

Joint administrators' final progress report from 7 August 2025 to 26 January 2026

Phosphorus Holdco plc - in administration

High Court of Justice, Chancery Division,
Companies Court

Case no. 7184 of 2014

26 January 2026

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Abbreviations and definitions

The following table shows the abbreviations and insolvency terms that may be used in this report

Abbreviation or definition	Meaning
Company	Phosphorus Holdco plc
Excluded Work	All other work undertaken by the Joint Administrators in managing the Administration and the Company's affairs that is not in the "Included Work"
Firm / PwC	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Group	The Company together with Phones 4U Limited, Phones 4U Group Limited, Phones4u Finance plc, MobileServ Limited, Phosphorus Acquisition Limited, and Policy Administration Services Limited - all in administration (see www.pwc.co.uk/phones4u for details of insolvency procedures affecting these companies)
Included Work	The Joint Administrators' time costs specifically in relation to investigatory work and pursuit of claims against third parties (as defined in the Remuneration Report dated 22 August 2017)
IR16	Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016
IA86	Insolvency Act 1986
Joint Administrators / Administrators / we / us / our	David James Kelly and Douglas Nigel Rackham
Life Mobile	A UK mobile virtual network operator (MVNO) that used the EE Limited network infrastructure
O2, EE, Vodafone	Telefónica UK Limited, EE Limited, Vodafone Limited - all UK mobile network operators providing mobile and broadband communication services
P4U	Phones 4U Limited (in administration)
P4U Finance	Phones4u Finance plc (in administration)
PIK Notes	£208m aggregate principal amount of Senior PIK Toggle Notes due 2019
PIK Noteholders	Holders of the above PIK Notes
Preferential creditors	Claims for unpaid wages earned in the four months before the insolvency up to £800, holiday pay and unpaid pension contributions in certain circumstances
Sch. B1 IA86	Schedule B1 to the Insolvency Act 1986
Secured creditors	Creditors with security in respect of their debt, in accordance with section 248 IA86
SIP	Statement of Insolvency Practice (issued by regulatory authorities, setting out principles and key compliance standards with which insolvency practitioners are required to comply)

SIP 2	Investigations by officeholders in administrations and insolvent liquidations and the submission of conduct reports by officeholders
SIP 9	Statement of Insolvency Practice 9: Payments to insolvency officeholders and their associates from an estate
SIP 13	Statement of Insolvency Practice 13: Disposal of assets to connected parties in an insolvency process
Unsecured creditors	Creditors who are neither secured nor preferential

This report has been prepared by David James Kelly and Douglas Nigel Rackham as Joint Administrators of the Company, solely to comply with the Joint Administrators' statutory duty to report to creditors under IR16 on the progress of the administration, and for no other purpose. It is not suitable to be relied upon by any other person, or for any other purpose, or in any other context.

This report has not been prepared in contemplation of it being used, and it is not suitable to be used, to inform any investment decision in relation to the debt of or any financial investment in the Company.

Any estimated outcomes for creditors included in this report are illustrative only and cannot be relied upon as guidance as to the actual outcome for creditors.

Any persons choosing to rely on this report for any purpose or in any context other than under IR16 do so at their own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Joint Administrators do not assume any liability in respect of this report to any such person.

Please note you should read this report in conjunction with the Joint Administrators' previous reports issued to the Company's creditors, which can be found at <https://www.pwc.co.uk/phones4u>. Unless stated otherwise, all amounts in this report and appendices are stated net of VAT.

David James Kelly and Douglas Nigel Rackham have been appointed as Joint Administrators of the Company to manage its affairs, business and property as its agents and act without personal liability. Both are licensed in the United Kingdom to act as insolvency practitioners by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. The Joint Administrators are bound by the Insolvency Code of Ethics which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/insolvency-practitioner-code-of-ethics>

The Joint Administrators may act as controllers of personal data as defined by UK data protection law depending upon the specific processing activities undertaken. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP may act as a processor on the instructions of the Joint Administrators. Personal data will be kept secure and processed only for matters relating to the Joint Administrators' appointment. Further details are available in the privacy statement on the PwC.co.uk website or by contacting the Joint Administrators.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England with registered number OC303525. The registered office of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is 1 Embankment Place, London WC2N 6RH. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for designated investment business.

Key messages

Why we've sent you this report

We're pleased to let you know that our work in the administration of the Company is now complete and so, we set out below our final report.

You can still view our earlier reports on our website at www.pwc.co.uk/phones4u. Please get in touch with Thandiwe Nhara on 0113 289 4000 if you need the password to access the reports.

How much creditors have received

The following table summarises the final outcome for creditors:

Class of creditor	Final outcome (p in £)	Previous estimates (p in £)
Secured creditors	n/a	n/a
Preferential creditors	n/a	n/a
Unsecured creditors	0.19	0.19

The Company has no secured or preferential creditors.

On 14 November 2019, we obtained permission from the Court to make a distribution to the Company's unsecured creditors from funds held in the administration. Following the Court's approval, you'll remember from our earlier reports that we've paid a dividend of 0.19p in the £ to the Company's unsecured creditors totalling £554,496.30 on 5 March 2020. This was a first and final dividend.

What you need to do

This report is for your information and you don't need to do anything.

What happens next

The administration is due to end on 15 March 2026. In line with our proposals approved by creditors, on 26 January 2026 we filed notice of move from administration to dissolution. The Company will be dissolved three months after the notice has been registered by the Registrar of Companies. Dissolution is considered the most appropriate exit route as all assets have been realised and there are no further funds available for distribution to creditors.

As resolved by the general body of creditors, we will be discharged from liability in respect of any of our actions as Joint Administrators 14 days after we cease to act as Joint Administrators.

Overview of our work

Why we were appointed

The Company was established within the Group structure as an issuer of unsecured PIK Notes and a holder of intra-group investments. It did not trade or employ staff and its role was purely financial, holding investments and small cash balances.

During the period from January to September 2014, P4U's contracts with O2, Vodafone and EE all came to an end and it was no longer viable to restructure the business. The Group was entering a working-capital cycle that required heavy creditor and stock payments, which would have created unsustainable pressure on cash.

The directors concluded that insolvency was unavoidable and administrators were appointed to the Group on 15 September 2014, with the exception of PAS, where administrators were appointed on 16 September 2014, and the Company, which entered administration on 8 October 2014. Following the Group's collapse, the Company itself became insolvent, with liabilities far exceeding its assets. This was because the Company was jointly and severally liable for the Group's estimated £69 million debt to HMRC, in addition to its own direct liabilities amounting to approximately £209 million, which included £208 million in unsecured PIK Notes. As a result joint administrators were appointed to the Company on 8 October 2014.

Administration was the favoured insolvency process as it was deemed that it would achieve the best result for creditors as a whole. The Company had limited immediately available assets, however, when in administration, it could benefit from any potential claims it may have had against other parties that may have been responsible for the demise of the Company or the Group. Administrators could also be appointed more quickly and cheaply than liquidators.

Asset realisations

Immediately on our appointment, we secured and took control of the Company's assets, which included:

Cash at bank

£14,424 cash at bank was recovered in full from the Company's pre-appointment bank account.

Investments in other group companies

Investments in group companies were valued at £195 million but were rendered worthless following the collapse of the Group and no realisations were achieved.

Corporation tax assets

Tax assets were recorded at £3.3 million, however any estimated assets were fully offset against HMRC's unsecured liability in respect of the Group's pre-appointment VAT liability.

Intercompany debtors

Intercompany balances, initially valued at approximately of £22.7 million, were assessed, but only an amount of £2,894 from Phones 4U Finance was considered potentially recoverable in the directors' Statement of Affairs. Given insufficient assets in Phones 4U Finance to enable a dividend, no realisations have been achieved. The Administrators deemed it prudent to remain in office and await any potential surplus distributions from other Group administrations, however these have not been realised.

Director investigations and legal proceedings

The Administrators completed statutory director conduct investigations and reported to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as required by law (with these reporting functions now falling under the remit of the Department for Business and Trade following subsequent government restructures). Concurrently, using external funding, Brown Rudnick LLP were engaged to assess potential claims against individuals involved with the Company. Several years of review and legal action ensued. As a result of these efforts, a £4.55 million settlement between 2017 and 2019 was achieved, which covered legal costs and enabled a 0.19p/£ dividend to unsecured creditors in 2020 based on claims of £280 million.

Other Group matters

Previously, we have advised that the Court of Appeal granted P4U permission to appeal on six grounds concerning competition law claims. P4U filed its skeleton argument for the appeal on 10 April 2024 and the respondents filed their skeleton arguments on 28 June 2024. The Court of Appeal hearing was listed to start on 19 May 2025, with a time estimate of five days. During the previous period, the Court of Appeal handed down its judgment on 11 July 2025, upholding the findings of the High Court, dismissing P4U's claims in full.

Progress in the period since our last report

Asset realisations

Following the Court of Appeal decision in July 2025 the P4U administrators concluded that it is not in the best interests of creditors to apply for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court, and the litigation has therefore now concluded. Further, as there are no further known assets to realise in the Company that would give rise to any additional dividends for creditors, the Joint Administrators have taken steps in the period since our last report to resolve all other outstanding matters and to bring the administration of the Company to a close.

Connected party transactions

The Joint Administrators confirm that no transactions or disposals have been undertaken during the period since our last report, or throughout the course of the administration, with any directors, shareholders, or other connected parties as defined in SIP 13.

Other issues

During the Period, the Joint Administrators have focused on completing the remaining steps required to bring the administration to a close. The key matters dealt with in the period were:

- finalising outstanding statutory, compliance matters and confirming with HMRC that no further liabilities or issues remain; and
- ensuring all statutory filings are up to date and accurate.

Approval of our proposals

We issued to creditors our proposals dated 6 November 2014 for achieving the purpose of administration.

We said in our proposals that we thought the Company did not have enough assets to pay a dividend to unsecured creditors other than from the Prescribed Part.

This meant that we did not have to seek a decision from creditors regarding the approval of proposals and our proposals would be treated as approved if creditors did not request a decision in the required manner. As creditors did not request a decision be sought, our proposals were treated as approved on 19 November 2014.

At the date the proposals were issued, the Administrators did not expect that funds would become available for unsecured creditors. The subsequent small dividend paid to unsecured creditors arose only as a result of a later settlement reached with a third party as detailed earlier, which could not have been anticipated at that time.

We attach a summary of our proposals at Appendix A.

Changes of administrator

Paul David Copley, Robert Jonathan Hunt, and Ian David Green were originally appointed as the joint administrators of the Company, following retirements and resignations from the firm, as summarised in our previous reports, David James Kelly replaced Paul David Copley as joint administrator on 27 May 2016. Robert Jonathan Hunt retired from the firm and was removed without a replacement administrator on 8 November 2016. Douglas Nigel Rackham replaced Ian David Green as joint administrator on 19 December 2019.

Investigations and actions

Nothing came to our attention during the administration to suggest that we needed to do any more work in line with our duties under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 and SIP 2.

Tax clearance

We fulfilled our duties as proper officers for tax during the administration and filed all necessary VAT filings and corporation tax returns for all relevant accounting periods. HMRC has confirmed that it has no objection to the administration ending.

VAT summary

Following our appointment, we notified HMRC of the administration and requested the Company be added to the P4U VAT group. In light of the Company's VAT position (see below) in August 2019 we requested that the Company be removed from the VAT group which was confirmed on 2 October 2019.

Prior to the administrators' appointment, the Company did not trade and its activities were limited to holding investments in other group companies. Accordingly, the Company was not making any taxable supplies for VAT purposes and was not entitled to recover input VAT.

As a result, VAT incurred on the Joint Administrators' fees, legal costs and other professional expenses was not recoverable and was treated as an irrecoverable expense of the administration.

Corporation tax summary

The Joint Administrators have complied with their post-appointment Corporation Tax obligations by submitting annual returns in line with the pre-existing accounting periods, no Corporation Tax liability has arisen.

In order to prepare for the closure of the administration, we issued our final return with an accompanying letter to HMRC requesting tax clearance. In January 2020, HMRC confirmed that it had no objection to the administration ending and the Company being dissolved thereafter.

Our final receipts and payments account

We set out in Appendix B an account of our final receipts and payments in the Period and cumulatively in the administration from 8 October 2014 to 26 January 2026.

Our expenses

We set out in Appendix C a statement of the final expenses that we have incurred in the administration.

Our fees

We set out in Appendix D an update on our remuneration which covers our fees, and other related matters.

Creditors' rights

Creditors have the right to ask for more information within 21 days of receiving this report as set out in Rule 18.9 IR16. Any request must be in writing. Creditors can also challenge fees and expenses within eight weeks of receiving this report as set out in Rule 18.34 IR16. This information can also be found in the guide to fees at:

<https://www.icaew.com/-/media/corporate/files/regulations/insolvency/creditors-guides/2021/administration-creditor-fee-guide-1-april-2021.ashx>

The link to previous guides can be found below, given that the case pre-dates the requirement for a fee estimate as the appointment date was 8 October 2014.

<https://www.icaew.com/regulation/insolvency/understanding-business-restructuring-and-insolvency/creditors-guides>

You can also get a copy free of charge by telephoning Hannah Wilks on 0113 289 4000.

What we still need to do

All matters in the administration are now concluded.

If you've got any questions, please get in touch with Hannah Wilks on 0113 289 4000.

Yours faithfully
For and on behalf the Company

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kelly', with a horizontal line underneath.

David James Kelly
Joint Administrator

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of our proposals

In our proposals dated 6 November 2014 we confirmed the following:

That we would continue to manage and finance the company's business, affairs and assets using trading revenues (where relevant) and asset realisations, as we considered appropriate. Our stated objective was to conduct the administration with a view to achieving a better outcome for creditors as a whole than would be likely in an immediate liquidation.

In parallel, we indicated that we may investigate and, if appropriate, pursue any claims the company might have. We also reserved the ability to take any actions we considered appropriate to achieve the statutory purpose of the administration, including steps to protect and preserve assets and maximise realisations, as well as any other actions incidental to those proposals.

We said that, if we formed the view that there would be funds available for unsecured creditors during the administration we might, at our discretion, agree in principle the claims of unsecured creditors for later confirmation either by a subsequent liquidator or by us (as administrators). We explained that the costs of agreeing claims in principle could be charged to the administration as part of our fees or paid out of the prescribed part, depending on whether there would be a dividend to unsecured creditors beyond the prescribed part. If we chose not to agree claims in principle and funds were available for unsecured creditors, any subsequent liquidator would undertake the agreement of claims.

If we considered that there would be funds for unsecured creditors, we indicated that we could, at our discretion, apply to court for permission to pay dividends to those creditors during the administration. If we decided not to seek such an order and sufficient funds were available, then dividends would be paid by a subsequent liquidator following conversion to liquidation. However, if we believed the cost of paying a prescribed part dividend would be disproportionate to the benefits, we stated that we would consult the creditors' committee (if formed) before potentially applying to court for an order that the prescribed part should not be made available to unsecured creditors.

We outlined several potential exit routes and indicated we would select the most cost-effective and practical in the circumstances:

- If there were insufficient funds to pay a dividend to unsecured creditors, once our work was complete we would file a notice at Companies House, and the company would be dissolved three months later.
- If there were sufficient funds to pay a dividend to unsecured creditors, after disposing of all assets and completing our work, we would place the company into creditors' voluntary liquidation (CVL). As part of this, and in the wider group context, we proposed the appointment of the same office holders to be appointed as joint liquidators. We also proposed that any act required or authorised to be done by the joint liquidators could be done by any or all of them. Creditors retained the right, before approval of the proposals, to nominate different liquidators pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and Insolvency Rules.
- Alternatively, once all assets had been disposed of, we could apply to court for permission to pay any surplus to unsecured creditors without converting to liquidation. If permission were granted, we would end the administration by filing a notice at Companies House and the company would be dissolved three months later. If permission were not granted, we would either proceed to CVL as above or comply with any different court order.

In light of the above and considering that the company had limited assets and no floating charge realisations, our proposed exit route is to file a notice to move the company into dissolution.

Appendix B: Receipts and payments

Statement of Affairs		Cumulative to 6 August 2025	7 August 2025 to 26 January 2026	Cumulative to 26 January 2026
(£)	Notes	(£)	(£)	(£)
Receipts				
14,424.00	Cash in hand	14,423.24	-	14,423.24
2,894.00	Intercompany debtors	-	-	-
	Investment settlement agreement	4,550,000.00	-	4,550,000.00
	Bank interest gross	6,091.95	-	6,091.95
17,318.00	Total receipts	4,570,515.19	0.00	4,570,515.19
Payments				
	Joint Administrators' fees (time cost basis)	1,114,302.00	-	1,114,302.00
	Joint Administrators' expenses	18,042.51	1.52	18,044.03
	Joint Administrators' fees (set fee basis)	271,321.00	-	271,321.00
	Bank charges	14.22	-	14.22
	Legal fees - Brown Rudnick	1,316,799.67	-	1,316,799.67
	Legal disbursements - Brown Rudnick	134,740.86	-	134,740.86
	Legal fees & expenses - Allen & Overly LLP	37,241.22	-	37,241.22
	Litigation funding costs - Scoggin	523,250.00	-	523,250.00
	Professional fees - CDER Limited	5,040.00	-	5,040.00
	Professional fees - Citibank	15,000.00	-	15,000.00
	Irrecoverable VAT	580,265.59	0.30	580,265.89
	Distribution to unsecured creditors	554,496.30	-	554,496.30
	Total payments	4,570,513.37	1.82	4,570,515.19
Net realisations		1.82	-1.82	0.00
Funds held in a non-interest bearing current account		1.82	-1.82	0.00
Notes to the R&P				

1. Amounts shown exclude VAT. As stated above VAT is irrecoverable in respect of the Company.
2. The Company had a claim of £22.7m in Phones 4U Finance. The Statement of Affairs estimated that there would be a return of £2,894 arising from a dividend from Phones 4U Finance. However, there are insufficient assets in Phones 4U Finance to enable a dividend.
3. As explained further in Appendix D, our fees are based on a combination of bases. The receipts and payments account shows the amounts paid in the period, prior periods and in total.
4. On 5 March 2020 we paid a dividend to unsecured creditors at the rate of 0.19p in the £.
5. Included within our expenses is £174.14 paid in total, in relation to 'Category 2' disbursements in accordance with the policy explained in Appendix C.
6. There have been no payments made to us, our firm or our associates other than from the insolvent estate as shown in the receipts and payments account provided above.
7. Funds were held in an interest bearing current account but removed from interest in order to prepare for tax clearance and closure.

Appendix C: Expenses

Expenses are amounts properly payable by us as Administrators but exclude our fees and distributions to creditors. These include disbursements which are expenses met by and reimbursed to an officeholder in connection with an insolvency appointment.

Expenses fall into two categories:

Expense	SIP9 definition
Category 1	Payments to persons providing the service to which the expense relates who are not an associate of the officeholder.
Category 2	Payments to our firm or our associates or which have an element of shared costs (for example, photocopying and mileage disbursements, or costs shared between different insolvent estates).

We don't need approval from creditors to draw Category 1 expenses as these have all been provided by third parties but we do need approval to draw Category 2 expenses. The body of creditors who approve our fees (in this case the general body of creditors) also has the responsibility for agreeing the basis for payment of Category 2 expenses.

The rate for services provided by the Administrators' own firm (Category 2 expenses) may periodically rise (for example to cover annual inflationary cost increases) over the period of the administration. All other disbursements are charged at cost.

No disbursements have been incurred in the Period. However, the brought forward amount incurred in previous periods is shown in the table below, which provides details of all the expenses incurred in the administration: The table below provides details of all the expenses incurred in the administration:

	Expenses incurred brought forward £	Incurred in the period £	Total expenses incurred to 26 January 2026 £	Total expenses paid to 26 January 2026 £
Joint Administrators' expenses	20,915.73	0.00	20,915.73	18,044.03
Legal fees & expenses - Allen & Overy LLP	54,453.77	0.00	54,453.77	37,241.22
Legal fees - Brown Rudnick LLP	1,323,036.50	0.00	1,323,036.50	1,323,036.50
Legal expenses - Brown Rudnick LLP	134,740.86	0.00	134,740.86	134,740.86
Litigation funding costs - Scoggin	523,250.00	0.00	523,250.00	523,250.00
Professional fees - CEDR Limited	5,040.00	0.00	5,040.00	5,040.00
Professional fees - Citibank	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Bank charges	15.00	0.00	15.00	15.00
Irrecoverable VAT	580,265.59	0.30	580,265.89	580,265.89
Total	2,656,717.45	0.30	2,656,717.75	2,636,633.50

The table should be read in conjunction with the receipts and payments account at Appendix B, which shows expenses actually paid during the period covered by this report and the total paid to date.

For details of the expenses policy previously approved by the general body of creditors in respect of the Joint Administrators' disbursements, please see our prior progress reports.

As previously reported, legal fees and expenses totalling £17.2k incurred in previous periods by Allen & Overy LLP relate to work carried out in respect of the extension of the administration. These costs are not reflected in the R&P because they were paid by P4U on behalf of the Company due to a lack of funds in the estate; this has been agreed with P4U's secured creditor. As a result, PwC has suffered a shortfall in its fees. In light of the recently concluded litigation, there will be no future funds available in the estate and therefore the Company will be unable to reimburse P4U for the costs paid on its behalf.

Appendix D: Remuneration update

As advised previously, our fees for Included Work were approved on a time cost basis by creditors on 11 September 2017, specifically for our time incurred in relation to the investigatory work (not unrelated matters arising in the administration).

In conjunction with our report to creditors dated 28 August 2019, we issued a request for creditors to fix the basis of our fees with regards to Excluded Work, which was duly approved by creditors as a set fee of £287,529 plus VAT including expenses on 27 September 2019.

According to the litigation funding settlement, and as agreed by the Company's creditors, our total remuneration and expenses are capped at £1,403,666 plus VAT. Therefore, neither the total of our time incurred nor the full amount of our set fee could be recovered from the Company's administration estate.

Given that the administration had been kept open principally to allow time for resolution of the P4U litigation, the P4U bondholders had agreed that our future time costs incurred, over and above the capped amount, may be recoverable from the Group. However, as no further funds have been received by the Group in light of the recently concluded litigation, no further fees will be drawn by the administration estate.

The capped fee includes the Joint Administrators' expenses (as referred to in Appendix C). Please refer to Appendix B for the breakdown of our fees and expenses which we have drawn since appointment, demonstrating that the total agreed Joint Administrators' fees and expenses have been drawn.

The time cost charges incurred in the period 7 August 2025 to 19 January 2026 are £24,700.00. As stated above, no further fees will be drawn.

We set out later in this Appendix details of our work to date, anticipated future work, subcontracted work and payments to associates.

Our hours and average rates for the period 7 August 2025 to 26 January 2026

Aspect of assignment	Partner	Director	Senior Manager	Manager	Senior Associate	Associate	Support	Total hours	Time cost £	Average hourly rate £
Strategy & Planning	-	-	-	1.40	-	-	-	1.40	1,106.00	790.00
Sale of business	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Book debt realisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retention of title	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trading	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accounting and treasury	-	-	-	0.20	-	17.30	-	17.50	7,424.00	424.23
Statutory and compliance	-	0.50	1.60	3.50	0.50	0.60	-	6.70	5,277.00	787.61
Employees & pensions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investigations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Creditors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Creditors committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VAT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Books and records	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closure procedures	-	1.30	6.30	4.90	-	-	-	12.50	10,893.00	871.44
Total	-	1.80	7.90	10.00	0.50	17.90	-	38.10	24,700.00	648.29

Our hours and average rates for the period 8 October 2014 to 26 January 2026

Aspect of assignment	Partner	Director	Senior Manager	Manager	Senior Associate	Associate	Support	Total hours	Total time cost £	Average hourly rate £
Strategy & Planning	41.60	0.70	21.70	17.00	26.65	60.10	-	167.75	87,209.65	519.88
Sale of business	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Book debt realisations	0.60	-	-	-	0.60	-	-	1.20	786.00	655.00
Property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other assets	8.80	0.25	-	-	4.00	0.50	2.00	15.55	10,252.50	659.32
Retention of title	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trading	-	-	-	-	0.10	-	-	0.10	31.50	315.00
Accounting and treasury	7.80	-	0.40	7.90	25.20	48.51	-	89.81	35,243.60	392.42
Statutory and compliance	32.50	5.65	170.25	203.58	325.16	222.60	3.20	962.94	419,109.35	435.24
Employees & pensions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investigations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Creditors	16.90	6.40	68.35	18.05	86.40	59.95	0.50	256.55	116,111.05	452.59
Creditors committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tax	-	4.00	3.50	4.70	8.95	28.65	-	49.80	18,047.70	362.40
VAT	-	-	13.70	0.20	7.00	3.75	-	24.65	18,195.45	738.15
Books and records	0.50	-	-	0.10	0.15	2.30	-	3.05	1,045.50	342.79
Closure procedures	-	1.30	8.00	5.40	-	-	-	14.70	12,232.00	832.11
Total	108.70	18.30	285.90	256.93	484.21	426.36	5.70	1,586.10	718,264.30	452.85
<i>Time identifiable and attributable to:</i>										
MNO Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investigations	206.50	276.00	591.20	289.72	599.70	1,099.05	-	3,062.17	1,116,383.50	364.57
Total	206.50	276.00	591.20	289.72	599.70	1,099.05	-	3,062.17	1,116,383.50	364.57
Total time	315.20	294.30	877.10	546.65	1,083.91	1,525.41	5.70	4,648.27	1,834,647.80	394.69

Our time charging policy and hourly rates

We and our team charged our time for the work we needed to do in the administration. We delegated tasks to suitable grades of staff, taking into account their experience and any specialist knowledge needed and we supervised them properly to maximise the cost effectiveness of the work done. Anything complex or important matters of exceptional responsibility were handled by our senior staff or us.

All of our staff who worked on the administration (including our cashiers, support and secretarial staff) charged time directly to the case and were included in any analysis of time charged. Each grade of staff has an hourly charge out rate which has been reviewed from time to time. Work carried out by our cashiers, support and secretarial staff has been charged for separately and isn't included in the hourly rates charged by partners or other staff members. Time has been charged in six minute units. The minimum time chargeable is three minutes (i.e. 0.5 units). We didn't charge general or overhead costs.

We set out below the maximum charge-out rates per hour for the grades of our staff who worked on the administration.

Grade	From 1 July 2025 £
Partner	1,110
Appointment taking director	1,040
Director (not appointee)	980
Insolvency Specialist SM	960
Senior manager	900
Manager	790
Senior associate	600
Associate	420
Offshore professionals	420 - 600

We call on colleagues such as those in our Tax, VAT, Real Estate and Pensions departments where we need their expert advice. We may also utilise Technology Specialists from the wider Business Restructuring Services team or other parts of our firm. Their specialist charge-out rates vary but the following are the maximum rates by grade per hour.

Grade	From 1 July 2025 £
Partner	2,065
Director	1,910
Senior manager	1,560
Manager	1,135
Senior associate/consultant	805
Associate/assistant consultant	440
Support staff	-

In common with many professional firms, our scale rates may rise e.g. to cover annual inflationary cost increases.

Our work in the Period

Earlier in this section we have included an analysis of the time spent by the various grades of staff.

Whilst this is not an exhaustive list, in the following table we provide more detail on the key areas of work.

Work undertaken	Why the work was necessary	What, if any, financial benefit the work provided to creditors OR whether it was required by statute
Accounting and treasury		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing and approving bank reconciliations Closing administration bank account Preparing, reviewing and approving billing forms and making non-trading receipts, payments and journals in IPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the proper management of the administration bank account 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the proper management of the administration bank account
Statutory and compliance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing and reviewing compliance reports Reviewing the progress report and finalising and uploading to Companies House Preparing and issuing the final reports to creditors Complying with statutory filing requirements Maintaining case records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the orderly management and progression of the case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To comply with mandatory statutory and other obligations placed on the Joint Administrators
Strategy and Planning		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating checklists and diary management system Regular team case progression and strategy meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the orderly management and progression of the case To inform decision-making and stakeholder discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the orderly management and progression of the case
Closure Procedures		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and updating closure plans Dealing with closure formalities Drafting and issuing final account to creditors and shareholders, Court and the Registrar Closing down internal systems and releasing the specific penalty bond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure a structured and compliant closure of the administration To facilitate a smooth transition and finalisation of the case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To comply with statutory obligations To ensure orderly wind down and closure of the administration To ensure that the Company's affairs are wound down in an orderly manner

Payments to associates

No payments have been made to associates or any party who could reasonably be perceived as an associate during the period. Relevant suppliers have been chosen due to their specific area of expertise or technical knowledge and payments to those parties are based on standard commercial terms.

Our relationships

We have no business or personal relationships with the parties who approve our fees or who provide services to the administration where the relationship could give rise to a conflict of interest.

Details of subcontracted work

We have not used any subcontractors on this case in the period or throughout the duration of the administration.

Legal and other professional firms

We instructed the following professionals on this case:

Service provided	Name of firm/organisation	Reason selected	Basis of fees and amount paid
Legal advice (general)	Allen & Overy LLP	Lawyers instructed in respect of the wider Group with knowledge which would add value to the administration.	Time and expenses £37,241.22
Professional fees	Citibank	To assist with the distribution of funds to the PIK Noteholders.	Fixed Fee £15,000
Professional fees	CEDR Limited	Provision of services to assist with investigation matters.	Fixed Fee £5,040
Legal advice (investigations)	Brown Rudnick LLP	To assist with the investigation of matters giving rise to claims brought by the Company.	Time and expenses Legal Fees £1,323,036.50 Disbursement £134,740.86

We require all third party professionals to submit time costs analyses and narrative / a schedule of realisations achieved in support of invoices rendered. We receive detailed time breakdowns and narratives in order to review professional firms' costs prior to payment. Our review involves the following considerations:

- Did the Joint Administrators issue the instructions listed in the invoice;
- Was the work performed as instructed;
- Was the work undertaken in line with the Joint Administrators' expectations, in respect of quality and the amount of time taken;
- Are the rates which have been applied reasonable; and
- Overall, were the fees charged satisfactory and reasonable relative to the work performed.

Appendix E: Other information

Court details for the administration:	High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, Companies Court 7184 of 2014
Company's registered name:	Phosphorus Holdco plc
Registered number:	07479181
Registered address:	Level 8, Central Square, 29 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 4DL
Date of the Joint Administrators' appointment:	8 October 2014
Joint Administrators' names, addresses and contact details:	<p>David James Kelly of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 7 More London, Riverside, London, SE1 2RT (appointed on 26 May 2016)</p> <p>Douglas Nigel Rackham of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 7 More London, Riverside, London, SE1 2RT (appointed on 19 December 2019)</p> <p><i>Former Joint Administrators</i></p> <p>Paul David Copley of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 7 More London, Riverside, London, SE1 2RT (from 8 October 2014 to 27 May 2016)</p> <p>Robert Jonathan Hunt of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Cornwall Court, 19 Cornwall Street, Birmingham, B3 2DT (from 8 October 2014 to 8 November 2016)</p> <p>Ian David Green of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 7 More London, Riverside, London, SE1 2RT (from 8 October 2014 to 19 December 2019)</p> <p>Email address: hannah.wilks@pwc.com</p>
Objective being pursued:	Objective (b) achieving a better result for the Company's creditors as a whole than would be likely if the Company was wound up (without first being in administration)
Appointor's / applicant's name and address:	Court order following an application by the directors of the Company, based at Osprey House, Ore Close, Lymedale Business Park, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 9QD
Split of the Joint Administrators' responsibilities	In relation to Paragraph 100(2) Sch. B1 IA86, during the period for which the administration order is in force any act required or authorised under any enactment to be done by either or all of the Administrators may be done by any one or more of the persons for the time being holding that office
Extensions to the initial period of appointment:	<p>Initial extension granted to 15 March 2019;</p> <p>Subsequent extension granted to 15 March 2020;</p> <p>Three year extension granted to 15 March 2023; and</p> <p>Three year extension granted to 15 March 2026.</p>