# **Our journey** to growth



Final Results 2022

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#### Annual Report 2022

### **2022 Final Results**

#### Agenda

- 1. Highlights
- 2. Financial Review
- 3. Business Updates
- 4. Summary and Outlook
- 5. Appendices



#### James Saralis – Group CEO

James is Chief Executive Officer of the Group, which he joined in January 2018. His responsibilities include implementing the strategy agreed by the Board and managing the day-to-day operations of the Group.

#### Chris Higham– Group CFO

Chris is Chief Financial Officer of the Group, having joined in 2006. His responsibilities include management of the finance function and liaising with the Group's investors and banks.



# Highlights



# **Financial Highlights**

Achieving our goals and returning to growth





1 Alternative performance measures are defined in CFO Report

# **Operational Highlights**

#### Building a more sustainable and profitable business

- Both the Consumer Legal Services and Critical Care divisions generated growth and advanced their strategies in the year
- In Consumer Legal Services:
  - National Accident Helpline returned to TV advertising, generated 9% more personal injury enquiries and grew market share
  - National Accident Law (NAL) continued to rapidly scale, won 60% more claims than prior year which generated £3.5m cash from settled claims, 67% more than 2021
  - NAL grew of its book of ongoing claims by 37% to 10,860 claims, worth an estimated future cash value (before processing costs) of £11.2m
- In Critical Care:
  - Bush & Co. increased the number of Expert Witness reports it issued by 10%
  - Investments in marketing and business development resulted in an increase in the number of new instructions for Initial Needs Assessments by 14% and expert witness reports by 7%
  - Bush Care Solutions (launched in 2021) delivered revenue growth of 24% to £0.4m
  - Recruited 61 new associates to support growth and enhance Bush & Co.'s proposition



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#### A leader in the consumer legal services and catastrophic injury markets

#### **Consumer Legal Services Critical Care** NATIONAL ACCIDENT LAW **BUSH & CO** What we do What we do Delivering marketing services, personal injury claim processing and Delivering a range of specialist services to claimants and property searches to UK consumers and businesses defendants in the catastrophic and serious injury market A valued and essential service • Highly productive marketing engine, powered by the sector's • Bush & Co - the standout brand in a consolidating market most trusted brand, National Accident Helpline Integrated claim processing engine, National Accident Law **Our strategy Our strategy** Create a higher margin, integrated law firm, underpinned by a Broaden our customer base, extend our competencies and flexible placement model specialisms and be more efficient through the use of technology How we do it Values driven culture Highly experienced and trusted Passionate Driven leadership team Award-winning employee Unified Curious • 283 employees (31 December) engagement



# **Review of our Progress**

### On track to deliver our growth ambitions

Consumer Legal Services	<ul> <li>Completed transformation in Personal Injury, returning the business to profit and cash generation</li> <li>Working capital investment to scale business complete. Strong future profit and cash returns forecast</li> </ul>
Critical Care	<ul> <li>✓ Built a strong platform from which to grow and expand into adjacent markets</li> <li>✓ Upgraded technology to drive efficiencies and improve resilience</li> </ul>
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Group	<ul> <li>Continuing to reduce net debt, now £13.3m from high of £21.0m in December 2019</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Assembled an experienced and committed leadership team, with a strong company culture to support our growth ambitions</li> </ul>





## Financial Review



### **Financial Performance**

#### Building momentum in 2022

£m	2022	2021	+/-	%
Consumer Legal Services	28.3	26.6	1.7	6.3%
Critical Care	13.1	12.3	0.8	6.4%
Revenue	41.4	38.9	2.5	6.4%
Consumer Legal Services	4.2	3.7	0.5	12.2%
Critical Care	3.4	3.3	0.1	4.3%
Shared Services	(1.7)	(1.6)	(0.1)	5.9%
	5.9	5.4	0.5	8.7%
Other items	(1.1)	(1.2)	0.1	-10.2%
Operating profit	4.8	4.2	0.6	14.4%
Operating profit margin	11.5%	10.7%	0.8%	
Non-controlling interests	(3.6)	(3.5)	(0.1)	3.0%
Net interest	(0.6)	(0.5)	(0.1)	-6.3%
Profit before tax	0.6	0.2	0.4	<b>142.1%</b>
Taxation	(0.2)	0.0	(0.2)	132.9%
Profit for the period	0.4	0.2	0.2	146.8%
EPS	0.8p	0.3p	0.5p	166.7%

- Group revenue increased by 6% following growth in both divisions
- **Operating profit grew 14%** in line with recently upgraded market expectations
- £2.7m marketing investment made in 8,760 new enquiries allocated to NAL and £0.5m investment in TV in 2022
- **Operating costs carefully controlled**, rising 5.4% in the year but only 1.7% in H2
- Operating profit margin improved by 0.8ppts from 10.7% to 11.5%, as benefits start to be realised from the investments in the Group's Personal Injury business
- Net interest increased due to higher UK interest rates
- Profit before tax in line with recently upgraded market expectation at £0.6m



### **Cash Generation**

#### Accelerating cash collection in NAL; reducing net debt

£m	2022	2021	+/-	%	
Developed to increase	F 4	2 5	1.0	45.20/	
Personal Injury	5.1	3.5	1.6	45.3%	
Residential Property	0.3	0.3	0.0	4.4%	_
Consumer Legal Services	5.4	3.8	1.6	41.9%	
Critical Care	3.1	3.7	(0.6)	-16.0%	
Shared Services	(1.7)	(1.6)	(0.1)	7.7%	
Cash generated from operations	6.8	5.9	0.9	15.2%	
Operating cash conversion	142.9%	150.2%	-7.3%		
Interest paid	(0.6)	(0.4)	(0.2)	-57.6%	
Tax paid	(0.2)	(0.4)	0.2	54.7%	
Drawings paid to LLP members	(3.3)	(3.4)	0.1	4.1%	
Capex, lease and other	(0.5)	(0.9)	0.4	39.2%	
Free cash flow	2.2	0.8	1.4	159.1%	
Net debt - on 1 January	(15.5)	(16.3)	(0.8)	-5.2%	
Net debt - on 31 December	(13.3)	(15.5)	(2.2)	-14.2%	

- Strong levels of cash generation throughout the year, with free cash flow +159% at £2.2m (2021: £0.8m)
- **Operating cash conversion of 143%** in the year (2021: 150%)
- Personal Injury business was cash generative in the year after deducting drawings paid to LLP members
  - NAL grew cash from settlements by 67% to £3.5m (2021: £2.1m)
  - Following investment over several years, the Group's relationships with joint-venture partners are mature and generate strong levels of cash, having delivered £3.3m in year, net of drawings paid to LLP members
- Net debt reduced to £13.3m (31 Dec 2021: £15.5m). Debt reduction continues to be a key focus in 2023



Business Review – Consumer Legal Services



#### A leader in personal injury legal services



#### **Our Strategy**

We aim to develop a sustainable, higher margin business by:

- 1. Growing the number of accident victims we can support by leveraging the strength of our market-leading brand, National Accident Helpline;
- Processing an increasing number of those enquiries through our integrated, consumer-focused law firm, National Accident Law (NAL); and
- 3. Funding our growth and debt reduction through our agile and scalable placement model.

#### **Financial Highlights**

- Revenue increased 6% to £28.3m
- Operating profit increased by 12% to £4.2m
- **Personal Injury returned to profit** after deducting members' non-controlling interests in LLPs of £0.4m (2021: loss of £0.1m)
- Personal Injury generated £1.8m of cash from operations after paying drawings to LLP members (2021: £0.1m)

#### **Strategic Progress**

- 9% more personal injury enquiries generated, growing market share
- ✓ National Accident Helpline returned to TV advertising
- ✓ £2.7m invested in 8,760 new enquiries invested in NAL
- ✓ Claims book maturing, with 67% more cash from settlements
- ✓ NAL grew its book of ongoing claims by 37% to 10,860 claims

Annual Report 2022

### **Personal Injury Market**

# Claim numbers remain subdued but significant opportunity awaits a firm who can stimulate the market

Claim volumes remain lower than before the pandemic

- Non-RTA volumes in 2022 were 69% of 2019
- RTA volumes in 2022 were 55% of 2019

This is caused by three factors:

- 1. Behavioural changes since COVID-19 pandemic
- 2. Impact of Civil Liability Act
- 3. Reduced advertising in market

In a £1.1bn\* market, there remains a large latent demand that could be unlocked by a firm who can:

- stimulate the market;
- educate customers on their rights; and
- change the perception of claiming.

Non-RTA Volume, by Quarter 2018 - 2022







\* Management estimate

9% increase in organic (unpaid) leads generated ٠ Market share in important non-RTA claims increased to 16.8% ٠ at 31 December 2022 (2021: 15.0%)

According to independent research, National Accident ٠ Helpline is the "first choice for people who have had an accident and want legal representation"<sup>1</sup>

- National Accident Helpline launched new TV advertising ٠

Generated 34,905 personal injury enguiries in 2022, 9% more ٠ than prior year

Consistently growing volumes and market share since the pandemic

Mar 21

Jun 21

Sep 21

**National Accident Helpline** 

- ٠
  - Continue to generate strong mix of claims (51% non-RTA (employers', public and occupier liability), 22% RTA, and 27% specialist)
  - RTA claims are more profitable since the decision to stop processing tariff-only small claims
- campaign in June 2022 to build engagement and awareness



Mar 22

1 Independent Research by The Nursery Research & Planning Ltd, March 2023 2 Based on third-party data provided by Claims Portal Ltd. Trailing 12 month calculation removes seasonality





16.8%

Dec 22

16.5%

Sep 22

16.4%

Jun 22

Non-RTA Market Share - Trailing 12 Months<sup>2</sup>

Dec 21

# **National Accident Law**

### Winning more settlements; growing the value of its claims book

- Total value of all cohorts since inception increased 51% in the year to £18.2m
- 4,115 claims won to date, generating £7.0m of cash from settlements in NAL
- 1,894 claims settled in the year, generating £3.5m in cash 67% more than last year
- 10,860 ongoing claims, estimated embedded value of £11.2m future cash (£3.0m accrued or billed, £8.2m unrecognised)
- Ongoing claims worth estimated £7.1m of unrecognised gross profit





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### **National Accident Law – Claim Processing**

Reviewing the performance of the 2019 cohort of claims





# National Accident Law – Claim Processing

Reviewing the performance of the 2020 cohort of claims







# **National Accident Law – Claim Processing**

Reviewing the performance of the 2021 cohort of claims



Note, 2022 cohort has not been presented given its immaturity, but £0.4m of cash was received in 2022 and £1.0m of accrued/billed revenue was booked in the year against a total cohort value of £5.9m.

### Business Review – Critical Care



### **Critical Care**

#### A leading player in the catastrophic injury market

#### **Our Strategy**

Grow share in our market by appealing to a broader customer base, extending our competencies and specialisms and to be more efficient at what we do through the use of technology

#### **Financial Highlights**

- Revenue increased 6% to £13.1m
- **Operating profit increased 6%** to £3.5m
- £3.1m of cash from operations generated in year

#### **Strategic Progress**

- Recruited and trained 61 new associates, including 14 experts in child and young person cases
- Bush Care Solutions (launched 2021) grew revenues by 24% to £0.4m
- Successful trial of employed case managers for less complex cases
- Implemented new finance system and improved processes to drive efficiencies and better reporting



margin expansion Bush Care Solutions grew revenue by 24% and was delivering 10 ongoing care packages at 31 December 2022, generating recurring

### **Case Management and Care**

#### Numbers of ongoing clients growing, generating recurring revenue

- 3% growth in revenues from case management
- 5% growth in number of INA reports issued, many of which go on to become ongoing clients
- 11% growth in number of ongoing clients, generating recurring revenue. Average revenue per client reduced due to changes in working practice across the industry
- 14% growth in INA instructions our pipeline of future work as a ٠ result of investments in marketing and business development
- Successful trial of new team of employed case managers to service ٠ less complex cases. Scaled team from three to seven by year-end and planning to recruit more in 2023. Higher utilisation drives
- revenue





Number of INA reports issued (+5% yoy) and



#### Annual Report 2022

### **Expert Witness**

#### Another year of strong performance

- Expert witness services grew revenues by 14%
- 10% growth in number of reports issued, along with growth in average revenue per report because of a favourable mix and more follow up work requested by customers
- Number of new instructions our pipeline of future work remains strong, and grew 7% in year
- Continued investment in digital tools to drive efficiencies and maintain quality

#### Number of expert witness report instructions (+7% yoy)









# Summary and Outlook



### **Summary** In subdued markets, we delivered our financial goals and returned to growth

- The Group strengthened its financial position, reducing net debt to £13.3m (2022: £15.5m)
- Group revenues increased by 6% and operating profits by 14% and we continued to invest for the future
- In Consumer Legal Services:
  - We returned the Personal Injury business to profit and can now start to realise a return on our investment
  - We grew market share and increased the number of personal injury enquiries we generated by 9%
  - We grew the value of our claims book in NAL by 33% and collected 67% more cash from settlements in the year
- In Critical Care:
  - We continued to build a strong platform for growth and grew revenues in both case management and expert witness services
  - We expanded into the adjacent care market through our new proposition, Bush Care Solutions
  - We developed our range of specialisms and recruited 61 new associates



### The Group is well placed to continue its growth and cash generation

- In Consumer Legal Services, in the first two months of 2023:
  - National Accident Helpline grew like-for-like<sup>1</sup> personal injury enquiry numbers by 3% compared to last year
  - Increased advertising spend to try to win further market share
  - NAL collected £0.6m of cash from settlements, 89% more than last year
- In Critical Care, in the first two months of 2023:
  - Bush & Co. delivered 83 INAs, 8% more than the prior year, and instruction numbers were level with last year
  - In expert witness, 197 reports were issued, 21% more than prior year, and instruction numbers increased by 18%
- UK interest rates likely to remain at higher levels in 2023 leading to higher borrowing costs
- The Board remains committed to managing net debt and anticipates it reducing further this year



### **Outlook**

# Questions



# Appendix



# **Personal Injury**

A flexible, self-funding business model, purpose built to generate shareholder returns across the cycle



Our deep consumer