

BrightHouse

BrightHouse Group Limited

Half Year Report

for the twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

BrightHouse Group Limited
5 Hercules Way
Leavesden Park
Watford WD25 7GS
United Kingdom

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Operational Highlights for the Half Year 2018-19

BrightHouse Group Limited (the “Company”), the leading provider of rent-to-own products in the United Kingdom, today announces interim results of operations for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018.

Key Summary

- During the Half Year 2018-19 our customer additions increased to 36,100 new customers compared to 31,100 in the First Half 2017-18;
- During the Half Year 2018-19 our customer losses reduced to 39,600 customers compared to 47,600 customers in the First Half 2017-18;
- The group’s asset base remains strong as our contract portfolio is at £370.9 million;
- The group had a cash balance of £15.4 million at 29 September 2018;
- Our cost of debt has increased to 13.1% for the Second Quarter 2018-19 compared to 11.7% for the First Quarter 2018-19;
- EBITDA for the Second Quarter 2018-19 was a loss of £1.0 million compared to a loss of £0.9 million for the Second Quarter 2017-18.
- On 22 November 2018 the FCA issued the conclusions of their High-cost Credit Review, this includes plans to introduce a price cap for the market and to require a two day gap between the sale of the credit agreement and the sale of the extended warranty. We are still digesting the long term impacts on the business.

Hamish Paton, Chief Executive Officer, said:

“BrightHouse continues to face tough trading conditions along with the rest of the UK High Street. Additionally, the ongoing regulatory focus on high-cost credit is unsettling to some of our customers as witnessed by increased levels of missed payments feeding through to a higher cost of debt.

“We continue to engage with the FCA as they consider further regulation of the rent-to-own market. At the same time, we remaining steadfast in our resolution to continue to serve our customers whose need for normal household products is unchanged.”

The following table reconciles EBITDA to loss before tax for the period for the Second Quarter 2018-19 and the Second Quarter 2017-18, as well as the Half Year 2018-19 and the First Half 2017-18.

	For the Second Quarter 2018-19	For the Second Quarter 2017-18	For the Half Year 2018-19	For the Half Year 2017-18
(in thousands of £)				
Loss before tax	(11,718)	(11,786)	(22,192)	(19,911)
Financial income and expense	2,689	5,319	5,355	10,853
Depreciation of fixtures and equipment and amortization of software	3,435	3,189	6,909	6,383
Exceptional items	4,606	2,373	5,816	2,428
EBITDA	(989)	(905)	(4,112)	(247)

Certain Definitions

Definitions of certain terms used in this Half Year Report and certain financial and operating data can be found below.

“APR” refers to the annual percentage interest rate.

“Company” refers to BrightHouse Group Limited.

“Contract Portfolio” refers to, collectively, all the hire purchase agreements existing on any given date. For a detailed explanation of Contract Portfolio as a non-IFRS operating measure, see “Introduction—Presentation of Financial and Other Data—Presentation of non-IFRS operating measures”.

“FCA” refers to the Financial Conduct Authority.

“Half Year 2017-18” refers to the twenty-six weeks ended 30 September 2017.

“Half Year 2018-19” refers to the twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018.

“Half Year Report” refers to this report as of and for the twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018.

“IFRS” refers to International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union.

“Indenture” refers to the indenture dated 2 February 2018 relating to the 9% senior secured notes due 2023 issued by the group.

“Insurance Subsidiaries” refers to, collectively, Caversham Insurance (Malta) Limited and Caversham Holdings (Malta) Limited.

“Notes” refers to the 9% senior secured notes due 2023 issued by the group on 2 February 2018.

“OFT” refers to the Office of Fair Trading

“SEC” refers to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

“Second Quarter 2017-18” refers to the thirteen weeks ended 30 September 2017.

“Second Quarter 2018-19” refers to the thirteen weeks ended 29 September 2018.

“sterling”, “pound sterling” and “£” refer to the lawful currency of the United Kingdom.

“the period” and “this period” refer to the Second Quarter 2018-19 unless the context otherwise requires;

“we”, “us”, “our”, “Group” and other similar terms refer to the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries unless the context otherwise requires or is clear from context.

Presentation of Financial and Other Data

For purposes of this Half Year Report we refer to the twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018 as “Half Year 2018-19”, and the twenty-six weeks ended 30 September 2017 as “First Half 2017-18”. We refer to our fiscal year started 1 April 2018 and ending 31 March 2019 as “Fiscal 2019”.

Consolidated financial statements

The consolidated financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018 presented in this Half Year Report have been prepared in accordance with IFRS and in accordance with the accounting policies presented in the offering memorandum relating to the Notes. The consolidated financial statements are unaudited and have been derived from the internal management reporting of the Company. The results of operations for prior periods or interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full financial reporting periods or any future reporting periods.

Presentation of non-IFRS financial measures

In this Quarterly Report, we present certain non-IFRS financial measures, including EBITDA and certain related ratios. As used in this Quarterly Report, the following terms have the following meanings:

We define “EBITDA” as profit for the period before financial charges, tax, depreciation of fixtures, equipment and vehicles (but not depreciation of hire purchase assets), amortisation of software and exceptional items.

We believe that EBITDA is a useful indicator of our overall financial performance and EBITDA is a useful indicator of our liquidity and our ability to incur and service our indebtedness, and can assist certain investors, securities analysts and other interested parties in evaluating us.

EBITDA and similar measures are used by different companies for differing purposes and are often calculated in ways that reflect the circumstances of those companies. You should exercise caution in comparing EBITDA as reported by us to that reported by other companies. EBITDA as presented herein differs from the definition of “Consolidated EBITDA” contained in the Indenture or for purposes of any of our other indebtedness. The information presented as EBITDA is unaudited and has not been prepared in accordance with IFRS or any other accounting standards. In addition, the presentation of these measures is not intended to and does not comply with the reporting requirements of the SEC and will not be subject to review by the SEC; compliance with its requirements would require us to make changes to the presentation of this information.

EBITDA is not a measurement of performance under IFRS and you should not consider EBITDA as an alternative to net income or operating profit or other performance measures determined in accordance with IFRS, or to cash flows from operations, investing activities or financing activities. EBITDA has limitations as an analytical tool, and you should not consider it in isolation.

Presentation of non-IFRS operating measures

This Quarterly Report includes information on our “Contract Portfolio” and other related data. Our Contract Portfolio consists of all of the hire purchase agreements we enter into with our customers. The value of our Contract Portfolio refers to the aggregate amount of remaining payments due under our hire purchase agreements on a given date through the term of the relevant contracts in effect on such date, assuming that all contracts are paid in full and not terminated prior to maturity. These payments include, in addition to the expected instalment payments towards the retail price of the product, interest and indirect taxes and payments from the purchase of our optional insurance and warranty products. This Quarterly Report also presents information on the performance of our Contract Portfolio.

We present the value of our Contract Portfolio because it represents our best estimate of the undiscounted cash value of the aggregate payments that will come due under our existing hire purchase agreements at certain points in time. The value of our Contract Portfolio is an important supplemental measure by which our board of directors and management assess our performance, as they highlight the cash generation capacity of the assets underlying our business. However, these numbers are not derived from our internal financial systems or management accounts, but are derived from our non-financial operating systems and they have not been audited, reviewed or verified by independent auditors.

The value of the Contract Portfolio and other Contract Portfolio related performance data, as computed by us, may not be comparable to similar metrics used by other companies in our industry. In addition, our computations could differ in the future from the figures included in this Quarterly Report. Furthermore, levels of actual recoveries are uncertain and may vary materially due to several factors. Therefore, none of the value of our Contract Portfolio or any other Contract Portfolio related data included herein should be relied on as indicators of future revenue or performance.

Rounding adjustments

Certain numerical figures contained in this Quarterly Report, including financial information and certain operating data, have been subject to rounding adjustments. Accordingly, in certain instances, the sum of the numbers in a column or within a table may not conform exactly to the total figure given for that column or row or the sum of certain numbers presented as a percentage may not conform exactly to the total percentage given.

Consolidated Financial Statements

Group income statement

for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

		<i>13 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>13 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>
	Notes				
Revenue	3	67,494	69,971	136,089	142,131
Cost of sales		(35,608)	(35,016)	(71,414)	(70,606)
Gross Profit		31,886	34,955	64,675	71,525
Operating expenses		(40,915)	(41,422)	(81,512)	(80,583)
Operating (loss)		(9,029)	(6,467)	(16,837)	(9,058)
Analysed by					
Depreciation of fixtures, fittings and equipment and amortisation of intangible assets		3,435	3,189	6,909	6,383
Exceptional items	2	4,605	2,373	5,816	2,428
Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation amortisation and exceptional items		(989)	(905)	(4,112)	(247)
Other finance income	4	–	4	23	7
Other finance expense	4	(2,689)	(5,323)	(5,378)	(10,860)
Loss before taxation		(11,718)	(11,786)	(22,192)	(19,911)
Tax (charge) / credit	5	(175)	1,548	620	2,414
Loss for the period		(11,893)	(10,238)	(21,572)	(17,497)

The results shown above all relate to continuing activities.

Group statement of comprehensive income

for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

	<i>13 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>13 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>
Loss for the period	(11,893)	(10,238)	(21,572)	(17,497)
<i>Other comprehensive income for the period net of tax</i>	–	–	–	–
Total comprehensive income	(11,893)	(10,238)	(21,572)	(17,497)

Group statement of financial position

as of 29 September 2018

		29 September 2018 (unaudited) £000	30 September 2017 (unaudited) £000
	Notes		
<i>Non-current assets</i>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	104,539	112,904
Intangible assets	7	17,801	22,806
Trade and other receivables	10	10,967	12,201
Deferred tax assets	8	13,808	13,053
		<u>147,115</u>	<u>160,964</u>
<i>Current assets</i>			
Inventories	9	16,425	18,648
Trade and other receivables	10	43,440	43,587
Cash and cash equivalents	11	15,434	56,722
		<u>75,299</u>	<u>118,957</u>
<i>Total assets</i>		<u>222,414</u>	<u>279,921</u>
<i>Current liabilities</i>			
Trade and other payables	12	41,130	53,638
Financial liabilities	13	99	219,040
Other provisions	14	12,900	14,791
Current tax payable		478	91
		<u>54,607</u>	<u>287,560</u>
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>			
Financial liabilities	13	118,055	38,362
<i>Total Liabilities</i>		<u>172,662</u>	<u>325,922</u>
		<u>49,752</u>	<u>(46,001)</u>
<i>Equity attributable to equity holders of the parent</i>			
Share capital	15	1,294	50
Share premium		72,598	552
Capital redemption reserve		57	57
Own shares reserve		–	(296)
Capital contribution reserve		39,274	–
Retained earnings		(63,471)	(46,364)
<i>Total equity</i>		<u>49,752</u>	<u>(46,001)</u>

Group statement of changes in equity

as of and for the twenty six weeks ended 29 September 2018

	<i>Share capital (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Share Premium (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Capital redemption reserve (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Own shares (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Capital contribution reserve (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Retained earnings (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Total Equity (unaudited) £000</i>
As of 1 April 2017	50	552	57	(296)	–	(28,867)	(28,504)
Loss for the period	–	–	–	–	–	(17,497)	(17,497)
As of 30 September 2017	50	552	57	(296)	–	(46,364)	(46,001)
As of 1 April 2018	1,294	72,598	57	–	39,274	(41,899)	71,324
Loss for the period	–	–	–	–	–	(21,572)	(21,572)
As of 29 September 2018	1,294	72,598	57	–	39,274	(63,471)	49,752

Group statement of cash flows

for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

	Notes	<i>13 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>13 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>
Cash flows from operating activities					
Loss for the period		(11,893)	(10,238)	(21,572)	(17,497)
Adjustments for:					
Sales proceeds from sales of rental assets		566	586	1,178	1,200
Depreciation		23,753	23,379	46,800	47,180
Amortisation of intangible assets		2,809	2,250	5,451	4,436
Financial income		–	(4)	(23)	(7)
Financial expense		2,665	5,323	5,378	10,860
Profit on rental assets sold to customers		(271)	(911)	(631)	(1,594)
Rental assets written off as obsolete or not recoverable from defaulting customers		6,310	5,867	12,110	11,460
Purchase of rental assets		(26,996)	(27,988)	(50,642)	(53,747)
Taxation		175	(1,548)	(620)	(2,414)
Operating cash outflow before changes in working capital		(2,882)	(3,284)	(2,571)	(123)
Increase in trade and other receivables		(354)	(1,729)	(595)	(7,054)
Decrease / (Increase) in inventories		836	1,270	(2,927)	(5,358)
(Decrease) / Increase in trade and other payables		(3,071)	(153)	6,217	11,481
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions		635	(217)	(674)	(1,581)
Cash generated from operations		(4,836)	(4,113)	(550)	(2,635)
Tax paid		(348)	(755)	(348)	(755)
Net cash flow from operating activities		(5,184)	(4,868)	(898)	(3,390)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Interest received		–	4	23	7
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(251)	(157)	(812)	(375)
Payments to acquire intangible assets		(1,848)	(5,043)	(2,938)	(8,653)
Net cash from investing activities		(2,099)	(5,196)	(3,727)	(9,021)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Proceeds from financing facilities		99	–	99	–
Interest paid		–	(1)	–	(8,663)
Net cash flow from financing activities		99	(1)	99	(8,663)
Net Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(7,184)	(10,065)	(4,526)	(21,074)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		22,619	66,787	19,961	77,796
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	11	15,435	56,722	15,435	56,722

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

1. Accounting policies and basis of preparation

This Half Year report contains condensed consolidated financial information of BrightHouse Group Limited for the thirteen weeks and the twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018. The unaudited Half Year financial information has been prepared using consistent accounting policies, presentation, and method of computation to those applied in the latest annual financial statements of BrightHouse Group Limited for the year ended 31 March 2018. This financial information should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements of BrightHouse Group Limited for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements of BrightHouse Group Limited and its subsidiaries (the “Group”) are approved by the directors and prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted for use in the European Union (“EU”) (“Adopted IFRS”). The financial statements are presented in Sterling and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds (£’000) except where otherwise indicated. The financial information contained in this interim statement does not constitute statutory accounts as defined by Section 435 of the Companies Act 2006.

2. Exceptional items

Recognised as part of operating profit

	<i>13 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>13 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>
Affordability action plan	–	1,290	–	1,290
Historic unaffordable lending	2,500	–	2,500	–
Onerous lease provision	393	636	413	683
Restructuring	1,013	447	2,203	455
Cost arising from historic staff purchase scheme	700	–	700	–
	<u>4,606</u>	<u>2,373</u>	<u>5,816</u>	<u>2,428</u>

Historic unaffordable lending

We have reassessed the key sensitives surrounding the provision and recognised an increase of £2,500,000. Further details of this are disclosed in note 14 to the accounts

Vacant and Onerous lease provision

As at 29 September 2018 we reassessed the provision and incurred a charge of £393,000 to reflect the remaining liability of the leases.

Restructuring

A business-wide cost reduction programme is underway which led to store and head office redundancy costs. There were £971,000 of incremental redundancy costs during the Second Quarter 2018-19. There were also £42,000 of cost in relation to restructuring of key departments within the business during the period.

Cost arising from historic staff purchase scheme

During the quarter we accrued £700,000 in relation to the treatment of our staff purchase scheme.

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

3. Revenue

Revenue comprises revenue from the provision of home electronic and domestic appliances, technology products, household furniture and other related products to domestic customers through hire purchase agreements and related service insurance and warranty agreements.

Customers entering into our hire purchase agreements from 2 September 2013 are entitled to return assets at any time with no further payments falling due and with no penalties incurred. With effect from 26 February 2017, when we unbundled warranty cover, the automatic right of return remains included within the hire purchase agreement. The Group accounts for its revenue on an accruals basis for all domestic hire-purchase, insurance and warranty agreements taking credit for all weekly or monthly instalments that have fallen due, but not for instalments which will fall due in the future under contracts in existence at the balance sheet date.

On this basis the transactions are treated as being operating leases in nature and the directors believe that at the inception of the lease there are no minimum future lease payments as the goods can be returned at any time.

4. Finance income and expense

Recognised in the income statement

	<i>13 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>13 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>
Interest income	13	4	23	7
Unwinding of discount on VAT incurred in advance (note 10)	(13)	–	–	–
Finance income	–	4	23	7
	<u>–</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>–</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>7</u>
	<i>13 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>13 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>
Interest expense	2,686	5,320	5,376	10,747
Unwinding of discount on VAT incurred in advance (note 10)	3	24	2	48
Unwinding of discount on provision (note 14)	–	(21)	–	65
Finance expense	2,689	5,323	5,378	10,860
	<u>2,689</u>	<u>5,323</u>	<u>5,378</u>	<u>10,860</u>
	<u>2,689</u>	<u>5,323</u>	<u>5,378</u>	<u>10,860</u>

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

5. Taxation

Tax on loss on ordinary activities
Recognised in the income statement

	<i>13 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>13 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>26 weeks ended 30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>
<i>Current tax:</i>				
Corporation tax charge UK	–	–	–	–
Corporation tax charge overseas	12	(24)	24	(11)
Total current tax	12	(24)	24	(11)
<i>Deferred tax:</i>				
Deferred tax charge / (credit)	163	(1,524)	(644)	(2,403)
Total taxation in income statement	175	(1,548)	(620)	(2,414)

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

6. Property, plant and equipment

	<i>Rental assets (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Fixtures, equipment and vehicles (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Total (unaudited) £000</i>
Cost:			
As of 1 April 2017	230,457	62,250	292,707
Additions	52,962	375	53,337
Disposals	(63,374)	–	(63,374)
As of 30 September 2017	220,045	62,625	282,670
As of 1 April 2018	212,108	63,331	275,439
Additions	50,642	812	51,454
Disposals	(61,228)	–	(61,228)
As of 29 September 2018	201,522	64,143	265,665
Depreciation:			
As of 1 April 2017	123,622	52,056	175,678
Depreciation charge for the period	43,710	1,948	45,658
Disposals	(51,570)	–	(51,570)
As of 30 September 2017	115,762	54,004	169,766
As of 1 April 2018	106,948	55,945	162,893
Depreciation charge for the period	45,342	1,458	46,800
Disposals	(48,567)	–	(48,567)
As of 29 September 2018	103,724	57,403	161,127
Net book value:			
As of 29 September 2018	97,799	6,740	104,539
As of 1 April 2018	105,160	7,386	112,546
As of 30 September 2017	104,283	8,621	112,904
As of 1 April 2017	106,835	10,194	117,029

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

7. Intangible assets

	<i>Software (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Goodwill (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>Total (unaudited) £000</i>
Cost:			
As of 1 April 2017	70,117	74,978	145,095
Additions	8,653	-	8,653
As of 30 September 2017	<u>78,770</u>	<u>74,978</u>	<u>153,748</u>
As of 1 April 2018	80,872	74,978	155,850
Additions	2,938	-	2,938
As of 29 September 2018	<u>83,810</u>	<u>74,978</u>	<u>158,788</u>
Amortisation:			
As of 1 April 2017	51,528	74,978	126,506
Amortisation charge for the period	4,436	-	4,436
As of 30 September 2017	<u>55,964</u>	<u>74,978</u>	<u>130,942</u>
As of 1 April 2018	60,558	74,978	135,536
Amortisation charge for the period	5,451	-	5,451
As of 29 September 2018	<u>66,009</u>	<u>74,978</u>	<u>140,987</u>
Net book value:			
As of 29 September 2018	<u>17,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,801</u>
As of 1 April 2018	<u>20,314</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,314</u>
As of 30 September 2017	<u>22,806</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,806</u>
As of 1 April 2017	<u>18,589</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,589</u>

Impairment testing

Goodwill arose from the acquisition of BrightHouse Limited and has been allocated to the Group's one cash generating unit (CGU) of retail sales, hire-purchase agreements and associated premiums for insurance and warranty contracts.

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

8. Deferred tax assets

	29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000	30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000
Assets:		
Tax losses recognised	7,730	6,228
Other property, plant and equipment	5,910	6,718
Capital contributions on lease incentives	168	107
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total tax assets	13,808	13,053
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

9. Inventories

	29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000	30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000
Goods held for resale at cost	16,425	18,648
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

During the period assets acquired for resale amounting to £50,642,000 (2017 – £52,962,000) were capitalised within property, plant and equipment as rental assets when issued to stores in advance of being hired to customers pursuant to hire and hire purchase agreements.

10. Trade and other receivables

	29 September 2018 (unaudited) £000	30 September 2017 (unaudited) £000
Current:		
Trade receivables	2,212	2,098
Amounts owed from ultimate parent undertaking	3,759	-
Other trade receivables and prepayments	17,352	19,388
Other non-trade receivables	602	610
VAT incurred in advance of recovery from customers	19,420	20,872
Other taxes and social security	95	619
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	43,440	43,587
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Non-current:		
VAT incurred in advance of recovery from customers	9,383	11,028
Other trade receivables and prepayments	1,584	1,173
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,967	12,201
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

10. Trade and other receivables (continued)

The directors consider that the carrying amount of trade and other receivables approximates to their fair value. Trade receivables primarily comprise VAT recoverable which is paid on the full value of assets acquired by customers under hire and hire purchase agreements when the contracts commence and are recovered from customers over the full length of these agreements or from HMRC on customer default.

Within trade receivables £9,383,000 (2017 – £11,028,000) is receivable after more than one year and has been discounted to determine its fair value. All trade and other receivables have been reviewed for indicators of impairment. Certain trade receivables were found to be impaired and a bad debt provision of £1,325,000 (2017 – £1,434,000) has been recorded accordingly. In addition, some of the unprovided trade receivables are past due as of the reporting date. The age of financial assets past due but not provided for is as follows:

	<i>29 September 2018 (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>30 September 2017 (unaudited) £000</i>
1-7 days	74	66
8-14 days	77	79
15-45 days	267	388
45-90 days	10	10
	<u>428</u>	<u>543</u>
 Movements in bad debt provision		
	<i>29 September 2018 (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>30 September 2017 (unaudited) £000</i>
At beginning of period	1,345	1,335
Amounts written off as uncollectable	(8,109)	(8,415)
Increase in bad debt provision	8,089	8,514
	<u>1,325</u>	<u>1,434</u>

The movement in the bad debt provision consists of individually insignificant balances.

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

11. Cash and cash equivalents

	<i>29 September 2018 (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>30 September 2017 (unaudited) £000</i>
Cash and cash equivalents per balance sheet and cash flow statement	15,434	56,722

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand. Included within cash and cash equivalents is restricted cash of £4,499,000 (2017 – £5,833,000). This includes restricted cash of £4,195,000 (2017 - £5,504,000) which represents cash at bank held by entities who supply insurance related services within the Group which is restricted due to certain regulatory and solvency requirements. This also includes restricted cash of £304,000 (2017 – £329,000) which represents cash held by the Group on behalf of customers.

The directors consider that the carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents approximates to their fair value.

The reduction in the cash balance year on year represents the expenditure on the refinancing of our senior secured notes, our affordability action plan and investment into stock during the period

12. Trade and other payables

	<i>29 September 2018 (unaudited) £000</i>	<i>30 September 2017 (unaudited) £000</i>
Trade payables	15,293	17,762
Other taxes and social security	2,338	2,433
Other non-trade payables	328	342
Accrued expenses	19,128	26,546
Accrued interest	4,043	6,555
	<u>41,130</u>	<u>53,638</u>

Trade and other payables principally comprise amounts outstanding for trade purchases and ongoing costs. The directors consider that the carrying amount of trade and other payables approximates to their fair value.

13. Financial liabilities

	<i>29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000</i>	<i>30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000</i>
Current liabilities:		
Credit facility	99	–
Senior secured notes 2018	–	219,040
	<u>99</u>	<u>219,040</u>

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

13. Financial liabilities (continued)

On 9 May 2013 the Group issued £220 million senior secured notes which were due 15 May 2018. Interest was fixed at 7.875% and payable on 15 May and 15 November every year to the date of expiry. The senior secured notes 2018 include an issue of £nil (2017 - £220 million) less fees incurred on the debt facility of £nil (2017 - £960,000). These fees were amortised over the term of the facilities.

	29 September 2018 (Unaudited) £000	30 September 2017 (Unaudited) £000
Non-current liabilities:		
Senior secured notes 2023	118,055	–
Unsecured 10% loan stock issued to related parties	–	38,362
	<u>118,055</u>	<u>38,362</u>

Terms and debt repayment schedule

Unsecured 10% loan stock

The unsecured 10% loan stock was redeemable on 9 May 2040 and formed part of the investment made in the Group by funds advised by Vision Capital LLP. The unsecured 10% loan stock was subordinated and junior in right of payment to the senior secured notes. The terms of the unsecured loan stock were such that the maturity date could not be prior to the maturity date of the senior secured notes. This loan was waived on 2 February 2018 by Vision Capital LLP when it had a balance of £39,274,000 and reported in the statement of changes in equity.

The amount above includes £nil (2017: £11,722,000) of accrued interest.

Senior secured notes 2018 and Senior secured notes 2023

On the 2nd of February 2018 the £220 million bond was refinanced in exchange for debt and equity.

The holders of the existing bond accepted the following in exchange for releasing the liability;

- An equal share of £107,208,000 of new debt to be issued on The International Stock Exchange, an additional £4,467,000 which was issued to bondholders who consented early to the refinancing and £3,705,625 which was issued to all bondholders in exchange for the accrued interest on the existing bond. After adjustments for de minimis payments in cash of 286,331, the total value of the new issued debt is £115,091,000. The bond was issued with an interest rate of 9% which is payable on 15 May and 15 November. The bond is due for payment on 15 May 2023.
- An equal share of 97% of the new holding company of the group, BrightHouse TopCo Limited. The bondholders could choose whether to receive cash in exchange for these shares, in which case the remaining shares were offered to the remaining bondholders at £245 per share. All offers of remaining shares were taken up. The value of the cashouts and subsequent share subscriptions was £2,463,230.

BrightHouse Group Limited was released from its bond in exchange for an intercompany debt due to its subsidiary, BrightHouse FinCo Limited, (issuer of the new issued debt of £115,091,000) and an intercompany debt due to its ultimate parent, BrightHouse TopCo Limited, (issuer of the new equity to bondholders). The debt due to BrightHouse TopCo Limited was immediately capitalised via the issue of shares with a nominal value of £1,252,893.

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

14. Other provisions

	<i>Dilapidation Provision £000</i>	<i>Affordability Action Plan £000</i>	<i>Historic Unaffordable Lending £000</i>	<i>Restructuring Provision £000</i>	<i>Onerous Lease Provision £000</i>	<i>Total £000</i>
As of 1 April 2017	3,807	8,246	-	154	4,100	16,307
Unwind of discount	-	-	-	-	65	65
Charged to the income statement	-	1,290	-	455	683	2,428
Utilised during the period	(237)	(1,198)	-	(609)	(1,965)	(4,009)
As of 30 September 2017	3,570	8,338	-	-	2,883	14,791
As of 1 April 2018	3,317	815	6,340	140	2,962	13,574
Unwind of discount	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charged to the income statement	-	-	2,500	2,203	413	5,116
Released to the income statement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utilised during the period	(131)	(381)	(2,437)	(2,274)	(567)	(5,790)
As of 29 September 2018	3,186	434	6,403	69	2,808	12,900

Dilapidation provision

£131,000 has been utilised during the period for work completed on a number of stores.

Affordability action plan

On 24 October 2017 we announced our Redress Scheme, reviewed by the FCA, and began repaying monies to our customers. We expect to incur a further £434,000 of costs in the future to complete the scheme including costs to close the scheme and the remaining payments to customers.

Historic Unaffordable Lending

In addition to the announced redress scheme, we have continued to receive claims from customers not included within the scheme which we are required to investigate and, if it is found that the correct procedures have not been followed, reimburse them accordingly.

We have reassessed the key sensitives surrounding the provision and recognised an increase of £2,500,000. This increase is largely caused by the volume of claims received being higher than our year end forecasted provision; and an increase in the number of claims that are being referred to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

The current provision recognised is based upon an estimation of future claims, payout rates using historic rates, processing costs and the rate of cases referred to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

14. Other provisions (continued)

However, a number of risks and uncertainties remain in particular with respect to the number of claims that will be received and the rate of cases referred. The cost could differ from the Group's estimates and the assumptions underpinning them, and could result in under-utilisation or a further provision being required.

Restructuring

The brought forward provision covers the non-property related costs resulting from the business wide cost reduction programme announced in March 2017. During the Half Year 2018-19 the group incurred costs in relation to incremental redundancies and costs in relation to restructuring of key departments within the business during the period.

Vacant and Onerous lease provision

This provision covers both leases on unprofitable stores and vacant properties.

During the period incremental costs were incurred in relation to costs to service the vacant properties.

15. Share capital

	29 September 2018		30 September 2017	
	(unaudited)		(unaudited)	
<i>Allotted, called up and fully paid</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>£000</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>£000</i>
A Ordinary shares of £0.001 each	1,291,642,507	1,294	4,340,000	4
Ordinary shares of £0.001 each	–	–	152,500	–
B Ordinary shares of £0.01 each	–	–	200,000	2
C Ordinary shares of £0.01 each	–	–	75,000	1
D Ordinary shares of £0.01 each	–	–	62,500	1
E Ordinary shares of £0.01 each	–	–	62,500	1
F Ordinary shares of £500 each	–	–	1	1
G Ordinary shares of £0.001 each	–	–	107,499	–
H Ordinary shares of £500 each	–	–	1	1
A Preferred shares of £0.0000001 each	–	–	6,725,639	–
B Preferred shares of £0.0000001 each	–	–	86,583,475	–
Deferred shares of £0.0000001 each	–	–	6,993,992,053	–
C Preferred shares of £1.00 each	–	–	40,500	41

Notes to the Group financial statements

as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018

15. Share capital (continued)

Between 14 November 2017 and 20 November 2017 management and the Employee Benefit Trust transferred all of their ordinary shares and preference shares (the "Management Shares") back to the company for £nil consideration. On 2 February 2018, the Company cancelled the Management Shares, consolidated all its remaining share capital into 38,749,275 A Ordinary Shares, and issued a further 1,252,893,232 A Ordinary Shares at par to its parent.

The A ordinary shares carries voting rights exercisable in proportion to the number of shares held by each member. Any income and capital distributed by the company shall be appointed amongst the A ordinary Shareholders in proportion to the number of A ordinary shares held by them respectively.

Before the transactions above, 'A Ordinary Shares' were controlled by VCP VI B. 'B Ordinary Shares', 'C Ordinary Shares', 'D Ordinary Shares', 'E Ordinary Shares', 'F Ordinary Shares', 'G Ordinary Shares' and 'Ordinary Shares' were controlled by management ('Management Shares'). 'A Preferred Shares' were controlled by VCP VI B, 'B Preferred Shares' were controlled by VCP VI B and management and 'Deferred Shares' were controlled by the Employee Benefit Trust. Dividends were distributed first to A Preferred Shares until the maximum hurdle rate, described in the Articles of Association, had been met. Remaining dividend amounts were then distributed to B Preferred Shares until the maximum hurdle rate had been met. Deferred Shares received no dividend distribution. All other classes of share were treated equally for any remaining distribution. For voting, each class of share held in aggregate, the % of votes as follows: A Ordinary: 75%, B Ordinary: 5%, C Ordinary 5%, D Ordinary 5%, E Ordinary 5% and F Ordinary 5%. All other classes of share held no voting rights.

In the event of a sale of the business, realisation proceeds were allocated in the following order. To the extent that the hurdle rate exceeds any previous return of capital A Preferred Shares received proceeds first. Next to the extent that the hurdle rate exceeds any previous return of capital B Preferred Shares received proceeds. Deferred Shares received a maximum of 1p on a sale of the business. Finally any remaining proceeds were distributed equally between the remaining share classes. However, in certain circumstances described in the Articles, participation of Management Shares in the proceeds may increase.

Nature and purpose of reserves

Share capital

Share capital comprises the nominal value of the Company's Ordinary shares as stated above.

Share Premium

The share premium reserve is the premium paid on the Company's ordinary shares.

Capital redemption reserve

The capital reserve includes the nominal value of shares brought back by the company.

Capital contribution reserve

The reserve includes amounts given to the group from its shareholders.

Own shares reserves

The own shares reserve includes the nominal value of shares held by the employee benefit trust.

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis is intended to assist in providing an understanding of our financial condition, changes in financial condition and results of operations and should be read together with our consolidated financial statements as of and for the thirteen weeks and twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018 and the accompanying notes included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report. The following discussion contains forward-looking statements that reflect our plans, estimates and beliefs. Our actual results could differ materially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to these differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed below in "Forward-Looking Statements".

Forward-Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the securities laws of certain applicable jurisdictions. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, all statements other than statements of historical facts contained in this Quarterly Report, including, without limitation, those regarding our intentions, beliefs or current expectations concerning, among other things: our future financial conditions, financial performance, performance of our Contract Portfolio, results of operations and liquidity; our strategy, plans, objectives, prospects, growth, goals and targets; future developments in the markets in which we participate or are seeking to participate; and anticipated regulatory changes in the industry in which we operate. These forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology, including the terms "aim", "anticipate", "believe", "continue", "could", "estimate", "expect", "forecast", "guidance", "intend", "may", "plan", "project", "should" or "will" or, in each case, their negative, or other variations or comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements appear in various locations of this Quarterly Report, including, without limitation, in the section entitled "*Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.*"

By their nature, forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that may or may not occur in the future. We caution you that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward looking statements contained herein were reasonable at the time they were made, our actual financial condition, results of operations and cash flows, and the development of the industry, the macroeconomic environment and the regulatory landscape in which we operate, may differ materially from (and be more negative than) those made in, or suggested by, the forward-looking statements contained in this Quarterly report. In addition, even if our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows, and the development of the industry and regions in which we operate, are consistent with the forward-looking statements contained in this Quarterly Report, those results or developments may not be indicative of results or developments in subsequent periods.

Any forward-looking statements are only made as of the date of this Quarterly Report and, except as required by law or the rules and regulations of any stock exchange on which the Notes are listed, we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or to persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements referred to above and contained elsewhere in this Quarterly Report.

Overview

We are the leading player in the rent-to-own market in the United Kingdom measured by revenue, total customers and number of stores. We offer an integrated retail, credit and service proposition attractive to low income and credit impaired consumers who have limited access to traditional financing alternatives. We conduct our operations from our 280 stores which are located across the United Kingdom and through our fully transactions website. Our product offering consists of a well-balanced mix of quality new and refurbished household goods, including essential and aspirational products, from four main categories: (i) televisions and audio products; (ii) domestic appliances, including washers, fridges and cookers; (iii) furniture, including sofas, dining sets and beds; and (iv) consumer technology, including mobile devices, gaming consoles and computers. Each product category includes a choice of leading brands from name-brand manufacturers, as well as entry level products and quality refurbished products, across a wide range of price points, which are carefully selected to appeal to low income customers.

Overview (continued)

We continue to evolve our proposition to ensure that it meets the needs of our customers. With effect from 26 February 2017, the proposition was improved to allow greater flexibility and choice for the customer. Our customers are able to choose the length of the agreement they use to purchase products from us. This gives the customer choice over the amount of the weekly payment, and the total amount payable under the agreement. They also have choice about whether to purchase a service package from us, and how to insure the product. If taken, our optional product service and insurance covers can be cancelled by the customer at any time. The Group accounts for its revenue on an accruals basis for all domestic hire-purchase and insurance and warranty agreements taking credit for all weekly or monthly instalments that have fallen due, but not for instalments which will fall due in the future under contracts in existence at the balance sheet date.

We offer our products on an affordable payment schedule. This enables customers to have the items they want and need while spreading the cost over a number of years. Prior to entering into an agreement with a customer, we conduct bespoke creditworthiness and affordability assessments. If these are passed, we will enter into a hire purchase agreement with the customer, providing, primarily, weekly instalment payments and no initial deposit. Ownership of the product passes to the customer upon full payment under the hire purchase agreement. The representative APR offered in our hire purchase agreements is 69.9%. The actual rate offered to individual customers is currently in the range 69.9% – 99.9% based upon the customer's individual credit score, the product taken and the length of the agreement. Included within the credit agreement, we provide customers, for no additional cost, the right of return and cancellation at any time, typically without penalty. As a result, customers benefit from the flexibility to return the product and terminate the hire purchase at any time should their preferences or circumstances change.

Key Performance Indicators

We use certain key operating measures to track the financial and operating performance of our business. None of these terms are measures of financial performance under IFRS, nor have these measures been audited or reviewed by an auditor, consultant or expert. These numbers are not derived exclusively from our internal financial systems or management accounts, but also from our non-financial operating systems. As they are defined by our management, these terms may not be directly comparable to similar terms used by competitors or other companies.

	As of and for the twenty-six weeks ended 29 September 2018	As of and for the twenty-six weeks ended 30 September 2017
Summary Statistical and Operating Data		
Customer Data		
Total customers (thousands) ⁽¹⁾	199.4	215.5
Total Gross Dues (in millions of £) ⁽²⁾	9.4	10.1
Closing Dues base (in millions of £) ⁽²⁾	25.2	25.9
Average number of contracts per customer ⁽³⁾	2.53	2.58
Average revenue per customer per month ⁽⁴⁾	£126.59	£120.14
Stores		
Number of stores	281	283
Contract Portfolio (in millions of £) ⁽⁵⁾	370.9	401.7

- (1) Total customers represents the number of distinct individuals who are party to one or more hire purchase agreements outstanding on the relevant date with us, without regard to the number of hire purchase agreements entered into by each such customer.
- (2) Dues is the expected amount of receipts from customer agreement instalments in an average month. (An average month is assumed to have 4.333 weeks). Gross Dues is the Dues value for new agreements signed in the relevant period. Closing Dues Base is the total closing dues at the end of the relevant period for all active agreements.
- (3) Average number of contracts per customer is calculated by dividing the number of total hire purchase agreements outstanding on the relevant date by the number of total customers on such date.
- (4) Average revenue per customer per month is calculated by dividing the closing dues base at the period end by the closing customer base at the period end.

Key Performance Indicators (continued)

- (5) The value of our Contract Portfolio refers to the aggregate amount of remaining payments due under our hire purchase agreements on a given date through the term of the relevant contracts in effect on such date, assuming all contracts are paid in full. These payments include, in addition to the expected instalment payments towards the retail price of the product, interest and indirect taxes and payments from the purchase of our optional insurance and warranty products.

Total customers

Revenue is driven by the number of customers and their average spend with BrightHouse.

Customer numbers decreased by 7.5% from 215,500 as at 30 September 2017 to 199,400 as at 29 September 2018, as the rate of customer termination in the last twelve months continued to reflect the higher level of customer acquisition achieved before the stricter affordability processes and tightened credit criteria were put in place during the 2016-17 financial year.

However, in the Half Year 2018-19, new customer acquisition improved by 16.2% to 36,100 from 31,100 in the First Half 2017-18. Customer Losses in the Half Year 2018-19 reduced by 16.8% to 39,600 from 47,600 in the First Half 2017-18; as the rate of termination rebalanced towards the lower rate of acquisition experienced when the tightened criteria were introduced.

Total Gross Dues

Total Gross Dues decreased by 6.9% to £9.4 million for the Half Year 2018-19 from £10.1 million for the First Half 2017-18. This is due to lower gross dues from add-on sales which reduced by 12.0% from £8.0 million in the First Half 2017-18 to £7.0 million in the Half Year 2018-19. This is a result of the lower customer numbers across the Half Year 2018-19 compared to the First Half 2017-18.

Closing Dues base

The Closing Dues base decreased by 2.7% to £25.2 million as at 29 September 2018 from £25.9 million as at 30 September 2017, compared to a reduction of 10.4% between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017. This is a significant factor in the lower revenue recorded in the Half Year 2018-19.

Average number of contracts per customer

Average number of contracts per customer decreased from 2.58 as at 30 September 2017 to 2.53 as at 29 September 2018.

Number of stores

As of 29 September 2018, we had a total of 281 stores, which reflects the continuation of our business plan to review and reduce our store estate, as appropriate, as we further develop our transactional website.

Contract Portfolio

The value of our Contract Portfolio as at 29 September 2018 was £370.9 million compared to £401.7 million as at 30 September 2017.

Regulation and compliance

Our business is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (the “FCA”).

On 22 November 2018 the FCA issued the conclusions of their High-cost Credit Review. For rent-to-own, this includes plans to introduce a price cap for the market and to require a two day gap between the sale of the credit agreement and the sale of the extended warranty. We worked in collaboration with the FCA throughout the process and are still digesting the long term impacts on the business.

Strategic Review

Central to our business plan is the objective to return to positive customer growth, improve margins and develop a multi-channel operation. During the last 12 months, we have developed our transactional website to allow new and existing customers to sign up online without visiting a store. We anticipate making further propositional changes to target adjacent facets of customer demand.

Cost management is another strategically important aspect of our focus over the year. Active management of lease renewal and lease breaks has led to significantly reduced costs through closures, relocations and renegotiations on both stores and engineering centres.

During September 2018 we agreed a credit facility with a third party up to a limit of £35 million.

Discussion and Analysis of Our Consolidated Results of Operations

Results of operations for the Second Quarter 2018-19 compared with the Second Quarter 2017-18

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to our consolidated results of operations for the Second Quarter 2018-19 and the Second Quarter 2017-18, respectively, which have been derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere herein, as well as the period on period changes (expressed in absolute terms and percentages) for the period under review.

(in thousands of £, except percentages)	For the Second Quarter	For the Second Quarter	Change	
	2018-19	2017-18	Amount	%
	(unaudited)			
Revenue	67,494	69,971	(2,477)	-3.5%
Gross profit.....	31,885	34,955	(3,070)	-8.8%
Gross profit margin	47%	50%	(3%)	
Operating expenses excluding exceptionals	(36,310)	(39,049)	2,739	-7.0%
EBITDA	(989)	(905)	(84)	9.3%
Exceptionals	(4,605)	(2,373)	(2,233)	-94.1%
Loss for the period.....	(11,893)	(10,238)	(1,655)	-16.2%

Revenue

Our revenue decreased by £2.5 million to £67.5 million from £70.0 million. This is largely attributable to the average closing dues base during the Second Quarter of 2018-19 being lower than in the Second Quarter of 2017-18.

Gross profit

Gross profit reduced by £3.1 million to £31.9 million from £35.0 million. This was caused by the reduction in the revenue discussed above, together with reduced product margins as a result of lower installation margins achieved in the latter part of Second Quarter 2017-18, and a year on year increase in the cost of debt.

This gives a gross profit margin of 47.2% for the Second Quarter 2018-19 compared to 50.0% for the Second Quarter 2017-18.

Net operating expenses before exceptional items

Our operating expenses decreased by £2.7 million during the quarter to £36.3 million from £39.0 million.

EBITDA

Our EBITDA for the quarter is (£1.0) million compared to (£0.9) million in the previous year quarter. This is the result of the reduction in revenue and gross profit margin discussed above

Exceptionals

The charge in this period represents an increase in the historic unaffordable lending provision, staff purchase scheme accrual and further restructuring of the business including changes to the retail management structure and reorganising the customer relations department.

Loss for the period

Our loss for the Second Quarter 2018-19 is £11.9 million compared to £10.2 million in the Second Quarter 2017-18. This is the result of the factors described above.

Cash Flows

(in thousands of £)	For the Second Quarter 2018	For the Second Quarter 2017	For the Half Year 2018	For the Half Year 2017
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period.....	22,619	66,787	19,961	77,796
Net cash flow from operating activities.....	(5,184)	(4,868)	(898)	(3,390)
Net cash from investing activities	(2,099)	(5,196)	(3,727)	(9,021)
Net cash flow from financing activities.....	99	(1)	99	(8,663)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(7,184)	(10,065)	(4,526)	(21,074)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	15,435	56,722	15,435	56,722

Net cash flow from operating activities

Net cash flow from operating activities decreased from (£4.9) million in the Second Quarter 2017-18 to (£5.2) million in the Second Quarter 2018-19 due to a reduction in the credit limits and terms being offered by suppliers.

Net cash flow from investing activities

Net cash used in investing activities reduced by £3.1 million to an outflow of £2.1 million for the Second Quarter 2018-19 from an outflow of £5.2 million for the Second Quarter 2017-18. This has been analysed in the capital expenditure section but largely relates to the investment in our transactional website during the previous year.

Net cash flow from financing activities

Net cash flow from financing activities for the Second Quarter 2018-19 includes a drawdown of the new credit facility.

Restricted cash

Included within cash and cash equivalents is restricted cash of £4.5 million (2017 – £5.8 million). This includes restricted cash of £4.2 million (2017 - £5.5 million) which represents cash at bank held by our Insurance Subsidiaries which is restricted due to regulatory and solvency requirements. This also includes restricted cash of £0.3 million (2017 – £0.3 million) which represents cash held by the Group on behalf of customers; this cash is held in a separate and ring-fenced bank account.

Capital Expenditures

Our capital expenditures (excluding purchases of hire purchase assets) comprise investments in our information technology systems and capital expenditure relating to the refurbishment of existing stores and service centres. The following table sets out our capital expenditures for the Second Quarter 2018-19 and the Second Quarter 2017-18:

	For the Second Quarter 2018	For the Second Quarter 2017	For the Half Year 2018	For the Half Year 2017
<i>(in millions of £)</i>				
Capital expenditure on information technology hardware	–	–	0.4	–
Capital expenditure on software development ⁽¹⁾	1.7	5.0	2.8	8.6
Others ⁽²⁾	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4
Total capital expenditure	2.0	5.2	3.7	9.0

(1) Includes expenditure relating to the transactional website and other strategic programmes.

(2) Primarily includes capital expenditure relating to our stores and service centres, including refurbishment, new signage and similar improvements.

Total capital expenditure incurred in the Second Quarter 2018-19 decreased by £3.2 million to £2.0 million compared to the Second Quarter 2017-18. We have continued to invest in our fully transactional website throughout the quarter.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not currently have any off-balance sheet financing arrangements other than operating leases for stores, vehicles and office equipment. As of 29 September 2018, the value of our Contract Portfolio, which is unrecognised and maintained off-balance sheet until instalment payments are due, was £370.9 million compared to £401.7 million at 30 September 2017 which represents a 7.7% reduction. This is compared to a 20% reduction in the 12 months to 1 July 2017 which illustrates the stabilisation of the effect of the terminations lag as discussed above. The Contract Portfolio was supported by hire purchase assets, recognised on our balance sheet, underpinning our Contract Portfolio, having a net book value of £97.8 million as of 29 September 2018.

Key Contacts and Calendar

Key Contacts

David Harwood – Company Secretary

Email: investor.relations@brighthouse.co.uk

Website: <http://www.brighthousegroup.co.uk/>

Telephone: +44 (0) 1923 488222

Finance Calendar

Details of future results releases will be made available on our website.