## Loans.co.uk Limited

# Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019

## Registered office

Cawley House Chester Business Park Chester CH4 9FB

## Registered number

03391635

## **Current directors**

E J Corfield I S Perez

## **Company Secretary**

A E Mulholland

Member of Lloyds Banking Group



#### **Directors' report**

For the year ended 31 December 2019

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements of Loans.co.uk Limited (the "Company") for the year ended 31 December 2019.

#### General information

The Company is a limited company, limited by shares, registered, incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales (registered number: 03391635).

The principal activity of the Company was as a personal loan broker. The Company permanently ceased trading in January 2009. The Company has continued to process Payment Protection Insurance complaints and as at 31 December 2019 held a provision of £4,334,000 (2018: £3,542,000), as detailed in note 12.

The Company is funded entirely by other companies within the Lloyds Banking Group (the "Group").

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

From the perspective of the Company, the principal risks and uncertainties are managed within the framework established for the Group and are not managed separately for the Company. Further details of the Company's and Group's risk management policy are contained in note 15 to the financial statements.

The rapid pace and scale of measures to contain a major health issue such as the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrate the potentially adverse impact of those measures on the economy. The government and regulators are taking significant action to address the economic impact which may be temporary, but depending on the severity it could lead to a significant loss of output and recession in the UK. Any sector-specific or wider impact due to this could potentially impact the retail customers of Lloyds Banking Group plc and as a result have a material adverse effect on the Lloyds Banking Group plc's results of operations, financial conditions or prospects.

#### Key performance indicators ("KPIs")

Given the straightforward nature of the business, the Company's directors are of the opinion that analysis using KPIs is not necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business. KPIs are monitored and reported at a divisional level.

#### **Future outlook**

There are risks arising from the outbreak of Covid-19 which has occurred since the balance sheet date. In view of its currently evolving nature, the directors continue to monitor the environment closely and based on emerging signals known at the time concluded that there will be no significant impact for the Company.

#### Dividends

No dividends were paid or proposed during the year ended 31 December 2019 (2018: £nil).

#### Going concern

The directors are satisfied that it is the intention of Lloyds Banking Group plc that its subsidiaries, including the Company, will continue to have access to adequate liquidity and capital resources for the foreseeable future and, accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

#### Directors

The current directors of the Company are shown on the front cover.

The following changes have taken place between the beginning of the reporting period and the approval of the Annual report and financial statements:

S K Humphreys (resigned 22 November 2019)
B R Yates (resigned 22 November 2019)
I S Perez (appointed 9 December 2019)

#### **Directors' report (continued)**

For the year ended 31 December 2019

#### Directors' indemnities

Lloyds Banking Group plc has granted to the directors of the Company, a deed of indemnity through deed poll which constituted 'qualifying third party indemnity provisions' for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006. The deed was in force during the whole of the financial year and at the date of approval of the financial statements or from the date of appointment in respect of the director who joined the board of the Company during the financial year. Directors no longer in office but who served on the Board of the Company at any time in the financial year had the benefit of this deed of indemnity during that period of service. The indemnity remains in force for the duration of a director's period of office. The deed indemnifies the directors to the maximum extent permitted by law. The Deed for existing directors is available for inspection at the registered office of Lloyds Banking Group plc. In addition, the Group has in place appropriate Directors and Officers Liability Insurance cover which was in place throughout the financial year.

#### Statement of directors' responsibilities

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 the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) 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 the financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- state whether applicable IFRSs as adopted by the European Union have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in

The directors 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.

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.

#### Auditors and disclosure of information to auditors

In accordance with Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006, in the case of each director in office at the date the report is approved:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware; and
- 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.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are deemed to be re-appointed as auditors under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within section 414 of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the board of directors and signed on its behalf by:

IS Perez Director

29 September 2020

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## **Statement of Comprehensive Income**

(Loss)/profit for the year being total comprehensive (expense)/income		(3,899)	20
Taxation	7	(20)	(12)
(Loss)/profit before tax		(3,879)	32
Other operating expenses	4	<u> </u>	(41)
Payment protection insurance charge	12	(3,986)	· -
Interest income	3	107	73
	Note	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
For the year ended 31 December 2019			

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

## **Balance sheet**

As at 31 December 2019	Note	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
ASSETS		<del>-</del>	
Cash and cash equivalents	8	-	24
Trade and other receivables	9	9,613	9,997
Total assets		9,613	10,021
LIABILITIES			
Amounts due to group undertakings	10	2,772	-
Trade and other payables	11	•	81
Provision for liabilities and charges	12	4,334	3,542
Current tax liability		411	403
Total liabilities	•	7,517	4,026
EQUITY			
Share capital	13	165,000	165,000
Accumulated losses		(162,904)	(159,005)
Total equity		2,096	5,995
Total equity and liabilities		9,613	10,021

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and were signed on its behalf by:

IS Perez Director

29 September 2020

<sup>4</sup> Loans.co.uk Limited (registered number: 03391635)

## Statement of changes in equity For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Share capital £'000	Accumulated losses £'000	Total equity £'000
At 1 January 2018 Profit for the year being total comprehensive income	165,000	(159,025) 20	5,975 20
At 31 December 2018 Loss for the year being total comprehensive expense	165,000	<b>(159,005)</b> (3,899)	<b>5,995</b> (3,899)
At 31 December 2019	165,000	(162,904)	2,096

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

Cash flow statement For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Cash flows used in operating activities (Loss)/profit before tax	(3,879)	32
Adjustments for: - Increase/(decrease) in Provision for liabilities and charges	792	(2,968)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	732	(2,500)
- Net (decrease)/increase in Trade and other payables	(81)	52
Cash used in operations Tax paid	(3,168) (12)	(2,884)
Net cash used in operating activities	(3,180)	(2,884)
Cash flows generated from financing activities Proceeds from net lending to group undertakings	3,156	2,818
Net cash generated from financing activities	3,156	2,818
Change in Cash and cash equivalents	(24)	(66)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		90
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	-	24

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

#### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

#### 1. Accounting policies

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied in both years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable IFRSs as adopted by the European Union and the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies reporting under IFRSs. IFRSs comprise accounting standards prefixed IFRS issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB") and those prefixed IAS issued by the IASB's predecessor body, as well as interpretations issued by the IFRS Interpretations Committee ("IFRS IC") and its predecessor body.

There are no new pronouncements relevant to the Company requiring adoption in these financial statements.

Details of those pronouncements which will be relevant to the Company but which were not effective at 31 December 2019 and which have not been applied in preparing these financial statements are given in note 19. No standards have been early adopted.

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

#### 1.2 Income recognition

#### Income and expense from financial instruments

Interest income and expense are recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income for all interest bearing financial instruments, including loans and advances, using the effective interest rate method. The effective interest rate method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or liability and of allocating the interest income or interest expense to a period of account. The effective interest rate is the rate that discounts the estimated future cash payments or receipts over the expected life of the instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability.

Once a financial asset or a group of similar financial assets has been written down as a result of an impairment loss, interest income is recognised on the net lending balance using the rate of interest used to discount the future cash flows for the purpose of measuring the impairment loss.

#### 1.3 Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets comprise Amounts due from group undertakings and Cash and cash equivalents. Financial liabilities comprise Amounts due to group undertakings and Trade and other payables.

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows, or obligations to pay cash flows, have expired.

Interest bearing financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised and measured at amortised cost inclusive of transaction costs, using the effective interest rate method.

Amounts due from group undertakings are assessed at the reporting date for impairment on a forward looking basis and where appropriate an expected credit loss ("ECL") is recognised based on reasonable and supportable information.

#### 1.4 Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the Balance sheet and Cash flow statement, Cash and cash equivalents and Bank overdrafts comprise balances with less than three months' maturity.

#### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.5 Taxation

Tax expense comprises current and deferred tax. Current and deferred tax are charged or credited in the Statement of Comprehensive Income except to the extent that the tax arises from a transaction or event which is recognised, in the same or a different period, outside the Statement of Comprehensive Income (either in other comprehensive income, directly in equity, or through a business combination), in which case the tax appears in the same statement as the transaction that gave rise to it.

Current tax is the amount of corporate income taxes expected to be payable or recoverable based on the profit for the period as adjusted for items that are not taxable or not deductible, and is calculated using tax rates and laws that were enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

Current tax includes amounts provided in respect of uncertain tax positions when management expects that, upon examination of the uncertainty by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs or other relevant tax authority, it is more likely than not that an economic outflow will occur. Provisions reflect management's best estimate of the ultimate liability based on their interpretation of tax law, precedent and guidance, informed by external tax advice as necessary. Changes in facts and circumstances underlying these provisions are reassessed at each balance sheet date, and the provisions are re-measured as required to reflect current information.

Deferred tax is recognised on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the balance sheet. Deferred tax is calculated using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, and which are expected to apply when the related deferred tax asset is realised or the deferred tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences but not recognised for taxable temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint arrangements where the reversal of the temporary difference can be controlled and it is probable that the difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future. Deferred tax liabilities are not recognised on temporary differences that arise from goodwill which is not deductible for tax purposes.

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which the deductible temporary differences can be utilised, and are reviewed at each balance sheet date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available to allow all or part of the asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not recognised in respect of temporary differences that arise on initial recognition of assets and liabilities acquired other than in a business combination. Deferred tax is not discounted.

#### 1.6 Provision for liabilities and charges

Provisions are recognised in respect of present obligations arising from past events where it is probable that outflows of resources will be required to settle the obligations and they can be reliably estimated.

#### 2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements in applying accounting policies

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Although those estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the amount, event or actions, actual results ultimately may differ from those estimates.

In the course of preparing these financial statements, no critical judgements have been made in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies.

The following are critical accounting estimates that the directors have made in the process of applying the company's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

#### **Payment Protection Insurance**

At 31 December 2019, the Company carried a provision of £4,334,000 (2018: £3,452,000) against the cost of making redress payments to customers and the related administration costs in relation to the mis-selling of Payment Protection Insurance.

As a result of the unprecedented volume of claims received in the run up to the 29 August 2019 FCA deadline for making claims, the Group and the Company are in the process of assessing the claims received. Until this process is complete, the determination of an estimate of the amount of provision, representing management's best estimate of the cost of settling, requires the application of assumptions in respect of matters that are inherently uncertain, including the number of valid complaints received and the average cost of redress. Whilst these assumptions are subject to regular review against actual experience, it is possible that the claims against the Company that are yet to be assessed, will result in future costs which differ from those calculated using assumptions in order to derive management's best estimate. Further details and sensitivity analysis of the provision to the assumptions adopted has been presented in note 12.

For the year ended 31 December 2019

#### 3. Interest income

J.	interest income	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Group interest income (see note 14)	107	73
4.	Other operating expenses	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Other operating expenses	•	~41

Fees payable to the Company's auditors for the audit of the financial statements of £16,000 (2018: £16,000) have been borne by a fellow group company and are not recharged to the Company. Accounting and administration services are provided by a fellow group undertaking and are not recharged to the Company.

#### 5. Staff costs

The Company did not have any employees during the year (2018: none) and incurred no staff costs (2018: £nil).

#### 6. Directors' emoluments

No director received any fees or emoluments from the Company during the year (2018: £nil). The directors are employed by other companies within the Group and consider that their services to the Company are incidental to their other responsibilities within the Group (see also note 14).

#### 7. Taxation

a) Analysis of charge for the year	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
UK corporation tax: - Current tax on taxable profit for the year	20	12
Current tax charge	20	12

Corporation tax is calculated at a rate of 19.00% (2018: 19.00%) of the taxable profit for the year.

#### b) Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

A reconciliation of the charge that would result from applying the standard UK corporation tax rate to the profit before tax to the actual tax charge for the year is given below:

Tax (credit)/charge thereon at UK corporation tax rate of 19.00% (2018: 19.00%) Factors affecting (credit)/charge:	(737)	6
- Unrelieved tax losses carried forward - Timing differences not recognised	757	(2) 8
Tax charge on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities	20	12
Effective rate	(0.52%)	37.50%

<sup>9</sup> Loans.co.uk Limited (registered number; 03391635)

For the year ended 31 December 2019

#### 7. Taxation (continued)

As at 31 December 2019 the Company had an unrecognised deferred tax asset of £26,491,000 (2018: £25,813,000) representing the unrelieved post trading cessation losses carried forward. The Company did not recognise the deferred tax asset because the future assessable income is not expected to be sufficient to enable the losses to be utilised.

The Finance Act 2016 reduced the main rate of corporation tax to 17% with effect from 1 April 2020. Within the March 2020 budget, the UK government stated its intention to maintain the corporation tax rate at 19 per cent with effect from 1 April 2020. This intention to maintain the corporation tax rate was enacted under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act 1968 on 17 March 2020. Had this rate change been substantively enacted at 31 December 2019, the effect would have been to increase the unrecognised deferred tax asset by £3,116,000.

#### 8. Cash and cash equivalents

		2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Cash at bank	-	24
9.	Trade and other receivables	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Amounts due from group undertakings (see note 14)	9,613	9,997

Amounts due from group undertakings is unsecured, interest bearing at three month LIBOR and repayable on demand. All Amounts due from group undertakings are included within Stage 1 for IFRS 9 purposes. The ECL is £nil.

#### 10. Amounts due to group undertakings

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Borrowed funds	2,772	-
Amounts due to group undertakings (see note 14)	2,772	-

Amounts due to group undertakings are unsecured, non-interest bearing and repayable on demand, although there is no expectation that such a demand would be made.

#### 11. Trade and other payables

Trado and care, payanto	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Accruals and deferred income	- '	81

#### 12. Provision for liabilities and charges

	Regulatory Provision £'000
At 1 January 2018 Utilised during the year	6,510 (2,968)
At 31 December 2018 Charge for the year Utilised during the year	3,542 3,986 (3,194)
At 31 December 2019	4,334

As described in note 2, an assessment has been made of the potential future costs arising from complaints made against the Company in relation to PPI. As at 31 December 2019, the Company has provided £4,334,000 (2018: £3,542,000) in respect of PPI redress in the UK.

For the year ended 31 December 2019

#### 12. Provision for liabilities and charges (continued)

The following table details the key assumptions adopted and the sensitivity of the provision to changes in those assumptions.

Metric	Sensitivity	Value	
PIR Conversion Rate	1% Increase	£45,000	
Missale Uphold Rate	1% Increase	£145,000	
Missale Average Redress	£100 Increase	£65,000	

#### 13. Share capital

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
<b>Allotted, issued and fully paid</b> 165,000,100 (2018: 165,000,100) ordinary shares of £1 each	165,000	165,000

#### 14. Related party transactions

The Company is controlled by MBNA Limited. A number of transactions are entered into with MBNA Limited in the normal course of business. A summary of the outstanding balances at the year end and the related income for the year is set out below.

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Amounts due from group undertakings MBNA Limited (see note 9)	9,613	9,997
Amounts due to group undertakings MBNA Limited (see note 10)	2,772	-
Interest income MBNA Limited (see note 3)	107	73

The above balances are unsecured in nature and are expected to be settled in cash or by cash equivalents. Transactions in the year are those reflected through the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

#### Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning and controlling the activities of the Company. Accordingly, key management is comprised of the directors of the Company and MBNA Limited. There were no transactions between the Company and key management personnel during the current or preceding year. Key management personnel are employed by other companies within the Group and consider that their services to the Company are incidental to their other activities within the Group.

#### 15. Financial risk management

The Company's operations expose it to credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk; it is not exposed to any significant foreign exchange risk, market risk or business risk. Responsibility for the control of overall risk lies with the board of directors, operating within a management framework established by MBNA Limited, and the ultimate parent, Lloyds Banking Group plc. A description of the Company's financial assets/liabilities and associated accounting is provided in note 1.

#### 15.1 Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to pay amounts in full when due. The directors consider the credit risk associated with the amount due from the parent undertaking to be negligible.

## 15.2 Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company is unable to meet its obligations as they fall due. To manage this risk extensive borrowing facilities are available from within the Group.

Liquidity risks are managed as part of the Group by the immediate parent company, MBNA Limited, in consultation with the board of directors. Monthly reviews of funding positions are undertaken to anticipate any shortfalls.

For the year ended 31 December 2019

#### 15. Related party transactions (continued)

#### 15.3 Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk of financial loss as a result of adverse movements in interest rates.

#### Interest rate risk - sensitivity analysis

The sensitivity analysis is based on the Company's Amounts due from group undertakings and takes account of movement in the 3 month LIBOR which is the basis for the interest rate on intercompany balances. A 0.1% (2018: 0.1%) increase or decrease is used to assess the possible change in Interest income.

If the 3 month LIBOR increased by 0.1% (2018: 0.1%) and all other variables remain constant this would increase Interest income by £10,000 (2018: £12,000) and accordingly decrease Interest income by £10,000 (2018: £12,000) if the 3 month LIBOR decreased by the same amount.

#### 15.4 Fair values of financial assets and liabilities

The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale.

The directors consider that there are no significant differences between the carrying amounts shown in the Balance sheet and the fair value.

#### 16. Capital disclosures

The Company's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and support the Group's regulatory capital requirements.

The Company's parent manages the Company's capital structure and advises the board of directors. In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the board of directors may return capital to shareholders, issue new shares, or sell assets.

The Company's capital comprises all components of equity, movements in which appear in the Statement of changes in equity. The Company receives its funding requirements from its fellow group undertakings and does not raise funding externally.

#### 17. Contingent liabilities and capital commitments

There were no contingent liabilities or contracted capital commitments at the Balance sheet date (2018: £nil).

#### 18. Post balance sheet events

Current tax liabilities include a provision for £391,000 in relation to tax relating to transactions with the Loans.co.uk Limited Employee Benefit Trust. Following the enactment of Finance Act 2020 the provision is expected to be released in future periods. Had this enactment taken place prior to 31 December 2019 the effect would have been to reduce current tax liabilities by £391,000.

Since the balance sheet date there has been a global pandemic from the outbreak of Covid-19 which is causing widespread disruption to financial markets and normal patterns of business activity across the world, including the UK. The directors assess this event to be a non-adjusting post balance sheet event. The directors have considered the actual and potential impacts of Covid-19 and the UK government's responses to the pandemic on the activities of the Company and concluded that there will be no significant impact for the Company.

#### 19. Future developments

The following pronouncement will be relevant to the Company but was not effective at 31 December 2019 and has not been applied in preparing these financial statements.

Pronouncement	Nature of change	Effective date
Minor amendments to other accounting standards	The IASB has issued a number of minor amendments to IFRSs (including IFRS 3 Business Combinations and IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements).	Annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020

The full impact of this pronouncement is being assessed by the Company. However, the initial view is that this is not expected to cause any material adjustments to the reported numbers in the financial statements.

### 20. Ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party

The immediate parent company is MBNA Limited (incorporated in England & Wales). The company regarded by the directors as the ultimate parent company and controlling party is Lloyds Banking Group plc (incorporated in Scotland), which is also the parent undertaking of the largest group of undertakings for which group financial statements are drawn up and of which the Company is a member. Lloyds Bank plc is the parent undertaking of the smallest such group of undertakings. Copies of the financial statements of both companies may be obtained from Group Secretariat, Lloyds Banking Group plc, 25 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7HN. The Lloyds Banking Group plc financial statements may be downloaded via www.lloydsbankinggroup.com.

#### Independent Auditors' report to the members of Loans.co.uk Limited

#### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### Opinion

In our opinion, Loans.co.uk Limited's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its loss 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 December 2019; the Statement of comprehensive income, the Cash flow statement, and the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended; and the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

#### 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, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

#### 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.

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

Based on these 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.

#### Directors' report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2019 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 Directors' report.

## Independent Auditors' report to the members of Loans.co.uk Limited (continued)

#### 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 set out on page 2, 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.

#### 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.

## **Entitlement to exemptions**

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Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the directors were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from preparing a strategic report. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Kevin Williams (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Cardiff

29 September 2020