

## NAHL Group plc 2019 Interim Results Presentation

September 2019







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## Financial highlights



Revenue +3.9% to £25.8m	Underlying operating profit +1.7% to £6.5m <sup>1</sup>	Profit before tax of £4.6m after exceptional costs
2018 H1: £24.9m	2018 H1: £6.4m	2018 H1: £5.3m
Interim dividend of 2.6p per share, in line with expectation	Cash generation from operations ahead at £3.5m	Net debt flat at £17.6m
2018 H1: 3.2p	2018 H1: £1.3m	2018 H1: £17.4m

### **Continued strategic progress**

- Strategic transformation of Personal Injury (PI) division yielding positive results
  - ✓ National Accident Helpline marketing and placement tactics being adapted to respond to continuing competitive pressures
  - Successful launch of wholly owned law firm National Accident Law which is scaling and performing well
  - ✓ Announced the launch of a new ABS law firm Law Together operated in partnership with panel law firm
- Residential Property performance reflective of continuing difficult wider market conditions; leadership changes having a positive impact
- Continued strong progress from Critical Care, with double digit revenue and profit growth; now planning new initiatives to accelerate growth





## **Financial review**

### Income statement



£m	H1 2019	H1 2018	Variance	FY 2018
Personal Injury	16.3	15.5	5.1%	30.2
Critical Care	6.6	6.0	10.4%	12.4
Residential Property	3.0	3.4	-12.8%	6.4
Revenue	25.8	24.9	3.9%	49.0
Personal Injury	4.8	4.6	2.8%	8.4
Critical Care	2.3	2.1	12.6%	4.5
Residential Property	0.1	0.6	-83.7%	0.7
Group Costs	(0.7)	(0.9)	-21.9%	(1.5)
Underlying operating profit	6.5	6.4	1.7%	12.1
Start-up costs associated with NAL	0.5	-	n/a	-
Underlying operating profit before	7.0	6.4	10.6%	12.1
start-up costs associated with NAL	7.0	0.4	10.0 /0	12.1
Exceptional items	(0.8)	(0.1)	466.9%	(0.5)
Other adjustments	(0.9)	(0.8)	8.5%	(1.7)
Net interest	(0.2)	(0.1)	77.8%	(0.2)
PBT (stated)	4.6	5.3	-13.5%	9.8
Taxation	(0.4)	(1.0)	-55.5%	(1.4)
Minority interest	(2.6)	(0.6)	359.5%	(1.7)
Retained earnings	1.6	3.8	-58.5%	6.7
Underlying operating profit margin	25.0%	25.6%		24.7%
Underlying basic EPS (pence)	7.4	9.9	-25.3%	18.2
DPS (pence)	2.6	3.2	-18.8%	8.9

#### Revenue growth of +3.9% to £25.8m

- Underlying operating profit growth of +1.7% to £6.5m
  - +10.6% growth before £0.5m of start-up losses associated with NAL
- Exceptional costs £0.8m, as planned. We remain on track to spend £4m in total, as set out in our transformation strategy
- Effective tax rate of 9.3% due to minority interest
- Minority interest increased to £2.6m, as planned
- Underlying EPS 7.4p, in line with Board expectations
- Interim dividend of 2.6p
  - Consistent with dividend policy (2x); one third at interim
  - Paid 31 October 2019 to shareholders on the register on 27 September 2019

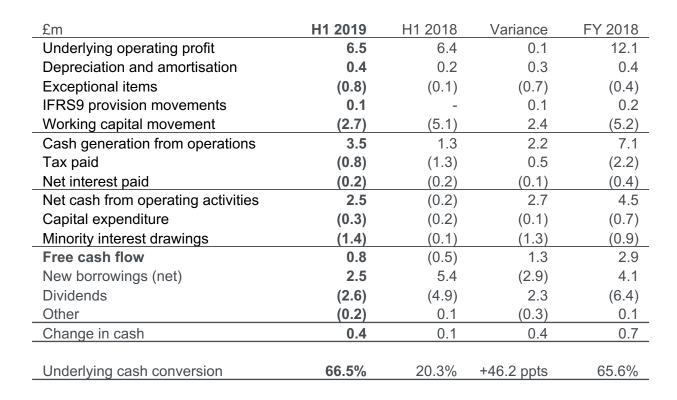
### Balance sheet and working capital



£m	H1 2019	H1 2018	Variance	FY 2018
Non-current assets	67.2	67.3	(0.0)	67.1
Trade and other receivables	33.0	30.0	3.0	28.8
Trade and other payables	(17.5)	(14.8)	(2.7)	(15.1)
	15.5	15.2	0.3	13.7
Cash at bank	2.0	0.9	1.1	1.6
Borrowings	(19.7)	(18.3)	(1.3)	(17.1)
Net debt	(17.6)	(17.4)	(0.2)	(15.5)
Other	(1.9)	(3.7)	1.7	(2.6)
Net assets	63.2	61.4	1.8	62.7
		-		

- ABS strategy requires controlled investment in working capital to build a sustainable and growing earnings stream for future years
- Growth in receivables and payables driven by increase in recoverable disbursements linked to claims processed by Legal Services (£2.8m increase in receivables disbursements; £3.0m increase in disbursements payables)
- Net debt £17.6m, in line with Board's expectations. Peak net debt guidance unchanged at c.£20m in Q4 2019

### **Cash generation**



- Cash generation from operations ahead of last year at £3.5m (H1 2018: £1.3m)
- Operating cash conversion improving at 66.5% (H1 2018: 20.3%)
- Free cash flow of £0.8m ahead of last year (H1 2018: net outflow of £0.5m)
- Cash priority is to invest in the business to drive sustainable, profitable growth







# Our business and markets

## NAHL Group - Trusted when it matters



NAHL Group plc stands alongside consumers at key stages of their lives, when it really matters. When moving house, recovering from an injury or coming to terms with sustaining a life changing injury, you need to know that the people you choose to support you are capable and trustworthy

#### Our mission

To provide exceptional service to our consumers and customers by being outstanding at everything we do

#### **Our vision**

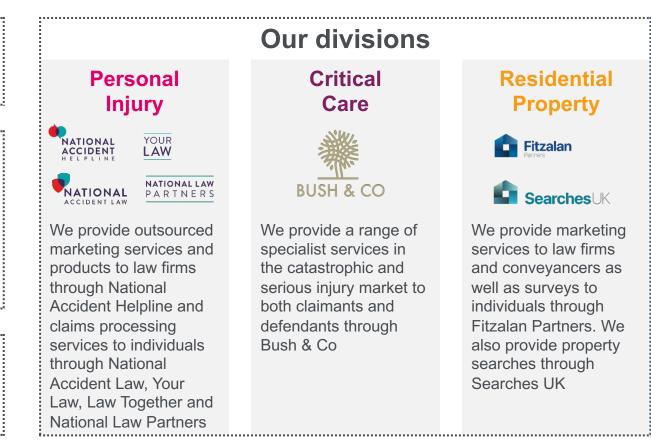
To become the leading provider in our chosen consumer legal services markets by:

- Creating trusted brands that enable consumers to access the law
- Forging strategic customer partnerships that create mutual value
- Embracing developing technologies to reach and interact with our consumers and customers

#### **Our values**

- We are curious
- We are driven

- We are passionate
- We are unified





## We have a sustainable business model that creates value for our stakeholders

What we do	Personal Injury	Critical Care	Residential Property
Marketing Services	Fees charged to law firms for PI enquiry generation		Fees charged to law firms for conveyancing instructions
Service Provision	Legal and service fees charged to individual consumers for processing PI claims	Case management fees charged to law firms acting on behalf of severely injured individuals	
Expert Reports		Fees charged for one-off initial need assessments or expert witness reports	Fees charged for survey or search reports
Product Provision	Product commissions earned from insurance and medical providers		Product commissions earned from insurance providers

#### We began our mission to bring justice and vision which has created a Group which to those affected by accidents back in 1993, with a 'people-first' ethos that has remained continues to grow and touch the lives of

steadfast. Ours is a service which genuinely brings support and comfort to those who have experienced the worst and we aim to maintain access to justice for all.

culture

**Social Purpose** 

We've helped nearly 2,000 people make official complaints about cold calling in our industry

#### **Employees**

Our strategy is underpinned by a strong, embedded

It is our people and their talents, dedication others. This fact shapes how we interact with our employees and how we can support them to achieve their full potential.

- Sunday Times Top 100 Small Companies to Work for in 2019
- Awarded Gold and Silver awards by Investors in People
- Launched our learning academy

#### **Communities**

We believe it's within the strength of local communities that lives can be improved. As such, we invest by helping to provide local charities with the resources they need to continue their outstanding and vital work.

- Supporting young adults through our annual Future Legal Minds competition
- Supporting a range of charities, including The Paul Bush Foundation, ParaDance UK and Breast Cancer Research

"75% of our people agreed that 'My organisation has a positive impact on society' for 2018"1

"84% of our people agreed that 'There is a strong sense of team work, co-operation and fun across the company"<sup>1</sup>

"84% of our people say 'The company encourages community and charitable activities"1



#### 2 Source: IRN Medico-Legal Insurance Services Report, February 2018

## We operate in the UK Consumer Legal Services market

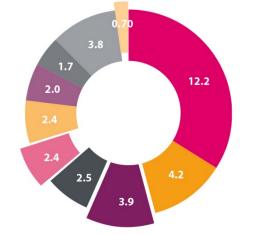
#### **Consumer Legal Services (CLS) market**

- CLS is a highly fragmented subset of the UK Legal Services market
- NAHL operates in personal injury, residential conveyancing and medical reporting / rehabilitation sectors
- The personal injury market has been impacted by regulatory change with further changes planned in April 2020
- The residential property market has been challenging in recent years
- NAHL's market was valued at £7bn<sup>1</sup> in 2018

#### Market growth

- After five years of decline, overall PI claims grew by 1% (primarily from RTA)
- Residential conveyancing growth of -4% YTD
- Medico-Legal showed no growth

- Corporate/commercial work
- Commercial property
- Personal injury/clinical negligence
- Family law
- Residential conveyancing



Employment law

Medical Reporting/

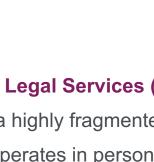
rehabilitation<sup>2</sup>

Crime

Other

Probate, wills and trusts

UK Legal Services Market by Key Practice Area, 2018 (£bn)<sup>1</sup>





## Regulatory changes in personal injury



PI reforms are contained in the Civil Liabilities Bill which received royal assent in December 2018, implementation planned for April 2020

- Small Claims limit increasing from £1,000 to £5,000 (RTA) and £2,000 (non-RTA)
- Reduced consumer damages and reduced cost recovery for whiplash claims
- Important details remain to be clarified by the MoJ
- Some industry speculation that reform implementation could be delayed until October 2020

#### Impact of Reforms on the Industry

- 1. Significantly lower levels of damages for the consumer in successful RTA claims.
- 2. A large proportion of consumers, who have historically depended on law firms, would be expected to represent themselves. They may find this confusing and burdensome.
- 3. Significantly less revenue per claim available for law firms and no legal fees recoverable on small claims resulting in reduced cash flow to fund further work acquisition and non RTA work.

Reforms will have no bearing on the number of accidents that occur, but will have a significant impact on both consumers and law firms.



## **Divisional performance**

Personal Injury | Critical Care | Residential Property



## Our response to market reforms is to create the UK's leading Personal Injury provider

- Panel law firm demand for our traditional model has diminished and a number of law firms are withdrawing from the market or focusing on higher value work
- Consumers will still need advice and support on how the legal process works
- We are uniquely placed to provide that service due to the strength of our brand, deep understanding of PI, technological expertise and levels of trust we enjoy with consumers
- We are developing the ability to efficiently process large volumes of RTA small claims

Traditional law firms require significant investment in technology, process and brand to achieve profitability post reform, many will not adapt

We are leveraging our brand, technology and processes to create a wholly owned law firm that will process a proportion of the claims we generate





## Personal Injury – delivering tangible progress with its transformation strategy



#### Performance

- Performance in line with plan revenue increased 5.1% to £16.3m and underlying operating profit increased 2.8% to £4.8m
- Maintained demand from the panel and negotiating a small number of deals to extend placement beyond the implementation of reforms
- NAH continues to be the UK's most trusted PI brand
- NAH continues to operate in challenging market conditions, driven by competitive pressures and we expect this to persist until the implementation of the legal reforms

#### **Growth drivers**

- Launched National Accident Law, the Group's wholly owned law firm, bringing full economic interest in the success of a claim
- Continue to scale volume in NAL and build efficiencies
- Finalising our small claims proposition and preparing for implementation
- Re-platforming the NAH website in early 2020 to keep us at the forefront of digital marketing performance
- Launch of new ABS law firm (*Law Together LLP*) in partnership with Horwich Cohen Coghlan Solicitors in October 2019

The strategic transformation of our Personal Injury (PI) business continues and the changes put in place are now yielding positive results.



## Legal Services – building the UK's leading volume processor

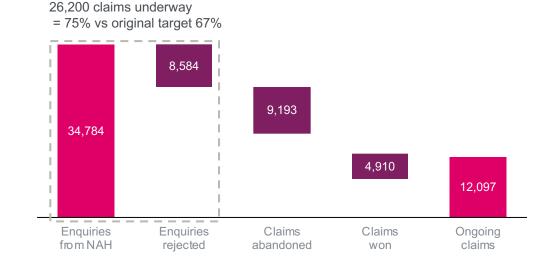
#### Joint-venture law firms continue to mature

- 33,650 enquiries processed (to August 2019)
- 4,889 claims won £19m of damages recovered for consumers
- £0.3m of profit earned to date after deduction of acquisition and processing costs and minority interest
- 11,216 ongoing claims

#### National Accident Law performing well

- Scaling up and refining its processes
- 1,134 enquiries processed (to August 2019)
- 1,010 claims underway (84%)
- 21 claims won
- 881 ongoing claims (274 claims with liability admitted)

#### Legal Services volumes since inception



We are continuing to grow the number of enquiries being placed through our Legal Services business unit. Our focus remains on taking an economic interest in the success of the whole claim and capturing more value over the long-term.



## Critical Care – growing operating profit by 12.6%





#### Performance

- Organic revenue growth of 10.4% to £6.6m, built on strong performance from case management and charity partnerships
- Operating profit growth of 12.6% to £2.3m
- Margin maintained at 35.6% (H1 2018: 35.0%)
- Ongoing challenges of retaining and growing consultant numbers in a competitive market
- The No.1 brand in our sector, with continued growth in market share

#### **Growth drivers**

- Successful relaunch of the Bush & Co brand in May 2019 and increased investment in sales and marketing capability is driving organic growth
- Continue to grow the number of case managers and expert witnesses
- New initiatives planned to accelerate growth including a new technology platform to create efficiencies and process improvements and provide greater utility to our case managers and experts
- Revenue generated by strategic partnerships is growing
- Critical Care has delivered another strong performance as we begin the process of investing in the technology platform to position it for further growth.

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## Residential Property – further deterioration in market



#### Performance

- The market remains challenging, impacting revenue - down 12.8% to £3.0m – but covered its costs and was cash generative (£0.1m of operating profit; £0.2m of cash generated)
- Focus on share growth in a large, fragmented market, with early results encouraging
- New leadership is starting to have a positive effect, with a focus on marketing and business development

#### **Growth drivers**

- Establish our introducer business (*The Conveyancing Exchange*). Launched Q1 but adoption has been slower than anticipated
- Optimise online conversion by re-platforming websites (Q3) and incorporating paid search (PPC)
- Start self-processing some conveyancing instructions in partnership with established processor

The residential property market has deteriorated further in H1 and this has impacted our result. However, we are progressing initiatives to drive growth and these are beginning to yield market share gains.





## Summary and outlook

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#### Summary

- Tangible progress with our PI transformation strategy, with the launch of NAL bringing full economic interest in the success of a claim; and retention of panel demand
- Another strong performance from Critical Care, delivering doubledigit profit growth and expanded market share
- Challenging market conditions for Residential Property impacted results but we are starting to see some modest market share gains
- Underlying earnings expectation for FY19 remains unchanged
- We remain excited about the opportunities ahead

#### 2019 outlook

- We do not expect a noticeable improvement in market conditions in our Personal Injury and Residential Property divisions, but plan to continue to adapt our marketing and placement tactics to respond and optimise performance
- We are investing in re-platforming the NAH website in early 2020 which will keep us at the forefront of digital marketing performance
- Continued evolution of the ABS strategy including the launch of a new ABS firm, called Law Together, in September will deliver longterm growth and allow us to maintain enquiry volumes
- Development of plans for technology investment in Critical Care to accelerate future growth

We are encouraged by the progress made in the year so far, and although fully cognisant of the challenges ahead, we remain confident of achieving a full year result in line with our underlying earnings expectations. JJ



## Appendix

### **Investment case**





#### We are primed for new opportunities in evolving markets

Investing in innovative solutions, underpinned by technology, to maximise the growth opportunity across all our businesses

#### We have a clear brand proposition

Nationally recognised in the market with strong leadership and trust in our individual businesses



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#### We are led by a strong, experienced and collaborative leadership team

Dedicated to operational excellence with a track record of delivering sustainable growth when faced with market reforms



#### We live by a strong set of embedded of company values

Our values of Curious, Unified, Driven, Passionate drive positive behaviours and support business objectives

#### We have a robust and sustainable financial model



Long-term revenue streams and developing growth on investor returns through the cycle

## Personal injury – channel economics



	Traditional Panel Model	Self Processing – Joint Venture	Self Processing – In House
Profit Timing	100% of profit recognised in month enquiry passed to law firm	Profits recognised at liability admission (typically 15-18 months after enquiry generated)	Processing costs written off on incurred basis and therefore loss-making until liability admission
Cash Timing	Received month following enquiry passed to law firm	On case settlement (typically 3-6 months post liability admission)	On case settlement (typically 3-6 months post liability admission)
Profit Margin	35%	11% after minority interest	Planned 35 – 40%
ROI *	54%	47%	70%
Comments	<ul> <li>Highly cash generative</li> <li>No risk on case performance for NAHL</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Shared risk and reward on case performance</li> <li>Working capital contribution from partner</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Entire risk and reward on case performance</li> <li>Deeper case involvement and control of consumer journey</li> <li>Bear full acquisition and processing costs</li> </ul>



## Personal Injury – participating in the entire claims process

. Non-Fault Accident	2. Marketing Activity	3. NAH Legal Support Centre	4. Claim Processing	5. Successful Outcome for Consumer
Consumers unsure if they have a claim and confused by how the legal process works.	<ul> <li>NAH attracts these consumers through its brand and digital marketing activity,</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Over 280,000 contacts with consumers each year</li> <li>Our highly trained team recommends appropriate course of action</li> <li>Only c.25% of contacts become qualified enquiries after strict vetting</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Consumers are connected to an appropriate law firm</li> <li>Enquiries processed in one of 3 ways:</li> <li>1. Panel Law Firms</li> <li>2. ABS Joint Venture</li> <li>3. ABS Wholly Owned (planned launch April 2019)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Liability is admitted</li> <li>Claim is settled</li> <li>A very small proportion of cases go to court</li> </ul>

Our strategy enables us to:-

- Grow market share in the larger PI market (£3.9bn) rather than just the smaller CMC sub-sector (£157m);
- Take an economic interest in the success of the whole claim and capture value previously unavailable to us;
- iii. Develop technological and end-to-end process efficiencies to optimise the consumer experience and deliver profitable growth; and
- iv. Support consumers with a valid and worthwhile claim, irrespective of its size.

## Personal injury – self processing in house



Development of our new, wholly-owned, venture is progressing well and due for launch in H1 2019. There are three phases to the build.

Today	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	
St	age 1 – Building a Law Firm			
<ul> <li>Technology – Building a bespoke solution with an existing CMS platform that allows for future enhancements.</li> <li>Processes – Focus on consumer journey, automation and efficiencies.</li> <li>People – Recruitment for the initial launch has commenced.</li> <li>Training – Development of an in-house academy to create a pipeline of future talent consistent with NAHL's existing culture and values.</li> <li>Regulatory – ABS application has been submitted to the SRA.</li> </ul>				
		Stage 3 – Further Technology Enhance	ement	
		<ul> <li>The core technology platform has been chosen t the use of advanced technology, such as machir for automation, end to end digital journeys and c</li> </ul>	ne learning	



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