



NAHL Group plc

# Preliminary Results 2016

21 March 2017

# Agenda

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- 2016 Group Highlights
- Financial Performance
- Divisional Review
- Growth Strategy and Outlook
- Questions
- Appendices

# 2016 Group Highlights

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## Financial

- Trading in line with expectations
- Underlying revenue declined 2.6% to £49.4m (2015: £50.7m)
- Underlying operating profit up 15.1% to £18.0m (2015: £15.6m)
- Underlying operating profit margin increased by 5.6 percentage points to 36.4% (2015: 30.8%)
- Cash generation at 79.7% (2015: 97.4%)
- Recommended final dividend of 12.7p, increasing the total dividend for the year by 1.6% to 19.05p (2015: 18.75p)

## Operational

- First full year as a more strategically diversified business operating in aligned legal services markets
- Continued focus on sourcing high quality enquiries in Personal Injury (PI) division
- Accelerated investment in PI cases under new commercial and structural arrangements in light of regulatory changes
- Strong contribution from Critical Care division which has continued to trade ahead of plan
- Solid revenue and profit growth in Residential Property division despite challenging market backdrop

# Financial Performance

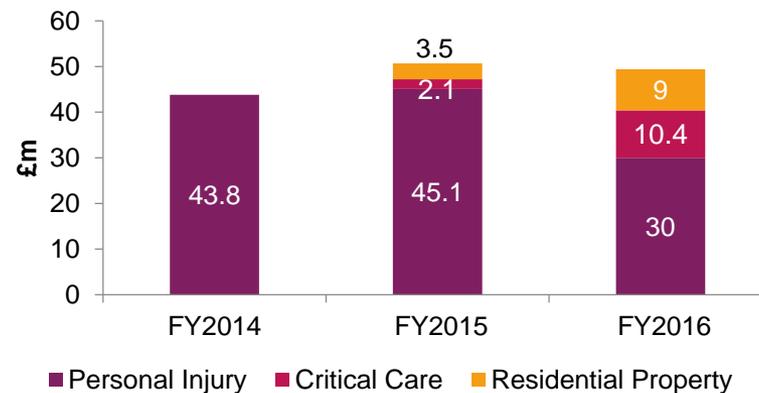
# Income Statement



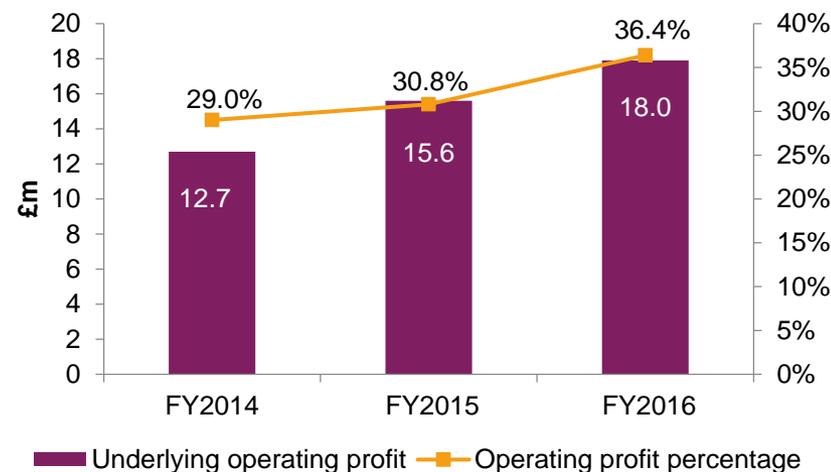
## Strong margin performance

£'000	% change	Year ended 31 Dec 2016	Year ended 31 Dec 2015
<b>Revenue</b>			
<i>Personal Injury</i>	(33.4)	30,011	45,081
<i>Critical Care</i>	390.0	10,353	2,113
<i>Residential Property</i>	156.1	9,021	3,522
<b>Total<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>(2.6)</b>	<b>49,385</b>	50,716
Cost of sales	(19.3)	(20,809)	(25,785)
<b>Gross profit<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>28,576</b>	24,931
<i>Gross margin</i>		<b>57.9%</b>	49.2%
Administrative expenses*	13.8	(10,591)	(9,309)
<b>Underlying operating profit*</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>17,985</b>	15,622
<i>Operating profit margin</i>		<b>36.4%</b>	30.8%

## Group Revenue



## Operating profit percentage



+ excluding one off item relating to release of previously recognised liability for pre-LASPO ATE commission

\* excluding share based payments £1,052,000 (2015: £833,000), amortisation on intangibles assets acquired on business combinations £1,327,000 (2015: £259,000) and one off items of £555,000 (2015: (411,000))

# Balance Sheet and Cash Flow



## Robust balance sheet

£'000	Year ended 31 Dec 2016	Year ended 31 Dec 2015
Fixed assets	327	259
Goodwill / Intangible assets	68,836	67,690
Working capital	(1,157)	(4,551)
Cash & cash equivalents	4,814	10,056
Bank loans	(11,089)	(14,782)
Pre-LASPO ATE product liability	(1,912)	(3,601)
Adjusted net debt	(8,187)	(8,327)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>59,819</b>	<b>55,071</b>

## Solid cash conversion

£'000	Year ended 31 Dec 2016	Year ended 31 Dec 2015
<b>Underlying operating profit</b>	<b>17,985</b>	15,622
Depreciation	195	177
Working capital movements	(3,845)	(587)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>14,335</b>	15,212
<b>Cash generation</b>	<b>79.7%</b>	97.4%

- Growth in net assets of £4.8m
- Reduced net debt despite lower conversion thanks to reduced pre-LASPO liability
- Lower cash generation reflects case investment trials in second half
- Conversion for the transition period of 2017 and 2018 expected to reduce as investment continues

# Dividend and EPS



## Dividend

£'000	Interim Dividend	Final Dividend	Total Dividend
Dividend per share	6.35p	12.70p	<b>19.05p</b>
Total dividends	£2,880k	£5,760k	<b>£8,640k</b>
Share price at period end*	193.0p	134.0p	134.0p
Dividend as % of share price*	3.3%	9.5%	14.2%

## EPS

Pence	Year ended 31 Dec 2016	Year ended 31 Dec 2015
Group Basic EPS	<b>27.0</b>	25.6
Group Diluted EPS	<b>26.5</b>	25.0

- Group basic EPS shows a 5.5% increase on 2015
- Dividend up 1.6% to 19.05p (2015: 18.75p) reflecting continued good cash generation and a robust balance sheet
- Proposed final dividend to be paid on 31 May 2016 to those on register at 28 April 2016
- Dividend per share to be maintained at current policy of 1.5x earnings dividend cover

\* Based on share price as at 30 June 2016 and 31 December 2016

# Divisional Review

# PI – resilient performance against a challenging backdrop

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- Revenue declined by 33.4% to £30.0m, operating profit down by 9.1% to £14.1m
- Controlled decline mainly due to focus on a smaller number of higher value enquiries
- Increased operating profit returns (47.0% v 34.4%)
- Significantly lower marketing spend reduced the cost of enquiry acquisition
- NAH remains the leading brand in PI with market leading metrics for trust, search and click through
- PI market remains at approximately one million claims per annum
- During the year the division tested operating different models:-
  - Deferred terms
  - Longer term involvement in the conduct and financing of a case
- The division also commenced work on the following initiatives incurring a one off cost of £0.5m – additional £1.2m in 2017
  - Digitisation
  - Brand relaunch

# PI – the post-consultation landscape

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- In February 2017 the Government confirmed its response to the PI consultation it announced in November 2015
- Two key outcomes:
  - Restriction of compensation for sufferers of minor whiplash injuries to small pre-defined amounts depending on length of injury
  - Raised upper limit for the small claims track for RTA claims from £1,000 to £5,000 and for non-RTA claims to £2,000
- Outcome represents fundamental change for PI market as a whole, though changes lower than had been proposed for non-RTA claims
- New regulatory regime scheduled to come into effect from October 2018
- < 30% of the Group's total enquiry volumes generated will fall below thresholds and have to be processed through small claims track
- Approach to processing these claims will require further refinement and a pricing adjustment for those claims that will be subject to lower settlements
- Group has been planning for these changes since the initial proposals were announced in 2015

# PI – adapting to change

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- Group took strategic decision in 2016 to invest in a proportion of our enquiries through different commercial and structural arrangements
- Outcome of these initial trials has proved very encouraging and we are progressing these arrangements into longer term agreements
- In future, enquiries will be handled in a number of ways:
  - Using our traditional panel model;
  - Offering deferred payments for incremental volumes; and
  - Investing in cases using alternative business structures
- Elements of profit recognition and some of the cash received will be deferred until case settlement
- Market leading brand strength, expertise and experience in adapting to regulatory change leaves the Group well positioned
- Board remains encouraged by the medium and long term opportunity that the new regulatory environment will present

# Critical Care – strong performance, ahead of plan

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- Strong performance with division trading ahead of plan, making an important contribution to Group revenues
- Revenue of £10.4m delivered operating profit of £3.8m in its first full year of trading
- Group continues to see a good return on its investment in marketing and business development
- Strengthened management team
- Growth in market share (10% to 12%) as leadership position enhanced and service offering expanded
- Division well placed going into 2017 and opportunities exist to gain further market share

# Residential Property – solid revenue & profit performance

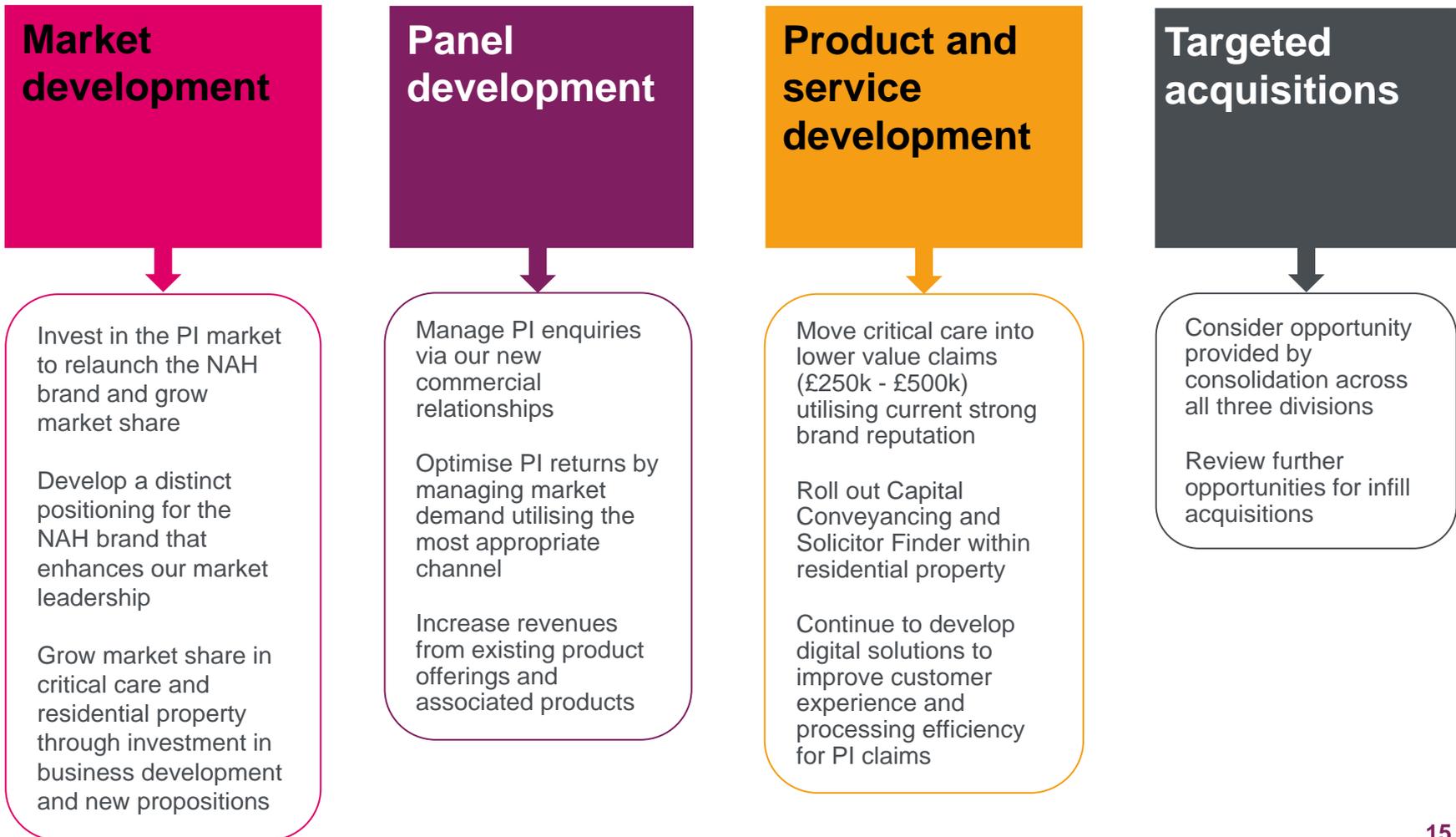
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- Division has delivered growth in revenue and operating profit, at £9.0m and £1.4m respectively
- Successful integration of Searches, acquired in January 2016
- Property market faced disruption following changes to stamp duty and mortgage interest relief, in addition to uncertainty generated by EU referendum
- Tendering work to panel has increased margins and full benefit of placing all searches in the Group is now being seen
- Strategy of broadening range of service offerings leaves division well placed to benefit from recovery in the market and to continue growth

# Growth Strategy & Outlook

# Group strategic priorities – opportunities from change



# Outlook

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- First full year as a more strategically diversified business operating in aligned legal services markets
- Group's proven track record of responding to change and underlying brand strength leave it well positioned to succeed in the new regulatory landscape
- The changes in PI have been planned and we have a clear strategy to develop our business model going forward
- Critical Care division continuing to build market share from a position of strength
- Residential Property division is well placed to benefit from recovery in the market in 2017
- Board intends to maintain Group dividend policy of 1.5x cover
- Group has started 2017 on plan

# Questions

# Appendices

# NAHL Group plc – a strategically diversified business



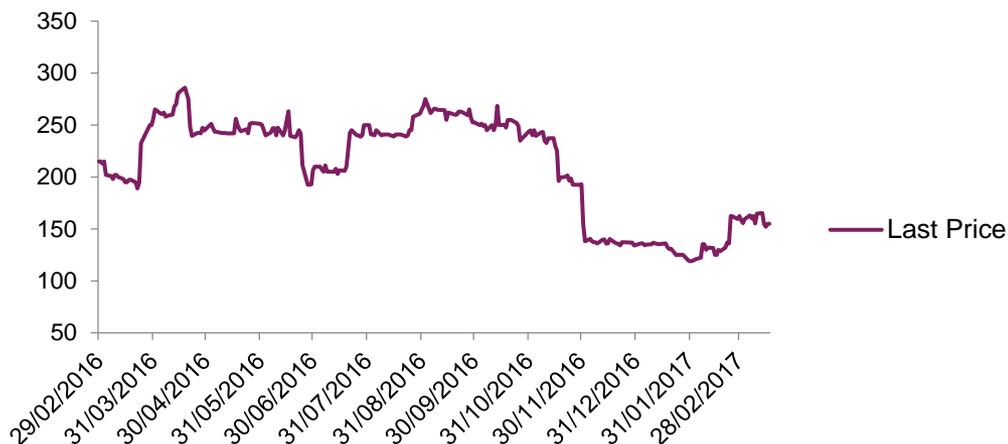
- **NAHL Group plc** is a leading UK consumer marketing and services business focused on the UK consumer legal services market
- The Group comprises three divisions:
  - **Personal Injury** via NAH which provides outsourced marketing services and products to law firms
  - **Critical Care** via Bush & Company which provides a range of specialist services in the catastrophic and serious injury market to both claimants and defendants
  - **Residential Property** via Fitzalan Partners and Searches UK which provides marketing services to law firms and conveyancers as well as property searches and surveys



# NAHL at a glance



## Twelve month share price



## Significant shareholders

Name	Holding (%)
Schroder Investment Management	16.68
Hargreave Hale	8.96
Miton Asset Management Limited	8.93
JP Morgan Asset Management	7.15
River & Mercantile Asset Management	6.05
Spreadex Ltd	5.13
Invesco AIM Capital Management	5.13
Investec Asset Management	4.67
AXA Investment Managers UK	4.47
Baillie Gifford & Co Limited	3.53

## Industry data & sector

Current index	FTSE AIM All-Share
Sector	Media
Market capitalisation	£70.92 million
Shares in issue	45.34m
Free float	43.36m
Share Price Year High	290.00p
Share Price Year Low	118.50p
Total 2016 Dividend	19.05p

## The Board

Russell Atkinson	CEO
Steve Dolton	CFO
Steve Halbert	Non-executive Chairman
Gillian Kent	Independent Non-executive Director
Tim Aspinall	Independent Non-Executive Director

## Analyst coverage

Broker	Target Price	Recommendation
Investec	300p	BUY
Arden	N/A	BUY