
Highlands Insurance Company (U.K.) Limited - In Liquidation

Joint Liquidators' progress
report to members and creditors
for the year ended 16 April 2021

9 June 2021

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1. Summary information

The Company	Highlands Insurance Company (U.K.) Limited (in Liquidation) (the “Company” or “Highlands UK”)
Registered number	01190948
Registered office and trading address	c/o PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 7 More London Riverside, London SE1 2RT
Activity	Insurance and reinsurance run-off
Liquidators’ names and address	Dan Yoram Schwarzmann and Douglas Nigel Rackham (the “Joint Liquidators”) of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP , 7 More London Riverside, London SE1 2RT
Date of appointment of Liquidators	17 April 2012

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2. Joint Liquidators' progress report

2.1. Introduction

On 1 November 2007 Dan Schwarzmann and Mark Batten of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("PwC") were appointed Joint Administrators of the Company.

As previously reported, the Administration concluded on 17 April 2012, being the date the Company went into Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation. In their capacity as Joint Scheme Administrators, the Joint Liquidators continue to implement the scheme of arrangement pursuant to Part 26 of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to creditors with claims arising from contracts or policies of reinsurance or retrocession and non-insurance creditors (the "Cedant Scheme"). Further details are provided below.

Following Mark Batten's retirement from PwC, he was replaced as Joint Liquidator by Nigel Rackham by an order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 21 July 2017, which became effective on 4 August 2017. In addition, Nigel Rackham replaced Mark Batten as Joint Scheme Administrator following a meeting of Scheme Creditors held on 16 October 2017 to ratify his appointment by the Creditors' Committee in accordance with clause 4.2.7 of the Cedant Scheme.

This is the Joint Liquidators' ninth annual progress report to members and all known creditors. Previous progress reports can be found at <http://www.pwc.co.uk/business-recovery/issues/highlands-insurance>

2.2. Liquidation Committee

The Joint Liquidators consult with the Liquidation Committee in relation to significant issues and provide periodic updates on outstanding matters. The last meeting of the Liquidation Committee was held on 21 January 2014. At that meeting it was decided that, given the status of the Liquidation, future Liquidation Committee meetings would only be held when the Joint Liquidators considered it appropriate or when requested by the Liquidation Committee.

2.3. Summary of the Liquidators' actions to date

Cedant Scheme

As previously reported, in February 2014 an initial payment percentage of 15% was set in accordance with the terms of the Cedant Scheme and a distribution to Cedant Scheme Creditors was made shortly thereafter.

The Joint Liquidators continue to monitor the possibility of additional reinsurance recoveries, the only substantive outstanding matter being a potential recovery from Highlands Insurance Company, US. However, the timing and amount of any such recovery remains highly uncertain as does the most cost-effective time to make further Scheme payments. At present, no Scheme payments are likely before 2022.

Cash management

The receipts and payments account in Section 3 details expenses met from funds in the Liquidation to 16 April 2021. Funds are held in interest bearing accounts in various currencies as, under the terms of the Cedant Scheme, dividends may be payable to Scheme Creditors in US Dollars and Euros as well as Pounds Sterling.

Statutory reporting

The Joint Liquidators continue to advise the Prudential Regulation Authority ("PRA") and Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") of any material developments in relation to the Liquidation.

Other matters

During the period covered by this report, the Joint Liquidators filed a corporation tax return for the year ended 16 April 2020. This showed a liability of £ 2,856.27, which was settled on 18 November 2020.

2.4. Professional advisers

For ongoing matters the Joint Liquidators have retained the professional advisers that were engaged in the preceding Administration as shown below:

Service provided	Name of firm / organisation	Reason selected	Basis of fees
Legal advice	Clifford Chance LLP	Specialist insolvency and industry knowledge	Time costs, subject to pre agreed budget
Actuarial	PwC	Specialist industry knowledge	Time costs, subject to pre agreed budget and Liquidation Committee approval
Insurance run-off management	Pro Insurance Services Limited	Pre insolvency and specialist industry knowledge	Time costs, subject to pre agreed budget

The Joint Liquidators' choice was based on an evaluation of the advisers' experience and ability to perform this type of work, their knowledge of the complexity and nature of the assignment and the basis of the fee arrangement with them. The Joint Liquidators continue to review the fees charged and are satisfied that they are reasonable in the circumstances of the case.

2.5. Joint Liquidators' remuneration and expenses

As previously reported, during the Administration, the Joint Administrators' fees were fixed by reference to time properly given by the Joint Administrators and their staff in attending to matters arising. The Liquidation Committee resolved that the remuneration basis agreed in the Administration would continue in the Liquidation. The Liquidation Committee passed a resolution approving the Joint Liquidators' costs for the period 17 April 2020 to 16 April 2021 and fees will be drawn pursuant to that resolution.

In accordance with the revised Statement of Insolvency Practice 9 ("SIP9"), which took effect on 1 December 2015 and was revised on 1 April 2021, the Joint Liquidators have provided the following information in Section 4:

- i) An analysis of the Joint Liquidators' time costs for the year ended 16 April 2021, including the cumulative total time costs from the date of the Joint Liquidators' appointment;
- ii) A summary of the Joint Liquidators' time costs for the period under review, including the key categories of work, details of the work undertaken, a description of why the work was necessary and whether or not the work was of financial benefit to the creditors or if it was required by statute; and
- iii) Details of estimated future work.

2.6. Statement of creditors' rights

If a creditor believes that the Joint Liquidator's remuneration is too high, the basis is inappropriate, or the expenses incurred by the Joint Liquidators are in all the circumstances excessive the creditor may, provided certain conditions are met, apply to the Court. An application may be made to the Court by any secured or unsecured creditor provided that at least 10% in value of unsecured creditors (including that creditor) agree, or with the permission of the Court. Any such application must be made within eight weeks of receiving this report.

An explanatory note providing creditors with a statement of their rights in relation to the Joint Liquidators' remuneration and expenses, and their rights to request further information, can be found online at:

https://www.icaew.com/-/media/corporate/files/technical/insolvency/creditors-guides/2015/guide_to_liquidators_fees_oct_2015.ashx?la=en

A copy may also be obtained free of charge on request to the Joint Liquidators.

2.7. Next report and enquiries

The Joint Liquidators will circulate their next report in 12 months' time. If any creditor has any queries in the meantime, please contact Gary Bray on +44 (0)7730 733945.

Signed:



D Y Schwarzmenn
Joint Liquidator
Highlands Insurance Company (U.K.) Limited

Dan Schwarzmenn and Nigel Rackham are appointed as Joint Liquidators and Joint Scheme Administrators of Highlands UK. Both are licensed in the United Kingdom to act as insolvency practitioners by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. The Joint Liquidators 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 Liquidators and/or Joint Scheme 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 Liquidators and/or Joint Scheme Administrators. Personal data will be kept secure and processed only for matters relating to the Liquidation and/or the Scheme of Arrangement. Further details are available in the privacy statement on the PwC.co.uk website or by contacting the Joint Liquidators/Joint Scheme Administrators.

3. Receipts and payments accounts

3.1. Sterling Receipts and Payments Account

		Total to 16 April 2020	Transactions 17 April 2020 to 16 April 2021	Total to 16 April 2021
Receipts		£000's	£000's	£000's
Funds transferred from the Administration		2,073		2,073
Interest received	(i)	12		12
Reinsurance collections		65		65
VAT recoveries	(ii)	193		193
Transfers from US dollar account	(iii)	3,417		3,417
Total Receipts		5,760	-	5,760
Payments				
Administrators' remuneration		78		78
Liquidators' remuneration	(iv)	1,259	23	1,282
Liquidators' disbursements	(iv)	2		2
Run-off fees		1,540		1,540
Other professional costs	(v)	1,525	19	1,544
Legal fees		286		286
Legal settlements	(vi)	54		54
Dividend payment to Cedant Scheme Creditors	(vii)	107		107
Statutory costs	(viii)	45	3	48
Net VAT	(ix)	637	8	645
Total Payments		5,533	53	5,586
Closing balance / movement		226	(53)	173

Notes:

- (i) The interest rate was 0% during the period, reflecting current economic conditions
- (ii) Includes £25k recovery relating to the Administration period.
- (iii) Represents transactions undertaken to manage foreign exchange exposures.
- (iv) Relates to the Joint Liquidators and their staff at their standard charge out rates for assignments of this nature.
- (v) Comprises tax services provided by PwC and includes £5k in relation to previously undrawn fees for the period 17 April 2019 to 16 April 2020.
- (vi) Settlement with the FSCS in order to conclude the Company's potential exposure to Employers' Liability policies.
- (vii) Initial dividend of 15% paid to Cedant Scheme Creditors in February 2014, in accordance with the terms of the Cedant Scheme.
- (viii) Includes costs relating to advertising, printing, postage and directors and officers insurance.
- (ix) Highlands UK is currently de-registered for VAT purposes.
- (x) The Joint Liquidators have not provided details of the "estimated to realise" values from the directors' statement of affairs in the preceding Administration as it would not facilitate a meaningful comparison. In addition, as stated in the report, the Joint Liquidators currently anticipate that further payments under the Cedant Scheme are unlikely before 2022.

3.2. US dollar Receipts and Payments Account

		<i>Total to 16 April 2020</i>	<i>Transactions 17 April 2020 to 16 April 2021</i>	<i>Total to 16 April 2021</i>
Receipts		US\$000's	US\$000's	US\$000's
Funds transferred from the Administration		13,308		13,308
Interest received		59	2	61
NAIC Trust fund	(i)	2,491		2,491
Reinsurance collections		1,450		1,450
Total Receipts		17,308	2	17,310
Payments				
Other professional costs		3		3
Letter of Credit drawdown	(i)	2,500		2,500
Bank charges		10		10
Transfer to sterling account	(ii)	5,450		5,450
Transfer to Euro account	(ii)	202		202
Dividend payment to Cedant Scheme Creditors	(iii)	8,092		8,092
Total Payments		16,257	-	16,257
Closing balance		1,051	2	1,053
Closing balance in Sterling	(iv)			762

Notes

- (i) The National Association of Insurance Commissioners trust fund of \$2.5m was drawn down by the Conservator, in accordance with the Conservation Agreement and returned to the Joint Liquidators, less expenses, in July 2013.
- (ii) Represents transactions undertaken to manage foreign exchange exposures and funding for Cedant Scheme dividend.
- (iii) Initial dividend of 15% paid to Cedant Scheme Creditors in February 2014, in accordance with the terms of the Cedant Scheme.
- (iv) Exchange rate as at 16 April 2021: 1 USD=0.72412 GBP

3.3. Euro Receipts and Payments Account

		<i>Total to 16 April 2020</i>	<i>Transactions 17 April 2020 to 16 April 2021</i>	<i>Total to 16 April 2021</i>
Receipts		€000's	€000's	€000's
Transfer from US dollar account	(i)	145	-	145
Total Receipts		145	-	145
Payments				
Dividend payment to Cedant Scheme Creditors	(ii)	145		145
Total Payments		145	-	145
Closing balance		-	-	-

Notes

- (i) Represents transaction undertaken to manage foreign exchange exposure.
- (ii) Initial dividend paid of 15% to Cedant Scheme Creditors in February 2014, in accordance with the terms of the Cedant Scheme.

4. Remuneration update

The time charged to the Liquidation is by reference to the time properly given by the Joint Liquidators and their staff in attending to matters arising.

It is the Joint Liquidators' policy to delegate tasks in the Liquidation to appropriate members of staff considering their level of experience and any requisite specialist knowledge, supervised accordingly, so as to maximise the cost effectiveness of the work performed. Matters of particular complexity or significance requiring more exceptional responsibility are dealt with by senior staff or the Joint Liquidators' themselves.

4.1. Hourly rates

Set out below are the relevant maximum charge-out rates per hour for the grades of the Joint Liquidators' staff actually or likely to be involved on this assignment, for the period of this report. Time is charged by reference to actual work carried out on the assignment in six minute units. The minimum time chargeable is three minutes (i.e. 0.05 units). In common with all professional firms, the scale rates used by the Joint Liquidators may periodically rise (for example to cover annual inflationary cost increases) over the period of the Liquidation. However, in this case, the charge-out rates of the Joint Liquidator's staff have remained unchanged since 2013 as a reflection of the estate's mothballing status.

Grade	£
Partner	627
Director	565
Senior Manager	437
Manager	370
Senior Associate	313
Associate	202

Specialist departments within the Joint Liquidators' firm, such as Tax, VAT and Actuarial work, are also being used where the Liquidators require their expert advice. Such specialists' rates do vary but the figures below provide an indication of the maximum rate per hour for the period.

Grade	£
Partner	1,520
Director	1,095
Senior Manager	1,258
Manager	772
Senior Associate	575
Associate	240

4.2. Joint Liquidators' disbursements

The Joint Liquidators' firm's expenses policy allows for all properly incurred expenses to be recharged to the case. The Joint Liquidators' have not incurred any disbursements in the period covered by this report.

4.3. Other matters

The Joint Liquidators have not made any payments to associates in the period covered by this report, nor has any work been subcontracted out.

The Joint Liquidators have no business or personal relationships with the parties who approve their fees or who provide services to the Liquidation where the relationship could give rise to a conflict of interest.

4.4. Analysis of the Joint Liquidators' time costs for the period 17 April 2020 to 16 April 2021

Classification of work type	Hours							Costs (£'s)		Average hourly rate (£'s)
	Partner	Director	Senior Manager	Manager	Senior Associate	Associate	Total	Period	Cumulative	
Total costs incurred to 17 April 2020									1,283,598	
Administration and compliance			3.6	0.0	19.3	0.0	22.9	7,598		332
Collections			5.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	5.6	2,385		426
Creditor and statutory reporting			9.7	0.0	14.0	0.0	23.7	8,621		364
Finance			2.2	0.2	16.5	6.8	25.7	7,574		295
Project Management			7.0	0.0	5.2	0.0	12.2	4,687		384
Total in the period			27.6	0.2	55.5	6.8	90.1	30,865		343
Total costs incurred to 16 April 2021									1,314,463	

4.5. Analysis of time costs of specialist departments within the Joint Liquidators' firm for the period 17 April 2020 to 16 April 2021

Specialist Department	Hours						Costs (£'s)		Average hourly rate (£'s)
	Partner	Director	Senior Manager	Manager	Senior Associate	Associate	Total	Period	
Tax and VAT									
Total costs incurred to 16 April 2020									155,024
Total in the Period	1.2		2.0		3.5		6.7	5,000	746
Total costs incurred to 16 April 2021									160,024
Actuarial									
Total costs incurred to 16 April 2020									1,313,123
Total in the period	1.5	1.5	3.0				6.0	5,246	874
Total costs incurred to 16 April 2021									1,318,369

4.6. Details of work performed in the period 17 April 2020 to 16 April 2021

Area 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
Administration and compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collating, reviewing and recording of estate costs. • Maintaining and updating case records and internal case management systems. • Complying with internal compliance requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance of the Liquidation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory duty to keep proper books and records.
Collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with the Special Deputy Receiver of Highlands Insurance Company, U.S., and monitoring the status of potential remaining reinsurance recoveries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To realise the assets of Highlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overriding duty to realise the assets to the best advantage and distribute the proceeds, net of costs, to Scheme Creditors.
Creditors and statutory reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing and circulating statutory annual report to creditors. • Dealing with ad hoc creditor queries. • Liaising with the Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To comply with regulatory requirements or statute. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required by statute.
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing, reviewing and processing transactions. • Reconciling bank accounts to internal systems. • Preparing and reviewing the receipts and payments reports, authorising all payments and reviewing and managing cash flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to pay Liquidation expenses. • Ongoing maintenance of the Liquidation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory duty to keep proper books and records.
Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal meetings to oversee day-to-day operations. • Internal meetings to review and update ongoing strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance of the Liquidation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory duty to keep proper books and records.

4.7. Details of work performed by the specialist departments within the Joint Liquidators' firm for the period 17 April 2020 to 16 April 2021

Area 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
Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing and submitting the corporation tax return for the year ended 16 April 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In compliance with duties as proper officers for tax. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required by statute. Overriding duty to realise the assets to the best advantage and distribute the proceeds, net of costs, to Scheme Creditors.
Actuarial Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing actuarial support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable valuation of potential reinsurance recoveries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overriding duty to realise the assets to the best advantage and distribute the proceeds, net of costs, to Scheme Creditors.

4.8. Future work

The table below shows the current estimate of the Joint Liquidators' costs for the period 17 April 2021 to 16 April 2023. Given the uncertainty around the amount and timing of future reinsurance recoveries, future costs are projected on a year by year basis in consultation with the Liquidation Committee.

Area of work	Work to be undertaken	Estimated cost £'000	Whether or not the work will provide a financial benefit to creditors
Administration and compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget setting, updating and monitoring. Collation, review and recording of estate costs. Maintaining and updating case records and internal case management systems. Complying with internal compliance requirements. 	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory duty to keep proper books and records.
Collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of the status of potential remaining reinsurance recoveries. 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overriding duty to realise the assets to the best advantage and distribute the proceeds, net of costs, to Scheme Creditors.
Creditors and statutory reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing and distributing annual progress report to creditors. Dealing with ad hoc creditor queries. Complying with other statutory requirements. Liaising with the Committee. 	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required to comply with regulatory requirements or statute.
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing, reviewing and processing transactions. Reconciling bank accounts to internal systems. Preparing and reviewing the receipts and payments reports, authorising all payments and reviewing and managing cash flow. Preparing, processing and distributing dividends to Scheme Creditors. 	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory duty to manage the affairs, business and property of the Company and keep proper books and records.
Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal meetings to oversee day-to-day operations. Internal meetings to review and update ongoing strategy. Consulting with legal advisors as required. 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory duty to keep proper books and records.
Total		95	

Specialist Department	Work to be undertaken	Estimated cost £'000	Whether or not the work will provide a financial benefit to creditors
Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax compliance including preparing and submitting corporation tax and VAT returns. • Closure planning and advice. 	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In compliance with duties as proper officers for tax.
Forensics Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking Scheme Creditor sanctions screening including Ultimate Beneficial Owner identification and searches. 	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required by statute.
Actuarial Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actuarial support in relation to potential reinsurance recoveries. 	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overriding duty to realise the assets to the best advantage and distribute the proceeds, net of costs, to Scheme Creditors.
Total		85	

5. Expenses incurred in the period

The following table provides details of the Joint Liquidators' expenses. Expenses are defined as amounts payable by the Joint Liquidators from the estate, they include the Joint Liquidators' fees but exclude distributions to creditors. The table also excludes any potential tax liabilities that may be payable as a Liquidation expense, as amounts becoming due will depend on the position at the end of the tax accounting period.

The table should be read in conjunction with the receipts and payments account in Section 3 of this report, which shows expenses actually paid during the period and the total paid to date.

In estimating future expenses, assumptions have been made relevant to the annual run rate and length of the forecast duration of the Liquidation.

	Brought forward from preceding period £k	Paid in the period £k	Cumulative £k	Incurred and not paid £k	Estimated future £k	Anticipated total £k
Administrators' remuneration	78	0	78	-	-	78
Liquidators' remuneration	1,259	23	1,282	31	95	1,408
Liquidators' disbursements	2	0	2	-	-	2
Run-off fees	1,540	0	1,540	-	-	1,540
Other professional costs	1,525	19	1,544	15*	85	1,644
Legal fees	286	0	286	-	10	296
Legal settlements	54	0	54	-	-	54
Statutory costs	45	3	48	-	10	58
Irrecoverable VAT	475	8	483	9	40	532
Total	5,264	53	5,317	55	240	5,612

*Includes £5,000 in relation to undrawn actuarial fees incurred in 2019/2020.

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