Report and Accounts

31 March 1998

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REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1998

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OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

DIRECTORS

G Wallace N Mearing-Smith R Drolet

SECRETARY

R Drolet

REGISTERED OFFICE

Caxton Way Watford Business Park Watford Hertfordshire WD1 8XH

AUDITORS

Arthur Andersen 1 Surrey Street London WC2R 2PS

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors present their report and the audited accounts for the 15 months ended 31 March 1998.

ACTIVITIES AND REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

The principal activity of the Company is the provision of cable television and telecommunications services under licences awarded to it for the Oldham & Tameside area.

The Directors expect the operations of the Company to continue to expand in the forthcoming year.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The Company made a loss for the period of £8,071,000 (Year ended 31 December 1996: £5,121,000). The preference dividend of £607,000 to the non-equity shareholders for the period ended 31 March 1998 (1996: £486,000) has not been declared, but an appropriation equal to the dividend has been made in the profit and loss account in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard No. 4. The retained loss for the period of £8,678,000 (1996: £5,607,000) has been transferred to reserves.

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The Directors currently serving or who held office during the period were as follows:

J Killian (resigned 2 June 1997)

N Mearing-Smith

P Repp (resigned 2 June 1997)
G Wallace (appointed 2 June 1997)
R Drolet (appointed 2 June 1997)

Where the Directors held any interest in the shares of Cable and Wireless plc or Cable & Wireless Communications plc, such interest is disclosed in the accounts of Cable and Wireless Communications plc, except as stated below:

Ordinary shares of Cable & Wireless Communications plc:

	At 1 January 1997 (or later date of appointment)	Shares acquired	Shares disposed	At 31 March 1998
N Mearing-Smith	153,949	-	-	153,949

Options to subscribe for ordinary shares in Cable and Wireless Communications plc:

	At 1 January 1997 (or later date of appointment)	Granted Number	Exercised Number	At 31 March 1998	Exercise Price	Date from which exercisable	Expiry Date
R Drolet	57,542	-	-	57,542	\$4.583	1/5/97	2/7/03

EMPLOYEES

The Company has no employees. Most Group employees are employed by a fellow Group company, Cable and Wireless Communications plc.

PAYMENTS TO SUPPLIERS

The Company does not enter into contracts with suppliers. Cable and Wireless Communications Services Limited, a fellow Group Company, enters into most contracts with suppliers to the Cable and Wireless Communications Group.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

YEAR 2000

The matters relating to the impact of the Year 2000 issue on the reporting systems and operations of the Company are set out on page 23 of the 1998 Annual Report and Accounts of Cable & Wireless Communications plc.

AUDITORS

On 7 July 1998, Coopers & Lybrand resigned and Arthur Andersen were appointed as auditors.

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by

Den Ce.

R Drolet

Secretary

22 January 1999

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Directors are required by the Companies Act 1985 to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company at the end of the financial period and of the profit or loss for the financial period:

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that in preparing the accounts, the Company has:

- selected appropriate accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- · made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- followed applicable accounting standards, subject to any explanations and material departures disclosed in the notes to the accounts; and
- prepared the accounts 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 which disclose, with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Company which enable them to ensure that the accounts 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.

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NYNEX CABLECOMMS OLDHAM & THAMESIDE

We have audited the accounts on pages 6 to 19 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 8 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As described on page 4, the Company's Directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Directors in the preparation of the accounts and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the Company, 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 accounts 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 accounts.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company at 31 March 1998 and of its loss for the period then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Arthur Andersen

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

the Anderson

1 Surrey Street

London

WC2R 2PS

22 January 1999

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 15 months ended 31 March 1998

	Note	15 months ended 31 March 1998 £'000	Year ended 31 December 1996 £'000
TURNOVER	2	13,537	6,363
Cost of sales		(5,617)	(3,029)
Gross profit		7,920	3,334
Other operating expenses (net)		(5,746)	(5,789)
Costs of reorganisation	4	(861)	-
Depreciation and amortisation		(2,508)	(1,495)
Write down of fixed assets	10	(2,213)	•
Provisions and write downs of other assets	3	(2,167)	-
OPERATING LOSS		(5,575)	(3,950)
Net interest payable and similar charges	5	(2,496)	(1,171)
LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	6	(8,071)	(5,121)
Taxation	9	<u> </u>	
LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION		(8,071)	(5,121)
Dividends	15	(607)	(486)
RETAINED LOSS FOR THE PERIOD	17	(8,678)	(5,607)

All activities derive from continuing operations. The Company had no recognised gains and losses other than those reflected in the profit and loss account.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement.

BALANCE SHEET 31 March 1998

	Note		arch 1998		nber 1996
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	10	£'000	£'000 47,937	£'000	£'000 41,427
CURRENT ASSETS Debtors: amounts falling due after more than					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
one year	11	-		1,489	
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	-		5,539	
Cash at bank and in hand				134	
		-		7,162	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	(38,870)		(3,818)	
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS			(38,870)		3,344
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			9,067		44,771
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	14		-		(27,672)
NET ASSETS			9,067		17,099
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	15		31,267		14,991
Capital contribution	16		_		16,237
Profit and loss account	17		(22,200)		(14,129)
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			9,067		17,099
Equity interests			7,380		16,019
Non-equity interests			1,687		1,080
			9,067		17,099

These accounts were approved by the Board of Directors on 22 January 1999 and signed on its behalf by:

R Drolet

Director

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement.

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently in the preparation of the accounts, are as follows:

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom and on the historical cost basis.

(b) Turnover and revenue recognition

Turnover, which excludes value added tax, is accounted for on the accruals basis. Revenue is recognised in the period in which the service is provided. Turnover derives from local, national and international telecommunications and cable television services.

(c) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are recorded at cost which includes materials, direct labour and general administrative expenses directly attributable to the design, construction and connection of the telecommunications and cable television networks and equipment.

Administrative expenses to be capitalised include all overheads of those departments responsible solely for design (including feasibility studies), construction and connection. Where departments spend only part of their time on functions directly connected with design, construction and connection, the relevant proportion of total overheads is capitalised.

Capitalisation of costs ceases once projects are substantially complete. Costs which are initially capitalised on projects under construction where the projects do not become operational are written off to the profit and loss account, once it is determined that the project will not become operational.

Costs of departments relating to revenue related operations, such as direct selling, marketing and other customer related departments, are not capitalised.

(i) Capitalisation of interest

Interest is capitalised as part of the cost of separately identifiable major capital projects, up to the time that such projects are substantially complete. The amount of interest capitalised is calculated as the capitalisation rate multiplied by the weighted average carrying amount of major capital projects under construction during the period. The capitalisation rate during the period was the Company's weighted average cost of capital of 8%.

(ii) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on the difference between the cost of tangible fixed assets and their estimated residual value in equal annual instalments over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The Directors review the useful economic lives and estimated residual values of all assets annually. Where expectations are significantly different from previous estimates, the remaining net book values of the assets are depreciated over the remaining useful economic life.

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The current estimated useful lives are as follows:

Lives:

Land and buildings:

- freehold buildings

to 40 years

- leasehold land and buildings

to 40 years or term of lease if less

- leasehold improvements

remaining term of lease or expected useful life of the

improvements

Communications network plant and equipment:

- ducting and network construction

10 to 40 years

electronic equipment and cablingother network plant and equipment

10 to 15 years 6 to 25 years

Non-network plant and equipment

3 to 10 years

Freehold land, where the cost is distinguishable from the cost of the building thereon, is not depreciated.

After a portion of the network is fully constructed and released to operations, depreciation of that portion commences at the earlier of six months after the release date or when target rates of penetration are

achieved.

(iii) Franchise applications and other start-up costs

Franchise application costs represent the acquisition costs of rights to operate a telecommunications network in a given territory. Costs of successful and unsuccessful cable television franchise applications are written off as incurred. Costs incurred between the award of a franchise licence and the connection of the first customer are written off over the period during which revenues are generated by the franchise.

(d) Leased assets

Operating lease costs are charged to operating loss on a straight line basis over the lease term.

(e) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less provisions for impairment.

Consolidated accounts are not prepared as the Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of another Company incorporated in Great Britain which prepares Group accounts (see Note 23).

(f) Deferred taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the results for the period and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes. The Company provides for deferred tax only when there is a reasonable probability that the liability will arise in the foreseeable future. Where deferred tax is provided, the liability method is used. No deferred tax assets are recognised in respect of accumulated tax losses.

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Pensions

Defined contribution schemes

The Company participates in defined contribution pension schemes for certain employees. The pension costs charged to the profit and loss account represent contributions payable during the year.

(h) Foreign currencies

Transactions are recorded in sterling at the rate of exchange ruling on the date of the transactions, except for those for which forward cover has been purchased. All monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are translated at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. All exchange differences arising are dealt with through the profit and loss account.

(i) Provisions

The Company accounts for provisions in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard No. 12 'Provisions and Contingencies'. Consequently, provisions are only recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past events. The amount recognised as a provision is a realistic and prudent estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation.

(j) Cash flow statement

Under the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 (Revised), the Company has not prepared a cash flow statement because it is a wholly owned subsidiary of a Company incorporated in Great Britain which is part of a Group which prepares a consolidated cash flow statement (see Note 23).

2. TURNOVER

Turnover is attributable principally to the provision of telecommunications (including cable television) services in the United Kingdom. The Directors consider this to be a single class of business and accordingly no segmental analysis of operating loss or net assets is shown.

3. PROVISIONS AND WRITE DOWN OF OTHER ASSETS

During 1997, Cable & Wireless Communications plc undertook a review of the net book values of the assets and liabilities of the Company. This resulted in a charge of £2,167,000, principally relating to the write off of long term debtors.

4. COSTS OF REORGANISATION

Following the formation of the Cable & Wireless Communications Group on 28 April 1997, the nature and focus of operations of group Companies have been fundamentally reorganised. Costs of £861,000 were incurred by the Company which include its share of the Group's branding, employee related costs such as redundancies, asset write downs and property rationalisations.

5. NET INTEREST PAYABLE

	15 months ended 31 March 1998 £'000	Year ended 31 December 1996 £'000
Interest on short term loans	2,034	-
Interest on loans repayable partly by		
instalments in more than 5 years	535	1,376
Amortisation of option type premiums	46	186
I and interest conitalized within natural	2,615	1,562
Less: interest capitalised within network fixed assets	(119)	(391)
		(0)1)
	2,496	1,171

6. LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

The loss on ordinary activities is attributable to the principal activity, the development of cable television and telecommunications franchise, and arose wholly within the UK.

Loss on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging:

	15 months	Year ended
	ended	31 December
	31 March 1998	1996
	£'000	£'000
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	2,508	1,495
Operating lease payments	44	304
	-	

The auditors' remuneration for the current financial period has been borne by a fellow Group Company.

7. REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS

	15 months	Year ended
	ended	31 December
	31 March 1998	1996
	£'000	£'000
Directors' emoluments:		
Remuneration as executives	-	72

The Directors' emoluments for the current period has been borne by a fellow subsidiary undertaking.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 15 months ended 31 March 1998

8. STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS

Cable and Wireless Communications plc, a fellow Group Company, employs most of the Group's employees. Details of staff numbers and staff costs for the Group are disclosed in the accounts of Cable and Wireless Communications plc.

In the year ended 31 December 1996 and the period ended 27 April 1997, payroll costs were incurred directly or indirectly by NYNEX Cablecomms Limited and recharged to the UK Cable Operations of the NYNEX Group under management service agreements. The payroll costs attributable to the Company were as follows:

	4 months ended 27 April 1997	Year ended 31 December 1996
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	479	791
Social security costs	55	83
Other pension costs	5	4
Total staff costs	539	878
Less: Staff costs capitalised within network fixed assets	(190)	(127)
	349	751

9. TAXATION

No corporation tax has been charged due to the availability of losses brought forward from previous years. The Company has approximately £43,064,000 (1996: £29,358,000) of tax losses available for set off against profits of the same trade. There is no unprovided deferred tax liability.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and buildings £'000	Network cable, plant and equipment £'000	Non-network plant and equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 January 1997	458	42,891	53	43,402
Additions		11,231		11,231
At 31 March 1998	458	54,122	53	54,633
Depreciation				
At 1 January 1997	29	1,926	20	1,975
Write down of fixed assets	-	2,213	-	2,213
Charge for the period	23	2,470	15	2,508
At 31 March 1998	52	6,609	35	6,696
Net book value				
At 31 March 1998	406	47,513	18	47,937
At 31 December 1996	429	40,965	33	41,427

The net book value includes capitalised interest of £588,000 (1996: £505,000)

During 1997 Cable & Wireless Communications plc undertook a review of the net book values of the assets of Nynex CableComms Oldham & Tameside. This resulted in a write down of fixed assets of £2,213,000 for the fifteen months ended 31 March 1998 principally relating to assets which will have no value to the Company upon the planned introduction of digital cable television.

The net book value of land and buildings comprised:

	31 March 1998 £'000	31 December 1996 £'000
Freehold Short leasehold	52 354	55 374
	406	429

Freehold land is not depreciated.

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

11.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR				
		31 March 1998 £'000	31 December 1996 £'000		
	Deferred costs in respect of hedging instruments Deferred loss on hedging instruments	-	969 893		
	Amortisation		(373)		
		-	1,489		
12.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR				
		31 March	31 December		
		1998	1996		
		£'000	£'000		
	Trade Debtors	-	878		
	Other debtors	•	632		
	Prepayments and accrued income	-	38		
	Amounts owed by fellow subsidiary undertakings		3,991		
		-	5,539		
13.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR				
		31 March 1998 £'000	31 December 1996 £'000		
	Trade creditors	-	5		
	Amounts owed to fellow undertakings	38,870	-		
	Accruals and deferred income	-	2,793		
	Other creditors	-	1,019		
	Taxation and social security		1		
		38,870	3,818		

Since the final quarter of 1997, the current assets and liabilities of the Company have been managed by Cable & Wireless Communications Services Limited. The net balance payable by the Company to Cable & Wireless Communications Services Limited is disclosed under amounts owed to fellow subsidiary undertakings.

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

			31 March 1998 £'000	31 December 1996 £'000
	Long term loan			27,672
	Long term loan Repayable by instalments:			
	Between two and five years		-	7,098
	In five years or more			20,574
	Total		-	27,672
15.	SHARE CAPITAL			
		Number	£'000	
	Authorised			
	As at 31 December 1996 and 31 March 1998			
	Preference shares of £1 each	2	-	
	'A' ordinary shares of £1 each	114,889,091	114,889	
	Allotted, called up and fully paid			
	As at 31 December 1996			
	Preference shares of £1 each	2	-	
	'A' ordinary shares of £1 each	14,990,668	14,991	
	Called up during the period			
	'A' ordinary shares of £1 each	16,275,880	16,276	
	As at 31 March 1998			
	Preference shares of £1 each	2	-	
	'A' ordinary shares of £1 each	31,266,548	31,267	
		31,266,550	31,267	
	Allotted but not called up As at 31 December 1996			
	'A' ordinary shares of £1 each, nil paid	99,898,423	99,898	
٠	Called up during the period	(16,275,880)	(16,276)	
	As at 31 March 1998	83,622,543	83,622	

15. SHARE CAPITAL (continued)

Shareholders' voting rights

In the opinion of the Directors, the primary rights attached to the various classes of shares are as follows:

£1 preference shares

The right to attend and speak but not vote at all general meetings of the Company.

£1 'A' ordinary shares

The right to attend, speak and vote at all general meetings of the Company.

Distributable profits

Distributable profits are allocated on the following basis:

Preference Shareholders

A fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of £458,708 per annum (exclusive of any associated tax credit available to shareholders). This dividend will accrue on a daily basis from 11 October 1994 until 11 October 2014. After payment of the preference dividend, the Preference Shareholders are entitled to 15% of the remaining distributable profits.

Ordinary Shareholders

After payment of preference dividend, Ordinary Shareholders are entitled to 85% of the remaining distributable profits.

Dividends

The preference dividend of £607,135 to the non-equity shareholders for the period ended 31 March 1998 (1996: £485,708) has not been declared. An appropriation equal to the dividend has, been made in the profit and loss account in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard No. 4 and is shown in the statement of Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds (Note 18).

16. CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION

	31 March	31 December
	1998	1996
	£'000	£'000
At 1 January	16,237	16,237
Received during the period	39	•
Converted to shares	(16,276)	
At 31 March/December	_	16,237

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 15 months ended 31 March 1998

17. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	31 March 1998 £'000	31 December 1996 £'000
	2 000	2 000
At 1 January	(14,129)	(9,008)
Retained loss for the financial period	(8,678)	(5,607)
	(22,807)	(14,615)
Undeclared dividends due to non-equity shareholders	607	486
At 31 March/December	(22,200)	(14,129)
Cumulative undeclared dividends due to non-equity shareholders		
	31 March	31 December
	1998	1996
	£'000	£'000
At 1 January	1,080	594
Appropriated during the period	607	486
At 31 March/December	1,687	1,080

18. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	31 March 1998 £'000	31 December 1996 £'000
Loss for the financial period	(8,071)	(5,121)
Capital contribution	39	-
Dividends	(607)	(486)
	(8,639)	(5,607)
Reversal of non-equity dividends	607	486
Net movement in shareholders' funds	(8,032)	(5,121)
Opening shareholders' funds	17,099	22,220
Closing shareholders' funds	9,067	17,099
Total Shareholders' Funds Equity share capital Non-equity share capital Capital contribution Profit and loss account Total shareholders' funds Shareholders' funds allocated to non-equity Non-equity share capital Cumulative dividends not yet declared	31,267 - - (22,200) 9,067	14,990 - 16,238 (14,129) 17,099
	1,687	1,080
Shareholders' funds allocated to equity Difference between shareholders' funds and amount allocated to non-	7.000	16010
equity interests	7,380	16,019
Made up as follows: Equity shares Capital contribution Profit and loss account Cumulative dividends due to non-equity shareholders	31,267 (22,200) (1,687) 7,380	14,990 16,238 (14,129) (1,080) 16,019

19. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Capital commitments at the end of the financial period, for which no provision has been made:

	31 March 1998	31 December 1996 £'000
	£'000	
Contracted for but not provided	<u> </u>	1,053

20. CONTINGENT LIABILITES

The Company is party to various legal proceedings in the ordinary course of business, primarily arising from the construction of the network. While no assurance can be given as to the outcome of these matters, in the opinion of management, based upon legal advice, the ultimate resolution of these matters in future periods is not expected to have a material affect on the Company's financial position or operating results.

21. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

	31 March 1998		31 December 1996	
	Land & Buildings	Other	Land & Buildings	Other
	£	£	£	£
Expiring:				
Within one year	-	-	•	-
Between one and five years	-	-	-	-
Over five years	35	-	35	
,	35		35	-

22. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption granted by paragraph 3(c) of Financial Reporting Standard No. 8 not to disclose related party transactions with Cable and Wireless Communications Group companies.

23. ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY AND CONTROLLING UNDERTAKING

The Directors regard Cable and Wireless plc, a Company registered in England and Wales, as the ultimate parent Company and controlling undertaking.

The largest Group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that of which Cable and Wireless plc is the parent Company. The consolidated accounts of Cable and Wireless plc may be obtained from 124 Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8RX.

The smallest Group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that of which NYNEX UK Telephone & Cable TV Holdings Company Limited is the parent Company. The consolidated accounts of that Company may be obtained from Caxton Way, Watford Business Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 8XH.

The Company is dependent on the financial support of Cable and Wireless Communications plc in order to meet its obligations as they fall due. Cable and Wireless Communications plc has indicated that it will continue to support the Company, thereby enabling it to meet its obligations as they fall due, for a period of not less than one year from the date of this report.