strategic Report continued

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In respect of net availability penalties which are outstanding at the end of the calendar year then, in principle, these net availability penalties would be converted as a financial adjustment to base revenue in respect of the following charging year. Net availability penalties can only be converted as an adjustment to base revenue to the extent that such adjustment does not exceed 10% of the base revenue for the previous charging year. Any net availability penalties not converted as an adjustment to base revenue are carried forward on a cumulative and notional basis and aggregated with additional availability credits and penalties arising in subsequent years. Net availability penalties that arise in any one calendar year can only be carried forward for a maximum of five charging years.

There are a number of risks that the Company faces that affect the level of transmission system availability and therefore affects potential incentive credits and penalties that otherwise might arise under the incentive arrangements. The principal factors governing transmission system availability include the following:

- 1) the inherent design of the transmission system e.g. system redundancy;
- 2) the management of maintenance activities so that the assets are maintained to good industry practice, thereby avoiding unnecessary equipment failure and where possible the Company seeks to carry out such maintenance with the minimum number and duration of planned outages whilst having regard to the safe operation of those assets; and
- 3) the management of necessary planned outages of the transmission system having regard to the activities of other interested parties and to bias such outages towards those periods during the year, with the lowest system availability targets and related penalties or credits.

The Company mitigates the risk of system unavailability due to equipment failure through the maintenance regime described above, the holding of strategic spares and a robust contingency plan to respond to any unplanned system outages.

In certain circumstances and in respect of certain costs, such as non-domestic rates relating to the Company's onshore electricity network and costs charged by the Authority associated with running the OFTO tender regime, the Company is permitted under the terms of its Licence to pass these costs to its customer by altering charges as required.

Transmission system capability (capacity)

As described earlier, the Company is incentivised to provide the maximum transmission system availability as is possible having regard to the safe running of the system. The maximum availability of the system is defined in the Licence and is expressed in MWhrs.

The Company has reported 100% (adjusted for the impact of a successful Exceptional Event claim – see later in this section) transmission capacity based on the operational maximum capacity of the transmission system during the performance year ended 31 December 2019. For the performance year ended 31 December 2018, provided 100% capacity. Transmission capacity for the performance year ended 31 December 2019, prior to being adjusted to 100%, had been adversely impacted by outages required to carry out certain remedial works as described later.

A number of sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) gas leaks were identified on 400kV switchgear equipment associated with the two of the Company's electrical circuits connecting the offshore wind farm to the onshore transmission system during the year ended 31 March 2017. Although SF₆ gas is a damaging greenhouse gas, there are no specific leakage rate limits mandated by Environmental Regulations for this specific application in electricity transmission. NGET, as the UK's largest electricity transmission operator, has developed policies and procedures for leak management, and NGET confirmed that these leaks were managed in accordance with NGET policies and processes.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

These SF₆ gas leaks were investigated by NGET under warranty and following a root cause analysis that was completed by NGET and their supplier (Siemens) in November 2018, it was concluded that the SF₆ gas leaks were found to be defects caused by poor handling of equipment prior to installation and the inadequate application of a paint protection system during installation. This in turn led to a degradation of the integrity of the SF₆ gas containment system. Consequently, NGET were instructed to remedy the leaks under warranty and during May and June 2019 outages of the transmission system were required to be taken to allow for remedial SF₆ gas leakage warranty work to be carried out by NGET and their supplier at their expense.

The Company submitted an Exceptional Event claim to the Authority seeking their approval to exclude the outages that were required to carry out the SF₆ remedial work from the calculation of the Company's reported availability incentive performance for the performance year ending 31 December 2019. The Exceptional Event claim was submitted on the basis that the cause of these leaks existed prior to acquiring the transmission system by the Company and it was not reasonable that the Company could have known this at the time of that acquisition. The Company were notified that the Exceptional Event claim had been fully accepted by the Authority on 3 June 2020. Consequently, the outages that were the subject of this claim have been adjusted in the calculation of the incentive availability performance and as a consequence the unadjusted availability performance of 95.4% has been adjusted to 100%.

The Authority's acceptance of the Exceptional Event claim in respect of the outages caused by the SF₆ related remedial repairs, will allow the Company to adjust its prices to recover c£1.1m in performance credits for the performance year ended 31 December 2019 from NGESO. The collection of these performance credits will commence no later than 1 April 2021.

The Company manages the risk of unexpected outages (and incurring related performance penalties) or incurring unexpected repair costs by carrying out appropriate maintenance in accordance with good industry practice.

There has been no impact on availability as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic through to the date of this report – see "Covid-19" later in this Strategic Report.

A summary of actual Transmission system availability and incentive related availability in MWhrs for the performance years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2019 are shown in a table later in this report – see "Transmission system availability" later in this Strategic Report.

Transmission system quality of supply

The STC sets out the minimum technical, design, operational and performance criteria that Offshore Transmission Owners must ensure that their transmission system can satisfy. For the Company's transmission system, the most significant requirements are in respect of the reactive power capability, voltage control and the quality of the power (as measured by harmonic performance) deliverable at the connection point of the Company's transmission system with NGET's transmission system.

The Company has met its requirements to transmit electricity in accordance with the parameters agreed with NGESO during the year under review and through to the date of this report.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Key performance indicators (“KPIs”)

The Company has identified the following KPIs as being instrumental to the management of the transmission business. Such KPIs include financial and non-financial KPIs:

	Definition	Objective
Financial KPIs		
Cash available for debt service	Net cash inflows from operating activities plus cash inflows from investing activities: £20,806k (2018/19: £20,845k restated)	To allow for the servicing of debt including the unsecured other borrowing to the Company’s immediate parent undertaking.
Non-Financial KPIs		
Maximise transmission availability	Making the transmission system available to transmit electricity over the performance year to 31 December 2019: 100% ¹ (31 December 2018: 100%)	To exceed the Licence target availability 98%.
Ensure that the quality of electricity at the export connection point is compliant with Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS) and the STC	To meet the standards set by the SQSS and the STC in relation to voltage control, reactive power and harmonic distortion.	To be compliant. This has been achieved for both 2019/20 and 2018/19.
HS&E	1) Zero lost time accidents (“LTIs”) for employees and contractors; 2) Zero reportable environmental incidents; 3) Compliance with transferred obligations under the Marine Management Organisation (“MMO”) Licence; and 4) Zero unauthorised access incidents in accordance with Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (“ESQR”).	1) Zero LTIs; 2) Zero reportable environmental incidents; 3) Compliance with MMO Licence; 4) Zero unauthorised access incidents in accordance with ESQR. All HS&E KPIs for 2019/20 and 2018/19 have been met.

¹ Adjusted for an Exceptional Event claim that was accepted by the Authority and notified to the Company on 3 June 2020. See earlier in this Strategic Report – “Principal regulatory, industry contracts and industry code matters - Transmission system capability (capacity)” for further information.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

The Company has amended its reported KPIs as compared with those previously reported for 2018/19, and a summary of these changes is provided below:

- The previously reported financial KPI of “Operating profit plus interest” has been removed. The Directors believe that the revised single financial KPI, “Cash available for debt service”, is the most relevant to the financial activities of the Company. Operating profit plus interest is a non-cash measure of performance and is not considered by the Directors to be as relevant as the Financial KPI “Cash available for debt service”.
- The objective of the financial KPI “Cash available for debt service” has been amended from “to increase” to “to allow for the servicing of debt including the unsecured other borrowing to the Company’s immediate parent undertaking”.

The Company’s operational performance

The Company’s prime operational objectives are to maximise transmission system availability and to ensure that the quality of electricity at the onshore connection point is compliant with the SQSS and the STC having regard in all respects to the safety of employees, contractors and the general public at large.

In support of these objectives the Company has developed a comprehensive asset management policy and framework that is consistent with good industry practice. The policy and framework are derived by applying a risk assessment model that considers the probability and consequences, of failure to determine overall risk to components within the generic asset classes that comprise the OFTO assets: offshore platform; offshore substation; offshore cable; onshore cables and onshore substation.

During the year, the Company continued the successful application of its asset management policy and framework and carried out its asset management activities in accordance with the resulting Asset Operating Plan. Maintenance activities have been successfully carried out in accordance with the maintenance plan, including the warranty work required to remediate certain SF₆ gas leaks – this remediation activity is explained in further detail earlier in this report under “Principal regulatory, industry contracts and industry code matters - Transmission system capability (capacity)”.

The Company developed its network outage plan during the year which included a consideration of those outages necessary to accommodate the SF₆ warranty work referenced earlier and this plan was then submitted to the Great Britain electricity system operator and was approved.

The last routine bathymetric seabed survey was undertaken during November 2018 and this identified some possible minor cable exposures along some stretches of cable and some evidence of scour at the south western platform leg of the offshore substation platform. However, there were no indications of any material issues that would impact the integrity of the subsea cable or the offshore substation platform. The next routine bathymetric seabed survey is expected to be carried out later this summer, with an expected completion before September 2020, and is expected to examine seabed mobility and any potential cable exposure areas that were identified in the previous bathymetric survey.

Strategic Report continued

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Transmission system availability

The performance of the Company's transmission system for the performance year ended 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2018 was as tabulated below:

MWhrs	Note	Performance Year ended 31 December 2019	Performance Year ended 31 December 2018
Maximum system availability (capability - MWhrs)	(a)	3,346,320	3,346,320
Actual system availability (MWhrs)	(b)	3,346,320	3,346,320
Actual system availability (%)	(b)	100%	100%
Regulatory target system availability (%)		98%	98%
Availability credits (MWhrs)			
Net availability credits at 1 April 2019 (1 April 2018)		66,885	43,690
Availability credits recovered in charges during financial year		(66,885)	(43,690)
Net availability credits for the performance year	(b)	66,885	66,885
Net availability credits at 31 March 2020 (31 March 2019)	(c)	66,885	66,885

- a) The maximum system availability of the Company's transmission system as declared to the Great Britain electricity system operator during the performance year.
- b) All availability credits or penalties arising are after reflecting any relief permitted by the Licence or otherwise approved by the Authority. Actual system availability and the related net availability credits reported in the table above for the performance year ended 31 December 2019 and financial year ended 31 March 2020 respectively, reflect the successful Exceptional Event claim notified by the Authority to the Company on 3 June 2020. For further details – see earlier in this report – “Principal regulatory, industry contracts and industry code matters - Transmission system capability (capacity)”.
- c) Net availability credits at 31 March 2020 (31 March 2019) represent “banked” availability credits through to 31 December 2019 (31 December 2018). Consequently, this excludes any potential credits or penalties that have arisen between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2020 (1 January 2019 and 31 March 2019) as these potential availability credits or penalties are not eligible to be “banked” until 31 December 2020 (31 December 2019).

Quality of supply

The quality of supply constraints must comply with the requirements of the STC (see “Principal regulatory, industry contracts and industry code matters - Transmission system quality of supply” earlier). The Company is required to transmit electricity within certain parameters in relation to: voltage control; reactive power; and harmonic distortion. A failure to meet these quality of supply constraints could result in the Great Britain electricity system operator requiring the Company's transmission system to be disconnected from NGET's electricity transmission system, resulting in the loss of transmission availability and reduced incentive credits or performance penalties. The Company closely monitors compliance with these quality of supply constraints and carries out appropriate maintenance activities consistent with good industry practice to allow the Company to meet these quality of supply obligations.

During the year ended 31 March 2020 and year ended 31 March 2019, the Company has met its obligations to transmit electricity compliant with these operational obligations. The Company has continued to comply with these obligations through to the date of this report.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Covid-19

We are operating our offshore transmission system at a time of unprecedented disruption and change as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK government continues to tackle the public health emergency that has arisen as a result. The health and safety of those contractors and other third parties who manage our operations are our top priority.

We have proactively executed a plan to identify the potential key impact areas and put in place measures to address and manage those risks as necessary, while following all governmental requirements and guidelines. We have engaged closely with the O&M service provider and all relevant other parties, including the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy and Ofgem that are critical to the management and successful operation of our operations – focussing on the actions we need to take to protect the health and wellbeing of those people working on our assets with a view to minimising the impact on our operations. Lower priority activities, for example process reviews requiring site visits, have been postponed until suitable relaxation of Covid-19 associated restrictions come into force.

Through to the date of this report, there have been no adverse incidents or disruption to our operations or finances as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Health, safety and environmental performance

The Board recognises that the nature of its business requires an exceptional focus on health, safety and the environment. Safety is critical both to business performance and to the culture of the Company. The operation of the Company's assets gives rise to the potential risk that they could injure people and/or damage property if these risks are not properly controlled. Our objective is to eliminate or minimise those risks to achieve zero injuries or harm and to safeguard members of the general public.

The Board is pleased to report that, during the year under review there were no health or safety incidents that required reporting under applicable legislation and that contractor "lost days" arising from safety incidents that required reporting under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 were zero.

The Company is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its operations to as low as practically possible. The Company does so by reducing the effect its activities have on the environment by: respecting the environmental status and biodiversity of the area where the Company's assets are installed; considering whole life environmental costs and benefits in making business decisions; looking for ways to use resources more efficiently through good design, use of sustainable materials, responsibly refurbishing existing assets and reducing and recycling waste; and continually improving management systems to prevent pollution and to reduce the risk of environmental incidents.

The Board is also pleased to report that during the year under review there were no environmental incidents or matters that required reporting to any relevant competent authority and that it has continued to comply with the Marine licence obligations that were transferred to it by the vendors of the offshore electricity transmission assets since the transmission assets were acquired by the Company.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Commitment to ethical business practices

The Company is committed to ethical business practices in the way that the Company carries out its business and is committed to complying with all laws and regulations that apply to the Company at all times..

As a member of the WoDS group of companies (“the Group”) the Company is subject to the policies of the Group and that of its own policies, which include:

- A code of conduct that governs the activities of those persons directly involved in the business, which applies in particular to the Directors and the employees and consultants engaged by FPL in the provision of service to the Company and the Group generally;
- A tax evasion policy, including a consideration of the implications of the Criminal Finances Act 2017;
- Compliance with General Data Protection Regulation; and
- An anti-bribery and anti-corruption policy.

The Company has identified no instances of non-compliance with any of the above policies for the year ended 31 March 2020 and through to the date of this report.

The Company respects the rights of those persons who work directly or indirectly in the business. While the Company does not have a formal modern slavery policy, as it is not obliged to have such a policy, it does not condone in any way modern slavery within its business or that of its supply chain.

The Company has made enquires of key suppliers during the year within its supply chain as to their policies in respect of business ethics generally and human rights and modern slavery policies in particular. Based on the responses received from key suppliers and a review of policies supplied by those key suppliers, it appears clear that those suppliers are also committed to highly ethical business practices.

Stakeholder relationships

The potentially hazardous nature of Company’s operations and the environmentally sensitive nature of the locations where its assets are located require the Company to engage and communicate with a wide audience of stakeholders and to establish good relationships with them. As well as industry participants and local and national government bodies this audience includes: Port Authorities; the emergency services; the maritime community; environmental agencies and organisations; landowners and the general public. Accordingly, the Company has defined and implemented a stakeholder engagement and communications plan which it has continued to apply during the year and through to the date of this report.

The Directors consider that stakeholder relationships are satisfactory.

Principal and emergent risks and uncertainties

The principal and emerging risks and uncertainties faced by the Company have been discussed and referenced in this Strategic Report, alongside a discussion of the operational and financial performance of the Company.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Statement in respect of section 172 of the Companies Act 2006

The Directors have an obligation under section 172 of the Companies Act to promote the long term success of the Company for the benefit of its sole shareholder but in doing so, they should have regard to other interested parties, including those businesses in its supply chain and its customers. As the Company does not have any employees, it is crucially important for the Company to have good relationships with businesses within its supply chain. In addition, the Directors should and do have due regard to the impact its operations have on the environment and the local community. The Directors take all of these responsibilities extremely seriously.

This Strategic Report outlines the actions and outcomes that the Board has taken in relation to its obligations under S172 of the Companies Act 2006, references to these are provided below:

- “The Company’s operational performance - Health, safety and environmental performance”;
- “The Company’s operational performance – Covid-19”;
- “Commitment to ethical business practices”; and
- “Stakeholder relationships”.

The Company has an effective governance process in place, and this is explained in detail in the Corporate governance report that commences on page 26. In addition, the Corporate governance report includes details the Company’s compliance with certain Licence obligations – see page 28 and the impact the Company’s operations have had on the environment – see page 32 for details.

Other

All the Directors of the Company are male.

The Company’s financial performance

Summary

The financial performance of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2020 and its financial position as at 31 March 2020, was satisfactory and is summarised below. In this report, all numbers have been rounded to the nearest £1,000 where each £1,000 is represented by the symbol £k or £’000.

The Company reports its results in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) as adopted by the European Union; the currency used in reporting these financial statements is GBP.

	2020	2019 (restated ¹)
	£’000	£’000
Operating profit	12,769	14,487
Other finance income	46	73
Operating profit plus other finance income	12,816	14,560
Finance costs	(11,554)	(12,604)
Profit before taxation	1,261	1,956
Taxation	(615)	(493)
Profit after taxation	646	1,463
Net cash inflow from operating activities and investing activities	20,806	20,845
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(19,209)	(18,639)

¹ Amounts restated for changes in accounting policies – see later in this Strategic Report and note 1 to the financial statements. Where amounts relating to the prior year have been restated this is indicated in this Strategic Report.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Operating and finance income

Operating and finance income is derived from the Company's activities as a provider of transmission services. The vast majority of the Company's income was derived from NGESO for the year ended 31 March 2020. Prior to 1 April 2019, the vast majority of the Company's income was derived from NGET.

Finance income for the year amounted to £11,408k (2019: £11,691k (restated)), and represents the finance income that would have been generated from an efficient standalone "transmission owner". The finance income has been recorded in accordance with the principal accounting policies adopted by the Company. A discussion of the critical accounting policies adopted by the Company is shown in the accounting policies section of the financial statements commencing on page 41.

Operating income for the year amounted to £4,985k (2019: £4,831k (restated)), and primarily represents the operating income that would be generated by an efficient provider of operating services to the Great Britain electricity system operator. Such operating services include those activities that result in the efficient and safe operation of the transmission assets and are reflective of the costs incurred in providing those services, including the cost of insuring those assets on behalf of a standalone transmission owner. Operating income has been recorded in accordance with the principal accounting policies adopted by the Company.

Operating costs

Operating costs for the year amounted to £3,624k (2019: £2,035k (restated)). The most significant cost included within these costs relates to the operations, maintenance and management of the Company and amounted to £3,664k (2019: £2,064k). This cost covers operations and maintenance fees, insurance fees, management service fees, and non-domestic rates associated with the transmission network.

During the financial year ended 31 March 2019, an amount of £1,315k (net of all attributable costs) was received from the vendors of the offshore electricity transmission system that was acquired by the Company during 2015. This amount represented a one-off settlement to compensate the Company for any costs that the Company may incur in future periods relating to potential remedial activities that may have to be conducted in a specified area of the seabed through which the Company's sub-sea export cable has been laid. As a consequence, the £1,315k settlement amount reduced the operating costs of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2019. By contrast, the operating costs for the year ended 31 March 2020 do not include this one-off settlement amount, and this factor primarily explains the increase in operating costs for the year ended 31 March 2020 as compared with the prior year.

There has been no adverse impact on the operating costs of Company as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic – see "Covid-19" earlier in this Strategic Report.

Operating profit

Operating profit being the residual of operating income, finance income and operating costs amounted to £12,769k (2019: £14,487k (restated)). The decrease in operating profit for the year as compared with 2019, reflects the changes discussed earlier, but is primarily explained by the absence of the one-off reduction in operating costs of £1,315k in the year ended 31 March 2019 as discussed under "Operating costs" earlier.

Other finance income

Other finance income of £46k (2019: £73k) relates solely to interest earned on bank deposits.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Finance costs

Finance costs amounted to £11,554k (2019: £12,604k (restated)). The vast majority of the finance costs relate to the interest cost of servicing the senior debt bondholders £7,675k (2019: £7,942k) and holders of the other borrowing £3,844k (2019: £3,728k). Interest expense and other financial costs principally arise from the cost of debt used to finance the initial acquisition of the transmission owner asset.

Finance costs include £455k credit (2019: £455k charge) that arose as a result of certain hedge ineffectiveness for accounting purposes.

Taxation

The net taxation charge on profit before taxation for the year is £615k (2019: £493k (restated)) and relates solely to deferred taxation. There was no current taxation arising in the year (2019: £nil) as the Company has no taxable profit (2019: no taxable profit). The net taxation charge for the year ended 31 March 2020 has been computed at 19% (2019: 19%).

On 17 March 2020, a resolution was passed by parliament under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act 1968 that brought into effect certain measures, including a change to the rate of corporation tax from 17% to 19%, that applies to the year ending 31 March 2021 and subsequent years. As a consequence, the net taxation charge for the year ended 31 March 2020 includes a charge amounting to £148k following the remeasurement of certain deferred taxation balances included in the balance sheet at 1 April 2019 from 17% to 19%; 19% being the rate of corporation taxation that is expected to apply when all temporary differences as reflected in these deferred taxation balances are expected to reverse.

For the year ended 31 March 2019, the taxation charge on profit before taxation for this year was adjusted from 19% to 17% following a re-measurement of deferred taxation balances at 31 March 2019, reflecting the rate of taxation included in the UK Finance Act 2016 that was expected to apply when the temporary differences reflected in the deferred taxation charge in respect of the year ended 31 March 2019 was expected to reverse. This resulted in a credit of £55k being included within the taxation charge for this year.

A net taxation charge of £1,146k (2019: net credit of £386k) has been recognised in other comprehensive income relating to pre-taxation gains (2019: losses) arising on marking the Company's cash flow hedges to market at the balance sheet date.

The net taxation charge for the year ended 31 March 2020 on other comprehensive income relates solely to deferred taxation, has been computed at 19%, and is net of a credit amounting to £26k relating to the remeasurement of certain deferred taxation balances included in the balance sheet at 1 April 2019 from 17% to 19%, for the same reasons as impacted the taxation charge included in the income statement as explained earlier.

The net taxation credit on other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 March 2019 of £386k relates solely to deferred taxation, has been computed at 19%, and was net of a taxation charge of £46k relating to the re-measurement of certain deferred taxation amounts arising during this year from 19% to 17%. The remeasurement was for the same reason as impacted the taxation charge included in the income statement for the year ended 31 March 2019 as explained earlier.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Profit after taxation

Profit for the year after taxation amounted to £646k (2019: £1,463k (restated)). The decrease in profit after taxation for the year as compared with 2019 reflects the impact of the changes on operating profit, finance costs and taxation which are discussed earlier.

Cash flows

Net cash flows from operations amounted to £20,760k (2019: £20,772k (restated)) primarily reflecting the amounts invoiced and received from NGESO (2019: NGET) in relation to the provision of transmission services in the year net of cash outflows relating to operating activities incurred during the year.

Net cash flows generated from investing activities for the year ended 31 March 2020 amounted to £46k (2019: £73k), reflecting the receipt of interest income.

Cash available for debt servicing, defined as net cash flows from operating activities plus net cash flows generated from investing activities being interest income received of £46k (2019: £73k) amounted to £20,806k (2019: £20,845k (restated)). Net cash outflows used in financing activities amounted to £19,209k (2019: £18,639k (restated)) and include £140k (2019: £127k (restated)) of payments in respect of an infrastructure financial liability – see note 1 to the financial statements on page 57.

Payments to service the senior bondholders during the year amounted to £16,507k (2019: £15,913k) and payments to service the other borrowing during the year amounted to £2,458k (2019: £2,492k).

No income taxation or dividends were paid in the year (2019: £nil).

Balance sheet and consideration of financial management

Balance sheet

The Company's balance sheet at 31 March 2020 is summarised as follows:

	Assets	Liabilities	Net assets/ (liabilities)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Non-current transmission owner asset	248,327	-	248,327
Non-current deferred taxation	-	(2,131)	(2,131)
Current assets and liabilities ⁺	8,220	(1,533)	6,687
Non-current decommissioning provision	-	(3,070)	(3,070)
Total before net debt	256,547	(6,734)	249,813
Net debt	23,418	(268,018)	(244,600)
Totals at 31 March 2020	279,965	(274,752)	5,213
Totals at 31 March 2019 (restated)	284,469	(285,345)	(876)

⁺ Excluding those current assets and liabilities included within net debt.

Transmission owner asset and decommissioning provision

The transmission owner asset is classified as a contract asset and a financial asset and is carried at the cost directly attributable to the acquisition of the WoDS offshore transmission system at the date of acquisition, plus finance income and adjusted for any amounts that have been invoiced which are deemed to be attributable to the carrying value of that asset. The net result being that the carrying value of the transmission owner asset reflects the application of the effective interest rate method and is determined in accordance with the principal accounting policies adopted by the Company. A discussion of the critical accounting policies adopted by the Company that give rise to this balance is shown in the accounting policies section of the financial statements commencing on page 41.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

The transmission owner asset includes an estimate of the costs of decommissioning the transmission owner asset at the end of its useful economic life in 2035 and also includes an amount equivalent to the amount recognised as an infrastructure liability at that date (see note 1 to the financial statements on page 57). At 31 March 2020, the carrying value of the transmission owner asset was £256,365k (2019: £263,742k (restated)) and the decommissioning provision amounted to £3,070k (2019: £2,946k).

Non-current deferred taxation

The Company has recognised a net deferred taxation liability of £2,785k (2019: £369k (restated)) which reflects the recognition, in full, of the deferred taxation impact of all temporary differences existing at the balance sheet date, including the fair valuing of all derivative financial instruments.

Net debt

Net debt is defined as all borrowings plus any interest accruals, the carrying value of all financial derivative contracts that are marked to market (UK Retail Price Index (RPI) related swaps) plus an infrastructure financial liability which has now been recognised in accordance with a change in accounting policy in relation to this liability – see note 1 to the financial statements on page 57, less cash and deposits.

At March 2020 net debt stood at £244,600k (2019: £260,565k (restated)) and is recorded net of £1,317k of derivative assets (2019: included £5,727k of liabilities) relating to the carrying value of financial derivatives that were marked to market at that date and a further £2,893k (2019: £3,034 (restated)) relating to an infrastructure financial liability – see note 1 to the financial statements on page 57.

A discussion of the capital structure and the use of financial derivatives is provided below and later in this Strategic Report.

Current funding structure

The Company is funded by a combination of senior debt, other borrowing, an infrastructure financial liability and equity in accordance with the Directors' objectives of establishing an appropriately funded business consistent with that of a prudent offshore electricity transmission operator and the terms of all legal and regulatory obligations including those of the Licence and the Utilities Act 2000. The senior debt is supported by the European Investment Bank ("EIB") who have issued a Project Bonds Credit Enhancement ("PBCE") letter of credit in support of the senior debt. The PBCE letter of credit allows the Company to make certain payments in respect of the senior debt and hedging agreements in certain specified circumstances.

All senior debt is serviced on a six-monthly basis and is expected to amortise through to 24 August 2034. The total principal carrying value of the senior debt outstanding at 31 March 2020 net of unamortised issue costs amounted to £215,416k (2019: £223,931k).

The senior debt carries a fixed rate coupon of 3.446% and requires servicing semi-annually on 30 June and 31 December in each year in accordance with the conditions specified in the Bond Trust Deed dated 20 August 2015 and the Prospectus issued in respect of the senior debt.

The other borrowing is unsecured and is held by the Company's immediate parent undertaking, HoldCo. The other borrowing was issued by HoldCo on a commercially priced basis and carries a fixed rate coupon. At 31 March 2020, the total principal carrying value of the other borrowing outstanding amounted to £46,868k (2019: £45,520k).

An infrastructure financial liability amounted to £2,893k (2019: £3,034 (restated)) at 31 March 2020 has been recognised – see note 1 to the financial statements on page 57.

Ordinary equity share capital and share premium amounted to £469k at 31 March 2020 (2019: £469k).

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Going concern, liquidity and treasury management

The Directors have confirmed that after due enquiry they have sufficient evidence to support their conclusion that the Company is a going concern and has adequate resources in the foreseeable future to meet its on-going obligations, including the servicing of debt holders, as those obligations fall due.

The Directors note that total shareholders' equity at 31 March 2020 is positive (2019: negative). The negative position at 31 March 2019 arises as a consequence of the application of certain technical accounting rules associated with hedge accounting which requires the mark-to-market of derivative financial instruments which has resulted in the recognition of a negative cash flow hedge reserve. The existence of a negative cash flow hedge reserve implies derivative net cash outflows will arise in future periods (based on the conditions prevailing at the balance sheet date). However, when these cash flows are considered together with the expected cash flows to be derived from the underlying position being hedged, then the net cash flow is as expected by the Board and is factored into the financial plans of the Group. Further information regarding the Group's "Hedging arrangements" is discussed later in this Strategic Report. Consequently, they have formed the opinion that it is reasonable to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. The other evidence considered to arrive at these conclusions is based on a number of factors which are summarised as follows.

The expected cash inflows that are likely to accrue to the Company over the foreseeable future from its electricity transmission operations are highly predictable and would not be expected to fall below a certain level as explained earlier under "Principal regulatory, industry contracts and industry code matters - Regulated revenue and incentives". Up to and including 31 March 2019, all of the cash inflows generated by the Company in respect of its electricity transmission services were derived from NGET in its capacity as the then Great Britain electricity system operator. With effect from 1 April 2019, all such services have been provided by the Company to NGESO who now has the Great Britain electricity system operator responsibilities and it has continued to settle all invoices to the date of this report in accordance with its obligations under the STC. Similar to the Company and NGET, NGESO is also regulated by the Authority.

The Company has considered the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic when determining the applicability of applying the going concern basis to the preparation of the financial statements of the Company and note that there has been limited impact on the Company to date (see "Covid-19" earlier in this Strategic Report) and based on the evidence to date the Directors consider that this situation is unlikely to change for the foreseeable future.

On 18 June 2020 National Grid plc, the ultimate parent undertaking of NGESO, noted in their preliminary full year results announcement that they had successfully implemented their continuity plans in the light of Covid-19 and indicated that the financial impact on their UK business was limited. Consequently, on the basis of the evidence to date, the Directors consider the likelihood of a future default by NGESO to be very low, notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Company enjoys certain protections afforded under the Licence granted to the Company. In particular, provided that the Company can demonstrate that it has applied good industry practice in the management of the Company and its assets, then in the event that an unforeseen incident results in the Company suffering a loss in excess of £1,000k (in so far as it relates to its activities under the Licence) it can apply to the Authority for an income adjusting event. In these circumstances the Company may be able to recover any loss it has suffered.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

In the event that the Company suffers a loss of transmission system availability due to an exceptional event, then the Company can apply to the Authority to have the loss of availability ignored for the purposes of determining the Company's reported system incentive performance. In the event of a successful claim, then the Company's performance credits determined in accordance with the incentive arrangements would be unaffected by any outage that was caused by an exceptional event.

The Company has also put in place prudent insurance arrangements primarily in relation to property damage and third-party liability, such that it can make claims in the event that an insurable event takes place and thereby continue in business.

The licence protections together with the insurance arrangements put in place reduce uncertainties and address certain risks regarding potential loss of income and/or loss/destruction of assets that arise from remote and/or catastrophic events.

The Company has also entered into certain hedging arrangements, through the use of RPI swaps, which are explained in more detail under "Hedging arrangements" later in this Strategic Report, but these arrangements have the effect of converting a high proportion of the variable cash flows which are subject to RPI arising from the Company's transmission services activities into a known and rising series of cash flows over substantially all of the expected life of the transmission business or project. This reduces the uncertainty as to the predictability of the likely cash in-flows that are expected to occur over the life of the project.

The highly predictable cash inflows (after RPI swaps), as described earlier, are then available to service the contractual net cash outflows associated with the senior debt that can be forecast with certainty, as the interest and principal repayments are known at the outset of the project.

Other contractual arrangements with third parties have been entered into that have a pricing mechanism that features linkages to RPI or other indices, which has the effect of reducing the uncertainty as to the quantum and frequency of cash outflows arising. As a consequence, it is the opinion of the Directors that the costs and related cash flows associated with these arrangements are more likely than not to vary in a similar manner with the principal cash inflows generated by the Company in relation to its transmission services that are not subject to the RPI swaps arrangements.

At 31 March 2020, the Company had access to a working capital reserve of £5,521k (2019: £5,340k) that it could access in the event that it is required to pay for any insurance deductible or to satisfy any reactive maintenance expenditure attributable to outages or repairs that could not be met in the ordinary course of business. In addition, in the event that the Company had insufficient funds to meet the contractual senior debt service and hedging payments, the Company can draw down under the PBCE letter of credit, with a view to meeting these obligations. The maximum amount that can be accessed under this facility amounts to 15% of the outstanding nominal principal amount of the senior debt outstanding.

Finally, under the terms of the other borrowing agreement, absent certain matters of default, the loan notes do not have to be redeemed until 2035. Therefore, there is no requirement for the Company to service this debt earlier than this date, although it is expected that it will do so.

Credit rating

It is a condition of the regulatory ring-fence around the Company that it uses reasonable endeavours to maintain an investment grade credit rating in respect of its senior debt. The rating agency carries out regular and periodic reviews of the rating. The Company has maintained an investment grade credit rating in respect of its senior debt consistent with its obligations under the licence.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

During the rating agency's assessment of the Company's credit rating, amongst other matters, the rating agency will and has considered: the cash flows expected to arise over the term of the project; the regulatory environment within which the Company operates; the nature of the principal contractual arrangements in place; the insurance arrangements; and the credit risk of all material counterparties in arriving at their assessment of the appropriate credit rating.

It is the Directors assessment, that having regards to the principal risks and uncertainties regarding cash flows, the creditworthiness of counterparties; the regulatory environment, the insurance arrangements and other matters that are discussed in this Strategic Report, that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the rating agency will continue to confirm that the Company's senior debt investment grade status in the foreseeable future based on the information available to the Directors at the date of this annual report.

On-going funding requirements

The Company does not expect to have any significant funding requirements over the expected life of the project that will require additional external funding. Loan servicing and other obligations of the Company are expected to be met by the cash inflows generated by the Company. Consequently, based on the current capacity of the existing transmission system operated by the Company, there is minimal refinancing risk.

To the extent that a requirement for significant expenditure is required in the future as a result of additional capital works being required to provide incremental transmission capacity, there is a mechanism in the Company's transmission licence to allow the Company to increase its charges in respect of such expenditure. The Directors expect that additional funding would be made available based on the increased cash inflows that would be expected to arise from such additional expenditure. No such additional expenditure is planned or expected in the foreseeable future.

Surplus funds

The Company is restricted under the lending agreements as to the nature of the investments it may hold. Typically, such investments are held in term deposits with UK banks which have a rating for its long-term unsecured and non-credit enhanced debt obligations of A- or higher by S&P or Fitch or A3 or higher by Moody's or an equivalent long-term rating from another Rating Agency.

At 31 March 2020, the Company had £22,101k (2019: £20,504k) of cash balances of which £15,276k (2019: £14,190k) were held in bank accounts that restrict the use of the monies contained in those accounts for specific purposes. The remaining cash and cash equivalents are held for general corporate purposes. A description of the restrictions applied to certain deposits and other matters are referred to later under "Lending covenants and other restrictions".

Interest that the Company has earned on surplus funds is insignificant in the context of the other cash flows generated by the Company.

Hedging arrangements

General

It is the policy of the Board that the Company will only enter into derivative financial instruments for the purpose of hedging an economic risk. No derivative financial instruments will be entered into unless there is an underlying economic position to be hedged. No speculative positions are entered into.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

RPI swaps

The Company has entered into arrangements with third parties for the purpose of exchanging the vast majority (approximately 75%) of variable cash inflows arising from the electricity transmission service it provides to the Great Britain electricity system operator in exchange for a pre-determined stream of cash inflows with the final payment date expected on 24 August 2034. The period through to 24 August 2034 closely matches the remaining period over which the Company enjoys exclusive rights to operate the offshore transmission system under the Licence and the period over which the vast majority of future cash flows from the project are expected to be generated.

As previously described (see “Principal regulatory, industry contracts and industry code matters - Regulated revenue and incentives”), under the terms of the Licence, regulatory and other contractual agreements, the Company is permitted to charge its principal customer, NGESO (NGET prior to 1 April 2019), an agreed amount for the transmission services it provides, the price of which is uplifted each year commencing 1 April by a sum equivalent to the increase in RPI over the previous 12-month period measured from September to September.

The use of derivative arrangements (“RPI swaps”) has the effect of exchanging the vast majority of variable cash inflows derived from the Company’s transmission services (impacted by changes in actual RPI) in exchange for a known and predetermined stream of rising cash flows over the same period.

The Directors believe that the use of these RPI swaps is consistent with the Company's risk management objective and strategy for undertaking the hedge. The vast majority of the Company’s cash outflows relate to borrowings that carry a fixed coupon so that both the resultant principal repayments and coupon payments are predetermined. The purpose of the RPI swap arrangements is to generate highly certain cash inflows (thereby reducing uncertainty) so that the Company can meet its obligations under the terms of the Company’s borrowing arrangements and therefore reduce the risk of default. The Directors believe that the RPI swaps continue to have a highly effective hedging relationship with the forecast cash inflows that are considered to be highly probable and as a consequence have concluded that these derivatives meet the definition of a cash flow hedge and have formally designated them as such.

The carrying value of RPI swap assets at 31 March 2020 was £1,317k (2019: liabilities of £5,727k). Further information relating to these derivative financial instruments is contained within notes 13 and 19 to the financial statements.

Lending covenants and other restrictions

The Company is subject to certain covenants and conditions under lending agreements with the senior debt holders. The Company entered into the lending agreements to allow it to fund the acquisition of the transmission owner asset. Under these lending agreements, a Security Trustee and Bond Trustee have been appointed to represent the interests of the senior debt holders and to exercise certain rights under the lending documents. In addition, a Technical Adviser and an Insurance Adviser have also been appointed under the terms of the lending agreements. The covenants and conditions of the lending agreements include (but are not limited to) that described on the following page:

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

- 1) the Company is required to operate on the basis of forecasts included within a computer model prepared for the purpose of monitoring the performance of the project and to ensure compliance with certain financial ratios and certain covenants that the Company has made under the lending agreements. The forecast is refreshed on an annual basis or on a more frequent basis under certain specified conditions;
- 2) the Company is required to produce and publish a report for senior debt investors semi-annually, describing the performance of the project to date, which should provide a business and regulatory update and set out the Company's compliance with certain lending ratios required under the lending agreements. In addition, the Company should provide and where appropriate publish semi-annual management accounts, yearly audited financial statements and yearly regulatory accounts on a designated website;
- 3) the lending agreements specify the bank accounts that the Company is permitted to operate and in addition, restrict the way in which those accounts should be operated – this includes, in respect of certain accounts, requiring those accounts to be funded for specific purposes and only allowing access to those accounts for that specified purpose;
- 4) the Company is required to maintain certain financial ratios (both historical and forward looking) in respect of debt service cover and loan life cover;
- 5) the Company is restricted under the lending agreements as to its ability to invest its surplus funds such that it is only permitted to invest those surplus funds in investments with maturities that are allowed under the terms of those agreements. Typically, this results in the Company investing in term deposits with maturities not exceeding six months;
- 6) the Company is required to maintain adequate insurances at all times; and
- 7) the Company is required to meet all the conditions contained within the lending agreements before any servicing of the other borrowing can take place or any distributions can be made to shareholders.

If the Company materially fails to comply with the terms of the lending agreements or has failed to apply one of the specified remedies, then the Company is in default of the lending agreements.

In these circumstances, the amounts due under the lending agreements are immediately due and payable or are repayable on demand.

Since entering into the lending agreements, the Company has materially complied with all of the lending covenants and conditions and has continued to do so through to the date of this report.

Accounting policies

The financial statements present the results of the Company using the accounting policies outlined in the financial statements and are in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as endorsed by the European Union. IFRS permits certain choices and the following material choices have been made as follows:

Presentation of financial statements

The Company uses the nature of expense method for the presentation of its income statement and presents its balance sheet showing net assets and total equity.

In the income statement the Company presents a sub-total of operating profit, being the total of operating income, finance income and operating costs. Finance income represents the income derived from the operation of the Company's transmission owner asset and is included within operating profit to reflect the fact that this is one of the principal revenue generating activities of the Company and relates to the Company's principal operating activity as a provider of electricity transmission availability services.

Strategic Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Financial Instruments


The Company has elected to apply hedge accounting to its standalone derivative financial instruments.

Critical accounting policies

The application of accounting principles requires the Directors of the Company to make estimates, judgments and assumptions that are likely to affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities in the financial statements. Better information, or the impact of an actual outcome, may give rise to a change as compared with any estimates used and consequently the actual results may differ significantly from those estimates. The impact of revised estimates, or the impact of actual outcomes, will be reflected in the period when the better information or actual outcome is known.

A discussion of critical accounting policies is contained within the accounting policies section of the financial statements together with a discussion of those policies that require particularly complex or subjective decisions or assessments. The accounting policies section of the financial statements commences on page 41.

Approved on behalf of the Board


Nick Axa (Jul 28, 2020 12:12 GMT+1)

Nick Axa
Director
28 July 2020

Directors' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2020

In accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 the following sections describe the matters that are required for inclusion in the Directors' Report and were approved by the Board. Further details of matters required to be included in the Directors' Report are incorporated by reference into this report, as detailed below.

Directors

The Directors of the Company who were in office during the year and up to the date of signing the financial statements were:

Nick Axa
Graham Farley¹
John Cavill²
Matthew Edwards²
Adrian Peacock³

¹ Appointed 18th February 2020

² Resigned 3rd January 2020

³ Resigned 18th February 2020

Principal activities and business review

A full description of the Company's principal activities, business and principal risks and uncertainties is contained in the Strategic Report on pages 2 to 23, which is incorporated by reference into this report.

Company status

WoDS Transmission plc is a public company limited by shares. The Company is incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales.

Material interests in shares

WoDS Transmission plc is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited ("HoldCo"), which itself is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of WoDS Transmission TopCo Limited ("TopCo").

Returns to parent undertaking

During the year ended 31 March 2020, the Company paid £2,458k (2019: £2,492k) of interest to HoldCo in relation to the unsecured 8.31% Loan Notes 2035 that were issued by the Company to HoldCo. The principal outstanding on these unsecured loans amounted to £46,868k at 31 March 2020 (2019: £45,520k).

No dividends were paid during the year (2019: £nil). The Directors are not proposing a final ordinary dividend (2019: £nil).

Donations and research and development

No charitable or political donations were made during the year (2019: £nil) and expenditure on research and development activities was £nil (2019: £nil).

Financial instruments

Details on the use of financial instruments and financial risk management ("Hedging Arrangements") are included on pages 20 to 21 in the Strategic Report.

Directors' Report continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Greenhouse gas emissions

Details of greenhouse gas emissions by the Company during the year are shown in the Corporate governance statement – see page 32.

Going concern

Having made enquiries, the Directors consider that the Company has adequate resources to continue in business for the foreseeable future and that it is therefore appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements of the Company. More details of the Company's funding and liquidity position is provided in the Strategic Report under the headings "Current funding structure" and "Going concern, liquidity and treasury management".

The Company's strategy, long-term business objectives and operating model

The Company's strategy, long-term business objectives and operating model are set out in the Strategic Report and include an explanation of how the Company will generate value over the longer term.

Future developments

Details of future developments are contained in the Strategic Report.

External Auditor

The Audit Committee has recommended to the Board the reappointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. The reappointment and a resolution to that effect is expected to be included on the agenda for the next AGM. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has indicated its willingness to continue as Auditor. The Audit Committee will also be responsible for determining the audit fee on behalf of the Board.

Employee involvement

The Company does not have any employees and does not expect to engage any employees in the foreseeable future – see "The Company's Operating Model" in the Strategic Report on page 3.

Directors' remuneration report

The Directors receive no direct emoluments from the Company.

There is no linkage between service standards of the Company and any direct or indirect emoluments, fees or benefits paid to Directors or related parties of Directors.

Approved on behalf of the Board


Nick Axa
Jul 28, 2020 12:12 GMT+1

Nick Axa
Director
28 July 2020
WoDS Transmission plc

Cannon Place
78 Cannon Street
London, EC4N 6AF.

Corporate governance statement

Introduction

The Company is a wholly owned indirect subsidiary undertaking of WoDS Transmission TopCo Limited (“TopCo”) and consequently operates within the corporate governance framework of TopCo and its subsidiary undertakings (“the Group”). The companies that comprise the TopCo Group are: TopCo, (being the ultimate parent undertaking); WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited (“HoldCo” - the immediate parent undertaking); and the Company. An understanding of the Group’s governance framework is required to understand the Company’s position within that framework.

None of the members of the Group have a premium listing of equity shares in the UK and therefore they are not subject to the UK Corporate Governance code.

The Company is a private company limited by shares and is registered in England. The Company does have listed debt in the form of £254,849,000 worth of 3.446 per cent. Fixed Rate Secured Bonds due August 2034 – which are listed on the Official List of the Irish Stock Exchange.

For the period 1 April 2019 through to 2 January 2020 the ordinary shares in TopCo were held equally by 3i Infrastructure plc and PPD1 AssetCo 2 Limited (a company owned by a fund that is managed by Dalmore Capital Limited). On 3 January 2020, 3i Infrastructure plc sold its 50% interest in TopCo to Ednaston Project Investments Limited a company that is ultimately owned by funds that are also managed by Dalmore Capital Limited. Consequently, as at 31 March 2020 and through to the date of this statement, TopCo is owned by companies, the equitable interest in which, are vested with funds managed by Dalmore Capital Limited – an FCA authorised entity (“Dalmore Funds”). The Dalmore funds that hold 100% of the equitable interest in the ordinary share capital of TopCo at 31 March 2020 are Dalmore Infrastructure Investments 31 LP, Dalmore Infrastructure Investments 32 LP, Dalmore Infrastructure Investments 33 LP and PPP Equity PIP Limited Partnership.

The Directors representing the shareholders’ interests are appointed to the Boards of all companies in the Group by Dalmore Capital Limited. Consequent upon these arrangements between the shareholders, the Group, including the Company, does not have a nomination committee and the performance of the Group boards is not evaluated.

The Directors have the relevant expertise and experience, drawn from their involvement in a wide range of infrastructure companies to define and to develop the strategy of the Group and Company so as to meet their respective objectives and to generate or preserve value over the longer term. The Directors regularly review the effectiveness of the Group’s risk management and internal control framework and are satisfied that they are effective.

None of the Directors has declared a conflict of interest, as would be required by Section 175 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Company’s Articles of Association.

While the Group does not have a specific policy on the diversity of appointed board members, Diversity and Inclusion is one of the key focus areas within Dalmore Capital’s Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework. Refer to pages 8, 12 and 13 of the Dalmore Capital 2019 ESG Highlights Report for further details (www.dalmorecapital.com/spotlight/responsible-investment).

Corporate governance statement continued

The Company

Board and management meetings

The Company is governed by a Board of two Directors, none of whom are independent. The Board does not have a separately appointed chairman. Meetings are chaired by a member of the Board and are convened as required, but usually not less than four times per annum. The Company Board is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the day to day operation and management of the Company's regulated transmission business.

The Company's operating model is to outsource all O&M activities and management services to independent third-party suppliers. FPL provides the Company with management and other services, through a Management Services Agreement ("MSA") with the Company. Additional technical support and accounting & administration support is provided to the Company from Infrastructure Managers Limited, a specialist in providing financial and other support services to special purpose vehicles.

Directors and their attendance at Company board meetings

The Directors of the Company are as shown below. Board meetings were held on 7 occasions during the year under review. Attendance by the Directors at Board meetings expressed as a number of meetings attended out of a number eligible to attend are shown below.

Nick Axa	7 of 7
Graham Farley ¹	1 of 1
John Cavill ²	0 of 6
Matthew Edwards ²	6 of 6
Adrian Peacock ³	0 of 6

¹ Appointed 18th February 2020

² Resigned 3rd January 2020

³ Resigned 18th February 2020

Board activity

The Board is responsible for leadership and the setting of objectives and targets to ensure that its business objectives are met and monitors performance against those targets, which it has continued to do so during the year under review. Amongst other matters, the Directors have monitored the operational and financial performance of the Company during Board meetings. In doing so, the Directors have due regard to the objectives of the Company and the business plan that is being executed. In addition, the Directors have attended regular operational review meetings during the financial year together with representatives from FPL, the management services provider, where the operations and financial performance of the Company have been scrutinised in detail and the performance of third-party suppliers in managing the assets of the Company were assessed accordingly.

The Board is satisfied with operational and financial performance of the Company during the year ended 31 March 2020 and a discussion of the operational and financial performance of the business is included in the Strategic Report – which commences on page 9.

Corporate governance statement continued

The Board is responsible for setting policies or applying Group-wide policies set by the TopCo board. Responsibility for monitoring compliance with those policies rests with the Board. The Board has satisfied itself that there has been compliance with all of its policies during the year – further details can be seen from the “Strategic Report – Commitment to ethical business practices” on page 12.

The Board recognises its responsibility for the Company’s system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. They are assisted in discharging that responsibility through the establishment of an audit committee by TopCo – see “Audit committee” later in this statement. The Board confirm that they have reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal control during the year ended 31 March 2020 and are satisfied that the internal control system that is in place is considered adequate and appropriate to the Company’s circumstances.

The Board recognises that the Company, in carrying out its activities, has to do so in the context of an environment that is subject to risk. The Board is responsible for managing those risks and maintains a risk register which is updated regularly and actively monitored. The principal and emergent risks faced by the Company are discussed in the Strategic Report on page 12 and is satisfied that all key risks to the business have been adequately managed and mitigated.

The Board recognises its obligations under S172 of the Companies Act 2006 and a statement to that effect is provided within the Strategic Report on page 13.

Certain licence related compliance activities are delegated for detailed consideration by the compliance committee set up by the Board. Certain other matters are considered by committees of BTI, where it is efficient and effective for certain activities and policies to be considered on a Group-wide basis. Matters discussed at these committee meetings are then considered by the Board on a regular basis and endorsed accordingly. The activities of these committees are discussed below and on the following pages.

Compliance committee

The Company has a compliance committee. The compliance committee is a permanent internal body having an informative and consultative role, without executive functions, with powers of information, assessment and presentations to the Board. Robert Tivey is the Company’s compliance officer. Mr Tivey is not engaged in the management or operation of the Company’s licensed transmission business system, or the activities of any associated business. The compliance officer is required to report to the compliance committee, audit committee and the Board at least once annually.

The principal role of the compliance officer is to provide relevant advice and information to the Directors of the Company, the compliance committee and consultants and other third parties providing services to the Company. The compliance officer is required to facilitate compliance with the Licence as regards the prohibition of cross subsidies; restriction of activities and financial ring fencing; the conduct of the transmission business and restriction on the use of certain information. In addition, the compliance officer is required to monitor the effectiveness of the practices, procedures and systems adopted by the Company in accordance with the compliance statement required by amended standard condition E12 - C2 of the Licence (Separation and Independence of the Transmission Business).

Corporate governance statement continued

Members of the compliance committee and their attendance, expressed as a number of meetings attended out of a number eligible to attend during the year under review were as follows:

Nick Axam	1 of 1
Graham Farley ¹	0 of 0
John Cavill ²	0 of 1
Matthew Edwards ²	1 of 1
Adrian Peacock ³	0 of 1

¹ Appointed 18th February 2020

² Resigned 3rd January 2020

³ Resigned 18th February 2020

Compliance statement and annual compliance report

The Company has published a compliance statement and code of conduct “Separation and Independence of the Transmission Business Compliance Statement” (copy available from www.wodstransmission.com) that addresses how the Company has addressed certain Licence obligations.

The Company’s last annual compliance report dated 19 November 2019 concluded that the Company, as Licensee, had been compliant with the relevant duties of the Licensee though to 19 August 2019. The committee is not aware of any instance of non-compliance with the relevant duties of the Licensee since 20 August 2019 through to the date of this report.

TopCo and its role in the governance of the Company

Meetings of the board of TopCo

TopCo is governed by a board of directors, none of whom are independent. The TopCo board does not have a separately appointed chairman. Meetings are chaired by a member of the TopCo board and are convened as required, but usually not less than four times per annum. The TopCo board is accountable to the shareholders of TopCo for the good conduct of the Group’s affairs, including those of the Company.

Where appropriate, the TopCo board sets Group-wide policies that the Company has to comply with. Information relating to policies followed by the Company can be seen from the “Strategic Report – Commitment to ethical business practices” on page 12.

Audit committee

Neither the Company nor the Group have an internal audit function. The Directors have concluded that the cost of such a function would be disproportionate to the benefits derived from such a function. TopCo has established an audit committee, which typically convenes twice per year. The members of the committee are the same as the members of all boards in the Group including that of the Company. The purpose of the audit committee is to assist the board of TopCo and that of the Company in the effective discharge of their responsibilities for the consideration of financial and regulatory reporting and for internal control principles in order to ensure high standards of probity and transparency.

Corporate governance statement continued

The audit committee acts to safeguard the interests of its shareholders by:

- monitoring the integrity of statutory and regulatory reports issued by TopCo all of its subsidiaries including the Company, with the objective of ensuring that these reports present a fair, clear and balanced assessment of the position and prospects of TopCo, HoldCo and the Company as the case may be;
- reviewing the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Group's operations and internal controls, the reliability and integrity of information and accounting systems and the implementation of established policies and procedures;
- considering any significant issues and the extent to which they have been disclosed in the relevant annual report and financial statements of all companies in the Group, including a consideration of the critical accounting policies adopted by the Company (a discussion of which is included on pages 45 to 51);
- reviewing and approving the internal control and risk management policies applicable to the Group;
- maintaining an appropriate relationship with the external auditors; and
- assessing the objectivity and independence of the external auditors by considering: the nature and extent of non-audit services; a consideration of the effectiveness of the audit process including a recommendation to the Boards of the Company and that of HoldCo as to the reappointment of the auditors to the Company (who were appointed at or prior to the commencement of operations in 2015).

In carrying out the above activities, the audit committee have noted in particular the following:

- As a result of the withdrawal of IAS 17 'Leases', there has been a consequential change in the accounting for lease arrangements entered into by the Company which has caused the restatement of prior year results and the restatement of amounts previously reported in respect of retained earnings at 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 amongst other restatements. The audit committee has considered the disclosures provided in relation to the change in accounting adopted for leases as it has impacted on the financial statements (in particular note 1 to the financial statements on page 57) and consider these disclosures, which include an explanation as to the impact on prior periods, to be appropriate;
- The impact and related disclosures within the financial statements relating to the implementation of other new accounting standards during the year; and
- The audit committee have considered carefully the disclosures contained within the Company's annual report and accounts generally and in particular disclosures relating to "going concern", Covid-19 and climate change and have concluded that the information provided is proportionate and appropriate to the activities and experiences of the Company;

Representatives of the auditors are invited to attend meetings of the audit committee to attend as they see fit; the auditors also have unrestricted access to the audit committee. There have been no issues raised by the auditors' representatives that were of concern to the members of the audit committee.

The audit committee is satisfied as to the auditors' objectivity and independence following enquiry and discussion with the auditors and with management and have recommended to the Board the reappointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Corporate governance statement continued

Internal control

The audit committee regularly monitors the system of internal control of all companies in the Group, including those operated by the Company, reviews the effectiveness of those internal controls and reports to the respective board within the Group on their findings.

The Company's system of internal control is designed to provide its immediate parent undertaking (HoldCo), its ultimate parent undertaking (TopCo) and the investors in the ultimate parent undertaking with assurance that material risks to the business are adequately managed, that its assets are safeguarded, that transactions are authorised and properly recorded and that the likelihood of material errors and irregularities taking place are minimised. The audit committee together with the Board is cognisant of the Company's obligations under the Licence and the Company's system of internal control is designed to ensure compliance with that Licence. However, no system of internal control can eliminate the risk of failure to achieve any of the objectives referenced earlier.

There have been no significant matters giving rise to material internal control issues that have required the consideration of the Board for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Health, safety and environment advisory committee

The boards of both TopCo and the Company recognise that the nature of the Company's business requires an exceptional focus on health, safety and the environment. Accordingly, the TopCo Board has set up a Health, Safety and Environmental Advisory Committee which considers health, safety and environment matters for all companies in the Group including the Company and meets at least twice in each year. At the present time, it is only the Company that has any operational activities likely to give rise to any significant health, safety or environmental matters of any particular concern. The committee is responsible for:

- setting of health, safety and environmental targets for the Company in particular;
- ensuring that the Group's safety and health policy statement and environmental policy statement, are being adhered to;
- Setting the health, safety and environmental plan for the year for the Company, including the objective of carrying out health and safety audits of the Company's O&M provider and monitoring the performance against planned targets;
- encouraging greater awareness throughout the Group and the Company of the importance of health, safety and the environment and higher achievement in health, safety and environmental performance;
- providing guidance to FPL, the management services company, and the O&M provider and all other sub-contractors to the Company that have the day to day responsibility for the management of health, safety and environment; and
- Reporting to the Company's Board as to the activities of the committee throughout the year.

The Health, safety and environment advisory committee is satisfied as to the health, safety and environment performance of the Company and details are provided in the "Strategic Report – The Company's operational performance - Health, safety and environmental performance" on page 13.

Corporate governance statement continued

Climate Change and greenhouse gas emissions

The Board acknowledges that the impact of climate change is apparent, through climate and weather extremes and environmental events that are increasing in frequency and intensity. The Board is proud to be managing a business that is fundamental to the UK's efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement and the UK Government's target. The activities of the Company allow for the transmission of c389 MW of clean energy from the West of Duddon Sands offshore windfarm to the onshore electricity transmission system and is sufficient to power approximately 350,000 homes.

The Company operates facilities that have the potential to emit harmful greenhouse gases. In particular, the Company uses SF₆ in the operation of some of the Company's electrical equipment. SF₆ is an inorganic, colourless, odourless and non-flammable greenhouse gas and the Company has an active maintenance regime in place to monitor equipment for gas leaks and, where necessary, take appropriate actions to repair equipment to prevent the escape of SF₆. As explained in the "Strategic Report - Principal regulatory, industry contracts and industry code matters - Transmission system capability (capacity)" the Company carried out some remedial works during the year under warranty to correct certain defects that had resulted in the escape of SF₆.

The operation of the Company's facilities, which are necessary to allow for the transmission of clean energy, also requires the consumption of electricity, which maybe a source of greenhouse gas emissions. Electricity consumption during the year is estimated to be 32MWh (2019: 33MWh).

The Directors have calculated that approximately 9 tonnes of CO₂ (equivalent) have been emitted during the year (2019: approximately 334 tonnes), this calculation being based upon an appropriate factor converting units of electricity consumed or greenhouse gases emitted into tonnes of CO₂ (equivalent). This equates to 0.0026 tonnes of CO₂ (equivalent) per MWh of the Company's electricity transmission capacity (2019: 0.0979 tonnes).

Approved on behalf of the Board


Nick Axaam Jul 28, 2020 12:12 GMT+1

Nick Axaam
Director
28 July 2020

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

For the year ended 31 March 2020

The Directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have prepared these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union. 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;
- state whether applicable IFRS as adopted by the European Union have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They 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.

In accordance with Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006, Directors' Report shall include a statement, in the case of each Director in office at the date the Directors' Report is approved, that:

- (a) so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware; and
- (b) they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved on behalf of the Board


Nick Axa (Jul 28, 2020 12:12 GMT+1)

Nick Axa
Director
28 July 2020

Independent auditors' report to the members of WoDS Transmission plc

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, WoDS Transmission plc's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 March 2020 and of its profit and cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the balance sheet as at 31 March 2020; the income statement, the statement of comprehensive income, the cash flow statement, the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended; the accounting policies; and the notes to the financial statements.

Our opinion is consistent with our reporting to the Directors.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard, as applicable to listed public interest entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we declare that non-audit services prohibited by the FRC's Ethical Standard were not provided to the Company.

Other than those disclosed in note 4 to the financial statements, we have provided no non-audit services to the Company in the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Our audit approach

Overview



- Overall materiality: £499k (2019: £123k), based on 2.5% of Earnings Before Interest Tax Depreciation and Amortisation ("EBITDA").
 - We tailored the scope of our audit taking into account the significant balances within the Company, the accounting processes and controls, and the industry in which the Company operates.
 - We obtained an understanding of the internal controls in place and then performed substantive testing where required of the significant balances
 - Valuation of derivatives.
 - Impact of Covid-19.
-

Independent auditors' report to the members of WoDS Transmission plc continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Our audit approach (continued)

The scope of our audit

As part of designing our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

Based on our understanding of the Company and industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to breaches of conditions of the Company's Offshore Electricity Transmission Licence granted by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to increase revenue or reduce expenditure, and management bias in accounting estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Understanding of management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Review of Board minutes;
- Challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in their significant accounting estimates;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular analysing detailed journal listings to determine if there have been any unusual journal postings or significant transactions out with the ordinary course of business.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in the auditors' professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) identified by the auditors, including those which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. These matters, and any comments we make on the results of our procedures thereon, were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. This is not a complete list of all risks identified by our audit.

Independent auditors' report to the members of WoDS Transmission plc continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Our audit approach (continued)

Key audit matter	How our audit addressed the key audit matter
<p><i>Valuation of derivatives</i></p> <p><i>(see note 13 of the financial statements)</i></p> <p><i>The Company has entered into an arrangement with third parties that is designed to hedge future cash receipts arising from its activities as a provider of transmission availability services (RPI swaps). The Company has designated that this arrangement is a hedge of another (non-derivative) financial instrument, to mitigate the impact of potential volatility on the Company's net cash flows.</i></p> <p><i>We focused on this area as valuation, specifically in respect of derivatives, is an area which requires the use of judgment by the Directors and the involvement of valuation experts. Derivatives require judgment because, for some instruments, quoted prices are not readily available. As such, management use models to estimate their fair value. The key judgements for derivative valuations is whether appropriate valuation methodology and judgements around input assumptions have been made and whether there are any changes required to the methodology of these models as a result of market practice, accounting or regulatory updates.</i></p>	<p>Our audit work in respect of the valuation of derivative assets and liabilities include understanding and assessing the models and methodology used for the derivative investments, using our valuation specialists. This included recalculating the valuations using independent models and sourcing our own input data from recognised independent market data and investigating any differences found that were greater than predefined thresholds.</p> <p>We determined that the assumptions used, and the resultant valuations of the derivatives, were within ranges that we consider to be acceptable.</p>
<p><i>Impact of Covid-19</i></p> <p><i>Covid-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11 March 2020 and the on-going response is having an unprecedented impact on the wider economy and it is necessary to consider the impact on WoDS Transmission plc.</i></p> <p><i>The Company does not trade electricity but provides an electricity transmission service to National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited ("NGESO"). The Company itself is funded by Fixed Rate Secured Bonds issued on the Irish Stock Exchange, equity, unsecured other borrowing and an infrastructure financial liability.</i></p> <p><i>Management and the Directors have assessed the impact of Covid-19 and have determined that the OFTO continues to operate as normal and NGESO continues to settle invoices in accordance with the contractual terms. In adopting the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements, management have considered the impact of the pandemic on the Company's current and future operations and have concluded that the likely impact is low.</i></p>	<p>Our audit addressed the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Company as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We reviewed management's Covid-19 impact assessment paper, and corroborated key aspects to board minutes, and post year end management reports. - We reviewed the OFTO financial model to assess management's forecasts and confirmed that the Covid-19 had no impact on availability levels of transmission system during the impacted period. Our assessment also considered the Company's ability to continue to be able to operate within facility levels and covenants, and in compliance with regulatory requirements throughout the going concern period; and

Independent auditors' report to the members of WoDS Transmission plc continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Our audit approach (continued)

<i>Key audit matter (continued)</i>	<i>How our audit addressed the key audit matter (continued)</i>
<i>Impact of Covid-19 (continued)</i> <i>Because of its significance to the financial statements and to our audit, we concluded that the uncertainty created by the Covid-19 pandemic on the operations of the Company was a key audit matter.</i>	<p>- We considered the disclosures made by management in the financial statements, specifically within the Strategic Report, and the Directors' Report, , and considered whether these were in line with our understanding.</p> <p>Based on the procedures performed, we agreed that management's assessment in relation to going concern has appropriately considered the Covid-19 pandemic, and that management's assessment of the impact of the pandemic on the Company has been appropriately disclosed within the financial statements.</p> <p>Our conclusions in relation to going concern are set out later in this report.</p>

How we tailored the audit scope

We tailored the scope of our audit to ensure that we performed enough work to be able to give an opinion on the financial statements as a whole, taking into account the structure of the Company, the accounting processes and controls, and the industry in which it operates.

Materiality

The scope of our audit was influenced by our application of materiality. We set certain quantitative thresholds for materiality. These, together with qualitative considerations, helped us to determine the scope of our audit and the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures on the individual financial statement line items and disclosures and in evaluating the effect of misstatements, both individually and in aggregate on the financial statements as a whole.

Independent auditors' report to the members of WoDS Transmission plc continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Our audit approach (continued)

Materiality (continued)

Based on our professional judgment, we determined materiality for the financial statements as a whole as follows:

Overall materiality	£499k (2019: £123k).
How we determined it	2.5% of EBITDA.
Rationale for benchmark applied	During the year we reviewed the benchmark used setting our overall materiality level. In the past, we had based this on profit before tax. We believe that EBITDA better reflects the key measure for shareholders in assessing the performance of the entity, being a reasonable approximation to free cash flow generated by the OFTO. Shareholders are invested in the asset for the long term with an objective of generating a cash return on that investment, and as a result, EBITDA is more closely aligned to this objective than profit before tax. We also believe that this is a generally accepted auditing benchmark.

We agreed with the Directors that we would report to them misstatements identified during our audit above £24k (2019: £6k) as well as misstatements below that amount that, in our view, warranted reporting for qualitative reasons.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

Independent auditors' report to the members of WoDS Transmission plc continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Reporting on other information (continued)

With respect to the Strategic Report and Directors' Report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the UK Companies Act 2006 have been included.

Based on the responsibilities described above and our work undertaken in the course of the audit, ISAs (UK) require us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Strategic Report and Directors' Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2020 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the Directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Directors are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the Company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Independent auditors' report to the members of WoDS Transmission plc continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Other required reporting

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Appointment

We were appointed by the Directors on 22 April 2015 to audit the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015 and subsequent financial periods. The period of total uninterrupted engagement is 6 years, covering the years ended 31 March 2015 to 31 March 2020.



Mark Hoskyns Abrahall (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Edinburgh
28 July 2020

Accounting policies

For the year ended 31 March 2020

A. Basis of preparation of financial statements under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis (see “Strategic Report - Going concern, liquidity and treasury management” on page 18 which sets out the Company’s basis for applying the going concern basis to the preparation of these financial statements) and in accordance with EU endorsed IFRS, interpretations issued by the IFRS Interpretations Committee (IFRS IC) and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies reporting under IFRS. The financial statements have been prepared using consistent accounting policies updated, where necessary, to ensure that the accounting policies adopted reflect all IFRS accounting standards that have been endorsed by the EU and any related interpretations issued by the IFRS IC that are mandatory for the year ended 31 March 2020. The financial statements have been prepared on an historical cost basis except for the revaluation of derivative financial instruments. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling, which is the functional currency of the Company and are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

B. Transmission availability arrangements

The Company owns and operates an electricity transmission network that is principally offshore based. This network electrically connects a wind farm generator to the onshore electricity transmission operator (NGET). The ownership of this transmission network is subject to regulatory and contractual arrangements that permit it to charge for making its transmission network available (“transmission availability charges”) to the wind farm generator thereby allowing the wind farm generator to transmit its electricity.

The characteristics of the regulatory, legal and contractual arrangements that give rise to the transmission availability charges referred to above are consistent with the principles contained within IFRIC 12 “Service Concession Arrangements” an interpretation issued by the IFRS Interpretations Committee. Consequently, the accounting for charges made by the Company for transmission network availability is consistent with that interpretation.

The major characteristics that result in the application of IFRIC 12 include the following:

- the regulatory arrangements determine the price charged by the Company for its transmission availability services; and
- the regulator has granted a licence to operate the transmission system which provides the Company with the right to charge for the provision of transmission services for an exclusive period of around 20 years and retains the rights to grant a transmission licence to a future operator.

A transmission owner asset has been recognised at cost in accordance with the principles of IFRIC 12 and IFRS 15. The transmission owner asset includes: the cost of acquiring the transmission network asset from the constructor of the network; those costs incurred that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the transmission network including an infrastructure financial liability – see note 1 to the financial statements on page 57; and the estimated cost of decommissioning the transmission network at the end of its estimated useful life. The transmission owner asset has been classified as a contract asset and financial asset and is accounted for as described later – see C – Financial Instruments.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

B. Transmission availability arrangements continued

In accordance with IFRIC 12, transmission availability charges are recognised in the financial statements in three ways:

- as an adjustment to the carrying value of the transmission owner asset – see C. Financial Instruments later;
- as finance income - see F. Operating and finance income later; and
- as operating income - see F. Operating and finance income later.

Transmission availability payments are recognised at the time the transmission service is provided.

The value of amounts invoiced for transmission availability services in any one year is determined by a regulatory agreement that allows the transmission system operator to invoice an amount primarily relating to the expected availability of the transmission system during that year, together with the recovery of certain costs. Where the level of availability of the transmission system or the costs that are permitted to be recovered is different to that expected this might result in an adjustment to charges in a subsequent accounting period. Such potential adjustments to future charges are not recognised in the financial statements as assets or liabilities, until such time as prices are changed to reflect these adjustments and consequently there is no impact on the income statement until such time as prices are changed.

C. Financial instruments

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost or at fair value through profit and loss.

Trade receivables are classified at amortised cost as they are held within a business model to collect contracted cash flows. Such receivables are initially recognised at their transaction price, being the expected amount of any consideration receivable. Trade receivables continue to be measured at their transaction price less any lifetime expected credit losses using the simplified approach for determine such losses as permitted by IFRS 9 “Financial Instruments”.

Loan receivables, including time deposits and demand deposits, are initially recognised at fair value, which would normally be the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less any lifetime expected credit losses.

The transmission owner asset is classified as a contract asset and a financial instrument and is carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less any lifetime expected credit losses and reflecting adjustments to its carrying value as referenced earlier – see B. Transmission availability arrangements. Finance income relating to the transmission owner asset is recognised in the income statement as a separate line item – “Finance income”, see F. Operating and finance income later.

Lifetime expected credit losses are considered at each reporting date. Where the credit risk has not significantly changed since the initial recognition of an asset or class of assets, then lifetime expected credit losses are calculated at an amount equal to the 12-month expected credit losses on that asset or class of assets. For assets where the lifetime credit risk has significantly changed since initial recognition, a credit loss allowance is calculated by assessing the lifetime credit risk. Any loss allowance calculated in relation to lifetime expected credit losses is recognised in the income statement.

Trade payables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

C. Financial instruments continued

Borrowings are recorded at their initial fair value which reflects the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs. Subsequently all borrowings are stated at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. Any difference between the proceeds after direct issue costs and the redemption value is recognised over the term of the borrowing in the income statement using the effective interest rate method.

Derivative financial instruments are measured at fair value through profit and loss and where the fair value of a derivative is positive, it is carried as a derivative asset and where negative, as a derivative liability. Gains and losses arising from the changes in fair value are included in the income statement in the period they arise unless there is a hedge relationship in place – see D. Hedge accounting below.

No adjustment is made with respect to derivative clauses embedded in financial instruments or other contracts that are closely related to those instruments or contracts.

There are no embedded derivatives in host contracts that are not considered to be closely related; consequently, no embedded derivatives are separately accounted for as derivative financial instruments.

D. Hedge accounting

As permitted by IFRS 9, the Company continues to apply the hedge accounting requirements of International Accounting Standard 39.

The Company has entered into an arrangement with third parties that is designed to hedge future cash receipts arising from its activities as a provider of transmission availability services (RPI swaps). The Company has designated that this arrangement is a hedge of another (non-derivative) financial instrument, to mitigate the impact of potential volatility on the Company's net cash flows.

To qualify for hedge accounting, documentation is prepared specifying the hedging strategy, the component transactions and methodology used for effectiveness measurement.

Changes in the carrying value of financial instruments that are designated and effective as hedges of future cash flows ("cash flow hedges") including any change in the fair value of those hedges that result from a change in the credit risk of these hedges are recognised directly in a hedging reserve in equity and any ineffective portion is recognised immediately in the income statement. Amounts deferred in equity in respect of cash flow hedges are subsequently recognised in the income statement in the same period in which the hedged item affects net profit or loss or the hedging relationship is terminated, and the underlying position being hedged has been extinguished.

E. Income taxation

Income taxation comprises current and deferred taxation. Income taxation is recognised where a taxation asset or liability arises that is permitted to be recognised under generally accepted accounting principles. All identifiable taxation assets or liabilities are recognised in the income statement except to the extent that the taxation arising relates to other items recognised directly in equity, in which case such taxation assets or liabilities are recognised in equity.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

E. Income taxation continued

Current taxation

Current taxation assets and liabilities are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities. The tax rates and tax laws used to compute the amount of taxation are those that are enacted, or substantively enacted, by the balance sheet date.

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided using the balance sheet liability method and is recognised on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit.

Deferred taxation liabilities are generally recognised on all taxable temporary differences and deferred taxation assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised.

Deferred taxation is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the liability is settled, or the asset is realised, based on the tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted, or substantively enacted, by the balance sheet date.

Unrecognised deferred taxation assets are reassessed at each balance sheet date and are recognised to the extent that it has become probable that future taxable profit will allow the deferred taxation asset to be recovered.

F. Operating and finance income

General

As indicated earlier, see B. Transmission availability arrangements, amounts invoiced in respect of transmission availability charges, net of value added tax, are attributed to operating income, finance income or as an adjustment to the carrying value of the transmission owner asset in the manner described later. Finance and operating income reflect the principal revenue generating activity of the Company, that being revenue associated with the provision of transmission availability services and consequently, are presented as separate line items within the Income statement before other costs and net interest costs.

An estimate has been made as to the appropriate revenue that should be attributable to a standalone operator with responsibility for operations, maintenance and insurance.

Operating income

Operating income represents the income derived from the provision of operating services, principally to the Great Britain electricity system operator. Such services include those activities that result in the efficient and safe operation of the Company's transmission assets and are reflective of the costs incurred in providing those services, including the cost of insuring the transmission assets on behalf of a standalone transmission owner.

Finance income

Finance income arising from the provision of transmission availability services represents the return that an efficient standalone "transmission owner" would expect to generate from the holding of the transmission owner asset and an estimate has been made as to the appropriate return that such an owner would generate having regard to the risks associated with those arrangements. The return that is generated on this asset is allocated to each period using the effective interest rate method.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

G. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash held at bank and in hand, together with short-term highly liquid investments with an original maturity of less than six months that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to an insignificant change in value.

H. Decommissioning costs

Provision is made for costs expected to be incurred at the end of the useful life of the offshore transmission network associated with the safe decommissioning of that network. Provision for these costs is based on future estimated expenditures, discounted to present values. Changes in the provision arising from revised estimates or discount rates, or changes in the expected timing of expenditures, are recognised in the income statement. The unwinding of the discount and changes arising from revisions to the discount rate are included within the income statement as a component of the net interest charge. Changes in estimates arising from revised cost assessments are included within operating costs.

I. Infrastructure financial liabilities

Infrastructure financial liabilities are initially recognised at the present value of the payments expected to be made over the term of the lease arrangements to which these liabilities relate and are discounted using an estimate of the Company's incremental borrowing rate at the date the lease arrangements were entered into. Thereafter, these liabilities are remeasured at each balance sheet date to reflect the finance costs on these liabilities and reduced by any payments made in respect of these liabilities. Finance costs relating to these liabilities are recognised in the income statement within net interest expense over the period of the lease using the effective interest rate method.

J. Critical accounting judgments, key assumptions and sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make accounting judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Assumptions and estimates are reviewed on an on-going basis and any revisions to them are recognised in the period the revision occurs. The following is a summary of the critical accounting policies adopted by the Company together with information about the key judgments, estimations and assumptions that have been applied.

i) Transmission availability arrangements – income and related asset recognition

The Directors after due enquiry have identified that the characteristics of the regulatory, legal and contractual arrangements that give rise to transmission availability charges are consistent with the principles contained within IFRIC 12 and IFRS 15 where appropriate. Consequently, the accounting for charges made by the Company for transmission network availability is consistent with IFRIC 12 and IFRS 15.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

J. Critical accounting judgments, key assumptions and sources of estimation uncertainty continued

i) Transmission availability arrangements – income and related asset recognition continued

As a consequence of this decision, the following outcomes follow:

- a. A transmission owner asset has been recognised at cost in accordance with the principles of IFRIC 12 and IFRS 15; and
- b. In accordance with IFRIC 12, transmission availability charges are recognised in the financial statements in three ways: as finance income, as operating income and as an adjustment to the carrying value of the transmission owner asset.

An alternative accounting analysis could result in a significantly different accounting outcome which would affect the amounts and classification of asset and liabilities in the balance sheet and alter the income recognition and presentation of amounts included within the income statement.

The Company has determined that the transmission owner asset will be recovered over a period of 20 years from the date the Licence came into force (25 August 2015) – being the principal period over which the Company is permitted to levy charges for transmission availability. This assumption has the effect of determining the amount of finance income and carrying value of the transmission owner asset that is recognised in any one year over the life of the project.

ii) Operating and finance income

Operating income

Operating income represents the income derived from the provision of operating services, principally to the Great Britain electricity system operator. Such services include those activities that result in the efficient and safe operation of those assets and are reflective of the costs incurred in providing those services, including the cost of insuring those assets on behalf of a standalone transmission owner. Estimates and judgments have been made by management to estimate the appropriate amount of revenue that would be attributable to this income classification as if this service were provided by an independent standalone operator with responsibility for operations, maintenance and insurance. To the extent that an alternative judgment or estimate was made as to the reasonable level of revenue attributable to such an operator, then in the case of the Company, the level of income attributed to finance income (see the next paragraph) would be amended.

Finance income

Finance income arising from the provision of transmission availability services represents an estimate of the return that an efficient standalone and independent “transmission owner” would expect to generate from the holding of the transmission owner asset. Estimates and judgments have been exercised by management to determine an appropriate return to the owner of such an asset having regard to the risks associated with those arrangements. The return that is generated on this asset is allocated to each period using the effective interest rate method. To the extent that an alternative judgment or estimate was made as to the reasonable level of return attributable to such a transmission asset owner, then in the case of the Company, the level of income attributed to operating income (see previous paragraph) would be amended.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

J. Critical accounting judgments, key assumptions and sources of estimation uncertainty continued

iii) Hedge accounting and consideration of the fair value of derivative financial instruments

The Company uses derivative financial instruments to hedge certain economic exposures in relation to movements in RPI as compared with the position that was expected at the date the underlying transaction being hedged was entered into. The Company fair values its derivative financial instruments and records the fair value of those instruments on its balance sheet.

Movements in the fair values of the Company's derivative financial instruments may be accounted for using hedge accounting where the requirements of hedge accounting are met under IFRS as adopted by the EU including the creation of compliant documentation and meeting the effectiveness testing requirements. If a hedge does not meet the criteria for hedge accounting, which may include a consideration of whether there has been a substantial modification to the terms of the hedge, or where there is some degree of ineffectiveness identified in respect of the hedging relationship, then the change in fair value in relation to these items will be recorded in the income statement.

If a hedging relationship is judged to be discontinued for hedge accounting, then any amounts previously deferred in other comprehensive income must immediately be recognised in the income statement. Similarly, when the forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss and deferred costs of hedging that were reported in equity are immediately reclassified to profit or loss. Otherwise, in respect of the Company's derivative financial instruments, these changes in fair value are recognised in other comprehensive income.

As referred to earlier, the Company carries its derivative financial instruments in its balance sheet at fair value. No market prices are available for these instruments and consequently the fair values are derived using a financial model from a third party based on counterparty information that is independent of the Company but also use observable market data in respect of RPI as an input to valuing those derivative financial instruments. Where observable market data is not available, as in the case of valuing the transmission owner asset, unobservable market data is used which requires the exercise of management judgment.

iv) Income taxation

Current taxation

The taxation charge or credit arising on profit before taxation and in respect of gains or losses recognised through other comprehensive income reflect the tax rates in effect or substantially enacted at the balance sheet date as appropriate. The determination of appropriate provisions for taxation requires the Directors to take into account anticipated decisions of HM Revenue and Customs which inevitably requires the Directors to use judgments as to the appropriate estimate of taxation provisions.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

J. Critical accounting judgments, key assumptions and sources of estimation uncertainty continued

iv) Income taxation continued

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided using the balance sheet liability method and is recognised on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding taxation bases used in the computation of taxable profit.

Judgments are required to be made as to the calculation and identification of temporary differences and in the case of the recognition of deferred taxation assets, the Directors have to form an opinion as to whether it is probable that the deferred taxation asset recognised is recoverable against future taxable profits arising. This exercise of judgment requires the Directors to consider forecast information over a long-time horizon having regard to the risks that the forecasts may not be achieved and then form a reasonable opinion as to the recoverability of the deferred taxation asset.

v) Lifetime expected credit losses

The carrying value of those financial assets recorded in the Company's balance sheet at amortised cost, including the transmission owner asset, could be materially reduced if the value of those financial assets were assessed to have been impaired. Lifetime expected credit losses arise as a result of all possible default events over the expected life of a financial instrument. At each reporting date, the Company performs an assessment as to whether the credit risk on a financial instrument has increased and depending upon the outcome of that assessment then the Company will make an appropriate allowance for expected credit losses in accordance with the requirements of IFRS 9. This assessment involves considering reasonable and supportable information that is available to allow appropriate judgments to be formed but still involves the significant use of assumptions.

Any reduction in value arising from such a review would be recorded in the income statement.

vi) Decommissioning provision

Provisions are made for certain liabilities where the timing and amount of the liability is uncertain. The Company's only provision relates to the estimated costs of decommissioning the Company's offshore transmission system at the end of its expected economic life – being 20 years. These estimated costs have then been discounted at an appropriate rate and the resultant liability reflected in the balance sheet. The plan for decommissioning these assets has not yet been approved by the Department of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy but the preliminary assessment of the decommissioning plan includes many assumptions.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

J. Critical accounting judgments, key assumptions and sources of estimation uncertainty continued

vi) Decommissioning provision continued

The estimates and judgments used in determining the carrying value of this provision include, but are not limited to, the following:

- the estimated useful economic life of the transmission system is assumed to be 20 years being the period the Company has exclusive rights to charge for the provision of transmission services under the Licence and the period which is expected to generate the vast majority of cash flows relating to the ownership of the system;
- estimates of costs relating to the appropriate and safe removal, disposal, recycling and making safe of the transmission system having regard to market prices and access to the appropriate level of technology; and
- discount rate appropriate to the 20-year life of the assets being decommissioned. The Company has adopted the practice (absent a significant unforeseen event taking place) of considering the appropriate discount rate to apply to the decommissioning provision every five years, reflective of the long-term nature of this liability, rather than re-evaluating the discount rate over a shorter time period.

The estimates are based on management estimates with the use of technical consultants and are subject to periodic revision. The initial estimated discounted cost of decommissioning the offshore transmission system is included within the carrying value of the transmission owner asset. All subsequent changes to estimates in relation to estimated gross cost of decommissioning or the appropriate discount rate are reflected in the income statement.

vii) Infrastructure financial liabilities

Infrastructure financial liabilities are initially recognised in the balance sheet at the present value of the future lease payments to which these liabilities relate using an estimate of the incremental borrowing cost to the Company at the date those lease arrangements were entered into as a proxy for the interest rate implicit in those lease arrangements. A corresponding amount was recognised as an addition to the cost of the transmission owner asset at the date of acquisition. Management were required to exercise judgement as to the period over which payments would be made that are the subject of discounting to arrive at a present value and also to determine the incremental borrowing cost to apply to the discounting of those cash flows.

Any future change to the period over which payments are expected to be made would result in the remeasurement of the infrastructure financial liabilities with any such remeasurement being reflected in the income statement.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

K. Accounting developments

i) **Accounting standards, amendments to accounting standards and interpretations as applied to these financial statements**

In preparing these financial statements the Company has complied with IFRS, International Accounting Standards (IAS) and Interpretations applicable either for accounting periods starting by 1 April 2019 or ending by 31 March 2020 and have been endorsed by the EU.

IAS 17 Leases and IFRS 16 'Leases'

Through to 31 March 2019, the Company identified and accounted for its lease arrangements consistent with the conditions of IAS 17 and in particular classified and accounted for those leases as 'operating leases' as required by IAS 17. With effect from 1 April 2019, the accounting requirements of IAS 17 were no longer effective and IFRS 16 replaced IAS 17 'Leases' and IFRIC 4 'Determining whether an arrangement contains a lease'.

IFRS 16 'Leases' provides a new model for lessee accounting which, in most cases, results in the recognition of an underlying right of use asset and a related lease liability. However, the Company has determined that IFRS 16 'Leases' is not directly applicable to the circumstances of the Company and therefore the requirements of IFRS 16 do not apply to the lease arrangements entered into by the Company following the withdrawal of IAS 17 as the accounting principles of IFRIC 12 are more relevant to the circumstances of the Company.

As a result of IAS 17 no longer being effective, the Company has established a new accounting policy to recognise infrastructure financial liabilities in respect of lease arrangements entered into by the Company previously accounted for under IAS 17. This new accounting policy for "infrastructure financial liabilities" described earlier in these accounting policies has also required an amendment to the accounting policy for "transmission availability arrangements" to recognise a corresponding adjustment to the carrying value of the transmission owner asset. The initial recognition of an infrastructure financial liability in accordance with the new policy has given rise to a corresponding increase in the initial measurement of the transmission owner asset which is recognised in accordance with the requirements of IFRIC 12.

Infrastructure financial liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet in accordance with the requirements of IFRS 9 'Financial instruments' using the measurement principles of IFRS 16 which are consistent with that of IFRS 9. The Directors believe that the change in accounting policy to recognise infrastructure financial liabilities, which in turn impacts the accounting policy relating to the recognition of the transmission owner asset, provides reliable and relevant information to users of the financial statements.

In accordance with the requirements of IAS 8 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors' the adoption of a new accounting policy for the recognition of infrastructure financial liabilities and the consequential amendment to the accounting policy in relation to the measurement of the transmission owner asset has required the retrospective application of these changes. As a consequence, this has resulted in the restatement of previously reported amounts for retained earnings at 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 and the restatement of prior year comparative financial information.

Note 1 to these financial statements summarises the impact on these financial statements of making these changes in accounting policies.

Accounting policies continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

K. Accounting developments continued

- i) **Accounting standards, amendments to accounting standards and interpretations as applied to these financial statements continued**

Other accounting standards, amendments to standards and interpretations that apply to these financial statements

There are no other new or amended standards or interpretations (including IFRIC 23 'Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments') adopted during the year that have a significant impact on the measurement of assets and/or liabilities or any of the disclosures included in these financial statements.

- ii) **New accounting standards, amendments to standards and interpretations issued that may be relevant to the Company's activities but are not effective in these financial statements**

There are no other new accounting standards, amendments to standards or interpretations that have been issued but that are not effective in these financial statements that are likely to have any significant impact on the measurement of assets and/or liabilities or any of the disclosures included herein.

Income statement

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	2020 £'000	2019 (restated) £'000
Operating income	3	4,985	4,831
Finance income	3	11,408	11,691
Total income		16,393	16,522
Operating costs	4	(3,624)	(2,035)
Operating profit		12,769	14,487
Other finance income	5	46	73
Finance costs	5	(11,554)	(12,604)
Net interest expense	5	(11,508)	(12,531)
Profit before taxation		1,261	1,956
Income taxation charge	6	(615)	(493)
Profit attributable to equity shareholders		646	1,463

The notes on pages 57 to 77 form part of these financial statements.

The results reported above relate to continuing operations.

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	2020 £'000	2019 (restated) £'000
Profit attributable to equity shareholders		646	1,463
Other comprehensive income / (loss)			
<u>Items that may be subsequently reclassified to Profit and Loss:</u>			
Net gains / (losses) taken to equity in respect of cash flow hedges	16	6,589	(2,273)
Deferred taxation on cash flow hedges	6	(1,146)	386
Total other comprehensive income / (loss)		5,443	(1,887)
Total comprehensive income / (loss) for the year attributable to equity shareholders		6,089	(424)

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2020

		2020	2019 (restated)
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Non-current assets			
Transmission owner asset	7	248,327	256,421
Derivative financial assets	13	1,317	-
Total non-current assets		249,644	256,421
Current assets			
Prepayments		182	223
Transmission owner asset	7	8,038	7,321
Cash and cash equivalents	9	22,101	20,504
Total current assets		30,321	28,048
Total assets		279,965	284,469
Current liabilities			
Borrowings	10	(9,487)	(8,514)
Infrastructure financial liability	11	(144)	(139)
Trade and other payables	12	(4,374)	(3,818)
Total current liabilities		(14,005)	(12,471)
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	10	(252,797)	(260,937)
Infrastructure financial liability	11	(2,749)	(2,895)
Derivative financial liabilities	13	-	(5,727)
Deferred taxation liability	8	(2,131)	(369)
Decommissioning provision	14	(3,070)	(2,946)
Total non-current liabilities		(260,747)	(272,874)
Total liabilities		(274,752)	(285,345)
Net assets/(liabilities)		5,213	(876)
Equity			
Called up share capital	15	469	469
Retained earnings	16	3,677	3,031
Cash flow hedge reserve	16	1,067	(4,376)
Total shareholders' equity		5,213	(876)

Company number: 9309507

The financial statements set out on pages 41 to 77 were approved by the Board of Directors on 28 July 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:


 Nick Axa
 Jul 28, 2020 12:12 GMT+1

Nick Axa
 Director

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	Called up share capital £'000	Cash flow hedge reserve £'000	Retained earnings £'000	Total equity £'000
At 1 April 2018 – as previously reported (note 1)		469	(2,489)	1,721	(299)
Impact of change in accounting policies (note 1)	1	-	-	(153)	(153)
At April 2018 – as restated (note 1)		469	(2,489)	1,568	(452)
Total comprehensive income for the year – as restated (note 1)		-	(1,887)	1,463	(424)
At 31 March 2019 – as restated (note 1)		469	(4,376)	3,031	(876)
Total comprehensive income for the year		-	5,443	646	6,089
At 31 March 2020		469	1,067	3,677	5,213

The Company is prohibited from declaring a dividend or other distribution unless it has certified that it is in compliance in all material respects with certain regulatory and borrowing obligations, including a requirement to ensure it has sufficient resources and facilities to enable it to carry on its business and a requirement to use all reasonable endeavours to maintain an investment grade credit rating.

The cash flow hedge reserve recognises the effective portion of cash flow hedges whilst any ineffectiveness is taken to the income statement.

Retained earnings and total equity at 31 March 2019 of £3,031k (restated) and £(876)k (restated) have been restated from amounts previously reported of £3,217k and £(690)k respectively, reflecting a reduction in retained earnings and equity as a consequence of a change in accounting policies discussed in note 1 to the financial statements amounting to £186k.

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 March 2020

		2020	2019
	Notes	£'000	restated £'000
<u>Cash flows from operating activities</u>			
Profit attributable to equity shareholders for the year		646	1,463
Adjustments for:			
Net interest charges		11,508	12,531
Taxation charge		615	493
Non-cash movement relating to finance income		7,378	6,352
Changes in working capital		613	(67)
		<u>20,114</u>	<u>19,309</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		20,760	20,772
<u>Cash flows from investing activities</u>			
Interest received		46	73
Cash flows from investing activities		46	73
<u>Cash flows used in financing activities</u>			
Partial repayment of bonds (senior debt)	19	(8,778)	(7,905)
Interest paid		(10,291)	(10,607)
Other finance charges		(140)	(127)
Net cash flows used in financing activities		(19,209)	(18,639)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		1,597	2,206
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		20,504	18,298
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	19	22,101	20,504

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

1. Impact of the adoption of a new accounting policy and amended accounting policy

As explained under “Accounting policies - K. Accounting developments: i) Accounting standards, amendments to accounting standards and interpretations as applied to these financial statements”, up to 31 March 2019, the Company had applied the accounting requirements of IAS 17 Leases to its lease arrangements. This resulted in rental amounts in respect of these lease arrangements being expensed through the income statement as incurred, consistent with the treatment required by this standard that the lease arrangements entered into by the Company should be classified and accounted for as operating leases.

In so far as it impacts the Company, with effect from 1 April 2019, IAS 17 was no longer effective and was replaced by IFRS 16 ‘Leases’ which provides a new model for lessee accounting. However, the Directors have concluded that IFRS 16 is not directly applicable to the circumstances of the Company and the withdrawal of IAS 17 has resulted in the Company establishing a new accounting policy to recognise an infrastructure financial liability – see “Accounting policies – I. infrastructure financial liabilities” and “Accounting policies - K. Accounting developments: i) Accounting standards, amendments to accounting standards and interpretations as applied to these financial statements”.

An infrastructure financial liability has now been recognised in the balance sheet in accordance with the requirements of IFRS 9 ‘Financial instruments’ using the measurement principles of IFRS 16 which are consistent with those of IFRS 9. This new accounting policy has also required an amendment to the accounting policy for “transmission availability arrangements” which has resulted in the initial carrying value of the transmission owner asset being amended to reflect the initial recognition of the infrastructure financial liability. The measurement of the transmission owner asset is consistent with the requirements of IFRIC 12. As required by IAS 8 ‘Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors’ changes required as a result of the adoption of a new accounting policy and modification to an existing accounting policy have been applied retrospectively resulting in the restatement of amounts previously reported in respect of net liabilities and amounts previously reported for retained earnings at 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 and the restatement of prior year comparative financial information.

The new accounting policy as applied to infrastructure financial liabilities can be seen in the “Accounting policies – I. infrastructure financial liabilities” on page 45 and the amended accounting policy in respect of accounting for the transmission owner asset can be seen in “Accounting policies – B. Transmission availability arrangements” on page 41.

Where the primary financial statements or notes to the financial statements have been restated as compared with amounts previously reported, this is identified accordingly on the relevant primary financial statement or notes to the financial statements. A summary of the adjustments to the balance sheet, income statement and cashflow statement are discussed below:

Impact of adoption of a new accounting policy and amended accounting policy on the balance sheet

As a result of the new or changed accounting policies described earlier, this has given rise to the initial recognition of an infrastructure financial liability and a corresponding increase in the initial cost of the transmission owner asset at the date the transmission owner asset was acquired and the lease agreement, which gives rise to the infrastructure financial liability recognised, was entered into on 25 August 2015 amounting to £3,446k. These changes in accounting policies have resulted in the restatement of amounts previously reported as net liabilities and retained earnings at 1 April 2018.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Impact of adoption of a new accounting policy and amended accounting policy on the balance sheet continued

In each case, there has been an increase in net liabilities and reduction in retained earnings compared with that previously reported at 1 April 2018 by £153k. The increase in net liabilities and corresponding reduction in retained earnings at 1 April 2018 has been reflected through the recognition of the following at that date: 1) an infrastructure financial liability of £3,163k (non-current liability of £3,034k; current liability of £129k); 2) an increase in the carrying value of the transmission owner asset of £2,978k; and 3) a decrease in the carrying value of the deferred taxation liability of £32k.

Impact of adoption of a new accounting policy and amended accounting policy on the income statement

Following the adoption of the new or amended accounting policies described earlier, there is a different pattern of expense reflected within the income statement, as compared with the previously adopted accounting policies.

Prior to the adoption of a new accounting policy in respect of infrastructure financial liabilities, amounts paid or payable under operating leases as they related to the relevant period were expensed as incurred within operating costs. Following the change in accounting policy which resulted in the initial recognition of an infrastructure financial liability at 25 August 2015 (see “Accounting policies – I. infrastructure financial liabilities” on page 45), at each subsequent measurement date the carrying value of these liabilities are increased to reflect the finance costs on this infrastructure financial liability and a corresponding charge is reflected in finance charges. Consequently, for the year ended 31 March 2019 operating costs have been restated from that previously reported of £2,271k to £2,035k and finance charges have been restated from that previously reported of £12,497k to £12,604k.

The change in accounting policy as it has impacted the carrying value of the transmission owner asset at the date of acquisition of that asset has resulted in additional costs being recognised in the carrying value of that asset. Following the application of the accounting policy adopted for the recognition of finance income and operating income, which remains unaltered from prior periods, to the revised carrying value of the transmission owner asset at the date of acquisition has resulted in the amounts of finance and operating income being restated from that previously reported. Consequently, for the year ended 31 March 2019 finance and operating income have been restated from that previously reported of £11,810k and £4,881k to £11,691k and £4,831k respectively.

The net impact on profit before taxation resulting from the change in accounting policies for the year ended 31 March 2019 was to reduce profit before taxation from that previously reported of £1,996k to £1,956k. After reflecting the taxation impact of the changes in accounting policies, which relates solely to deferred taxation, profit after taxation for the year ended 31 March 2019 reduced from that previously reported of £1,496k to £1,463k.

The net impact on profit after taxation for the year ended 31 March 2020 of adopting the accounting policies as described earlier as compared with the accounting policies that applied in prior accounting periods is estimated to have reduced profit after taxation for this year by £33k.

Impact of adoption of a new accounting policy and amended accounting policy on the Cash flow statement

As a result of the adoption of a new and amended accounting policy, this has resulted in the restatement of “net cash flows from operating activities” for the year ended 31 March 2019 as previously reported of £20,538k to £20,772k and a restatement of “net cash flows used in financing activities” from £18,405k to £18,639k.

There is no overall net cash flow impact from the adoption of the new accounting policies.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

2. Operating segment

The Board of Directors is the Company's chief operating decision-making body. The Board of Directors has determined that there is only one operating segment – electricity transmission. The Board of Directors evaluates the performance of this segment on the basis of profit before and after taxation and cash available for debt service (net cash inflows from operating activities plus cash flows from investing activities). The Company and segmental results, balance sheet and relevant cash flows can be seen in the income statement, the balance sheet and cash flow statement on page 52, 54 and 56 respectively. Additional notes relating to the Company and segment are shown in the notes to the financial statements on pages 57 to 77.

The electricity transmission operation of the Company comprises the transmission of electricity from a wind farm located off coast of Walney Island in the East Irish Sea, and then connecting directly into the NGET onshore transmission system at an electricity substation in Heysham, Lancashire.

All of the Company's sales and operations take place in the UK.

All of the assets and liabilities of the Company arise from the activities of the segment.

3. Operating and finance income

Operating income of £4,985k (2019: £4,831k (restated)) and finance income of £11,408k (2019: £11,691k (restated)) primarily relates to the Company's activity as a provider of electricity transmission services to the Company's principal customer – National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited (NGESO) (2019: the equivalent service was provided to National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET)). The vast majority of the Company's income is derived from NGESO (2019: NGET). Finance income is calculated using the effective interest rate method – consistent with the Company's accounting policy – see "Accounting policies - F. Operating and finance income".

4. Operating costs

Operating costs are analysed below:

	2020	2019 (restated)
	£'000	£'000
Operations, maintenance and management ¹	3,664	2,064
Auditors' remuneration	40	19
Other	(80)	(48)
Total	3,624	2,035

The Company does not employ any staff.

Auditors' remuneration comprises:

Audit services	25	12
Other services supplied pursuant to legislation ²	15	7
Total	40	19

¹ This represents costs associated with the provision of operating, maintenance and management provided to the Company by independent third parties together with other operational costs including insurance costs and non-domestic rates related to the transmission network. Included within operations, maintenance and management costs is a net credit of £nil (2019: £1,315k) relating to a one-off settlement for potential future remedial works to be undertaken by the Company – see "Strategic report – the Company's financial performance – Operating costs".

² These represent fees payable for services in relation to engagements which are required to be carried out by the auditors. In particular, this includes fees for audit reports on regulatory returns.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

4. Operating costs continued

No Director receives any direct remuneration from the Company. A related party was engaged by the Company during the year to provide consultancy services. The related party engaged the services of Mr Graham Farley, a Director of the Company to provide these services. Amounts paid or accrued in respect of these services for the year ended 31 March 2020 amounted to £38k (2019: £nil) and are included in operating costs.

5. Net interest expense

Net interest expense is as tabulated below:

	2020	2019 (restated)
	£'000	£'000
Interest income		
Interest on bank deposits	46	73
	<u>46</u>	<u>73</u>
Interest expense and other financial costs		
Interest on secured bonds (senior debt)	(7,675)	(7,942)
Interest on other borrowing	(3,844)	(3,728)
Other financial costs ¹	(35)	(934)
	<u>(11,554)</u>	<u>(12,604)</u>
Net interest expense	<u>(11,508)</u>	<u>(12,531)</u>

¹ Includes a £455k credit (2019: £455k charge) as a result of certain hedge ineffectiveness and £103k (2019: £107k (restated)) finance costs relating to an infrastructure financial liability.

6. Income taxation charge

a) Taxation on items included in the income statement

The net taxation charge for the year is £615k (2019: £493k (restated)), and the composition of that charge is described below.

The taxation charge on current year profits arising in the year represents deferred taxation and has been computed at 19% (2019: 19%). There is no current taxation included in the income statement (2019: £nil).

The taxation charge for the year differs from (2019: differs from) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2019: 19%) for the reasons outlined below:

	2020	2019 (restated)
	£'000	£'000
Profit before taxation	<u>1,261</u>	<u>1,956</u>
Taxation at 19% (2019: 19%) on profit before taxation	240	371
Effects of:		
- expenses not deductible for tax purposes	227	177
- adjustment from previous periods	-	-
- change in tax rates on deferred tax ¹	148	(55)
Taxation charge for the year	<u>615</u>	<u>493</u>

¹ Reflecting a corporation taxation rate of 19% (2019: 17%), being the rate of corporation tax expected to apply when all temporary differences are expected to reverse. The deferred taxation charge arising in the year ended 31 March 2020 reflects the remeasurement of all deferred taxation balances at 1 April 2019 from 17% to 19%. The deferred taxation credit arising in the year ended 31 March 2019, relates to a remeasurement of the deferred taxation charge arising during this year from 19% to 17%.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

6. Income taxation charge continued

b) Taxation on items included in other comprehensive income/ (loss)

The net taxation charge on items included in other comprehensive income / (loss) for the year is £1,146k (2019: £386k net credit) and comprises a charge on items arising in the current year computed at 19% (2019: 19%) of £1,120k (2019: £432k credit) and a charge of £26k (2019: £46k) arising from a change in corporation taxation rates. The net taxation charge (2019: net credit) on other comprehensive income arising in the year represents deferred taxation. There is no current taxation included in other comprehensive income (2019: £nil).

c) Taxation – future years

On 17 March 2020, a resolution was passed by parliament under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act 1968 that brought into effect certain measures, including a change to the rate of corporation tax from 17% to 19%, that applies to the year ending 31 March 2021 and subsequent years. The UK Finance Act 2016 had previously legislated that a corporation tax rate of 17% would apply in those periods.

Future tax charges, and therefore the Company's future effective tax rate, could be affected by other future changes in legislation. Similarly, the interpretation of existing legislation by the Company and or the relevant tax authorities could also impact the Company's future tax charges and future effective tax rate.

7. Transmission owner asset

The movement in the carrying value of the transmission owner asset is shown in the table below:

	2020	2019 (restated)
	£'000	£'000
At 1 April	263,742	270,092
Adjustment to the carrying value*	(7,377)	(6,350)
At 31 March	<u>256,365</u>	<u>263,742</u>
Comprising:		
Amounts falling due within one year	8,038	7,321
Amounts falling due after more than one	248,327	256,421
	<u>256,365</u>	<u>263,742</u>

* Arising from the application of the effective interest rate method and reflected through finance income in the income statement.

The transmission owner asset is a contract asset and is carried at amortised cost. The estimated fair value of the transmission owner asset at 31 March 2020 was £267,828k (2019: £277,196k). The basis for estimating the fair value of the transmission owner asset was to estimate the net cash flows arising over the estimated economic life of the project and to discount those expected net cash flows at a discount rate of 4.54% (2019: 4.54%) per annum.

The Directors have considered expected credit losses in relation to the carrying value of the transmission owner asset and have concluded that these are expected to be immaterial and as a result no provision for expected credit losses has been recognised at 31 March 2020 (2019: £nil).

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

8. Deferred taxation liability

The net deferred taxation liability recognised in the balance sheet arises as follows:

	Fair value losses/(gains) on derivatives £'000	Accelerated capital allowances £'000	Total £'000
At 1 April 2018 – as previously reported	510	(804)	(294)
Impact of change in accounting policies (note 1)	-	32	(32)
At 1 April 2018 – as restated (note 1)	510	(772)	(262)
Movements – as restated (note 1)	464	(571)	(107)
At 31 March 2019 – as restated (note 1)	974	(1,343)	(369)
Movements - current year	(1,224)	(538)	(1,762)
At 31 March 2020	(250)	(1,881)	(2,131)

No portion of the deferred tax balance is likely to be recovered or settled in the 12 months following the balance sheet date.

The carrying value of all deferred taxation balances have been computed at 19% (2019: 17%) - being the rate of corporation tax that is expected to apply when the temporary differences reverse and reflects the latest enacted legislation in force at the balance sheet date.

The net movements in the carrying value of deferred tax liabilities for the year ended 31 March 2019 have been restated from that previously reported of £114k in line with the change in accounting policy as explained in note 1. As a consequence, deferred taxation liabilities presented at 31 March 2019 have been restated from that previously reported of £408k.

9. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise short term deposits of £22,101k (2019: £20,504k). Short-term deposits are made for various periods of between one day and 6 months, depending on the timing of cash requirements and earn interest at the respective short-term deposit rates. All cash and equivalents are carried at amortised cost.

Cash and cash equivalents include amounts of £15,276k (2019: £14,190k) that the Company can only use for specific purposes and in compliance with the lending agreements. The remaining cash and cash equivalents are held for general corporate purposes provided that use is compliant with the lending arrangements.

The estimated fair value of cash and cash equivalents approximates to their carrying value.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

10. Borrowings

The following table analyses borrowings:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Current		
Secured bonds – fixed rate	9,487	8,514
Non-current		
Secured bonds – fixed rate	205,929	215,417
Other borrowing – fixed rate	46,868	45,520
	252,797	260,937
Total borrowings	262,284	269,451

Total borrowings are repayable as follows:

In one year or less	9,487	8,514
In more than one year, but not more than two years	10,432	9,487
In more than two years, but not more than three years	10,100	10,432
In more than three years, but not more than four years	11,174	10,100
In more than four years, but not more than five years	11,643	11,174
In more than five years other than by instalments	209,448	219,744
	262,284	269,451

The secured bonds carry an interest rate of 3.446% per annum. The secured bonds amortise over the period through to 24 August 2034.

The secured bonds, being the senior debt, are secured over all of the assets of the Company and of WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited ("HoldCo" - the immediate parent undertaking) via fixed and floating charges.

The other borrowing relates to amounts owed to HoldCo. This other borrowing is unsecured and carries a fixed coupon of 8.31% per annum and is contractually repayable on 25 August 2035.

All borrowings are carried at amortised cost. Fair value information in relation to borrowings is shown in note 19.

As at 31 March 2020, the Company had access to a PBCE letter of credit issued by the European Investment Bank amounting to £32,653k (2019: £33,970k) which guarantees certain payments to be made in respect of the secured bonds and the Company's hedging arrangements all of which was undrawn (2019: undrawn).

There have been no instances of default or other breaches of the terms of the loan agreements during the year in respect of all loans outstanding at 31 March 2020 (2019: no defaults or breaches).

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

11. Infrastructure financial liability

	2020	2019 (restated)
	£'000	£'000
At 1 April (2019: as previously reported)	3,034	-
Impact of change in accounting policy (note 1)	-	3,161
At 1 April (2019: as restated – note 1)	3,034	3,161
Payments to lessors	(244)	(234)
Finance costs	103	107
At 31 March	2,893	3,034
Comprising:		
Current	144	139
Non-current	2,749	2,895
	2,893	3,034

12. Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are as tabulated below.

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Trade payables	430	40
Other taxes	554	536
Accrued expenses	3,390	3,242
	4,374	3,818

Due to their short maturities, the fair value of all financial instruments included within trade and other payables approximates to their book value. All trade and other payables are recorded at amortised cost and are all expected to be settled within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

Included in accrued expenses are amounts owed to the immediate parent undertaking in respect of interest on the other borrowing – see note 18.

13. Derivative financial assets / (liabilities)

Derivative financial instruments are recorded in the balance sheet at market value and the carrying value of these derivative financial instruments may result in assets and/or liabilities being recognised at the balance sheet date. Derivative financial instruments derive their market value from the price of an underlying item, such as the RPI index or other indices and have been entered into for the sole purpose of hedging the underlying economic activity of the Company. All such derivative financial instruments are classified under IFRS 9 at fair value through profit and loss.

All hedge accounting continues to be carried out in accordance with the hedge accounting requirements of IAS 39 as permitted by IFRS 9, and as a consequence, that part of the movement in the fair value of derivative financial instruments that is deemed to be hedge effective under IAS 39 continues to be reflected through other comprehensive income in the cash flow hedge reserve.

The Company's use of derivative financial instruments is described on the following page.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

13. Derivative financial assets / (liabilities) continued

RPI swaps

The Company has entered into arrangements with third parties for the purpose of exchanging the vast majority (approximately 75%) of variable cash inflows arising from the operation of the Company's transmission assets in exchange for a pre-determined stream of cash inflows from these third parties. These arrangements meet the definition to be classified as derivative financial instruments.

The Company's use and strategy relating to RPI swaps is described in more detail in the "Strategic Report - Hedging Arrangements".

The Directors believe that the hedging relationship is highly effective and that the forecast cash inflows are highly probable and as a consequence have concluded that the RPI swap derivatives meet the definition of a cash flow hedge and have formally designated them as such.

Carrying value of all derivative financial instruments

All of the Company's derivative financial instruments comprising RPI swaps are carried at market value. The carrying value of the RPI swaps at 31 March 2020 amounted to assets of £1,317k (2019: liabilities of £5,727k). Of the total movements during the year in the fair value of these derivative financial instruments a hedge ineffectiveness credit of £455k (2019: £455k charge) has been recorded in the income statement within "other financial costs" and a credit of £6,589k (2019: charge of £2,273k) has been reflected through other comprehensive income/ (loss) and recorded in the cash flow hedge reserve.

Further details regarding derivative financial instruments and their related risks are given in note 19.

14. Decommissioning provision

The movement in the decommissioning provision is analysed below.

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
At 1 April	2,946	2,821
Unwinding of discount	124	125
At 31 March	3,070	2,946

The decommissioning provision is all non-current (2019: all non-current).

The decommissioning provision of £3,070k at 31 March 2020 (2019: £2,946k) represents the net present value of the estimated expenditure expected to be incurred at the end of the economic life of the project to decommission the West of Duddon Sands transmission assets. The decommissioning expenditure relates to the removal and scrapping of all transmission assets above the level of the seabed and the burial of all cable ends. The gross expenditure expected to be incurred on decommissioning amounts to £6,109k (2019: £6,144k), and is expected to be incurred in 2035.

The discount rate used to discount the gross expenditure to be incurred on decommissioning is a pre-taxation 'risk free' rate with a maturity similar to that of the decommissioning liability. This reflects the best estimate of the time value of money risks specific to the liability, as the estimated gross decommissioning costs appropriately reflect the risks associated with that liability.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

14. Decommissioning provision continued

If the expected nominal cost of decommissioning in 2031 was 10% higher or lower than that reflected in the decommissioning provision at 31 March 2020, this would have the effect of increasing or decreasing the carrying value of the decommissioning provision at 31 March 2020 by £208k (2019: £303k) and £307k (2019: £288k) respectively. Similarly, a 10% increase or decrease in the expected nominal cost of decommissioning in 2031 would increase or decrease the unwind of the discount for the year ended 31 March 2020 by £31k (2019: £13k) and £3k (2019: £11k) respectively.

The decommissioning provision arises from the Company's obligations under S105 of the Energy Act 2004 and the contractual obligations relating to the lease of the West of Duddon Sands seabed granted by the Crown Estate Commissioners on 20 August 2015. The draft decommissioning plan has yet to be approved by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, as required under S106 of the Energy Act 2004, as the Company is considering responses to a consultation on a draft version of the decommissioning plan. When the consultation is complete, this may result in a change to that plan and a change to the value of the decommissioning costs.

The decommissioning provision is a financial instrument under IFRS, and the fair value of the obligation equates to its carrying value, as the carrying value represents the net present value of the future expenditure expected to be incurred as described on the previous page.

15. Called up share capital and share premium

Share capital is as analysed below.

	No. (thousands)	Share capital £'000	Share premium £'000
Allotted, called up and fully paid			
At 1 April 2018, 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2020	100	100	369

The Company has one class of Ordinary Share with a nominal value of £1 each which carries no right to fixed income. The holders of Ordinary Shares are entitled to receive dividends as declared and are entitled to one vote per share at meetings of the Company.

16. Reserves

The Company's reserves are analysed below.

	Retained Earnings £'000	Cash flow Hedge £'000	Total £'000
At 1 April 2018 – as previously reported	1,721	(2,489)	(768)
Impact of change in accounting policies (note 1)	(153)	-	(153)
At 1 April 2018 – restated (note 1)	1,568	(2,489)	(921)
Profit attributable to equity shareholders (restated)	1,463	-	1,463
Losses on cash flow hedges taken to equity	-	(2,273)	(2,273)
Deferred taxation on cash flow hedges	-	386	386
At 31 March 2019 (restated)	3,031	(4,376)	(1,345)
Profit attributable to equity shareholders	646	-	646
Gains on cash flow hedges taken to equity	-	6,589	6,589
Deferred taxation on cash flow hedges	-	(1,146)	(1,146)
At 31 March 2020	3,677	1,067	4,744

All reserves with the exception of the cash flow hedge reserve are distributable.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

17. Cash flow statement

a) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt

The reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt is as analysed below:

	2020	2019 (restated)
	£'000	£'000
Movement in cash and cash equivalents	1,597	2,206
Partial repayment of an infrastructure financial liability	244	234
Net decrease in borrowings	8,778	7,905
Change in net debt resulting from cash flows	10,619	10,345
Non-cash finance costs included in net debt	(1,698)	(1,523)
Change in fair values of derivatives	7,044	(2,728)
Movement in net debt in the year	15,965	6,094
Net debt at start of year (restated)	(260,565)	(266,659)
Net debt at end of year	(244,600)	(260,565)

b) Analysis of changes in net debt

	Cash and cash equivalents	Infrastructure financial liability	Borrowings	Derivatives	Interest accruals	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April 2018 – as previously reported	18,298	-	(275,898)	(2,999)	(2,899)	(263,498)
Impact of change in accounting policy (note 1)	-	(3,161)	-	-	-	(3,161)
At 1 April 2018 – as restated	18,298	(3,161)	(275,898)	(2,999)	(2,899)	(266,659)
Cash flow -as restated (note 1)	2,206	234	7,905	-	-	10,345
Non-cash finance costs – as restated (note 1)	-	(107)	(1,458)	-	42	(1,523)
Changes in fair values	-	-	-	(2,728)	-	(2,728)
At 31 March 2019 – as restated	20,504	(3,034)	(269,451)	(5,727)	(2,857)	(260,565)
Cash flow	1,597	244	8,778	-	-	10,619
Non-cash finance costs	-	(103)	(1,611)	-	16	(1,698)
Changes in fair values	-	-	-	7,044	-	7,044
At 31 March 2020	22,101	(2,893)	(262,284)	1,317	(2,841)	(244,600)

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

18. Related party transactions

The following information relates to material transactions with related parties during the year. These transactions were carried out in the normal course of business and at terms equivalent to those that prevail in arm's length transactions. There were no other transactions carried out directly with other companies within the WoDS Transmission TopCo Limited ("TopCo") group of companies, except as disclosed below.

The following table relates to transactions with parent undertakings.

	Parent undertakings		Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest expense ¹	3,844	3,728	3,844	3,728
	3,844	3,728	3,844	3,728
Balances outstanding at 31 March:				
Borrowing payable ¹ (principal)	46,868	45,520	46,868	45,520
Interest accrual ¹	971	933	971	933
	47,839	46,453	47,839	46,453

¹ Relates to funding related transactions and balances with immediate parent undertaking (WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited); all interest has been directly attributed to the Company. The borrowings payable and the interest accrual outstanding are included within "Borrowings" and "Trade and other payables" in the balance sheet – see notes 10 and 12 respectively.

A summary of funding transactions with the immediate parent undertaking is shown below:

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Borrowing from immediate parent undertaking (principal)		
At 1 April	45,520	44,309
Capitalised interest	1,348	1,211
At 31 March	46,868	45,520

Borrowing from the immediate parent undertaking (HoldCo) were negotiated on normal commercial terms and are repayable in accordance with the terms of the unsecured 8.31% loan notes 2035 ("the notes"). Interest payments were made during the year amounting to £2,458k (2019: £2,492k). Absent any non-compulsory repayment of the notes, the notes are contractually repayable on 25 August 2035.

In addition to transactions entered into with parent undertakings, the Company entered into an agreement with a related party for the supply of Mr Graham Farley's consultancy services. Mr Graham Farley is a related party as he is a Director of the Company, and the company supplying the services of Mr Graham Farley is also as a related party of the Company as this company is controlled by Mr Graham Farley. The value of services supplied to the Company in respect of Mr Graham Farley's consultancy services for the year ended 31 March 2020 amounted to £38k (2019: £nil).

Related party bad and doubtful debts

No amounts have been provided at 31 March 2020 (2019: £nil) and no expense was recognised during the year (2019: £nil) in respect of bad or doubtful debts for any related party transactions.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

19. Information relating to financial instruments and the management of risk

a) Fair value disclosures

The following is an analysis of the Company's financial instruments at the balance sheet date comparing the carrying value included in the balance sheet with the fair value of those instruments at that date. None of the Company's financial instruments have quoted prices. Consequently, the following techniques have been used to determine fair values as follows:

- Cash and cash equivalents – approximates to the carrying value because of the short maturity of these instruments;
- Transmission owner asset – based on the net present value of discounted cash flows;
- Current borrowings – approximates to the carrying value because of the short maturity of these instruments;
- Non-current borrowings – based on the net present value of discounted cash flows in respect of the 3.446% fixed rate secured bonds loans due August 2034 and in respect of the unsecured 8.31% loan notes due August 2035;
- Derivative financial instruments – based on the net present value of discounted cash flows;
- Financial instrument receivables and payables – approximates to the carrying value because of the short maturity of these instruments; and
- Decommissioning provision – approximates to carrying value.

The table on the following page compares the carrying value of the Company's financial instruments with the fair value of those instruments at 31 March 2020 (plus prior year comparatives) using the techniques described above. The table excludes those instruments where the carrying value of the financial instrument approximates to its fair value as a result of the short maturity of those instruments. Consequently, no financial instruments which fall due within the next twelve months are included in this table:

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

19. Information relating to financial instruments and the management of risk continued

a) Fair value disclosures continued

	2020		
	Carrying value £'000	Fair value £'000	Valuation Method (see as follows)
Assets			
<u>Non-current</u>			
Transmission owner asset	248,327	259,790	Level 3
Derivative financial assets	1,317	1,317	Level 2
	<u>249,644</u>	<u>261,107</u>	
Liabilities			
<u>Non-current</u>			
Fixed rate secured bonds due 2034	205,929	212,191	Level 2
Fixed rate unsecured loan notes due 2035	46,868	48,436	Level 2
Infrastructure financial liability	2,749	2,749	Level 2
Decommissioning provision	3,070	3,070	Level 3
	<u>258,616</u>	<u>266,446</u>	
	2019 (restated)		
	Carrying value £'000	Fair value £'000	Valuation method (see as follows)
Assets			
<u>Non-current</u>			
Transmission owner asset	256,421	269,875	Level 3
	<u>256,421</u>	<u>269,875</u>	
Liabilities			
<u>Non-current</u>			
Fixed rate secured bonds due 2034	215,417	218,090	Level 2
Fixed rate unsecured loan notes due 2035	45,520	46,978	Level 2
Derivative financial liabilities	5,727	5,727	Level 2
Infrastructure financial liability	2,895	2,895	Level 2
Decommissioning provision	2,946	2,946	Level 3
	<u>272,505</u>	<u>276,636</u>	

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

19. Information relating to financial instruments and the management of risk continued

a) Fair value disclosures continued

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price in an actively traded market; where this data is available then the instrument is classified as having been determined using a level 1 valuation. In the event that the market for a financial instrument is not active, alternative valuation techniques are used. The Company does not have any financial instruments where it is eligible to apply a level 1 valuation technique.

With the exception of the transmission owner asset and decommissioning provision, all of the other fair values have been valued using Level 2 valuation techniques as identified in the preceding table which means that in respect of the Company's financial instruments these have been valued using models where all significant inputs are based directly or indirectly on observable market data.

In the case of the transmission owner asset and decommissioning provision, these have been valued using a valuation technique where significant inputs such as the assumed discount rate are based on unobservable market data. This means that these financial instruments have been classified as having been valued using a level 3 valuation and have been identified as such in the previous table.

The valuation categories that have been assigned to the financial instruments in the forgoing table have been applied throughout the year (2019: applied throughout the year) and there have been no reclassifications or transfers between the various valuation categories during the year (2019: no reclassifications or transfers).

b) Management of risk

The Board has overall responsibility for the Company's risk management framework. This risk framework is discussed further in the Strategic Report.

The Company's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, which arise in the normal course of business: market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. The overall risk management programme seeks to minimise the net impact of these risks on the operations of the Company by using financial instruments, including the use of derivative financial instruments – being the RPI swaps described in note 13 that are appropriate to the circumstances and economic environment within which the Company operates. The objectives and policies for holding, or issuing, financial instruments and similar contracts and the strategies for achieving those objectives that have been followed during the year are explained below and later in this note.

i) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Changes in market price are derived from: currency movements; interest rate changes; and changes in prices caused by factors other than those derived from currency or interest rate changes.

The Company operates in the UK and has no significant exposure to foreign currency and therefore this has an immaterial impact on market risk. Short-term financial assets and liabilities, such as trade receivables and payables, are not subject to market risk. Interest rate risk arises from the use of following financial instruments: transmission owner asset and cash and cash equivalents.

The transmission owner asset is classified as a contract asset and is carried at amortised cost and the carrying value is affected by the rate of interest implicit within the calculation of finance income that has a consequential effect on the carrying value of the transmission owner asset.

The fair value of the transmission owner asset is subject to price risk caused by changes in RPI and/or changes in interest rates.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

19. Information relating to financial instruments and the management of risk continued

b) Management of risk continued

i) Market risk continued

All of the Company's borrowings have been issued at fixed rates which exposes the Company to fair value interest rate risk and, as a result, the fair value of borrowings fluctuates with changes in interest rates. All borrowings are carried at amortised cost, and therefore changes in interest rates, in respect of those borrowings, do not impact the income statement or balance sheet.

Cash and cash equivalents, where placed on interest bearing deposits, attract interest at variable rates and therefore are subject to cash flow interest rate risk as cash flows arising from these sources will fluctuate with changes in interest rates. However, the interest cash flows arising from these sources are insignificant to the Company's activities.

The cash flows arising from the transmission owner asset fluctuate with positive changes in RPI. The Company has entered into a series of RPI swaps to significantly reduce this cash flow risk. Further details and an explanation of the rationale for entering into these arrangements are explained in the "Strategic Report – Hedging Arrangements".

For the reasons outlined in the "Strategic Report", the Directors have designated the RPI swaps as cash flow hedging derivatives and these are carried at fair value in the balance sheet. The RPI swaps are considered to be effective cash flow hedges.

ii) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Company if a customer or counterparty fails to meet its contractual obligations.

Credit risk primarily arises from the Company's normal commercial operations that actually, or potentially, arises from the Company's exposure to: a) NGESO (2019: NGET) in respect of invoices submitted by the Company for transmission services; b) the counterparties to the RPI swaps; and c) short term deposits. There are no other significant credit exposures to which the Company is exposed. The maximum exposure to credit risk at the 31 March 2020 (and 31 March 2019) is the fair value of all financial assets held by the Company. Information relating to the fair value of all financial assets is given earlier – note 19 (a). None of the Company's financial assets are past due or impaired.

Through to 31 March 2019, NGET was the Company's principal customer and income derived from NGET represented substantially all of the Company's income. With effect from 1 April 2019, some of the functions previously carried out by NGET have been transferred to a fellow subsidiary undertaking (NGESO) within the National Grid group of companies, in particular, NGESO is now responsible for settling the Company's transmission services invoices. Both NGET and NGESO operates low risk regulated businesses within the UK and the regulatory regime under which they operate results in a highly predictable and stable, revenue stream. The regulatory regime is managed by the Authority and is considered by the Directors to have a well-defined regulatory framework which is classified as a predictable and a supportive regime by the major rating agencies. Both NGET and NGESO are subject to a regulatory financial 'ring fencing' that restricts their ability to undertake transactions with other National Grid subsidiaries, which includes the paying of dividends, lending or the levying of charges.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

19. Information relating to financial instruments and the management of risk continued

b) Management of risk continued

ii) Credit risk continued

Even in the very unlikely circumstance of an NGET or NGESO insolvency, it is probable that any amounts outstanding would still be recovered. This arises because both NGET and NGESO are both 'protected energy companies' under the terms of the Energy Act 2004, which allows the Secretary of State to apply for an energy administration order which would give priority to the rescue of NGET or NGESO as a going concern.

Having considered the credit risks arising in respect of the exposures to NGET and NGESO, the Directors consider that those risks are extremely low, given the evidence available to them.

In respect of the counterparties to the cash flow derivative hedges (RPI swaps) these arrangements have been entered into with banks that the Directors consider to be of good standing and having carried out an appropriate risk assessment, consider that where a derivative asset position might exist the event of default is considered extremely low. At 31 March 2020, the fair values attributable to these positions were assets amounting to £1,317k (2019: liabilities of £5,727k) and consequently there was no credit risk at the balance sheet date.

Included in the balance sheet at 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2019 are cash and cash equivalents that comprised short term deposits which were immediately accessible at that date. It is the Company's policy, and a requirement under the Company's lending agreements, that surplus cash and/or restricted cash deposits can only be invested in a limited set of high quality investments with a view to ensuring that the risk of default is extremely low and that the investments are readily accessible.

iii) Liquidity risk and Going Concern

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will have insufficient funds to meet its liabilities. The Board of Directors manages this risk.

As a result of: the regulatory environment under which the Company operates; the credit worthiness of the Company's principal customer (NGET through to 31 March 2019 and NGESO from 1 April 2019); and the RPI swaps that have been put in place, the cash inflows generated by the Company are highly predictable and stable. In addition, all of the Company's senior debt carries a fixed coupon, and based on the forecasts prepared by the Company, all of these debt service costs are expected to be met from the cash inflows the Company is expected to generate over the whole remaining period of the project. During the year ended 31 March 2020, senior debt-service costs amounted to £16,507k (2019: £15,913k). There is no contractual obligation on the Company to service the unsecured borrowing until 25 August 2035, although it is the Company's intention to service this borrowing when cash flows are sufficient, and it is prudent to do so. Cash outflows in respect of the other borrowing amounted to £2,562k (2019: £2,599k).

In accordance with the conditions of the various lending agreements, the Company is required to transfer funds to certain specified bank accounts and/or hold certain amounts on deposit for specified purposes. Access to these bank accounts by the Company is subject to the agreement of the lenders and in particular, access to amounts held on deposit held for specified purposes is restricted under the lending agreements. Such specific purposes include the holding of sufficient funds in restrictive bank accounts to meet senior debt servicing requirements at the next scheduled senior debt service date and to meet forecast maintenance costs. The Company's use of these funds is restricted either to the specific purpose contemplated by the lending agreements, or until certain conditions are met or exceeded.

Where these conditions are met or exceeded then the use of any net cash generated in excess of the minimum necessary to meet the restrictive conditions is unfettered.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

19. Information relating to financial instruments and the management of risk continued

b) Management of risk continued

iii) Liquidity risk and Going Concern continued

At 31 March 2020, the Company had access to a working capital reserve of £5,521k (2019: £5,340k) that it could access in the event that it is required to pay for any insurance deductible or to satisfy any reactive maintenance expenditure attributable to outages or repairs that could not be met in the ordinary course of business. In addition, in the event that the Company had insufficient funds to meet the contractual senior debt service or hedging payments, the Company can draw down under the PBCE letter of credit, with a view to meeting these obligations, the maximum amount that can be accessed under this facility amounts to 15% of the outstanding nominal principal amount of the senior debt outstanding.

At 31 March 2020, cash and cash equivalents included £15,276k (2019: £14,190k) that are held for specific purposes in the manner described in this section (including the working capital reserve) and additional amounts of cash and cash deposits amounting to £6,825k (2019: £6,314k) the disbursement of which has to comply with the terms of the lending agreements generally, but otherwise are available for general corporate purposes.

The Company prepares both short-term and long-term cash flow forecasts on a regular basis to assess the liquidity requirements of the Company. These forecasts also include a consideration of the lending requirements including the need to transfer funds to certain bank accounts that are restricted as to their use. It is the Company's policy to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Company's reputation.

During the year, the Company has continued to meet its contractual obligations as they have fallen due and based on the forecasts prepared the Directors expect that the Company will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The Company has exceeded its targets in relation to the obligations that it has to senior debt bondholders and the forecasts continue to support that these will continue to be exceeded. All of these factors have allowed the Directors to conclude that the Company has sufficient headroom to continue as a going concern. The statement of going concern is included in the Strategic Report.

The contractual cash flows shown in the table on the following page are the contractual undiscounted cash flows relating to the relevant financial instruments. Where the contractual cash flows are variable based on a price or index in the future, the contractual cash flows in the table have been determined with reference to the relevant price, interest rate or index as at the balance sheet date.

In determining the interest element of contractual cash flows in cases where the Company has a choice as to the length of interest calculation periods and the interest rate that applies varies with the period selected, the contractual cash flows have been calculated assuming the Company selects the shortest available interest calculation periods.

Where the holder of an instrument has a choice of when to redeem, the following tables are prepared on the assumption the holder redeems at the earliest opportunity.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

19. Information relating to financial instruments and the management of risk continued

b) Management of risk continued

iii) Liquidity risk and Going Concern continued

The numbers in the following tables have been included in the Company's cash flow forecasts for the purposes of considering Liquidity Risk as noted earlier. The following tables show the undiscounted contractual maturities of financial assets and financial liabilities, including interest:

	2020 Contractual cash flows £'000	2020 0-1 years £'000	2020 1-2 years £'000	2020 2-5 years £'000	2020 > 5 years £'000
Liquidity risk					
Non-derivative financial assets					
Transmission owner asset	451,394	22,553	23,244	76,297	329,300
Cash and cash equivalents	22,101	22,101	-	-	-
	473,495	44,654	23,244	76,297	329,300
Non-derivative financial liabilities					
Borrowings +	(281,661)	(17,143)	(17,736)	(52,713)	(194,069)
Trade and other non-interest-	(4,375)	(4,375)	-	-	-
Infrastructure financial liability	(3,749)	(242)	(242)	(726)	(2,539)
Decommissioning Provision	(6,109)	-	-	-	(6,109)
	(295,894)	(21,760)	(17,978)	(53,439)	(202,717)
Derivative financial instruments					
RPI swaps	2,075	111	119	412	1,433
Net total	179,676	23,005	5,385	23,270	128,016

	2019 Contractual cash flows £'000	2019 0-1 years £'000	2019 1-2 years £'000	2019 2-5 years £'000	2019 > 5 years £'000
Liquidity risk (table restated for the inclusion of infrastructure financial liability)					
Non-derivative financial assets					
Transmission owner asset	476,884	23,035	23,466	74,319	356,064
Cash and cash equivalents	20,504	20,504	-	-	-
	497,388	43,539	23,466	74,319	356,064
Non-derivative financial liabilities					
Borrowings +	(298,168)	(16,507)	(17,143)	(52,627)	(211,891)
Trade and other non-interest-bearing liabilities	(3,817)	(3,817)	-	-	-
Infrastructure financial liability	(3,991)	(242)	(242)	(726)	(2,781)
Decommissioning Provision	(6,144)	-	-	-	(6,144)
	(312,120)	(20,566)	(17,385)	(53,353)	(220,816)
Derivative financial instruments					
RPI swaps	(9,478)	(451)	(484)	(1,671)	(6,872)
Net total	175,790	22,522	5,597	19,295	128,376

+ Including interest payments.

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

19. Information relating to financial instruments and the management of risk continued

b) Management of risk continued

iv) Sensitivities

Changes in RPI affect the carrying value of those financial instruments that are recorded in the balance sheet at fair value. The only financial instruments that are carried in the balance sheet at fair value are the standalone derivative financial instruments - RPI swaps as described in note 14 earlier. As previously explained, the Directors believe that these derivative financial instruments have a highly effective hedging relationship with the underlying cash flow positions they are hedging, and they expect this relationship to continue into the foreseeable future. Changes in the fair value of RPI swaps are expected to be substantially matched by changes in the fair values of the position they are hedging, due to the highly effective hedging relationships. However, the underlying positions being hedged – in the case of RPI swaps a substantial proportion of the cash flows emanating from the transmission owner asset which is carried at amortised cost. Consequently, any change in the fair value of the underlying hedged position, being the transmission owner asset, would not be recorded in the financial statements. The Directors are of the opinion that the net impact of potential changes in the fair value of the derivative financial instruments held by the Company has no substantive economic impact on the Company because of the corresponding economic impact on the underlying cashflows they are hedging.

Any changes in future cash flows in relation to the derivative financial instruments held by the Company, arising from future changes in RPI, are expected to be matched by substantially equal and opposite changes in cash flows arising from or relating to that proportion of the underlying cash flows being hedged that emanate from the holding of the transmission owner asset. .

As at 31 March 2020, we estimate that a +/- 1% change in RPI as applied over the remaining life of the swap would result in a corresponding increase or decrease in the market value of the RPI swaps included in the balance sheet at that date by c£19,600k – all of which would be expected to flow through other comprehensive income.

v) Capital management

The Company is funded by a combination of senior debt, other borrowing, an infrastructure financial liability and equity in accordance with the Directors' objectives of establishing an appropriately funded business consistent with that of a prudent offshore electricity transmission operator and the terms of all legal and regulatory obligations including those of the Licence and the Utilities Act 2000.

Senior debt comprises a fixed rate borrowing arising from the issuance of fixed rate secured bonds due August 2034 that were issued in August 2015. The secured bonds are guaranteed by HoldCo and in certain specified circumstances where the Company has insufficient funds to meet the contractual senior debt service or hedging payments, the Company can draw down under the PBCE letter of credit, with a view to meeting these obligations, with the maximum amount that can be accessed under this facility equivalent to 15% of the outstanding nominal principal amount of the senior debt outstanding. All of the senior debt and related RPI swap hedging arrangements are serviced on a six-monthly basis (June and December) and are expected to amortise through to 24 August 2034. At 31 March 2020, the total principal carrying value of senior debt net of unamortised issue costs excluding any accrued interest amounted to £215,416k (2019: £223,931k).

The other unsecured borrowing raised from the Company's immediate parent undertaking, HoldCo, carries a fixed rate coupon (see note 10). At 31 March 2020, the total principal value of the other borrowing outstanding excluding accrued interest amounted to £46,868k (2019: £45,520k).

Notes to the financial statements continued

For the year ended 31 March 2020

19. Information relating to financial instruments and the management of risk continued

b) Management of risk continued

v) Capital management continued

No ordinary equity share capital was issued during the year (2019: £nil). At 31 March 2020 share capital and associated share premium amounted to £469k (2019: £469k).

The Directors consider that the capital structure of the Company meets the Company's objectives and is sufficient to allow the Company to continue its operations for the foreseeable future based on current projections and consequently has no current requirement for additional funding.

20. Ultimate parent company

WoDS Transmission plc's immediate parent company is WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited; with both limited companies being domiciled in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales. The ultimate parent company and controlling party is WoDS Transmission TopCo Limited (incorporated and registered in Jersey). WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited is the largest and smallest group which consolidates the financial statements of WoDS Transmission plc. Copies of the annual report and financial statements of WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited can be obtained from The Company Secretary, WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited, c/o Infrastructure Managers Limited, 2nd Floor, 11 Thistle Street, Edinburgh EH2 1DF.

At 31 March 2020, WoDS Transmission TopCo Limited is jointly owned in equal proportions by Ednaston Project Investments Limited (which is ultimately owned by a number of Dalmore Capital Limited managed funds) and PPDI AssetCo 2 Limited (which is ultimately wholly-owned by PPP Equity PIP LP, another Dalmore Capital managed fund).

Glossary

A

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Meeting of shareholders of the Company, held on an annual basis, to consider ordinary and special business, as detailed in the Notice of AGM.

The Authority

The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

B

Base Revenue

Representing that revenue, in any one charging year, which reflects the Licence target availability of 98%.

Board

The Board of Directors of the Company

C

called up share capital

Shares (common stock) that have been issued and have been fully paid for.

carrying value

The amount at which an asset or liability is recorded in the balance sheet.

charging year

The period of time in between 1 April in one calendar year and 31 March, in the following calendar year.

Cash Flow Hedges

a hedge of the exposure to variability in cash flows that (i) is attributable to a particular risk associated with a recognised asset or liability such as all or some future interest payments on variable rate debt) or a highly probable forecast transaction and (ii) could affect profit or loss.

the Company, WoDS Transmission plc, WoDS, we, our, or us

The terms 'the Company', 'WoDS Transmission plc', 'WoDS', 'we', 'our', or 'us' are used to refer to WoDS Transmission plc, depending on context.

contingent liabilities

Possible obligations or potential liabilities arising from past events, for which no provision has been recorded, but for which disclosure in the financial statements is made.

D

deferred tax

For most assets and liabilities, deferred tax is the amount of tax that will be payable or received in respect of that asset or liability in future tax returns as a result of a difference between the carrying value for accounting purposes in the balance sheet and the value for tax purposes of the same asset or liability.

derivative

A financial instrument or other contract where the value is linked to an underlying index, such as exchange rates, interest rates, RPI or commodity prices.

E

EIB

The European Investment Bank, the European Union's long-term lending institution, established by the Treaty of Rome in 1958, with the aim of furthering European integration.

equity

In financial statements, the amount of net assets attributable to shareholders.

EU

The European Union, consisting of 27-member European national states.

F

financial year

For WoDS Transmission plc this is the accounting year ending on 31 March.

FPL

Frontier Power Limited – supplier of management services to the Group.

Glossary

G

Great Britain

The island of Great Britain comprised of its constituent parts, namely: Wales, England and Scotland.

the Group

WoDS Transmission TopCo Limited and its subsidiary undertakings, WoDS HoldCo Limited and WoDS Transmission plc.

H

HS&E

Health, Safety and the Environment

I

IAS or IFRS

An International Accounting Standard, or International Financial Reporting Standard, as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). IFRS is also used as a term to describe international generally accepted accounting principles as a whole.

IASB

International Accounting Standards Board

IFRIC 12

IFRIC 12 Service Concession Arrangements

IFRS

See IAS

IML

Infrastructure Managers Limited – supplier of administrative and company secretarial services to the Group

K

KPIs

Key performance indicators

kV

Kilovolt – an amount of electrical force equal to 1,000 volts

L

the Licence

The Offshore Electricity Licence held by WoDS Transmission plc

LTIs

Lost time injury – an incident arising out of WoDS Transmission plc's operations which leads to an injury where the employee or contract normally has time off the following day, or shift following, the incident. It relates to one specific (acute) identifiable incident which arises as a result of WoDS Transmission plc's premise, plant, or activities, which was reported to the supervisor at the time and was subject to appropriate investigation.

M

MMO

Marine Management Organisation

MSA

Management Services Agreement

MW

Megawatts – an amount of power equal to one million watts

MWhrs

Megawatt hours – an amount of energy equivalent to delivering one million watts of power over a period of one hour

N

NGET

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

NGESO

National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited

the Notes (see also other borrowing)

Unsecured 8.31% Loan Notes 2035

Glossary

O

Ofgem

The UK Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, part of the UK Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (GEMA), which regulates the energy markets in the UK

OFTO(s)

Offshore Transmission Owner(s)

Other borrowing (see also *the Notes*)

Amounts borrowed by the Company from its immediate parent undertaking, WoDSH which ranks behind the Senior Debt.

O&M

Operations and Maintenance

P

Performance year

The year or part thereof (in the case of the commencement and termination years) over which the Company's transmission availability performance is measured – 1 January through to 31 December (or part thereof).

PBCE

Project Bonds Credit Enhancement in relation to the issuance of a letter of credit by the EIB in favour of the senior creditors.

R

RPI

The UK retail price index as published by the Office for National Statistics.

RPI Swaps

A derivative financial instrument that is a binding agreement between counterparties to exchange cash flows relating to RPI on a predetermined principal amount. The Company pays variable cash flows arising from changes in RPI on a predetermined notional amount in exchange for receipt of fixed amounts.

S

Senior Debt

All borrowings except those arising under the other borrowing agreement.

STC

System Operator Transmission Owner Code

SQSS

Security and Quality of Supply Standard

T

TEC

Transmission Entry Capacity

TOCA

Transmission Owner Construction Agreement

TopCo

See WoDST

U

UK

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, comprising: Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland

W

WODS

WoDS Transmission plc

WoDSH (or "HoldCo")

WoDS Transmission HoldCo Limited

WoDST (or "TopCo")

WoDS Transmission TopCo Limited