

Interim management report

Cadent Finance Plc

Report for the six months ended 30 September 2019

Operations

Cadent Finance Plc (“the Company”) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cadent Gas Limited and operates as part of the Cadent Gas group’s (“the Group”) regulated gas distribution business.

The principal activity of the Company is the provision of long term finance for its immediate parent, Cadent Gas Limited. The Directors are not aware at the date of this report, of any likely major changes in the Company’s activities or prospects in the next year.

In the first half of the year, the Company delivered a profit of £753,000 (six months ended 30 September 2018: Loss (£19,000)) in line with management expectations. For the full year, the Company is on track to make neither an operating loss nor an operating profit (pre-intercompany loan impairment), as amounts are fully recharged to Cadent Gas Limited. The profit of £753,000 is attributable to an impairment assessment of intercompany loan receivable balances. The movement results from a revision to the default probability assumptions.

Going concern is addressed on page three and at note 1 to the financial statements.

Long-term strategy and business objectives

In our most recent annual report and financial statements, we reported the Company’s objective to continue to provide long term finance for its immediate parent.

Funding arrangements

The Company’s balance sheet remains robust, and we have maintained our solid investment grade credit ratings from Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s and Fitch Ratings.

Post the reporting date on 10 October 2019, Cadent Finance Plc issued a 16 year fixed rate bond with a notional value of £300,000,000 and a coupon of 2.25% under its £6bn Euro Medium Term Note Programme, this bond is guaranteed by and proceeds were on lent to Cadent Gas Limited.

Post the reporting date on 11 October 2019, Cadent Finance Plc repurchased and cancelled £400,000,000 notional value of notes, under a Tender Offer launched on 1 October 2019. The notes repaid were part of the £650m 2021 maturity notes issued in 2016, this leaves £250m of this issue outstanding.

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Interim management report (continued)

Results for the six months ended 30 September 2019

A summary of the key financial results is set out in the table below.

	Six months ended 30 September 2019 £'000	Six months ended 30 September 2018 £'000	Movement £'000
Profit/(Loss) before tax	753	(19)	772
Profit/(Loss) after tax	753	(19)	772

Interest receivable

Interest received during the period from Cadent Gas Limited, the immediate parent company of Cadent Finance Plc, was £61,901,000 (six months ended 30 September 2018: £53,130,000) arising from the intercompany loans in place. The increase is a result of the additional external borrowings raised (see below) and loaned on to Cadent Gas Limited.

Interest Payable

Interest payable during the period was £61,901,000 (six months ended 30 September 2018: £53,130,000) due on external borrowings. The increase in the period was largely a result of a full period of interest charged on the £681 million of private loan notes placed in March 2019.

Result for the period

The Company made a gain of £753,000 for the period (six months ended 30 September 2018: loss £19,000).

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Accruals fell by £30,138,000 in the six months to 30 September 2019 due to annual coupon payments made on the sterling and euro debt on 23 September 2019, so there was only six days of accruals on these borrowings. The level of accrual for the six months ending 30 September 2019 and the six months ending 30 September 2018 are broadly comparable.

Financial position

The financial position of the Company is presented in the Statement of Financial Position. Total shareholders' deficit at 30 September were £2,028,000 (shareholder deficit at 31 March 2019: £2,781,000).

Related party transactions

There have been no material changes in the related party transactions described in the last annual report.

Events after the balance sheet date

On 10 October 2019, Cadent Finance Plc issued a 16 year fixed rate bond with a notional value of £300,000,000 and a coupon of 2.25% under its £6bn Euro Medium Term Note Programme, this bond is guaranteed by and proceeds were on lent to Cadent Gas Limited.

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Interim management report (continued)

Key performance indicators

As the Company is part of a larger group, the management of the Company does not involve the use of key performance indicators, other than the profit or loss for the year, in measuring the development, performance or the position of the Company and the principal risks and uncertainties are integrated with the principal risks of Cadent Gas Limited.

For information on the development, performance, risks, uncertainties and position of Cadent Gas Limited and its subsidiaries and of the key performance indicators used, refer to the Strategic Report included in Cadent Gas Limited's Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19, which does not form part of this report.

Impact of new accounting standards

The 2019 Interim Financial Statements have been prepared under FRS 104. FRS 104 stipulates that the GAAP applicable at the year-end should be applied for the Interim Statements, which in this case is Financial Reporting Standard 101 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' (FRS 101) as issued by the Financial Reporting Council. As a result, the new accounting standards under IFRS, namely, IFRS 16 'Leases' are applicable for the period commencing 1 April 2019. It should be noted, however, that IFRS 16 has no impact on the Company as there are no leases or contracts held by this Company.

Risks and uncertainties

There are a number of potential risks and uncertainties which could have a material impact on the Company's performance over the remaining six months of the financial year and could cause actual results to differ materially from expected and historical results. The Directors do not consider that the principal risks and uncertainties have changed since the publication of the annual report for the year ended 31 March 2019. A detailed explanation of the risks and how the Company seeks to mitigate the risks, can be found on pages 3 to 4 of the annual report and financial statements. Below is a summary of our key risks as at 30 September 2019:

- Liquidity risk
- Credit risk
- Interest rate cash flow risk
- Inflation rate cash flow risk
- Foreign exchange risk

Going concern

The balance sheet shows net liabilities of £2,028,000. Having reassessed the principal risks from a Company and Group perspective, and considering the guarantees in place from its immediate parent, the Directors consider that the Company has adequate resources to continue in business, and that it is therefore appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the half year financial information. The Company's immediate parent is in a net asset position of £2,046,000,000 and has an undrawn £500,000,000 Revolving Credit Facility.

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Interim management report (continued)

Auditor

Following the completion of the 2018/19 audit process, Deloitte LLP has been re-appointed as Auditor of the Quadgas HoldCo Limited Group and its subsidiaries including Cadent Finance Plc.

Cautionary statement

This Interim Management Report (IMR) has been prepared solely to provide additional information to shareholders to assess the Group's strategies and the potential for those strategies to succeed. The IMR should not be relied on by any other party or for any other purpose.

The IMR contains certain forward-looking statements. These statements are made by the Directors in good faith based on the information available to them up to the time of their approval of this report but such statements should be treated with caution due to the inherent uncertainties, including both economic and business risk factors, underlying any such forward-looking information.

By order of the Board,



S G Hurrell

Director

21 November 2019

Ashbrook Court, Prologis Business Park, Central Boulevard, Coventry, CV7 8PE

Cadent Finance Plc

Responsibility statement

The half year financial information is the responsibility of, and has been approved by, the Directors. The Directors are responsible for preparing the half year report in accordance with the Disclosure and Transparency Rules (DTR) of the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority.

The Directors confirm that the financial information has been prepared in accordance with FRS 104 Interim Financial Reporting as issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and that the half year report herein includes a fair review of the information required by DTR 4.2.7.

The Directors of Cadent Finance Plc during the period and up to the date of signing the financial statements were:

J Korpancova
M W Braithwaite
S G Hurrell

By order of the Board,



S G Hurrell
Director

21 November 2019

Independent review report to Cadent Finance Plc

We have been engaged by the Company to review the condensed set of financial statements in the half-yearly financial report for the six months ended 30 September 2019 which comprises the income statement, the statement of financial position, the statement of changes in equity and related notes 1 to 12. We have read the other information contained in the half-yearly financial report and considered whether it contains any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the information in the condensed set of financial statements.

This report is made solely to the company in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (UK and Ireland) 2410 "Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company those matters we are required to state to it in an independent review report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company, for our review work, for this report, or for the conclusions we have formed.

Directors' responsibilities

The half-yearly financial report is the responsibility of, and has been approved by, the directors. The directors are responsible for preparing the half-yearly financial report in accordance with the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules of the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority.

As disclosed in note 1, the annual financial statements of the company are prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"). The condensed set of financial statements included in this half-yearly financial report have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 104 "Interim Financial Reporting".

Our responsibility

Our responsibility is to express to the Company a conclusion on the condensed set of financial statements in the half-yearly financial report based on our review.

Scope of review

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (UK and Ireland) 2410 "Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity" issued by the Financial Reporting Council for use in the United Kingdom. A review of interim financial information consists of making inquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the condensed set of financial statements in the half-yearly financial report for the six months ended 30 September 2019 is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 104 and Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules of the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority.

Deloitte LLP

Deloitte LLP
Statutory Auditor
London, United Kingdom
21 November 2019

Cadent Finance Plc

Income statement

Six months ended 30 September 2019

	Notes	Six months ended 30 September 2019 (unaudited) £'000	Six months ended 30 September 2018 (unaudited) £'000
Interest receivable and similar income	4	61,901	53,130
Interest payable and similar charges	5	(61,901)	(53,130)
Net losses on external financial instruments	6	(2,588)	(2,656)
Net gains on intercompany financial instruments	6	2,588	2,656
Impairment of intercompany loans		753	(19)
Profit/(Loss) before taxation		753	(19)
Tax	7	-	-
Profit/(Loss) for the financial year		753	(19)

The results reported above relate to continuing activities. There was no other comprehensive income for the year other than those reported above.

Cadent Finance Plc

Statement of financial position

As at 30 September 2019

	30 September 2019 (unaudited) £'000	31 March 2019 (audited) £'000
	Notes	
Non-current assets		
Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year	5,393,594	5,355,496
Derivative financial instruments: amounts falling due after more than one year	9 37,994	10,956
	5,431,588	5,366,452
Current assets		
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year (owed to immediate parent company)	9,591	39,728
Derivative financial instruments: amounts falling due within one year	9 -	-
	9,591	39,728
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(9,564)	(39,702)
Derivative financial instruments: amounts owing within one year	9 -	-
	(9,564)	(39,702)
Net current assets	27	26
Total assets less current liabilities	5,431,615	5,366,478
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(5,395,649)	(5,358,303)
Derivative financial instruments: amounts owing after more than one year	9 (37,994)	(10,956)
Non-current liabilities	(5,433,643)	(5,369,259)
Net liabilities	(2,028)	(2,781)
Equity		
Share capital	50	50
Profit and loss account	(2,078)	(2,831)
Total shareholders' deficit	(2,028)	(2,781)

Cadent Finance Plc

Statement of financial position

As at 30 September 2019

The financial statements on pages 7 to 14 were authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 21 November 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:



S G Hurrell

Director

Cadent Finance Plc

Company registration number: 05895068

Cadent Finance Plc

Statement of changes in equity Six months ended 30 September 2019

	Share capital £'000	Profit and loss account £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 2019	50	(2,831)	(2,781)
Profit for the period	-	753	753
At 30 September 2019 (unaudited)	50	(2,078)	(2,028)

	Share capital £'000	Profit and loss account £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 2018	50	(1,604)	(1,554)
Loss for the period	-	(19)	(19)
At 30 September 2018 (unaudited)	50	(1,623)	(1,573)

Cadent Finance Plc

Notes to the financial statements

Six months ended 30 September 2019

1. Basis of preparation and new accounting standards, interpretation and amendments

The half year financial information covers the six-month period ended 30 September 2019 and has been prepared under Financial Reporting Standards (FRS) as issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 104 'Interim Financial Reporting' and the Disclosure and Transparency Rules of the Financial Conduct Authority.

The half year financial information is unaudited but has been reviewed by the Auditor and their report is attached to this document. The half year financial information does not constitute statutory accounts as defined in Section 434 of the Companies Act 2006. It should be read in conjunction with the statutory accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019, which were prepared in accordance with applicable UK accounting and financial reporting standards (FRS 101) and the Companies Act 2006, and have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The Auditor's report on these statutory accounts was unqualified and did not contain a statement under Section 498 of the Companies Act 2006.

The half year financial information has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies expected to be applicable for the year ending 31 March 2020. In preparing this half year financial information, the areas of judgement made by management in applying Cadent Finance Plc's accounting policies and the key sources of estimation uncertainty were the same as those that applied to the Company's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The balance sheet shows net liabilities of £2,028,000. Having reassessed the principal risks from a Company and Group perspective, and considering the guarantees in place from its immediate parent, the Directors consider that the Company has adequate resources to continue in business, and that it is therefore appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the half year financial information. The Company's immediate parent is in a net asset position of £2,046,000,000 and has an undrawn £500,000,000 Revolving Credit Facility.

As noted above, the 2019 Interim Financial Statements have been prepared under FRS 104. FRS 104 stipulates that the GAAP applicable at the year-end should be applied for the Interim Statements, which in this case is Financial Reporting Standard 101 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' (FRS 101) as issued by the Financial Reporting Council. As a result, the new accounting standards under IFRS, namely, IFRS 16 'Leases' are applicable for the period commencing 1 April 2019. It should be noted, however, that IFRS 16 has no impact on the Company, as the Company has no leases or contracts.

The Company has significant intercompany balances of £5,395,648,000 as its principal activity is the provision of long term finance for its immediate parent, Cadent Gas Limited. Under IFRS 9, the Company is required to calculate expected credit losses on all financial assets, including intercompany loans. The expected credit loss for its intercompany loans has been calculated by considering the probability of default and the loss given default on the outstanding balance of the intercompany loans. The probability of default has been derived by using quoted available information for the Company and the loss given default has been determined by management based on available evidence. As Cadent Gas Limited is an asset intensive regulated industry, the loss given default has assumed to be low by management. The movement in the impairment charge included in the income statement in the period amounts to £753,000.

2. Segmental analysis

The Directors believe that the Company's activities constitute one single segment. Operating segments are reported in the manner consistent with internal reporting to the Chief Operating Decision Maker, which has been identified as the Board of Directors. The Company's country of domicile is the United Kingdom and is the country in which it generates all of its revenue. The Company's assets are all located within the United Kingdom.

3. Seasonality

The Company is not impacted by seasonality due to the nature of the Company's activities.

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Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Six months ended 30 September 2019

4. Interest receivable and similar income

	Six months ended 30 September 2019	Six months ended 30 September 2018
	£'000	£'000
Interest income from immediate parent company	61,901	53,130
	61,901	53,130

5. Interest payable and similar charges

	Six months ended 30 September 2019	Six months ended 30 September 2018
	£'000	£'000
Interest payable on other borrowings	(61,901)	(53,130)
	(61,901)	(53,130)

6. Net gains/(losses) on financial derivatives

	Six months ended 30 September 2019	Six months ended 30 September 2018
	£'000	£'000
External		
Net gains on derivatives not designated in a hedge relationship	30,828	5,944
Exchange losses on revaluation of foreign currency denominated loans	(33,416)	(8,600)
	(2,588)	(2,656)

	Six months ended 30 September 2019	Six months ended 30 September 2018
	£'000	£'000
Internal		
Net losses on derivatives not designated in a hedge relationship	(30,828)	(5,944)
Exchange gains on revaluation of foreign currency denominated loans	33,416	8,600
	2,588	2,656

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Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Six months ended 30 September 2019

7. Tax

The tax charge for the period from continuing operations is £Nil (six months to 30 September 2018: £Nil). The effective tax rate of Nil for the period is calculated by applying the main rate of UK corporation tax to the profits before tax after adjusting for the impairment of intercompany loans which is not tax deductible.

The Finance Act 2016 Act reduced the corporate tax rate to 17%. The Finance Act 2018 Act introduced new rules to potentially restrict interest deductibility for the accounting periods starting after 31 March 2017. It is not anticipated that there will be any interest restriction in the Group for the foreseeable future.

8. Dividends

No dividends are proposed for the current financial period.

9. Fair value measurement

Certain of the Company's financial instruments are measured at fair value. The following table categorises these financial assets and liabilities by the valuation methodology applied in determining their fair value using the fair value hierarchy described below.

	30 September 2019				31 March 2019			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Assets								
Derivative financial instruments (external)	-	37,659	-	37,659	-	7,852	-	7,852
Derivative financial instruments (internal)	-	335	-	335	-	3,104	-	3,104
	-	37,994	-	37,994	-	10,956	-	10,956
Liabilities								
Derivative financial instruments (external)	-	(335)	-	(335)	-	(3,104)	-	(3,104)
Derivative financial instruments (internal)	-	(37,659)	-	(37,659)	-	(7,852)	-	(7,852)
	-	(37,994)	-	(37,994)	-	(10,956)	-	(10,956)
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Financial assets and liabilities in the Company's statement of financial position are either held at fair value or the carrying value if it approximates to fair value, with the exception of borrowings, which are held at amortised cost. The estimated fair value of total borrowings using market values at 30 September 2019 is £5,756,000,000 (31 March 2019: £5,404,000,000).

Level 1: Financial instruments with quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2: Financial instruments with quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets or quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in inactive markets and financial instruments valued using models where all significant inputs are based directly or indirectly on observable market data.

Level 3: Financial instruments valued using valuation techniques where one or more significant inputs are based on unobservable market data.

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Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Six months ended 30 September 2019

10. Commitments and Contingencies

At 30 September 2019 there were no commitments for future capital expenditure contracted but not provided for (31 March 2019: Nil).

11. Related party transactions

The Company is exempt under FRS 101.8(k) from disclosing transactions with Cadent Gas Limited and its subsidiary undertakings where all of the voting rights are held within the group. There were no related party transactions with other companies.

12. Events occurring after the reporting period

On 10 October 2019, Cadent Finance Plc issued a 16 year fixed rate bond with a notional value of £300,000,000 and a coupon of 2.25% under its £6bn Euro Medium Term Note Programme, this bond is guaranteed by and proceeds were on lent to Cadent Gas Limited.

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