



Strand Capital Limited (in special administration)

Joint Special Administrators' progress report
for the period 17 May 2021 to 16 November 2021

15 December 2021



Contents

1.	Glossary	2
2.	Introduction	3
3.	Progress of the special administration	4
4.	Investigations	5
5.	Pre-special administration costs and expenses	7
6.	Joint special administrators' remuneration	7
7.	Special administration expenses	9
8.	Estimated outcome for Clients and creditors	10
9.	Outstanding matters	12
10.	Privacy and data protection	12
11.	Creditors' rights	12
12.	Next report	13

Appendices

I	Statutory information	15
II	Receipts and payments account	16
III	Summary of the Clients and Clients' assets	19
IV	Time analysis for the period	20
V	Cumulative time analysis	25
VI	Staffing and charging policies, and charge out rates	30

1. Glossary

Abbreviation	Description
Company / Strand	Strand Capital Limited (in special administration)
JSAs / we	The joint special administrators, being Adam Henry Stephens and Henry Anthony Shinnars of Smith & Williamson LLP (“S&W”) and Virgil Harsham Levy of LA Business Recovery Limited (“LABR”)
Bar Date	31 October 2018, being the date by which all Clients were required to agree their Client Statement, i.e. their claim in the special administration for Client assets
CASS	FCA “Client Assets Sourcebook” rules
Client(s)	Strand has two categories of Client: i. 65 individuals or corporate entities; and ii. 11 trustees, managers, operators or administrators of SIPPs or other pension schemes, also known as scheme claimants.
Client Assets	Both Client Custody Assets and Client Monies
Client Custody Assets	Assets which Strand has undertaken to hold for a Client within the meaning of section 232(4) of the Banking Act 2009, and which does not include Client Monies
Client Money Pool	Pool of Client Monies that was formed when the special administration of Strand triggered a primary pooling event, pursuant to CASS
Client Monies	Money, of any currency, that Strand has received or holds for or on behalf of a Client, in accordance with CASS
Client Statement	A statement of Client Custody Assets and/or Client Monies that form the basis of each Client’s claim for Client assets
Committee	Client and Creditors’ Committee of Strand
Distribution Plan	Distribution Plan prepared pursuant to Part 5 of the Rules, as approved by the Court under Rule 146(5)
FCA	Financial Conduct Authority
FSCS	Financial Services Compensation Scheme
Funding Agreement	An agreement whereby the FSCS will pay compensation to cover the costs of the special administration arising in relation to Client Custody Assets on behalf of clients who are eligible to receive FSCS compensation
HMRC	HM Revenue & Customs
IA86	Insolvency Act 1986 If preceded by S this denotes a section number
OWG	Optima Worldwide Group Plc
Regulations	The Investment Bank Special Administration Regulations 2011 as amended by The Investment Bank (Amendment of Definition) and Special Administration (Amendment) Regulations 2017
Rules	The Investment Bank Special Administration (England and Wales) Rules 2011
Scheme Members	The underlying beneficiaries of schemes, being SIPPs or other pension schemes. The total number of scheme members for whom Client Custody Assets are held by Scheme Claimants is 2,106.
SIP	Statement of Insolvency Practice (England & Wales)
SIPP	Self-Invested Personal Pension

2. Introduction

We, Adam Stephens and Henry Shinnars, of Smith & Williamson LLP, 25 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6AY and Virgil Levy, of LA Business Recovery Limited, 1 Beasley's Yard, 126 High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1JT, all being licensed insolvency practitioners, were appointed joint special administrators of the Company on 17 May 2017.

This report provides an update on the progress in the special administration for the Company for the six month period ending 16 November 2021 and should be read in conjunction with the JSAs' proposals dated 6 July 2017 and our previous six monthly progress reports.

Appendix I contains information in respect of the Company and the JSAs that is required under the Rules.

2.1 Key points to note

This is the ninth six-month progress report of the special administration of the Company for the period ending 16 November 2021.

During the period of this report the JSAs have responded to a limited number of Client and Scheme Member telephone calls and emails. However, the number of queries being received has now reduced significantly as almost all Client Assets have now been transferred to new custodians and the final distribution of Client Monies has been paid.

Creditors and Clients of Strand should note that all queries should be directed to telephone number 020 7131 4452, with the former telephone line having been closed due to reduced levels of enquiries.

Client Custody Assets

Creditors and Clients of Strand will recall that following the expiration of the Bar Date of 31 October 2018, the JSAs, in consultation with our advisors, drafted a Distribution Plan. This document details how Client Custody Assets will be returned to Clients and how the costs arising in relation to the Client Custody Assets will be settled. A copy of the Distribution Plan can be found at <https://smithandwilliamson.com/strand-capital-limited>. The Committee approved the Distribution Plan on 28 February 2019 and the Court approved the Distribution Plan on 2 April 2019.

Since the Distribution Plan was approved the JSA's have continued to work with Clients to return Client Custody Assets to them in accordance with the provisions of the Distribution Plan, although this process remains ongoing. Further information about the return of Client Custody Assets can be found in section 3.1.1.

As almost all Clients are eligible to receive compensation from the FSCS, an agreement has been put in place between the FSCS and the JSAs, whereby the FSCS will settle the costs for eligible Clients and Scheme Members arising in relation to each Client's Client Custody Assets claim directly with the JSAs. This means that the JSAs can return Client Custody Assets in full.

Client Monies

The JSAs have now paid a final distribution of all Client Monies claims and have closed the Client Money Pool. The total amount paid to Clients with a Client Money claim was 89.91 pence in the pound.

Company

The JSAs expect the special administration to be brought to a close once the final Client Custody Assets position have been dealt with.

Conclusion of the special administration

It is anticipated that the JSAs will be in a position to close the special administration of Strand during 2022.

3. Progress of the special administration

We summarise work under each of the objectives of the special administration.

3.1 Objective 1- To ensure the return of Client assets

3.1.1 Client Custody Assets

As reported in the preceding progress report, only a handful of clients have not provided instructions for where their Client Custody Assets should be transferred. The only assets held for these clients are investments in the Newscape Adventurous Fund and the Newscape Conservate Fund (the “Newscap Funds”) (both formerly known as 5Alpha Funds).

In the summer of 2021 Newscape announced that they were liquidating the Newscape Funds. To date Newscape have paid liquidation proceeds of 94.2% of the Newscape Funds. In order to bring this matter to a close the JSAs have reached an agreement to sell the remaining Newscape Funds to Brandon Hill Capital for the amount equivalent to the final Newscape liquidation payment. This will enable Strand to bring the custodial relationship with Brandon Hill Capital to a close and make an early final payment to the clients holding the Newscape Funds so that they do not have to wait for the completion of the liquidation of the Newscape Funds to receive 100% of their funds back.

In addition to the Newscape Funds, Strand also holds 994,983 bonds in Thameside Investment Group Plc (formerly Euler Investments London Plc) (the “Thameside bonds”). These bonds belong to EasySIPP and the JSAs were instructed to transfer these bonds to ARIA. However, during the reporting period ARIA confirmed they were unable to accept these bonds as there is no market price for these bonds. The Thameside bonds are due to mature on 31 December 2021, but whether they have any value, and whether any proceeds will be received, are currently unknown. Thameside Investment Group Plc have failed to file accounts after 1 July 2018.

The JSAs will continue to work to resolve the above issues to try to find solutions to enable the remaining Client Custody Assets (or their proceeds) to be returned as soon as possible.

As noted in our previous progress reports, Clients holding the bonds or shares in the following companies should note that following the:

- i. compulsory liquidation of Optima Worldwide Group Plc (“OWG”) in January 2021; and
- ii. the administration of Menasat Gulf Plc in June 2019

the JSAs have determined that these Custody Assets are non-returnable, including for the purpose of the Distribution Plan. Should clients have any queries in relation to these particular Custody Asset classes and the potential for any return from their respective insolvency processes, please contact the relevant appointed officeholders of these companies. Details of the appointed officeholders, can be found at Companies House online.

It should be noted that the JSAs have provided details of the Clients holding OWG bonds to the liquidators of OWG. Should there be a recovery to enable the joint liquidators of OWG to pay a dividend to unsecured creditors, this will be paid directly to Clients holding these bonds and not to Strand.

3.1.2 Client Monies

For details of earlier Client Monies payments, please refer to the JSAs earlier progress reports.

As disclosed in the preceding report, all monies in the Client Money Pool have been distributed and no further distributions will be paid to Clients in relation to their Client Money claims.

3.2 Objective 2 - timely engagement with market infrastructure bodies and the Authorities

Since appointment we have liaised closely with the FCA and FSCS, and both bodies receive regular updates from the JSAs.

The Company remains an FCA regulated entity, albeit with no current authority to trade.

3.3 Objective 3 – to rescue the Company as a going concern or to wind it up in the best interests of creditors

By way of a reminder, the JSAs concluded some time ago that a sale of the company as a going concern was not possible and are winding it up in the best interests of creditors.

As noted in the previous report, the JSAs lodged a claim for £171,015.43 in the liquidation of OWG but believe there will be insufficient assets realised in the liquidation of OWG to enable a dividend to be paid to unsecured creditors and so no realisation will be made in respect of this debt.

3.4 Receipts and payments account

A summary of our receipts and payments accounts for the period 17 May 2021 to 16 November 2021 are attached at Appendix II. Company assets, Client Custody Assets and Client Monies have been shown separately.

These accounts include cumulative figures from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021.

3.4.1 Company/house receipts

The sole receipt during the period is in relation to bank interest earned.

Further VAT recoveries are anticipated in due course. The VAT refunds relate to the accounting entries for VAT suffered on payments in relation to Client Monies and Client Custody Assets costs incurred.

3.4.2 Client Monies receipts

As previously noted, the final distribution of Client Monies has been paid and the Client Money Pool is now closed.

The balance remaining held on the Client Money account represents administrators' fees owed to Smith & Williamson LLP of £25,690.87, plus VAT.

Once paid, the bank account will be closed.

3.4.3 Client Custody Assets receipts

As noted in our previous progress reports, funding was received from the FSCS in relation to costs arising from reconciling, maintaining and distributing Client Custody Assets, per the terms of the Funding Agreement and the Distribution Plan. No further funding has been requested from the FSCS in the period of this report.

During the period of this report, bank interest has been earned on funds held, and costs have been settled in relation to legal fees incurred.

4. Investigations

As stated in our previous reports, the JSAs are required to investigate the affairs of the Company and the conduct of the directors and shadow directors in the three years preceding special administration. A report is then made to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, in accordance with the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 ("CDDA"). The contents of this report are confidential.

In addition to our obligations under CDDA, shortly after appointment, we made an initial assessment of whether there could be any matters that might lead to recoveries for the estate and what further

investigations may be appropriate. This assessment took into account information provided by creditors at the initial meeting and as a response to our request to complete an investigation questionnaire.

Investigations into matters brought to our attention and more generally in relation to the demise of the Company are concluded and no further avenues of recovery have been identified. However, should any creditor, Client or other interested party have any additional information that we should be aware of, please provide that information to us.

5. Pre-special administration costs and expenses

Details of the JSAs pre-special administration time costs, and our advisors' costs were included in our previous reports to creditors and Clients. The Committee approved a resolution to enable the JSAs to draw these costs, and all pre appointment costs have now been paid in full.

6. JSAs' remuneration

The JSAs are entitled to receive remuneration for work undertaken in respect of:

- Objective 1, which will be paid out of Client assets (split between Client Custody Assets and Client Monies); and
- Objectives 2&3, which will be paid out of Company/house assets.

The basis of the JSAs' remuneration has been approved, by the Committee, for their time properly incurred in attending to matters in the special administration. The Committee approved this basis on 6 September 2017.

Further information about the JSAs' time costs incurred in the period of this report can be found at appendix IV. You should note that both Smith & Williamson's (S&W) and LA Business Recovery's (LABR) time costs have been shown separately. Both firms' time costs have also been analysed by whether the time spent was in pursuit of objective 1 or objectives 2&3.

Also provided at appendix V are cumulative time costs analyses for all time spent from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021.

The JSAs' time costs are summarised on the following table, and the costs incurred in relation to Objective 1 have been apportioned between time spent in relation to:

- Client Monies; and
- Client Custody Assets.

The figures below summarise the time costs incurred by the JSAs to 16 November 2021.

	Smith & Williamson LLP £	LA Business Recovery Limited £	Total £
Time costs incurred from 17 May 2017 to 16 May 2021 (re-apportioned, as previously reported)			
Objective 1 time costs incurred	2,534,094.01	176,469.83	2,710,563.84
Objectives 2 & 3 time costs incurred	409,199.38	52,119.47	461,318.85
	2,943,293.39	228,589.30	3,171,882.69
Time costs incurred in the period of the report from 17 May 2021 to 16 November 2021			
Objective 1 time costs incurred	14,479.06	403.20	14,882.26
Objectives 2 & 3 time costs incurred	21,892.20	1,886.65	23,778.85
	36,371.26	2,289.85	38,661.11
Total time costs incurred from 17 May 2017 to 16 May 2021			
Objective 1 time costs incurred	2,548,573.07	176,873.03	2,725,446.10
Objectives 2 & 3 time costs incurred	431,091.58	54,006.12	485,097.70
	2,979,664.65	230,879.15	3,210,543.80
Objective 1 time costs apportioned between Client Monies & Client Custody Assets			
Objective 1 - Client Monies	625,431.47	62,813.40	688,244.87
Objective 1 - Client Custody Assets	1,923,141.60	114,059.63	2,037,201.23
	2,548,573.07	176,873.03	2,725,446.10

Note: the above figures exclude disbursements and VAT

The JSAs have drawn £2,129,529.75 plus VAT against their objective 1 time costs to date. These are further broken down as:

- £661,359.61 in relation to the Client Monies; and
- £1,468,170.14 in relation to Client Custody Assets.

S&W will draw final fees in relation to Client Monies of £25,727.83, plus VAT. Their remaining time costs incurred in relation to Client Monies of £927.83 will be written off.

The costs drawn in relation to Client Monies have been drawn from the Client Money Pool in accordance with the relevant provisions of CASS.

The costs drawn in relation to Client Custody Assets have been drawn against funding from the FSCS, in line with the Funding Agreement and the terms of the Distribution Plan.

The JSAs have also drawn remuneration from the company/house estate of £169,080.90. No remuneration in relation to company/house time costs incurred has been drawn in the period of this report.

A creditors' and Clients' guide to special administrators' fees can be found on the website www.ips-docs.com. Should you require a paper copy please telephone 020 7131 4452 and it will be sent to you at no cost.

Details of Smith & Williamson LLP's and LA Business Recovery Limited's charge out rates and policies in relation to the use of staff are provided at appendix VI.

6.1 Details of the tasks undertaken between the two firms appointed JSAs

The tasks undertaken by the joint administrators' during the special administration can be broadly outlined as follows:

S&W have undertaken the following functions in regard to the special administration:

- Taking control of all Client and Company assets, maintaining Client Monies and Company monies in bank accounts and Client Custody Assets with their existing custodian services, including those provided by Smith & William Investment Services for the OWG bonds. Also accounting for receipt and reconciliation of post pooling monies received in relation to corporate actions;
- Reviewing and arranging renewal of key Company services to be maintained post special administration, including insurance and custodians;
- A specialist Assurance & Business Services team undertaking the reconciliation of all Client Monies and assets and responsible for preparing Client CASS statements;
- A specialist forensic team have ensured all identified Company and Client data is captured and stored, as required;
- Liaison with Clients, creditors and other stakeholders of the Company in regard to notification of appointment and all other matters such as Client Monies and Client Custody Asset reconciliation and the return of Client Monies and Client Custody Assets, including the Bar Date notices and drafting of the Distribution Plan;
- Arranging and attending meetings with key Company personnel and stakeholders, including the Committee, the FCA and FSCS;
- 3rd party verification of underlying Clients data and Client statements for the Bar Dates;
- Establishing compensation payment process with the FSCS;
- Liaising with Strand's Clients to establish claim balances for Client Monies and Client Custody Assets, and then to obtain details for where distributions should be paid;
- Liaising with legal advisors and counsel to produce the Distribution Plan, Explanatory Statement and accompanying schedules, and further attendance with the Committee and Court to obtain approval of it;
- Principal point of contact relating to Client queries, information requests and DSARs;
- Instructing and chasing the return of Client Custody Assets to Clients and payment of the first, second and final distributions of Client Monies; and
- All administrative tasks required by statute, including statutory filing and liaison with regulatory bodies. Including statutory HMRC filings in respect of the Company.

LABR have undertaken the following functions in regard to the special administration:

- Notifying HMRC of appointment;
- Liaison with certain Clients and creditors of the Company;
- Liaison with certain of the Company's former professional advisers;
- Attending meeting with former key Company personnel and stakeholders, including the Committee the FCA and FSCS; and
- In respect of the majority of matters above, consulted, considered and made decisions alongside the S&W JSAs, as appropriate for the progression of this case.

7. Special administration expenses

7.1 Professional advisors

Foot Anstey LLP and Pinsent Masons LLP have both been engaged to provide legal advice. Both legal advisors are remunerated on a time incurred basis.

In the six-month period of this report, Foot Anstey LLP provided advice and assistance to the JSAs in relation to:

- finalising the Client Money Pool, incurring final fees of £51;
- queries arising in relation to the residual Client Custody Assets, incurring fees of £465; and
- legal advice and support in relation to the special administration, focusing on closure, which incurred fees of £217.

No work has been undertaken by Pinsent Masons in the period.

Both firms' costs incurred and paid to date are shown below.

Legal fees and disbursements	Foot Anstey LLP £	Pinsent Masons LLP £	Total £
Objective 1 - Client Monies			
Legal fees incurred from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021	175,012.59	18,833.23	193,845.82
Disbursements incurred from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021	20,940.64	14,670.01	35,610.65
Legal fees paid to date	(175,012.59)	(18,833.23)	(193,845.82)
Disbursements paid to date	(20,940.64)	(14,670.01)	(35,610.65)
Unpaid legal fees	-	-	-
Unpaid disbursements	-	-	-
Objective 1 - Client Custody Assets			
Legal fees incurred from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021	173,833.00	80,760.78	254,593.78
Disbursements incurred from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021	71,226.89	-	71,226.89
Legal fees paid to date	(173,833.00)	(80,760.78)	(254,593.78)
Disbursements paid to date	(71,226.89)	-	(71,226.89)
Unpaid legal fees	-	-	-
Unpaid disbursements	-	-	-
Objectives 2&3			
Legal fees incurred from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021	24,856.10	48,907.10	73,763.20
Disbursements incurred from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021	72.32	315.84	388.16
Legal fees paid to date	(19,441.60)	(41,898.60)	(61,340.20)
Disbursements paid to date	(72.32)	(315.84)	(388.16)
Unpaid legal fees	5,414.50	7,008.50	12,423.00
Unpaid disbursements	-	-	-

Note: costs incurred are shown net of VAT

7.2 JSAs' expenses

In the period of this report the JSAs have incurred total expenses of £4,100. For details of expenses incurred outside of the period of this report, please refer to our previous progress reports.

In our proposals we sought approval of our category 2 disbursements for custodian services provided Smith & Williamson Investment Services Limited ("SWISL") in relation to the OWG Bonds. However, SWISL have confirmed they will not levy charges for this service.

To retrieve some of the Company's electronic records we have enlisted the services of our forensic technologies department. As we frequently need to search this data we have had to maintain it on a live system. The software and data usage is incurring a monthly charge to the special administration.

The use of Smith & Williamson's forensic systems and software are classified as category 2 disbursements, so the JSAs sought approval from the Committee prior to paying these disbursements.

The following table shows the expenses already incurred, and those incurred and paid in the period of this report. These have been apportioned by objective.

Description	Category 1 or 2	Already incurred £	Incurred in period £	Paid in period £	Outstanding at period end £
Objective 1 - Client Monies					
Postage	1	0.23	-	-	0.23
Total disbursements		0.23	-	-	0.23
Objective 1 - Client Custody Assets					
Forensics - Data Hosting	2	2,665.00	2,050.00	-	4,715.00
Forensics - User Fees	2	150.00	-	-	150.00
Total disbursements		2,815.00	2,050.00	-	4,865.00
Objectives 2 & 3					
Storage	1	50.84	-	-	50.84
Bonding	1	765.00	-	-	765.00
Forensics - Data Hosting	2	6,355.00	2,050.00	-	8,405.00
Forensics - User Fees	2	600.00	-	-	600.00
Insurance Fee - FSCS	1	16,150.00	-	-	16,150.00
Total disbursements		23,920.84	2,050.00	-	25,970.84
Total Disbursements		26,736.07	4,100.00	-	30,836.07
Total Category 1 disbursements		16,966.07	-	-	16,966.07
Total Category 2 disbursements		9,770.00	4,100.00	-	13,870.00

Notes: Costs incurred are shown net of VAT

Total costs outstanding many include costs incurred in prior periods, but not yet paid.

7.3 Policies regarding use of third parties and disbursement recovery

Appendix VI provides details of Smith & Williamson LLP's policies in relation to the use of subcontractors and professional advisers, and the recovery of disbursements.

8. Estimated outcome for Clients and creditors

8.1 Clients

Based on the claims agreed by Clients on their Statements of Claim, the Client Money and Client Custody Assets position is outlined below.

8.1.1 Return of Client Custody Assets

As outlined in section 3.1.1, the JSAs are returning Client Custody Assets, in full, to all Clients eligible to receive FSCS compensation.

Two Clients were not eligible to receive FSCS compensation. For each of these Clients their Client Custody Assets were:

- returned to them once they had made payment for the fixed costs apportioned to their holding; or
- liquidated to settle the costs outstanding

As mentioned earlier in this report, Non-Returnable Client Custody Assets, which comprises the OWG bonds and Menasat Gulf shares, are not being returned to Clients as both of the issuers of these securities are now in a formal insolvency process.

There remain two Client Custody Assets to return to Clients, which are outlined in more detail in section 3.1.1. The JSAs anticipate they will transfer the liquidation proceeds from the Newscape Funds in early 2022, and we await the maturity proceeds from the Thameside bonds.

8.1.2 Return of Client Money

The JSAs have paid the final distributions from the Client Money Pool totalling 89.91 pence in the pound of Client Monies claims.

By way of a combination of compensation from the FSCS and payment of the distributions, all Clients with a Client Monies claim have received their claim balance in full.

8.1.3 FSCS claims

The FSCS protects consumers when authorised firms fail or stop trading. In certain prescribed circumstances it protects private individuals and small businesses if an authorised firm becomes insolvent and cannot pay claims against it. The FSCS declared that the Company is in default and that eligible Clients will have a claim in the FSCS.

For eligible claims, the FSCS can pay up to £50,000 in compensation per Client. Once compensation has been paid by the FSCS, the FSCS assumes the benefit of the Client's claims in respect of Client Monies against the Company. This is done by way of an assignment (or subrogation) of rights in respect of Client Monies to the FSCS.

Almost all of Strand's Clients have received compensation from the FSCS.

8.2 Secured creditors

There are no secured creditors of the Company.

8.3 Preferential creditors

There is one preferential claim in the special administration, which is for less than £1,000.

The FSCS may also rank as a secondary preferential creditor in relation to certain monies advanced by it in compensation to Strand's Clients.

The JSAs remain of the opinion that there will not be sufficient monies to pay a dividend to any preferential creditor.

8.4 Unsecured creditors

Unsecured creditors' claims are broadly split into the following categories:

1. A claim from the FSCS for certain compensation monies advanced to Clients;
2. Client shortfall claims, which arise from any shortfall of Client Monies or Client Custody Assets in the Company or other Client Asset related claims that are claims against the Company; and

3. Ordinary unsecured trade and other non- Client claims, including any employees' non preferential claims.

It remains unlikely there will be sufficient asset realisations to enable a dividend to be paid to unsecured creditors of the Company, including to Clients in respect of any shortfall in Client Custody Assets and Client Monies.

9. Outstanding matters

The following tasks remain outstanding, alongside other tasks to be undertaken, as required by statute and best practice. The JSAs will:

- return the liquidation/maturity proceeds from the two Client Custody Assets held; and
- bring the special administration to a conclusion.

10. Privacy and data protection

As part of our role as JSAs, I would advise you that we may need to access and use data relating to individuals. In doing so, we must abide by data protection requirements.

The JSAs may act as controllers of personal data, as defined by the UK data protection law, depending upon the specific processing activities undertaken. Smith and Williamson LLP and LA Business Recovery Limited may act as a processor on the instructions of the JSAs. Personal data will be kept secure and processed only for matters relating to the JSAs' appointment.

Information about the way that we will use and store personal data in relation to insolvency appointments can be found at:

- www.smithandwilliamson.com/rsgdpr for Smith & Williamson LLP; and
- www.labusinessrecovery.com/gdpr-statement for LA Business Recovery Limited.

If you are unable to download this, please contact my office and a hard copy will be provided free of charge.

To the extent that you hold any personal data on the Company's data subjects provided to you by the Company or obtained otherwise, you must process such data in accordance with data protection legislation. Please contact us if you believe this applies.

11. Creditors' rights

Creditors (which within this section includes Clients) have rights under Rules 201 and 202 to request further information and to challenge the JSAs' remuneration and/or expenses incurred. In summary:

- Within 21 days of the receipt of a progress report, a secured creditor, or an unsecured creditor (with the concurrence of at least 5% in value of the unsecured creditors, including the creditor in question or the permission of the court) or Client (with the concurrence of at least 5% in value of the Client assets including the Client in question) may request in writing that the JSAs provide further information about their remuneration or expenses which have been itemised in the report.
- Any secured creditor, or an unsecured creditor or Client (with the concurrence of at least 10% in value of the unsecured creditor including the creditor in question, or the permission of the court) or Client (with the concurrence of at least 10% in value of the total claims in respect of the Client assets held by the investment bank, or with the permission of the court, or the FCA) may within 8 weeks of receipt of a progress report make an application to court on the grounds that, in all the circumstances, the basis fixed for the JSAs' is inappropriate and/or the remuneration charged or the expenses incurred (including any paid) by the JSAs, as set out in the report, are excessive.

The above rights apply only to matters which have not been disclosed in previous reports.

The JSAs of Strand are appointed to manage its affairs, business and property. They act as agents and without personal liability.

Adam Henry Stephens and Henry Shidders both of Smith & Williamson LLP are office-holders are authorised and licensed in the United Kingdom to act as insolvency practitioners by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Virgil Levy of LA Business Recovery Limited is authorised and licensed in the United Kingdom to act as insolvency practitioners by the Insolvency Practitioners Association. Further details of their licensing body along with our complaints and compensation procedure can be accessed at:

<https://smithandwilliamson.com/en/insolvency-licensing-bodies/> and
<https://www.labusinessrecovery.com/complaints-procedure> respectively

The Special Administrators are bound by the Insolvency Code of Ethics which can be found at:

<https://www.icaew.com/technical/insolvency/sips-regulations-and-guidance/insolvency-code-of-ethics>

If you have any concerns regarding this matter, please call the current case telephone number 020 7131 4452.

On a general note, if you have any comments or concerns in connection with our conduct, please contact the JSAs. If the matter is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may contact Smith & Williamson LLP's Head of Legal by writing to 25 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AY or by telephone on 020 7131 4000.

Thereafter, if you wish to take the matter further you may contact the Insolvency Services directly via Insolvency Complaints Gateway. They can be contacted by email, telephone or letter as follows:

Email: insolvency.enquiryline@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: +44 300 678 0015

Postal address: The Insolvency Service, IP Complaints, 3rd Floor, 1 City Walk, Leeds LS11 9DA

12. Next report

The JSAs are required to provide a progress report within one month of the end of the next six months of the special administration, or earlier if the special administration has been finalised. At present it is envisaged that the special administration will be concluded in 2022.

As detailed above, the JSAs will continue to work to distribute Client Custody Assets or their proceeds. We thank the many Clients, intermediaries and other stakeholders for their work in facilitating the distributions to date.

Updates to Clients will be provided, as and when appropriate, and uploaded to our webpage:

<https://smithandwilliamson.com/strand-capital-limited>.

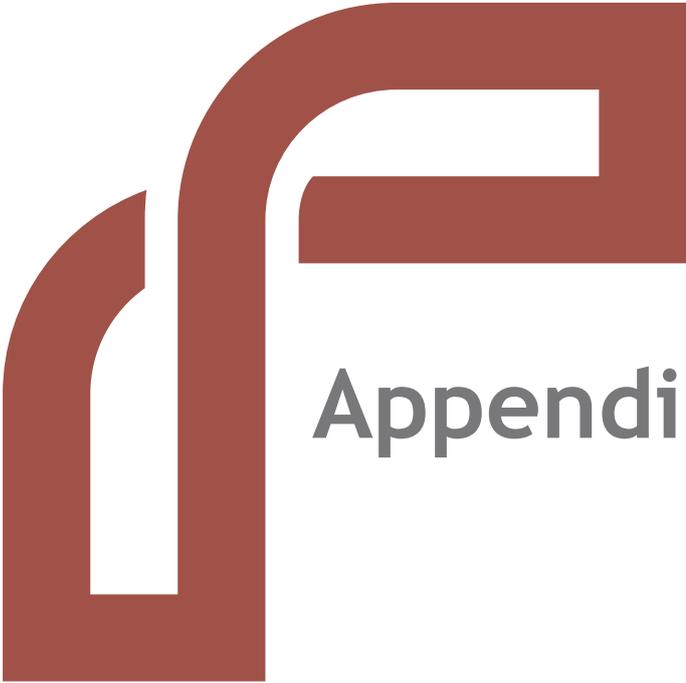
Thank you.



Adam Stephens

On behalf of the Joint Special Administrators

Date: 15 December 2021



Appendices

I Statutory information

Relevant Court	High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, Companies Court
Court Reference	CR-2017-003691
Trading Name(s)	Strand Capital or Strand
Trading Addresses	1 Tudor Street, London, EC4Y 0AH
Former Name(s)	London Capital Trading Limited (from June 2004 to February 2011) Curvalue Trading Limited (from June 2001 to June 2004) Interactive Clearing Services Limited (from April 1999 to June 2001)
Registered Office	25 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6AY (formerly: 1 Tudor Street, London, EC4Y 0AH)
Registered Number	03747386
Joint special administrators	Adam Henry Stephens and Henry Anthony Shidders both of Smith & Williamson LLP, 25 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6AY and Virgil Harsham Levy of LA Business Recovery Limited, 1 Beasley Yard, 126 High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1JT (IP Nos. 9748, 9280 and 19090 respectively) In accordance with paragraph 100 (2) Schedule B1 of the Insolvency Act 1986 the Court order authorises the joint special administrators to act jointly and severally.
Date of Appointment	17 May 2017
Appointor	High Court of Justice upon the application of the Company acting by its sole director, Joseph Reginald Salisbury Egerton
Director	Joseph Reginald Salisbury Egerton
Company Secretary	Joseph Reginald Salisbury Egerton
Shareholder	Optima Worldwide Group Plc
Director's shareholding	N/A

II Receipts and payments account

Company/house receipts and payments account to 17 November 2021

Statement of Affairs £	From 17/05/2021 To 16/11/2021 £	From 17/05/2017 To 16/11/2021 £
	ASSET REALISATIONS	
	Computer Equipment	250.00
Uncertain	Book Debts	-
Uncertain	VAT Refund	-
7,441.14	Cash at Bank	7,441.14
Uncertain	Management Fees	-
	VAT Recovery - Client Fund Payments	574,362.42
	Bank Interest Gross	502.14
	<u>2.47</u>	<u>502.14</u>
	2.47	582,555.70
	COST OF REALISATIONS	
	Pre appointment costs:	
	S&W fees - Objectives 2&3	43,769.25
	LABR fees - Objectives 2&3	16,510.54
	Pinsent Masons fees - Objectives 2&3	13,543.50
	Joint Administrators post appointment fees & expenses:	
	S&W fees	150,148.75
	LABR fees	18,932.15
	S&W category 1 expenses	1,457.57
	S&W category 2 expenses	2,070.00
	Legal Fees - Objectives 2&3	61,340.20
	Legal Expenses	388.16
	Specific Bond	93.34
	Postage	1,981.90
	Re-Direction of Mail	578.00
	Statutory Advertising	509.00
	Storage Costs	688.03
	Bank Charges	(2.85)
	Funds Held at Natwest Bank Plc	3.85
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(312,011.39)</u>
	0.00	(312,011.39)
	PREFERENTIAL CREDITORS	
(84.50)	Employees Wage Arrears	-
	<u>NIL</u>	<u>NIL</u>
	NIL	NIL
	UNSECURED CREDITORS	
(4,731.76)	Employees	-
(220,177.78)	Trade & Expense Creditors	-
	<u>NIL</u>	<u>NIL</u>
	NIL	NIL
	DISTRIBUTIONS	
(387,600.00)	Ordinary Shareholders	-
	<u>NIL</u>	<u>NIL</u>
	NIL	NIL
<u>(605,152.90)</u>	<u>2.47</u>	<u>270,544.31</u>
	REPRESENTED BY	
	RBS Clients Deposit (Int Bear)	49,529.29
	VAT Receivable Flt Chg	221,015.02
		<u>270,544.31</u>

Notes and further information required by SIP 7

- Company bank accounts became non-interest bearing on 17 October 2018, due to a Bank decision. The bank account was transferred to Royal Bank of Scotland, and interest is now received on funds held.
- All amounts in the receipts and payments account are shown exclusive of any attributable VAT. Where VAT is not recoverable it is shown as irrecoverable VAT.

Client Monies receipts and payments account to 16 November 2021

Statement of Affairs £	From 17/05/2021 To 16/11/2021 £	From 17/05/2017 To 16/11/2021 £
CLIENT MONEY POOL		
	-	8,579,286.36
	-	775.66
	-	3,944,469.66
	-	45,608.13
12,484,175.74	NIL	12,570,139.81
ASSET REALISATIONS		
	-	37.88
	NIL	37.88
COST ARISING IN RELATION TO CLIENT MONIES		
Pre-appointment Costs:		
	-	16,781.00
	-	9,225.80
	-	89,334.00
	-	53,031.65
	-	3,020.83
Joint Administrators post appointment fees & expenses:		
	-	598,775.81
	-	62,583.80
	-	379.66
	-	2,890.00
	-	175,012.59
	-	20,940.64
	-	18,833.23
	-	14,670.01
	-	211,823.45
	NIL	(1,277,302.47)
RETURNS OF CLIENT MONIES		
	-	11,262,046.18
	NIL	(11,262,046.18)
12,484,175.74	0.00	30,829.04
REPRESENTED BY		
		37.88
		29,576.40
		1,214.76
		30,829.04

Notes and further information required by SIP 7

- The final balance held of £30,829.04 represents joint administrators' fees due to Smith & Williamson LLP of £25,690.87, plus VAT.
- The JSAs' pre appointment costs and post appointment remuneration and costs have been drawn from the Client Money Pool, in line with the approval obtained by the creditors' committee.
- All amounts in the receipts and payments account are shown exclusive of any attributable VAT. Where VAT is not recoverable it is shown as irrecoverable VAT.

Client Custody Assets receipts and payments account to 16 November 2021

	From 17/05/2021 To 16/11/2021 £	From 17/05/2017 To 16/11/2021 £
COSTS LEVIED / FUNDED BY THE FSCS		
Advance from the FSCS	-	2,425,000.00
Bank Interest Gross	9.47	1,044.78
	<u>9.47</u>	<u>2,426,044.78</u>
COSTS ARISING IN RELATION TO CLIENT CUSTODY ASSETS		
Joint Administrators post appointment fees & expenses:		
S&W fees	-	1,378,170.14
LABR fees	-	90,000.00
S&W category 1 expenses	-	7,433.30
S&W category 2 expenses	-	4,140.00
Custodian Fees & Costs	-	66,965.85
Costs relating to SCNL	-	4,211.00
Tracing Agent's Fees	-	5,422.46
Legal Fees	8,805.50	256,463.77
Counsel Fees	-	68,465.00
Legal Expenses	-	891.89
Bank Charges	0.20	55.20
VAT Recovery Transferred to Company	-	362,538.97
	<u>(8,805.70)</u>	<u>(2,244,757.58)</u>
	<u>(8,796.23)</u>	<u>181,287.20</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
RBS - Segregated Trust A/c		179,525.90
VAT Receivable		1,761.10
		<u>181,287.00</u>

Notes and further information required by SIP 7

- None of the investments held for Clients have been shown on the Client Custody Assets receipts and payments account.
- The JSAs' post appointment remuneration and costs have been drawn from the funds provided by the FSCS pursuant to the funding agreement and the Distribution Plan in line with the approval obtained by the Committee.
- Funding received for costs arising in relation to Client Custody Assets are held in an interest-bearing trust account with RBS.
- All amounts in the receipts and payments account are shown exclusive of any attributable VAT. Where VAT is not recoverable it is shown as irrecoverable VAT.

III Summary of Client Custody Assets

Clients' assets at 17 May 2017:

Asset Name	ISIN	Company records	Final reconciled and agreed holdings
5alpha Adventurous UCITS	IE00BYX95950	256,642.906	256,642.906
5alpha Conservative UCITS	IE00BYX95K61	235,267.816	235,267.816
BlackRock Gbl PrpSecEqTrk D Inc	GB00B848DD97	14,959.672	14,959.672
BlackRock GF IEmMkLCBd D3RFH £	LU0995345831	3,049.910	3,049.910
BlackRock Idx Lnkd Gilt Trckr D Acc	GB00B83RVT96	17,197.254	17,197.254
BlackRock NthAmrcn EqTrk D Acc	GB00B7QK1Y37	9,592.346	9,592.346
BlackRock NURS II Global Equity D	GB00B8BTNJ16	11,332.897	11,332.897
Blueprint Industrial Engineering PLC	GB00BVYY5H66	994,981.000	994,981.000
Cherry Homes (Class A)	GB00BYQ65R15	47,722,473.000	47,722,473.000
Cherry Homes (Class B)	GB00BYQ66013	63,661,234.000	63,661,234.000
Elaine Securities PLC	GB00BWCH5D02	2,820,174.000	2,820,174.000
Euler	GB00BYP4YT17	1,058,983.000	1,058,983.000
Fidelity I Stg Cr + Bd Gr	GB00B19CHJ19	9,941.840	9,941.840
Invesco Perp Corporate Bd NT Gr Acc	GB00B8N46Z18	104,404.770	104,404.770
Investec Short Dtd Bd I Gr Acc GBP	GB00B94GN522	18,255.368	18,255.368
Kames Abslut Rtrn Bd C Acc GBP	IE00B6SLQ646	23,766.120	23,766.120
Lazard Emerging Markets S Acc	GB00B8QHFR21	23,936.254	23,936.254
M&G Short Dated Corp Bd I GBP	GB00B8JXBQ82	24,999.518	24,999.518
Minerva Lending	XS1481211412	2,097,000.000	2,097,000.000
Optima Worldwide Group PLC 8.0% (Series A)	GB00BCLYDR27	1,263.000	1,251.000
Optima Worldwide Group PLC 8.0% (Series C)	GB00BNY8CJ32	1,124.000	1,124.000
Optima Worldwide Group PLC 8.0% (Series D)	GB00BY7S2204	9,982,050.000	10,042,050.000
The Meredith Property Group PLC	GB00BY4K3J36	3,373,011.000	3,373,011.000
Vanguard Gbl Bd Index Hdg A £	IE00B50W2R13	1,782.910	1,782.910
Vanguard UK ST Inv Grd Bd Idx A£	IE00B9M1BB17	2,371.020	2,371.020
Vernon Property PLC	GB00BWCH5G33	1,608,835.000	1,608,835.000
Menasat Gulf Group Holdings PLC	Unlisted	-	37,509,586.000
Total Units:		134,078,628.601	171,648,202.601
Client money requirement (as calculated under CASS rules)		£12,643,295.75	£12,525,301.55

The above schedule is a breakdown of the total number of units held of each class of Client Custody Asset, it is not an indication of the current value of any holdings.

Clients should note that the following holdings have been categorised non-returnable:

- Bonds comprising series A, C and D held in Optima Worldwide Group PLC (In Liquidation); and
- Shares in Menasat Gulf Group PLC (In Administration).

To the fullest extent permitted by law, neither the JSAs, Strand Capital Limited, Smith & Williamson LLP or LA Business Recovery Limited assume any responsibility for the content of this information and do not accept any personal liability in respect of this document to any party.

IV Time analysis for the period

Overview

The JSAs' time costs have been apportioned between work undertaken in the pursuit of objective 1, and work undertaken in pursuit of objectives 2 and 3.

Furthermore, as the appointment of the JSAs comprises two separate firms, we have shown each firm's time costs separately for each of the apportionments between objectives.

The following pages show the apportionment of these time costs in accordance with best practice prescribed by SIP9, which can be summarised as follows:

Objective	Firm	Hours	Total Costs £	Average hourly rate £
1	Smith & Williamson LLP	27.65	14,479.06	523.65
1	LA Business Recovery Limited	0.72	403.20	560.00
Total		28.37	14,882.26	
2&3	Smith & Williamson LLP	42.08	21,892.20	520.25
2&3	LA Business Recovery Limited	4.85	1,886.65	389.00
Total		46.93	23,778.85	

Objective 1 - Smith & Williamson LLP's time costs from 17 May 2021 to 16 November 2021

Classification of work function	Hours				Total hours	Time cost	Average hourly rate
	Partner / Director	Associate director	Manager/ Assistant Manager	Other professional staff			
Identification of asset holdings							
Reconciling 3rd party records to company records of client assets	0.35	-	0.50	0.75	1.60	£773.44	£483.40
Recovery and realisation of client assets							
Recovery and safeguarding of client assets	-	-	0.35	0.80	1.15	£453.75	£394.57
Client Specific matters							
Objective 2 tasks necessary to achieve objective 1	0.55	-	3.45	-	4.00	£2,192.50	£548.13
Agreeing claims and liaising with clients regarding their claim	1.50	-	1.90	-	3.40	£2,103.75	£618.75
Distribution of client assets / funds - Bar Date, client monies distribution & FSCS compensation	2.50	6.50	1.35	7.15	17.50	£8,955.63	£511.75
Total	4.90	6.50	7.55	8.70	27.65	£14,479.06	£523.66

Explanation of major work activities undertaken

The below provides commentary on the various categories above. Readers should also refer to the body of the report for further explanations of the work undertaken.

Identification of asset holdings

- Reconciliation of bank statements and custodian holding reports to client positions.

Recovery and realisation of client assets

- Taking steps to replace the director of Strand Capital Nominees Limited, which was necessary to safeguard client assets held in Strand's nominee company.

Client specific matters

- Time spent liaising with Clients, Scheme Members and IFAs to provide information and updates by telephone and email.
- Some of the costs involved in the responding to client specific DSAR correspondence.
- Liaising with Newscape and Brandon Hill Capital in relation to receiving the liquidation proceeds from the Newscape Funds.
- Liaising with the liquidator of OWG to establish claims in the OWG liquidation for all bondholders owed part of the December 2016 coupon interest payment.

Objective 1 - LA Business Recovery Limited's time costs from 17 May 2021 to 16 November 2021

Classification of work function	Office Holder	IP/Manager	HOURS		Total Hours	Time cost	Average Hourly Rate
			Senior Professional staff	Support Staff			
Custody Assets							
<u>General</u>							
Consider the progress report schedule concerning the return of custody assets	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	403.20	560.00
Total Client Assets and Client Monies Time Costs	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	403.20	560.00

Explanation of major work activities undertaken

Objective 1- Client Monies and Custody Assets

Consider the estimated outcome statement in the progress report in respect of outcome to clients. Apportioned 50:50 between Custody Assets costs and Client Monies costs.

Objectives 2 & 3 - Smith & Williamson LLP's time costs from 17 May 2021 to 16 November 2021

Classification of work function	Hours				Total hours	Time cost	Average hourly rate
	Partner / Director	Associate director	Manager/ Assistant Manager	Other professional staff			
Administration and planning							
Statutory returns, reports & meetings	1.80	16.00	2.40	7.25	27.45	£14,801.13	£539.20
Cashiering general, including bonding	0.18	-	0.03	1.10	1.32	£411.43	£312.47
Post-appointment taxation (VAT, PAYE/NIC, Corporation Tax)	0.25	-	1.85	2.85	4.95	£2,085.88	£421.39
Insurance & general asset protection	-	-	5.30	-	5.30	£2,782.50	£525.00
Case planning, reviews and progression (inc 6 month reviews, checklists & diary)	1.05	-	2.02	-	3.07	£1,811.26	£590.62
Total	3.28	16.00	11.60	11.20	42.08	£21,892.20	£520.21

Explanation of major work activities undertaken

The below provides commentary on the various categories above. Readers should also refer to the body of the report for further explanations for the work undertaken.

Administration and Planning

This section of the analysis encompasses the cost of the JSAs and their staff in complying with their statutory obligations, internal compliance requirements, and all tax matters. This work is required by statute and/or best practice and is unlikely to provide any direct financial benefit for Clients and creditors.

- Protection of Company's and Clients assets and records (including electronic).
- Maintaining physical case files and electronic insolvency case details on IPS (case management software).
- Case reviews and reviews of the joint administrators bonding.
- Case planning and strategy; administration; and general case progression, including adjustments in JSAs' strategy.
- Preparing progress reports and updates on the progress of the special administration to stakeholders.
- Maintaining and managing the JSAs' corporate cash book and bank accounts and also overseeing and managing the JSAs' Client cash book and bank accounts.
- Some of the costs arising in relation to correspondence with lawyers and insurers relating to claims lodged against insurance policy.
- Some of the costs arising in relation to production of information for response on DSAR requests.
- Preparing and submitting VAT and Corporation Tax returns for the Company and its subsidiary, Strand Capital Nominees Limited.

Objectives 2 & 3 - LA Business Recovery Limited's time costs from 17 May 2021 to 16 November 2021

Classification of work function	IP/Office Holder	IP/Manager	HOURS		Total Hours	Time cost	Average Hourly Rate
			Senior Professional staff	Support Staff			
Objectives 2&3 - General Insolvency Matters							
Consider and review the draft progress report to creditors	1.94	0.00	2.91	0.00	4.85	1,886.65	389.00
Total Company-related work pertaining to Objectives 2 & 3 under SAR	1.94	0.00	2.91	0.00	4.85	1,886.65	389.00

Explanation of major work activities undertaken

Objectives 2&3 - General Insolvency Matters

- Consider and review the draft progress report to creditors

V Cumulative time analysis

Overview

The JSAs' time costs have been apportioned between work undertaken in the pursuit of objective 1, and work undertaken in pursuit of objectives 2 and 3.

Furthermore, as the appointment of the JSAs comprises two separate firms, we have shown each firm's time costs separately for each of the apportionments between objectives.

The following pages show the apportionment of these time costs in accordance with best practice prescribed by SIP9, which can be summarised as follows:

Objective	Firm	Period	Hours	Total cost £	Average hourly rate £	Fees drawn £
1	S&W	17 May 2017 - 16 May 2021	5,213.23	2,247,574.45	431.13	1,976,945.95
1	S&W	Costs re-apportioned from Objectives 2&3	735.59	286,519.56	389.51	-
1	S&W	17 May 2021 - 16 November 2021	27.65	14,479.06	523.65	-
			5,976.47	2,548,573.07	426.43	1,976,945.95
1	LABR	17 May 2017 - 16 May 2021	286.70	156,530.50	545.97	152,583.80
1	LABR	Costs re-apportioned from Objectives 2&3	37.25	19,939.33	535.28	-
1	LABR	17 May 2021 - 16 November 2021	0.72	403.20	560.00	-
			324.67	176,873.03	544.78	152,583.80
Objective 1 total			6,301.14	2,725,446.10	432.53	2,129,529.75
2&3	S&W	17 May 2017 - 16 May 2021	1,717.43	695,718.94	405.09	150,148.75
2&3	S&W	Costs re-apportioned from Objectives 2&3	(735.59)	(286,519.56)	389.51	-
2&3	S&W	17 May 2021 - 16 November 2021	42.08	21,892.20	520.25	-
			1,023.92	431,091.58	421.02	150,148.75
2&3	LABR	17 May 2017 - 16 May 2021	139.60	72,058.80	516.18	18,932.15
2&3	LABR	Costs re-apportioned from Objectives 2&3	(37.25)	(19,939.33)	535.28	-
2&3	LABR	17 May 2021 - 16 November 2021	4.85	1,886.65	389.00	-
			107.20	54,006.12	503.79	18,932.15
Objectives 2&3 total			1,131.12	485,097.70	428.86	169,080.90
Total time costs incurred			7,432.26	3,210,543.80	431.97	2,298,610.65

Note: costs incurred are shown net of VAT

Objective 1 - Smith & Williamson LLP's time costs from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021

Classification of work function	Hours					Total hours	Time cost	Average hourly rate
	Partner / Director	Associate director	Manager/ Assistant Manager	Other professional staff	Assistants & support staff			
Reconciliation work for the establishment of client assets data for individual client statement and pursuit of objective 1								
Work undertaken relating to CASS audit / reconciliation to establish client asset schedules and information for client statements	190.60	24.55	303.23	164.30	4.00	686.68	£278,694.15	£405.86
Identification of asset holdings								
Identification of assets, including liaising with custodians and financial institution:	39.90	6.00	176.80	47.45	-	270.15	£99,512.75	£368.36
Reconciling 3rd party records to company records of client assets	2.95	-	35.43	8.45	-	46.83	£16,848.04	£359.75
Ascertaining shortfalls in client assets on an investment by investment basis	8.00	0.50	8.10	2.45	-	19.05	£8,708.50	£457.14
Attributing shortfalls in client assets on an investment by investment basis	-	-	10.50	-	-	10.50	£4,777.50	£455.00
Recovery and realisation of client assets								
Recovery and safeguarding of client assets	48.48	15.20	245.60	38.70	-	347.98	£153,077.64	£439.90
Reconciling post pooling client receipts	0.20	-	99.35	28.95	-	128.50	£44,986.00	£350.09
Reconciling and verifying asset holdings	5.80	-	11.10	5.35	-	22.25	£9,259.50	£416.16
Client Specific matters								
Objective 2 tasks necessary to achieve objective 1	46.80	58.00	203.90	39.65	0.50	348.85	£160,738.00	£460.77
Agreeing claims and liaising with clients regarding their claim	53.12	75.45	167.25	459.80	1.25	756.87	£274,419.81	£362.57
Distribution of client assets / funds - Bar Date, client monies distribution & FSCS compensation	236.25	953.55	254.27	356.75	0.25	1,801.07	£880,822.13	£489.06
Liasing on client claims with instructed 3rd parties	8.30	-	99.50	188.90	-	296.70	£105,527.50	£355.67
Preparing statement to each client to agree their position	101.95	108.75	252.15	23.90	3.50	490.25	£220,498.00	£449.77
AML/Compliance								
AML - if done post appointment	-	-	0.30	-	-	0.30	£135.00	£450.00
Forensics								
Forensics	-	2.00	1.10	11.65	0.15	14.90	£4,049.00	£271.74
Total	742.35	1,244.00	1,868.58	1,376.30	9.65	5,240.88	£2,262,053.51	£431.62



Objective 1 - LA Business Recovery Limited's time costs from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021

Classification of work function	HOURS				Total Hours	Time cost	Average Hourly Rate
	Office Holder	IP/Manager	Senior Professional staff	Support Staff			
Client monies							
Client money data access & queries - as part of the CASS reconciliation consideration	10.50	7.20	0.00	0.00	17.70	9,480.00	535.59
Job planning re: objective 1 matters, reviews & update progress of client money reconciliations	24.11	0.00	0.00	2.80	26.91	14,271.60	530.35
Reviewing books & records (including electronic data) in relation to client monies	15.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.60	8,736.00	560.00
Update concerning CASS reconciliations of client monies	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.20	672.00	560.00
Considerations of potential shortfalls to client monies, reviews of progress of reconciliation	1.05	0.50	0.00	0.00	1.55	838.00	540.65
Consider data extracted following reconciliations by CASS team on client monies	3.60	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.60	2,516.00	546.96
Strategy in relation to client money & consider SAR provisions re: client monies	8.70	8.1	0.00	0.00	16.80	8,922.00	531.07
Discussion with JSAs concerning communication to clients re: assets & monies (apportioned 50/50)	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	392.00	560.00
Consideration of draft correspondence to clients re: assets & monies (apportioned 50/50)	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	224.00	560.00
Consideration of the distribution plan and proposed handling of agreement of claims (app. 50/50)	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	112.00	560.00
Interaction with government bodies & clients re: client money	2.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.20	1,232.00	560.00
Discussions, strategy and correspondence relating to client money	6.79	2.55	0.00	0.00	9.34	5,077.40	543.62
Considered Gallium correspondence concerning the return of client monies	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.40	784.00	560.00
Stat. meetings & prep. re: proposals & committee meetings - apportioned to client monies	9.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.80	5,488.00	560.00
Consider correspondence re: client claim notification	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.75	980.00	560.00
Consider client money schedules & the agreement of claims (apportioned 50/50)	3.05	1.25	0.00	0.00	4.30	2,333.00	542.56
Consider the drafts of the distribution plan	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.75	2,100.00	560.00
Committee Meeting to approve Distribution Plan (apportioned 50/50)	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	196.00	560.00
Consideration of the FSCS' compensation deed (apportioned to Client Monies)	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	560.00	560.00
JSA email re: exchanges had between authorities since distribution plan approved & specific review (apportioned 50/50)	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	358.40	560.00
Consider the progress report element concerning the partial return of client money (apportioned 50/50)	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11	621.60	560.00
Consider the shortfall due on management fees owed from client assets position in the progress report (apportioned 50/50)	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	224.00	560.00
Consider the estimated outcome statement in the progress report to clients (apportioned equally between class of client assets)	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	212.80	560.00
Custody assets							
Bond Investments / Instruments - considering identity on how held	5.00	4.50	0.00	0.00	9.50	5,050.00	531.58
Fund Investments - consideration of how held	0.10	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.10	1,056.00	502.86
Meetings with former officers & FSCS re: custody assets, identifying, reviewing	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	2,680.00	536.00
Internal JSA strategy discussions & correspondence concerning custody assets	2.61	0.35	0.00	0.00	2.96	1,636.60	2517.85
Strategy in relation to distributions & consider SAR provisions	7.72	5.6	0.00	0.00	13.32	7,123.20	534.77
Client interaction & handling correspondence re: custody assets	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	392.00	560.00
Consider recovery of assets of Fund Investments from 3rd Parties	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	112.00	560.00
Consider recovery of Bond Investments from 3rd Parties	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	112.00	560.00
Discussions & meetings with key personnel & FSCS re: custody assets	11.68	11.40	0.00	0.00	23.08	12,240.80	530.36
Consideration of the draft updates given to the FSCS & the FCA - apportioned to client assets	5.60	1.00	0.00	0.00	6.60	3,636.00	550.91
Consider client asset schedules & the agreement of claims (apportioned 50/50)	3.05	0.00	1.25	0.00	4.30	2,333.00	542.56
Strategy and liaison with legal advisers in relation to the bond information	9.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.30	5,208.00	560.00
Correspondence & review re: OWG bond reconciliations & coupon matters	15.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.50	8,680.00	560.00
Correspondence & consideration re: OWG series D bond position - legal matters	16.12	5.95	0.00	0.00	22.07	12,002.20	543.82
Consider legal advice & correspondence concerning the OWG & JSA responses	10.60	2.5	0.00	0.00	13.10	7,186.00	548.55
Stat. meetings & prep. re: proposals & committee meetings - apportioned to custody assets	9.80	3.45	1.50	0.00	14.75	7,625.50	516.98
Discussion with JSAs concerning communication to clients re: assets & monies (apportioned 50/50)	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	392.00	560.00
Consideration of draft correspondence to clients re: assets & monies (apportioned 50/50)	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	224.00	560.00
Consideration of the distribution plan and proposed handling of agreement of claims (app. 50/50)	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	112.00	560.00
Consider the drafts of the distribution plan / comparison amendments	15.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.55	8,708.00	560.00
Committee Meeting to approve Distribution Plan (apportioned 50/50)	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	196.00	560.00
Discussion with JSAs & updates concerning the distribution plan	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	336.00	560.00
Consideration of the FSCS' compensation deed (apportioned to Client Assets)	3.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.60	2,016.00	560.00
Consider correspondence received from FSCS re: OWG investment	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	128.80	560.00
JSA email re: exchanges had between authorities since distribution plan approved & specific review (apportioned 50/50)	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	358.40	560.00
Consider the progress report schedule concerning the return of custody assets (apportioned 50/50)	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	420.00	560.00
Consider the shortfall due on management fees owed from client assets position in the progress report (apportioned 50/50)	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	224.00	560.00
Consider the estimated outcome statement in the progress report to clients (apportioned equally between class of client assets)	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	212.80	560.00
Total Client Assets and Client Monies Time Costs	223.66	59.35	2.75	2.80	288.56	156,732.10	543.16

Objectives 2 & 3 - Smith & Williamson LLP's time costs from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021

Classification of work function	Hours					Total hours	Time cost	Average hourly rate
	Partner / Director	Associate director	Manager/ Assistant Manager	Other professional staff	Assistants & support staff			
Administration and planning								
Statutory returns, reports & meetings	44.55	201.00	89.45	75.35	2.50	412.85	£201,035.88	£486.95
Initial post-appointment notification letters, including creditors	5.50	5.00	9.05	3.40	0.50	23.45	£10,460.50	£446.08
Cashiering general, including bonding	1.53	1.30	8.18	9.25	0.45	20.72	£8,174.58	£394.59
Post-appointment taxation (VAT, PAYE/NIC, Corporation Tax)	10.00	-	35.47	37.40	-	82.87	£33,261.43	£401.38
Protection of company records (incl electronic)	-	2.00	12.90	16.00	-	30.90	£11,620.00	£376.05
Insurance & general asset protection	2.05	6.00	52.25	15.55	-	75.85	£33,228.00	£438.08
Company searches	-	0.50	-	-	-	0.50	£262.50	£525.00
Correspondence with joint special administrator	6.80	5.50	34.05	4.15	-	50.50	£23,305.25	£461.49
Filing, file and information management	-	2.00	0.95	48.05	-	51.00	£11,818.50	£231.74
Case planning, reviews and progression (inc 6 month reviews, checklists & diary)	16.70	7.50	46.83	34.50	-	105.53	£45,711.36	£433.15
Travelling	1.00	-	3.10	1.05	-	5.15	£2,241.00	£435.15
Agents and advisers, general	0.50	1.25	15.65	1.00	-	18.40	£8,007.50	£435.19
Investigations								
Directors' correspondence & conduct questionnaires	4.15	1.50	8.75	5.85	-	20.25	£8,744.75	£431.84
Creditor & shareholder complaints	1.70	3.50	-	-	-	5.20	£2,942.50	£565.87
Statutory books and accounting records review	-	-	18.05	11.95	-	30.00	£11,781.75	£392.73
SIP2 and SIP4 obligations (inc CDDA86 forms)	0.20	-	16.85	6.15	-	23.20	£9,295.00	£400.65
Asset tracing (e.g. Land Registry and Company Searches)	-	-	-	0.30	-	0.30	£87.00	£290.00
Enquiries / Interviews of directors & advisers	8.55	6.00	46.40	0.65	-	61.60	£28,269.75	£458.92
Realisation of assets								
Other chattel assets	0.70	-	0.70	3.35	-	4.75	£1,710.75	£360.16
Consideration of sale of business and liaison with interested parties	1.15	2.50	0.75	0.55	-	4.95	£2,374.25	£479.65
Cash at Bank	-	-	-	1.75	-	1.75	£542.50	£310.00
Other	-	-	2.55	-	-	2.55	£1,160.25	£455.00
Creditors								
Employee claims, including liaison with RPO and ERA	-	-	1.45	7.00	-	8.45	£2,732.25	£323.34
Unsecured creditors	9.80	0.50	35.10	16.10	-	61.50	£27,185.75	£442.04
Creditors' committee	12.00	4.00	33.45	15.00	-	64.45	£29,154.75	£452.36
Distributions for prefs and unsecured	0.40	-	-	-	-	0.40	£260.00	£650.00
Client Correspondence / Communications	4.00	0.50	83.45	293.55	-	381.50	£124,004.15	£325.04
Objective 2 activities								
Liaison with and reporting to regulatory bodies (FCA, FSCS, HMRC etc)	2.10	5.50	78.25	45.65	0.25	131.75	£50,664.75	£384.55
Pursuing insurance claims for the benefit of clients	0.80	-	29.70	15.70	-	46.20	£18,933.50	£409.82
Other	-	-	5.45	-	-	5.45	£2,507.00	£460.00
Shareholders								
Shareholder general communications	0.30	0.50	-	-	-	0.80	£457.50	£571.88
Forensics								
Forensics	-	-	4.40	22.35	-	26.75	£5,676.50	£212.21
Total	134.48	256.55	673.18	691.60	3.70	1,759.52	£717,611.13	£407.85

Objectives 2 & 3 - LA Business Recovery Limited's time costs from 17 May 2017 to 16 November 2021

Classification of work function	HOURS				Total Hours	Time cost	Average Hourly Rate
	IP/Office Holder	IP/Manager	Senior Professional staff	Support Staff			
Objectives 2&3 - General Insolvency Matters							
Administrative Setup	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	1,792.00	560.00
Case Planning	8.80	1.70	0.00	0.00	10.50	5,778.00	550.29
Maintenance of Records, files and correspondence	7.80	2.20	0.10	0.00	10.10	5,432.50	530.00
Appointment Notification	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	280.00	560.00
Case reviews	2.41	0.00	0.62	0.00	3.03	1,519.30	501.42
VAT queries & legal advice considered	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	1,680.00	560.00
Reviewing company records	14.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.05	7,868.00	560.00
Director interviews, conduct reporting and reviewing responses from directors	7.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.44	4,166.40	560.00
Considering and reviewing company data & records	4.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.10	2,296.00	560.00
Consideration of pre-appointment transactions; investigations into related parties	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.90	1,064.00	560.00
Identifying, Securing & Insuring assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recovery of assets from 3rd parties - Fund Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recovery of assets from 3rd parties - Bond Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communications with company creditors	1.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	1.30	642.50	494.23
Internal conference call updates - general steps and bar date	2.40	0.60	0.00	0.00	3.00	1,644.00	548.00
Consider draft progress reports to creditors (apportioned to company)	22.62	0.00	15.37	0.00	37.99	16,893.95	444.69
Statutory progress reports to creditors & initial meeting of creditors	13.05	0.00	1.50	0.00	14.55	7,720.50	530.62
Committee Meeting	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	196.00	560.00
JSA's internal updates	1.12	0.00	0.35	0.00	1.47	723.45	492.14
Objective 2 - FCA - in support of Objective 1							
Communications/discussions with FCA	0.60	1.15	0.00	0.00	1.75	911.00	520.00
Consideration re: potential complaint to FCA	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	100.80	560.00
Consider the email request for information from Holden Chambers and Elite Chambers	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	72.80	560.00
Objective 2 - FSCS - in support of Objective 1							
Communications, discussions and meetings with FSCS	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	1,560.00	520.00
Compensation Deed organisation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.30	82.50	275.00
Company work re: Client Assets - in support of Objective 1							
On-going consideration of corresp. with OWG (coupon); obj 2 & 3, reviews	12.20	2.80	0.00	0.00	15.00	8,232.00	548.80
General file administration	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.48	4.48	1,232.00	275.00
Consider internal JSA progress update	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	72.80	560.00
Company Work re: Client Monies							
Recovery of Gallium Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Review of the amended distribution plan (apportioned 50/50)	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.46	257.60	560.00
Company Work re: Client Assets							
OWG Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Beaufort Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Review of the amended distribution plan (apportioned 50/50)	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.46	257.60	560.00
Total time costs	108.90	10.45	18.24	4.78	142.37	72,475.70	509.07

VI Staffing and charging policies, and charge out rates

Introduction

Detailed below are policies in relation to staff allocation, the use of professional advisers and disbursement recovery, which are common to both Smith & Williamson LLP and LA Business Recovery Limited.

Also shown are charge out rates for the period applicable to the period of this report for both firms.

Staff allocation

Our general approach to resourcing our assignments is to allocate staff with the skills and experience to meet the specific requirements of the case.

The constitution of the case team will usually consist of a partner and a partner or director or associate director as joint office holders, a manager, and an administrator or assistant. The exact constitution of the case team will depend on the anticipated size and complexity of the assignment and the experience requirements of the assignment. The charge out rate schedule below provides details of all grades of staff and their experience level.

Use of professional advisers

We select professional advisers such as agents and solicitors on the basis of balancing a number of factors including:

- The industry and/or practice area expertise required to perform the required work.
- The complexity and nature of the assignment.
- The availability of resources to meet the critical deadlines in the case.
- The charge out rates or fee structures that would be applicable to the assignment.
- The extent to which we believe that the advisers in question can add value to the assignment.

Expenses and Disbursements

Category 1 expenses do not require approval by creditors. The type of disbursements that may be charged as a Category 1 expense to a case generally comprise external supplies of incidental services specifically identifiable to the case, such as postage, case advertising, invoiced travel and external printing, room hire and document storage. Also chargeable will be any properly reimbursed expenses incurred by personnel in connection with the case.

Category 2 disbursements do require approval from creditors. These are expenses which are directly referable to the appointment in question but are not payments which are made to an independent third party and may include shared or allocated costs that can be allocated to the appointment on a proper and reasonable basis such as internal room hire, document storage or business mileage.

Details of any Category 2 expenses incurred and/or recovered in the period covered by this report are set out in the body of this report.

Charge out rates

The rates applicable to this appointment are set out below. Rate changes were applied with effect from 1 July 2021, details of which can be found in the tables below:

Smith & Williamson LLP		Restructuring & Recovery Services				
Charge out rates	From 1 July 2017 £/hr	From 1 July 2018 £/hr	From 1 July 2019 £/hr	From 1 July 2020 £/hr	From 1 July 2021 £/hr	
Partner / Director	545-565	650	590-675	620-710	600-995	
Associate Director	490-525	525	525-550	580	494-863	
Managers	395-500	315-460	340-475	360-500	300-595	
Other professional staff	200-395	215-310	225-475	235-315	175-383	
Support & secretarial staff	100-250	115-400	125	130	113-150	

Smith & Williamson LLP		Assurance & Business Services				
Charge out rates	From 1 July 2017 £/hr	From 1 July 2018 £/hr	From 1 July 2019 £/hr	From 1 July 2020 £/hr	From 1 July 2021 £/hr	
Partner / Director	550-625	650	675	620-710	600-995	
Associate Director	480	480	390-480	580	494-863	
Managers	300	220-450	220-475	360-500	300-595	
Other professional staff	295-310	130-250	100-265	235-315	175-383	
Support & secretarial staff	130-240	130-240	n/a	130	113-150	

Smith & Williamson LLP		Forensic Accounting				
Charge out rates	From 1 July 2017 £/hr	From 1 July 2018 £/hr	From 1 July 2019 £/hr	From 1 July 2020 £/hr	From 1 July 2021 £/hr	
Partner / Director	700	610	480-675	620-710	808	
Associate Director	n/a	n/a	n/a	580	595	
Managers	400-470	470-515	410-475	360-500	n/a	
Other professional staff	180-340	220-340	240-475	235-315	196-408	
Support & secretarial staff	80-100	80-100	125	130	n/a	

Smith & Williamson LLP		Corporate Tax				
Charge out rates	From 1 July 2017 £/hr	From 1 July 2018 £/hr	From 1 July 2019 £/hr	From 1 July 2020 £/hr	From 1 July 2021 £/hr	
Partner / Director	500-600	525-660	575-690	625-740	490-890	
Associate Director	400	420-440	460	500	295-500	
Managers	215-350	225-365	245-400	270-430	185-430	
Other professional staff	180	190	115-200	95-230	60-232	
Support & secretarial staff	100-120	100-120	60	65	55-70	

LA Business Recovery Limited	£/hr
IP / Office Holder	400 - 625
Managers	350
Senior Professional Staff	275
Other Professional Staff	150
Administrators	90
Support staff	75

Notes:

1. Smith & Williamson LLP records time in units representing 3 minutes or multiples thereof.
2. The Smith & Williamson LLP cashiering function time for this case is incorporated within “Other professional staff” rates.
3. LA Business Recovery Limited records time in units representing 6 minutes or multiples thereof

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Principal offices: London, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Dublin, Glasgow, Guildford, Jersey, Salisbury and Southampton.

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