

## Prime People Plc Interim Report

for the six months ended 30 September 2020

2020

## PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT For the six months ended 30 September 2020

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## 29 January 2021

## **Prime People Plc**

#### **Interim Results**

Prime People Plc ("Prime People" or the "Group"), the global specialist recruitment business for professional and technical staff working in the Real Estate & Built Environment, Energy & Environmental and Technology, Digital & Data Analytics sectors, announces its unaudited interim results for the six months ended 30 September 2020.

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

#### Overview

Covid-19 has had a very considerable impact on many businesses through reductions in external staffing spend and hiring freezes. As previously reported, the Group's trading was severely impacted in the first six months of the financial year by Covid-19. As a result, the Group's Net Fee Income fell by 43.24% in the period compared to the six months to 30 September 2019. However, the Group remained profitable through a combination of timely and decisive cost savings realised across the Group to reflect expected levels of business and aided by our diversity, both by sector and geography, as well as taking advantage of governmental support where possible.

The Group recorded an operating profit for the period of £0.13m (H1 2020: £1.73m) on revenue of £8.66m (H1 2020: £13.17m).

#### **Financial Results**

Group revenue of £8.66m was 34.24% lower than the same period last year (H1 2020: £13.17m).

Group Net Fee Income ("NFI") was £4.99m (H1 2020: £8.80m). NFI for the UK business was £2.15m (H1 2020: £3.71m). Our overseas performance was Asia NFI of £2.67m (H1 2020: £4.83m); Rest of World NFI £0.17m (H1 2020: £0.26m); Command Recruitment Group (HK) Ltd ("CMD"), our Hong Kong subsidiary, recorded NFI of £0.94m (H1 2020: £2.28m). Contract NFI represented 7.14% of Group NFI (H 2020: 5.71%) during the period.

Administrative costs for the Group in the period were £4.86m (H1 2020: £7.07m). As reported in April and November 2020, the Group has utilised any available Government Employment Protection Schemes in the regions where they were relevant. While significant cost reductions were put in place, we have protected key investments in core technologies, as these are critical for the Group in maximising recovery post the pandemic and our ability to successfully deliver on our strategic objectives.

In the UK, profit before tax was £0.12m against £0.48m in H1 2020. Our Asia business, which covers the Group activities in Hong Kong and Singapore, generated a profit before tax before adjustment for minority interest of £0.21m for the period (H1 2020: £1.24m).

In September 2020, we were pleased to open of our first office in the United States in Houston, Texas. The newly established business has started well and is performing ahead of management expectations, and it is disclosed within the Rest of the World.

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

The charge for Group taxation of £0.01m (H1 2020: £0.31m) is based on the expected annual effective tax rate of 19% in the UK (H1 2020: 19%), 16.5% in Hong Kong (H1 2020: 16.50%), and 17% in Singapore (H1 2020: 17%).

Basic earnings per share for the period were 0.95p (H1 2020: 9.33p).

## **Cash Flow**

As previously announced, in June 2020, the Group secured a Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan ("CBILS") of £2m which remains un-utilised at the time of this announcement.

At the start of the current financial year, the Group had cash of £2.1m. At the period end the Group had available cash of £4.15m, and net cash after the CBILS of £2.15m (H1 2020: £3.04).

#### Dividend

The Board will not be declaring an interim dividend this year (H1 2020: 1.80p).

#### Outlook

As stated in our Final Results announcement on 4 November 2020, all our markets have been and continue to be impacted by Covid-19, and, whilst we experienced reasonable progress in the UK following the easing of the lockdown imposed on 26th March 2020, levels of activity did not recover to pre Covid-19 levels. This was also the case in Asia, where the region experienced a very similar contraction in trading to that in the UK. We had anticipated a gradual improvement in trading in H2 to 31st March 2021. However, the significant new lockdown measures imposed or being imposed around the World could see progress slow.

The information communicated in this announcement contains inside information for the purposes of Article 7 of the UK version of the EU Market Abuse Regulation (2014/596) which is part of UK law by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

#### Robert Macdonald

Executive Chairman 28 January 2021

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

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Katy Birkin Nicholas Wells

PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the six months ended 30 September 2020

		Six months 30 September 2020	ended 30 September 2019	Year ended 31 March 2020 (audited)
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revenue	3	8,660	13,166	23,992
Cost of Sales		(3,665)	(4,365)	(8,471)
Net Fee Income		4,995	8,801	15,521
Administrative expenses Goodwill impairment		(4,866)	(7,072)	(13,560) (4,018)
Operating profit/ (loss) Interest payable		129 (32)	1,729	(2,057) (76)
Profit/(loss) before taxation		97	1,729	(2,133)
Income tax expense	4	(15)	(308)	(175)
Profit/(loss) for the period/year		82	1,421	(2,308)
Other comprehensive income Exchange (loss)/ (gain) on translating for operations	oreign	(81)	115	(105)
Other Comprehensive (loss)/ income year, net of tax	for the perio	d/ (81)	115	(105)
Total comprehensive income/ (loss) f period/year	or the	1	1,536	(2,413)
Profit/ (loss) attributable to:				
Equity shareholders of the parent Non-controlling interest		116 (34)	1,139 282	(2,384) 76
Total Comprehensive Income /(loss)				
attributable to: Equity shareholders of the parent Non-controlling interest		35 (34)	1,254 282	(2,489) 76
Earnings /(loss) per share Basic earnings/(loss) per share Diluted earnings/(loss) per share	6	0.95p 0.95p	9.33p 9.22p	(19.36)p (19.36)p

The above results relate to continuing operations.

The notes below form an integral part of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim report.

PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 30 September 2020

<b>Total Equity</b>		9,404	15,895	9,445
Equity shareholders' funds Non-controlling interest		8,774 630	15,025 870	8,781 664
		·		
Retained earnings		3,430	7,308	3,314
Share option reserve Currency translation differences		187 410	392 711	187 491
Merger reserve		173 187	173	173
Share premium account		3,376	5,371	3,376
Treasury shares		(42)	(168)	-
Capital redemption reserve		9	9	9
Called up share capital	_	1,231	1,229	1,231
Capital and reserves attributable to the	Company's equ			
Net assets		9,404	15,895	9,445
Total liabilities		6,176	4,603	4,917
Non-current liabilities Financial Liabilities - borrowings Lease liabilities		2,000 811	1,058	1,027
		3,365	3,545	3,890
Current tax liabilities Deferred tax liability		225 22	481	166 22
Lease liabilities		542 225	383	497
Current Liabilities Trade and other payables	10	2,576	2,681	3,205
Liabilities				
Total assets		15,580	20,498	14,362
		7,399	8,106	5,923
Cash and cash equivalents		4,149	3,037	2,055
Current assets Trade and other receivables	9	3,250	5,069	3,868
		8,181	12,392	8,439
Deferred tax asset		40	18	40
Goodwill Property, plant and equipment		6,509 1,632	10,527 1,847	6,509 1,890
Non-current assets				
Assets	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000
		2020	2019	(audited)
		2020	2019	2020

The notes below form an integral part of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim report.

# PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the six months ended 30 September 2020

	Called up share capital	Capital Redempti on reserve	Treasury shares	Share premium account	Merger reserve	Share option reserve	Translat ion reserve	Retained Earnings	Total attributabl e to equity holders of the parent	Non- controlling interest	Total equity
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April 2019	1,229	9	(161)	5,371	173	337	596	6,857	14,411	588	14,999
Profit for the period IFRS 16 adjustment for	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,254	1,254	282	1,536
leases Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	(396)	(396) 115	-	(396)
Equity-settled share-based payments	-	-	-	-	-	55	-	-	55	-	55
Shares purchased for treasury	-	-	(16)	-	-	-	-	-	(16)	-	(16)
Shares issued from treasury	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	13
Adjustment on share disposal	-	-	(4)	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Dividend		-	_	-	-	-	-	(411)	(411)		(411)
At 30 Sept 2019	1,229	9	(168)	5,371	173	392	711	7,308	15,025	870	15,895

# PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the six months ended 30 September 2020

	Called up share capital	Capital Redempti on reserve	Treasury shares	Share premium account	Merger reserve	Share option reserve	Translati on reserve	Retained Earnings	Total attributable to equity holders of the parent	Non- control ling interest	Total equity
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 30 Sept 2019	1,229	9	(168)	5,371	173	392	711	7,308	15,025	870	15,895
Total Comprehensive loss for the period	-	<del>-</del>	_	<del>-</del>	-	_	_	(3,638)	(3,638)	(206)	(3,844)
Other comprehensive income IFRS 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	(220)	-	(220)	-	(220)
adjustment for leases Adjustments in respect of share	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99	99	-	99
schemes Adjustment in	-	-	-	-	-	(205)	-	236	31	-	31
respect of treasury shares Issue of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
ordinary shares	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	-	(2)
Capital Repayment Shares	-	-	-	(2,000)	-	-	-	-	(2,000)	-	(2,000)
purchased for treasury Shares issued	-	-	(7)	-	-	-	-	-	(7)	-	(7)
from treasury	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	21
Adjustment on share disposal	-	-	154	-	-	-	-	(154)	-	-	-
Dividend	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(537)	(537)	-	(537)
At 31 March 2020	1,231	9	-	3,376	173	187	491	3,314	8,781	664	9,445
Profit/ (loss) for the period Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	116	116	(34)	82
comprehensive loss Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	(81)	-	(81)	-	(81)
purchased for treasury	_	_	(42)	_	_	_	_	_	(42)	_	(42)
At 30 Sept 2020	1,231	9	(42)	3,376	173	187	410	3,430	8,774	630	9,404

## PRIME PEOPLE PLC UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW For the six months ended 30 September 2020

Note	Six months 6 30 September 2020 £'000	anded 30 September 2019 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2020 £'000
Cash generated from underlying operations 7 Income tax paid Income tax received	572 -	1,498 (1) 19	3,642 (160)
Net cash from operating activities	572	1,516	3,482
Cash flows from investing activities  Net purchase of property, plant and equipment and software	(32)	(94)	(122)
Net cash used in investing activities	(32)	(94)	(122)
Cash flows from financing activities Issue of ordinary share capital Shares issued from treasury Shares purchased for treasury Return of capital from share premium Dividend paid to shareholders Lease payments Lease interest Finance Interest paid Proceeds from CBILS Loan	(42) - (289) (30) (4) 2,000	13 (16) - (411) (338) (57)	2 (21) (2,000) (948) (566)
Net cash generated by financing activities	1,635	(809)	(3,533)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	2,175	613	(173)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period/year	2,055	2,309	2,309
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes	(81)	115	(81)
Cash and cash equivalents available at end of period/yea	ar 4,149	3,037	2,055
Debt borrowing at the beginning of period/year	-	-	-
Increase – CBILS loan	(2,000)	-	-
Debt borrowing at the end of the period/year	(2,000)	-	-
Net cash after CBILS loan at period/year end	2,149	3,037	2,055

The notes below form an integral part of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim report.

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

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

#### 1. General information

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

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

This unaudited condensed consolidated interim report for the six months ended 30 September 2020 (including comparatives) is presented in GBP '000 and was approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 28 January 2021.

Copies of the interim results are available at the Company's registered office and on the Company's website – www.prime-people.co.uk.

This unaudited condensed consolidated interim report does not constitute statutory accounts of the Group within the meaning of section 434 of the Companies Act 2006. The financial information for the year ended 31 March 2020 has been extracted from the statutory accounts for that year, which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified and did not contain a statement under section 498 of the Companies Act 2006.

## 2. Basis of preparation

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim report for the six months ended 30 September 2020 has been prepared using accounting policies consistent with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs") and in accordance with 'IAS 34, Interim financial reporting', as adopted by the European Union. The condensed consolidated interim report should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 which were prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union.

The Group was profitable for the period and has financial resources comprising £2.15m of net cash as at 30 September 2020. After making enquiries, the Directors have formed a judgement, at the time of approving the six months results, that there is a reasonable expectation that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, a period of not less than 12 months. For this reason, the Directors continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the condensed set of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

IAS 20 — Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance sets out the accounting for, and the disclosure of, government grants and the disclosure of other forms of government assistance. Government grants are recognised in profit or loss on a systematic basis over the periods in which the Group recognises expenses for the related costs for which the grants are intended to compensate.

Note 3 provides further information on how the Group accounts for Government grants.

## NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

## 3. Segment reporting

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

	Revenue			Net fo		
	Six m	onths ended	Year ended	Six mo	Year ended	
	30 September	30 September	31 March	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2020	2019	2020	2020	2019	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
UK	5,780	8,072	15,677	2,154	3,707	7,262
Asia	2,706	4,832	8,176	2,667	4,832	8,120
Rest of World	174	262	139	174	262	139
	8,660	13,166	23,992	4,995	8,801	15,521

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

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

Revenue				Net fee income			
	Six m	onths ended	Year ended	Year ended Six months ended			
	30 September	30 September	31 March	30 September	30 September	31 March	
	2020	2019	2020	2020	2019	2020	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Permanent							
- UK	1,807	3,252	6,344	1,807	3,252	6,344	
- Asia	2,658	4,832	8,110	2,658	4,832	8,110	
- Rest of World	174	262	139	174	262	139	
Contract (UK)	3,973	4,820	9,333	346	455	918	
Contract (Asia)	48		66	10		10	
	8,660	13,166	23,992	4,995	8,801	15,521	

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

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

## (c) Profit before taxation by geographical region

		Six mont	Six months ended		
		30 September	30 September	31 March	
		2020	2019	2020	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	
UK	Note 1 & 2	121	478	299	
Asia		209	1,243	1,672	
Rest of World		(201)	8	(10)	
Profit before taxation	Note 3	129	1,729	1,961	

#### Note 1

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

#### Note 2

UK Operating profit for 31 March 2020 is before Goodwill impairment costs of £4.02m

#### Note 3

Profit before taxation in the six months to September 2020 is after a total of £0.55m Covid-19 Job Retention Government Support received in the UK, Asia, and Germany.

Government grants utilised in the period were UK Job Retention Scheme, Germany "Kurzarbeit" Scheme, Hong Kong Anti-epidemic Fund Employment Support Scheme ("ESS") and Singapore Job Support Scheme (JSS).

Government grants of £0.55m (2020 - £Nil) are included in the 'Administrative expenses' line item, offset against staff costs. There are no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies attaching to these grants.

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

	Total	assets	Total liabilities		
	30 September 2020 £'000	30 September 2019 £'000	30 September 2020 £'000	30 September 2019 £'000	
UK	10,289	12,211	4,403	2,474	
Asia	5,210	7,916	1,740	2,080	
Rest of World	81	371	33	49	
Total	15,580	20,498	6,176	4,603	

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

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

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

## 4. Income tax expense

The charge for taxation on profits for the interim period amounted to £15k (2020: £308k) an effective rate of 15.00% (2020: 17.81%).

#### 5. Dividends

	Six months of	ended	Year ended
	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2020	2019	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Final dividend for 2019: 3.40p per share	-	411	411
Interim dividend for 2019: 1.80p per share	-	-	220
Command Recruitment Group (HK)			
Limited dividend to non-controlling			
shareholders	-	-	317
	-	411	948

## 6. Earnings per share

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

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

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

	Six mont	Year ended	
	30 September 2020 £'000	30 September 2019 £'000	31 March 2020 £'000
Profit/(loss) for basic and diluted earnings per share	116	1,139	(2,384)
	Number	Number	Number
Weighted average number of shares used for basic earnings per share Dilutive effect of share options	12,222,273	12,204,023 136,491	12,307,273
Diluted weighted average number of shares used for diluted earnings per share	12,222,273	12,340,514	12,307,273

## NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

## **Earnings per share (continued)**

	Six month	Year ended	
	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2020	2019	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Pence	Pence	Pence
Basic earnings per share	0.95р	9.33p	(19.36)p
Diluted earnings per share	0.95р	9.22p	(19.36)p

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

	Six months ended		Year ended
	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2020	2019	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Th. (%4//1 ) 1 (% 4 / 4 / 4 / 4 / 4 / 4 / 4 / 4 / 4 / 4	07	1.720	(2.122)
Profit/(loss) before taxation	97	1,729	(2,133)
Adjustments for:	124	202	727
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment and software amortisation	134	323	737
Impairment of Goodwill			4,018
Share based payment expense	-	90	4,018
Finance costs	32	49	76
	32	47	
(Profit)/Loss on sale of tangible asset	-	<del>-</del>	1
Operating cash flow before changes in working			
capital	263	2,191	2,748
capital	203	2,171	2,740
Decrease/ (increase) in receivables	618	(423)	778
(Decrease)/ increase in payables	(309)	(270)	116
, ,	(= 32)	( ) • )	
Cash generated from underlying operations	572	1,498	3,642

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

	Six mont	Year ended	
	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2020	2019	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in period/year	2,180	613	(173)
Net funds at the start of the period/year	2,055	2,309	2,309
Effect of foreign exchange changes	(81)	115	(81)
Net funds at the end of the period/year	4,154	3,037	2,055

## NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM REPORT

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

## 9. Trade and other receivables

	30 September	30 September	31 March
	2020	2019	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Trade receivables Allowance for doubtful debts Prepayments Other receivables	2,608	4,765	3,312
	(378)	(650)	(340)
	755	722	612
	265	232	284
	3,250	5,069	3,868

## 10. Trade and other payables

	30 September 2020 £'000	30 September 2019 £'000	31 March 2020 £'000
Trade payables	504	187	371
Taxation and social security	663	674	685
Other payables	510	212	1,248
Accruals	899	1,608	901
	2,576	2,681	3,205

## 11. Treasury Shares

At 30 September 2019, the total number of ordinary shares held in Treasury and their values were as follows:

	30 September 2020		30 September	30 September 2019	
	Number	£'000	Number	£'000	
As at 1 April	-	-	195,676	161	
Shares purchased for treasury	85,000	42	19,000	16	
Shares issued from treasury	-	-	(128,500)	(13)	
Equity reclassification on disposal of treasury shares	-	-	-	4	
As at 30 September	85,000	42	86,176	168	
Nominal value	9		-	9	
Market value	41		-	75	



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