**Accounts** 

2008 - 2009



21/08/2009 COMPANIES HOUSE 258

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#### **Directors' Report**

The Directors present the accounts for Royal Mail Investments Limited (the Company). These accounts relate to the 52 weeks ended 29 March 2009 (2008 53 weeks ended 30 March 2008).

#### **Principal activities**

The Company's principal activity is to act as a holding company for the overseas subsidiaries and associates of Royal Mail Group Ltd.

#### Review of the business and future developments

The Company acts as a holding company function for distribution businesses in overseas markets and expects to continue this activity for the foreseeable future.

#### Results and dividends

The profit for the period was £3,588,000 (2008 £nil) derived from dividend income.

The movements in reserves are shown in note 10 to the accounts.

The Directors do not recommend a dividend (2008 Enil dividend).

#### Directors and their interests

The following have served as Directors of the Company during the year ended 29 March 2009, and up to the date of approval of these accounts (unless otherwise specified):

Roger Durrant

Jane Morley

Resigned 30 April 2008

Matthew Rose

Appointed 14 April 2009

No Director has a beneficial interest in the share capital of the Company.

#### **Audit information**

The Directors confirm that, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware and that each Director has taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

#### Qualifying third party indemnity provisions for Directors

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A partial qualifying third party indemnity provision (as defined in section 234 of the Companies Act 2006) was and remains in force for the benefit of all the Directors of Royal Mail Investments Limited. The indemnity is granted under article 129 of the Articles of Association of the Company's ultimate parent company. Royal Mail Holdings plc. The indemnity is partial in that it does not allow the Company to cover the costs of an unsuccessful defence of a third party claim.

#### Going concern

As outlined in the Basis of Preparation accounting policy note, as a result of the financial support available from its immediate parent company Royal Mail Group Ltd. the Directors consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

#### **Auditor**

The auditor is deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

By Order of the Board

Jonathan Evans

Secretary

London

13 August 2009

#### Statement of Directors' responsibilities in respect of the accounts

The Directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- · select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently:
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Royal Mail Investments Limited

We have audited the Company's financial statements for the 52 weeks ended 29 March 2009 which comprise the profit and loss account, statement of total recognised gains and losses, balance sheet and the related notes 1 to 15. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### Respective responsibilities of Directors and auditors

The Directors' responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether, in our opinion, the information in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the Company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

#### Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the Company's affairs as at 29 March 2009 and of its profit for the period then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

Ernst & Young LLP

Ernst alperry LLP

Registered auditor

London

/ August 2009

# Profit and loss account for the 52 weeks ended 29 March 2009 and 53 weeks ended 30 March 2008

	Mataa	2009	2008
	Notes	£000	£000
Income from investments	2	3,588	
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		3,588	-
Taxation	6		<u>-</u>
Profit transferred to reserves	10	3,588	_

# Statement of total recognised gains and losses for the 52 weeks ended 29 March 2009 and 53 weeks ended 30 March 2008

There are no recognised gains and losses other than the profit from continuing operations attributable to the Company of £3,588,000 (2008 Enil).

There is no statement of historical cost profits and losses as the accounts are produced under the historic cost accounting convention.

## Balance sheet at 29 March 2009 and 30 March 2008

		2009	2008
	Notes	£000	£000_
Fixed assets			
Investments in subsidiaries and associates	77	145,991	145,991
Total assets less current liabilities		145,991	145,991
Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year	88	(464,319)	(467,907)
Net liabilities		(318,328)	(321,916)
Capital and reserves .			
Called up share capital	9	5,000	5,000
Profit and loss account	10	(323,328)	(326,916)
Shareholder's deficit		(318,328)	(321,916)

The accounts on pages 6 to 11 were approved by the Board of Directors on 13 August 2009 and signed on its behalf by:

Roger Durrant

#### Notes to the accounts

#### 1. Accounting policies

The Company has applied the following accounting policies:

#### Financial period

The financial year ends on the last Sunday in March and accordingly, these accounts are made up to the 52 weeks ended 29 March 2009 (2008 53 weeks ended 30 March 2008).

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements present information about the Company as an individual undertaking and not as a Group. The Company has taken advantage of section 228 of the Companies Act 1985 not to prepare Group accounts on the grounds that its ultimate parent makes its Group accounts publicly available.

The accounts on pages 6 to 11 have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK Accounting Standards and law, including the requirements of the Companies Act 1985. Unless otherwise stated in the accounting policies below, the accounts have been prepared under the historic cost accounting convention. Royal Mail Investments Limited had net liabilities of £318m at 29 March 2009 (£322m at 30 March 2008). The Company is therefore dependent on continuing financial support from its immediate parent company, Royal Mail Group Ltd.

No new UK Accounting Standards, which affect the presentation of these accounts, have been issued.

No cash flow statement has been presented as the Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of a company which has presented a consolidated cash flow statement within its Group accounts.

#### Investments in subsidiaries and associates

Investments in subsidiaries, and associates within the Company's accounts are stated at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

#### Deferred tax

Deferred tax is generally provided in full on timing differences at the balance sheet date, at rates expected to apply when the tax liability (or asset) crystallises based on substantially enacted tax rates and law. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the accounts.

Deferred tax is not recognised in the following instances:

- on gains on disposal of fixed assets where, on the basis of available evidence, it is more likely than not that
  the taxable gain will be rolled over into replacement assets and charged to tax only when there is a
  commitment to dispose of those replacement assets;
- on unremitted earnings of subsidiaries and associates where there is no commitment to remit those earnings; and
- deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that the Directors consider that it is more likely than
  not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing
  differences can be deducted.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

#### 2. Income from investments

Investment income relates to dividend income of £3,588,000 (2008 £nil) received from its subsidiary PostCap Guernsey Limited (note 13).

#### 3. Staff costs

The Company has no employees (2008 no employees).

#### 4. Auditor's remuneration

Auditor's remuneration amounted to £5,500 (2008 £nil) for the audit of the statutory accounts and was met by the immediate parent company. Royal Mail Group Ltd.

#### 5. Directors' emoluments

The Directors of the Company are not paid fees by the Company for their services as Directors of the Company. The Directors of the Company are paid fees by other companies in the Royal Mail Holdings plc Group of companies.

#### 6. Taxation

#### (a) Taxation gains/losses recognised

(a) Taxacion gams, tosses Tecogmises		
	2009	2008
	£000	£000
Taxation charge/(credit) in the profit and loss account:		
Corporation tax charge for year	-	-
Tax over provided in previous years	-	
Current tax (see table below)	-	-
Deferred tax		<del>-</del>
		_

#### (b) Factors affecting the current tax charge on profit on ordinary activities

The tax assessed for the year differs from the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 28% (2008 30%). The differences are explained below:

	2009	2008
	£000	£000
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	3,588	
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 28% (2008 30%)	1,005	-
Transfer pricing adjustment re interest	(3,090)	
Losses carried forward	2,085	
Total current tax (see table above)	-	-

#### (c) Factors that may affect future tax charges

The Company has capital losses carried forward, the tax effect of which is approximately £2,000 (2008 £2,000) which may be set against future capital gains. The company has other losses carried forward the tax effect of which is approximately £9,230,000 (2008 £nil). These may be set against future non-trading profits. The Company has claimed no rollover relief.

#### 7. Investments in subsidiaries and associates

	Subsidiaries	Associates	Total
	0002	£000	£000
Cost			
At 31 March 2008	403,893	23,989	427,882
At 29 March 2009	403,893	23,989	427,882
Impairment			
At 31 March 2008	260,590	21,301	281,891
At 29 March 2009	260,590	21,301	281,891
Net book value			
At 29 March 2009	143,303	2,688	145,991
At 31 March 2008	143,303	2,688	145,991

The cost and impairment value for the G3 Worldwide Mail N.V. (Spring) associated company have been restated to include the gross cost and impairment amounts, previously reported net (no overall change to net book value).

## 8. Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year

	2009	2008
	£000	£000
Amount due to parent company	464,319	467,907

#### 9. Share capital

The authorised, allotted, called up and fully paid share capital is 5,000,000 (2008 5,000,000) ordinary £1 shares, beneficially owned by Royal Mail Group Ltd. There has been no change in the share capital of the Company during the year.

### 10. Reconciliation of shareholder's funds and movement on reserves

	Share capital £000	Profit and loss account £000	2009 Total £000	2008 Total £000
At 31 March 2008 and 26 March 2007	5,000	(326,916)	(321,916)	(321,916)
Profit for the financial year		3,588	3,588	
At 29 March 2009 and 30 March 2008	5,000	(323,328)	(318,328)	(321,916)

#### 11. Charges

A fixed charge has been registered over the Company's shares in General Logistics Systems B.V. The charge forms part of the security provided on Royal Mail Group Ltd's £500m loan facility. At 29 March 2009, £500m (2008 £500m) had been borrowed under this facility. Further details on the facility are contained in note 20 of the 2008-09 Royal Mail Holdings plc Group accounts.

#### 12. Related party transactions

The Company has taken advantage of one of the exemptions conferred by FRS 8 'Related party disclosures', whereby certain details regarding transactions with Group companies do not have to be disclosed where Group accounts are publicly available.

#### 13. Principal subsidiaries and associates

23. 1 Thicipal Substitutines and associates	Country of incorporation	Percentage holding %	Principal activities
Subsidiaries			
General Logistics Systems B.V. 1	Netherlands	100	Holding company for parcel services group
General Logistics Systems Italy S.p.A.	Italy	100	Parcel services
General Logistics Systems France S.A.	France	100	Parcel services
General Logistics Systems Germany (formerly German Parcel Paket-Logistik GmbH & Co. OHG)	Germany	100	Parcel services
General Logistics Systems Netherlands B.V. (formerly Nederlandse Pakket Dienst B.V.)	Netherlands	100	Parcel services
General Logistics Systems Ireland Ltd (formerly Williames Group)	Ireland	100	Parcel services
General Logistics Systems Austria GmbH	Austria	100	Parcel services
General Logistics Systems Denmark A/S (formerly Pakke Trans A/S)	Denmark	100	Parcel services
General Logistics Systems Poland Spolka z.o.o (formerly Szybka Paczka Spolka z.o.o)	Poland	100	Parcel services
General Logistics Systems Belgium Distribution N.V.	Belgium	100	Parcel services
PostCap Guernsey Limited <sup>1</sup>	Guernsey	100	Insurance services
Associates			
G3 Worldwide Mail N.V. (trade name 'Spring') 1	Netherlands	24.5	Mail services

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These investments are held by the Company. All other investments are held by a subsidiary of the Company.

A full list of subsidiaries and associates is available from the Company's registered office. All shareholdings are equity shares.

#### 14. Immediate and ultimate parent company

At 29 March 2009, the Directors regarded Royal Mail Group Ltd as the immediate parent company and Royal Mail Holdings plc as the ultimate parent company. The results of the Company form part of the Royal Mail Holdings plc Group accounts, which are available from that company's website (<a href="www.royalmailgroup.com">www.royalmailgroup.com</a>) or from the Company Secretary, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

### 15. Post balance sheet event

On 6 May 2009 the Company increased its shareholding in the G3 Worldwide Mail N.V. (Spring) associate company from 24.50% to 32.45%. Subsequently, G3 Worldwide Mail N.V. (Spring) approved to undertake a capital reduction through the share buyback of B shares from Royal Mail Investments Limited. The financial impact is not deemed to be material to the accounts of Royal Mail Investments Limited.