

Company Registration No: 3715326

NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 March 2004



NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

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NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

DIRECTORS:

**T D Boag
P Carpenter
B Walker
J F Greenshields**

SECRETARY:

Marina Thomas

REGISTERED OFFICE:

**135 Bishopsgate
London EC2M 3UR**

AUDITORS:

**Deloitte & Touche LLP
Bristol**

Registered in England and Wales.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2004.

ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS REVIEW

The principal activity of the company is the provision of fixed asset finance usually involving individually structured facilities.

The accumulated loss for the period was £2,000 (2003: retained profit £6,000) and this was transferred to reserves. The directors do not recommend that an interim dividend be paid (2003: nil).

On the 23rd December 2003, 2 finance leases, were transferred at net book value from a fellow subsidiary, Natwest Corporate Finance Limited, for a consideration of £23,678,000.

The company will continue to seek opportunities in the fixed asset finance market. The directors do not anticipate any material change in either the type or level of activities of the company.

DIRECTORS AND SECRETARY

The names of the present directors and secretary are as listed on page 1.

From 1 April 2003 to date the following changes have taken place:

	Appointed	Resigned
Directors		
Mr J F Greenshields	5 March 2004	
Secretary		
M L Thomas	21 May 2004	
P E Bartlett		21 May 2004

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

United Kingdom company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to 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.

NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

No director had an interest in the shares of the company.

The following directors were beneficially interested in the ordinary shares of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc:

	As at 1 April 2003*	As at 31 March 2004
T D Boag	2,408	2,314
P Carpenter	1,826	2,428
B Walker	-	430
J F Greenshields	3,914	4,093

* Or date of appointment if later

Options to subscribe for ordinary shares of 25p each in The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc granted to and exercised during the period by the following directors of the Company and members of their immediate family are:

	As at 1 April 2003*	Granted during the period		Exercised during the period		As at 31 March 2004
		Options	Price	Options	Price	
T D Boag	9,413	5,700	1626p	-	-	21,341
		6,228	1734p			
P Carpenter	26,330	283	1307p	393	985p	36,312
		10,092	1734p			
B Walker	1,130	283	1307p	393	985p	1,020
J F Greenshields	5,143	4,239	1734p	-	-	9,382

* Or date of appointment if later

No director had an interest in any of the preference shares during the year to 31 March 2004.

The following directors were beneficially interested in the Additional Value Shares of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc:

	As at 1 April 2003	As at 31 March 2004
T D Boag	318	-
P Carpenter	824	-

NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS (CONTINUED)

The following directors were beneficially interested in the Floating Rate Unsecured Loan Notes 2005 of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc:

	As at 1 April 2003	As at 31 March 2004
P Carpenter	768	768

Other than detailed above, none of the directors in office at 31 March 2004 held any interest in the share or loan capital of the company or any other group company during the year to 31 March 2004.

POLICY AND PRACTICE ON PAYMENT OF CREDITORS

The company follows the policy and practice on payment of creditors determined by The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, as outlined below.

In the year ending 31 March 2005, the Group will adhere to the following payment policy in respect of all suppliers. The Group is committed to maintaining a sound commercial relationship with its suppliers. Consequently, it is the Group's policy to negotiate and agree terms and conditions with its suppliers, which includes the giving of an undertaking to pay suppliers within 30 days of receipt of a correctly prepared invoice submitted in accordance with the terms of the contract or such other payment period as may be agreed.

ELECTIVE RESOLUTIONS

Elective Resolutions electing to dispense with the requirement to hold annual general meetings, lay accounts before a general meeting and re-appointment of auditors annually were passed on 15 March 1999.

AUDITORS

On 1 August 2003, Deloitte & Touche, the Company's auditors transferred their business to Deloitte & Touche LLP, a limited liability partnership incorporated under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2000. The Company's consent has been given to treating the appointment of Deloitte & Touche as extending to Deloitte & Touche LLP with effect from 21 August 2003 under the provisions of Section 26(5) of the Companies Act 1989. The company has elected to dispense with the obligation to appoint auditors annually and, accordingly, Deloitte & Touche LLP shall be deemed to be re-appointed as auditors for a further term under the provisions of section 386 (2) of the Companies Act 1985.

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


T D Boag
Director

Date: 28 JANUARY 2005

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of Natwest Machinery Leasing Limited for the year ended 31 March 2004 which comprise the profit and loss account, the balance sheet, and the related notes 1 to 16. 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 the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described in the directors' report, the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant United Kingdom legal and regulatory requirements and auditing standards.

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 if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if 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 transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the directors' report for the above year and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with United Kingdom 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 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 of the state of the company's affairs at 31 March 2004 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Deloitte & Touche LLP
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Bristol

31 January 2005

NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2004

		CONTINUING OPERATIONS	
	Note	2004 £'000	2003 (Note 2) £'000
Turnover	5	428	7
Administrative expenses	6	(45)	-
Other operating income	7	-	1
OPERATING PROFIT	6	383	8
Interest payable	8	(386)	-
(LOSS)/PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		(3)	8
Taxation credit/(charge) on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities	9	1	(2)
(LOSS)/PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION AND (ACCUMULATED LOSS)/RETAINED PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	15	(2)	6

There is no difference between the loss on ordinary activities before taxation and the accumulated loss for the year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The Company has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the losses shown above therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

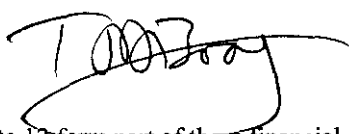
BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 March 2004

	Note	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
CURRENT ASSETS			
DEBTORS:			
Finance lease receivables due within one year		6,673	-
Finance lease receivables due after more than one year		21,830	-
Other debtors	11	<u>664</u>	<u>38</u>
		29,167	38
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	12	<u>(6,942)</u>	<u>(5)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>22,225</u>	<u>33</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		22,225	33
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	12	(14,249)	(356)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	13	<u>(7,962)</u>	<u>339</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Called up share capital	14	-	-
Profit and loss account	15	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>
TOTAL EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	16	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>

The financial statements on pages 6 to 12 were approved by the Board of Directors on and were signed on its behalf by :-

28TH JANUARY 2005



T D Boag
Director

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements on pages 6 to 12 are prepared on the basis of the principal accounting policies adopted by the Company described below and applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards. Accounting policies have been applied consistently.

The Company's accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) issued by the Finance & Leasing Association. The SORP, 'Accounting issues in the asset finance and leasing industry', was published in April 2000.

a ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The financial statements of the Company are prepared under the historical cost convention. In accordance with the Companies Act 1985, the Directors have adapted the prescribed formats of the financial statements as required by the special nature of the business.

b GROSS EARNINGS UNDER FINANCE AND OPERATING LEASES

Gross earnings under finance and operating leases are recognised according to the actuarial after tax method whereby pre tax and post tax profits are allocated to accounting periods so as to give a constant periodic rate of return on the net cash investment.

c DEFERRED TAXATION

Certain items of income and expenditure are accounted for in different periods for financial reporting purposes than for taxation purposes. Deferred taxation is provided on the full liability method in respect of timing differences which have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date. Deferred taxation is calculated on a non-discounted basis.

d AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE UNDER FINANCE LEASES

Finance lease receivables are stated in the balance sheet at the amount of the net investment in the leases. Progress payments made prior to the commencement of the primary lease are included at cost together with the amount of any interest charged on such payments.

e CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc and is included in the consolidated financial statements of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, which are publicly available. Consequently, the Company has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing a cash flow statement under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 1 (revised).

2 2003 COMPARATIVE RESULTS

The directors have reviewed the ordering of the items in the profit and loss account and have adapted the format for 2004 results, as they consider this to be more representative of best practice. Comparative results for 2003 have been reordered accordingly. There is no profit effect due to this reordering.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3 IMMEDIATE AND ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY

The Company's immediate parent company is the National Westminster Bank Plc.

The Company's ultimate holding company, ultimate controlling party, and the parent of the largest group into which the company is consolidated is The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc that is incorporated in Great Britain and registered in Scotland. Financial statements for The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc can be obtained from The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YE.

The smallest subgroup into which the Company is consolidated has as its parent company the National Westminster Bank plc, a company incorporated in Great Britain and registered in Scotland. Copies of the consolidated financial statements for this subgroup can be obtained from The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YE.

4 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Company is exempt from the requirements of Financial Reporting Standard 8, 'Related Party Disclosures', to disclose transactions and balances with other subsidiaries or investees of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc as the results are included in the consolidated financial statements of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc.

There were no other related party transactions during the year or any amounts due to or from related parties outstanding at the balance sheet date.

5 TURNOVER	2004 £'000	2003 (Note 2) £'000
Finance leases:		
Rentals receivable	2,097	7
Amortisation	<u>(1,669)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>428</u>	<u>7</u>

The Company did not enter into any new leasing transactions during the year (2003 : £Nil)

6 OPERATING PROFIT	2004 £'000	2003 (Note 2) £'000
Includes the following:		
Administrative expenses:		
Fees & commissions	<u>45</u>	<u>-</u>

All directors and employees are employed by The Royal Bank of Scotland plc and remunerated by Royal Bank Leasing Limited, which makes no recharge to the Company.

The auditors' remuneration for audit services in was borne by Royal Bank Leasing Limited which made no recharge to the company.

7 OTHER OPERATING INCOME	2004 £'000	2003 (Note 2) £'000
Fee income	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8	INTEREST PAYABLE	2004 £'000	2003 (Note 2) £'000
	Interest payable to group undertakings	<u>386</u>	<u>-</u>

9	TAXATION	2004 £'000	2003 (Note 2) £'000
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A) ANALYSIS OF CHARGE FOR THE YEAR

Current tax charge/(credit):

- Group relief payable/(receivable) on profits for the year	333	(113)
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Deferred tax - origination and reversal of timing differences:

- Current year	(334)	115
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Taxation charge on profit on ordinary activities	<u>(1)</u>	<u>2</u>
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B) FACTORS AFFECTING THE CURRENT TAX CHARGE/(CREDIT) FOR THE YEAR

Profit on ordinary activities before tax	<u>(3)</u>	<u>8</u>
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Tax on profit on ordinary activities at the standard rate of 30% (2003 (Note 2): 30%)	(1)	2
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Capital allowances for period less/(more) than depreciation	334	(115)
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Current tax charge/(credit)	<u>333</u>	<u>(113)</u>
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10 TRANSFER OF TRADE

On 23 December 2003, 2 finance leases were transferred from a fellow subsidiary, Natwest Corporate Finance Limited, for a consideration of £23,678,000.

Balances transferred at 23 December 2003:	£'000
Finance lease	32,313
Provision for liabilities and charges	<u>(8,635)</u>
	<u>23,678</u>

11	DEBTORS	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
	Amounts falling due within one year:		
	Amounts due from group undertakings	<u>664</u>	<u>38</u>

NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12	CREDITORS	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
	Amounts falling due within one year:		
	Amounts due to group undertakings	6,013	-
	Other creditors	<u>929</u>	<u>5</u>
		<u>6,942</u>	<u>5</u>
	Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
	Amounts due to group undertakings:		
	Between one and two years	5,556	-
	Between two and five years	7,967	-
	After more than five years	<u>726</u>	<u>356</u>
		<u>14,249</u>	<u>356</u>

A right of set-off exists over the Company's bank account with the National Westminster Bank plc against advances made to the Company's immediate holding company and its subsidiaries.

Amounts falling due after more than five years are repayable by instalments with varying repayment terms. Interest rates applicable to these amounts will be determined by reference to inter bank rates for three, six and twelve months.

13 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

Movements during the year:	Deferred taxation £'000
At 1 April 2003	(339)
Credit to profit and loss account	(334)
Transfer of trade from Natwest Corporate Finance Limited (Note 10)	<u>8,635</u>
At 31 March 2004	<u>7,962</u>

Full provision has been made for the potential amount of deferred taxation shown below:

	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
Accelerated capital allowances on assets financed	<u>7,962</u>	<u>(339)</u>

14	SHARE CAPITAL	2004	2003
		Ordinary shares of £1 each	
	Authorised	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
	Allotted, called up and fully paid	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

NATWEST MACHINERY LEASING LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

15 PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	£'000
At 1 April 2003	16
Accumulated loss for the year	<u>(2)</u>
At 31 March 2004	<u>14</u>

16 RECONCILIATION OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
Profit for the financial year	(2)	6
Opening shareholders' funds	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>
Closing shareholders' funds	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>