## **Prime People Plc**

# Interim Report

for the six months ended 30 September 2006

2006

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## Introduction

These results for the six months ended 30 September 2006 are the first in which Prime People Plc has had the benefit of a full period of contribution from its main operating business, Macdonald & Company Group Limited ("Macdonald") which was acquired on 4 January 2006. I am pleased to report a profit before taxation of £776,300 for the group which is in line with our expectations and which compares to a loss before taxation for the nine month period ended 30 September 2005 of £115,400 when there was no contribution from Macdonald .

Set out below are the results for the six months ended 30 September 2006 compared with the same period for the previous year as if all ongoing businesses had been in existence throughout that period.

The statutory results are set out in the financial tables at the end of this report.

	Six months ended 30 September 2006 £	Six months ended 30 September 2005 £	% change
	Actual	Pro forma	
Gross fee Income	9,289	7,748	+19.9%
Direct costs	(4,380)	(3,920)	
Net fee Income	4,909	3,828	+28.2%
Admin expenses	(4,088)	(3,165)	
Operating profit	821	663	+23.8%
Net interest	(45)	(6)	
Profit before tax	776	657	+18.1%
Taxation at 30%	(247)	(199)	
Profit after tax	529	458	+15.5%
Fully diluted EPS	4.40p	3.81p	+15.5%

## **Operating Review**

Since the financial year-end we have increased fee earner numbers by 20% from 66 to 79 consultants worldwide.

We have made good progress on our international expansion strategy in the first half. Trading at our recently opened Dubai and Hong Kong offices has been encouraging and each of these offices now employs 6 consultants.

Our overseas expansion strategy is intended to take advantage of long-term opportunities in the global commercial property market and to provide the Group with a degree of counter cyclical protection of our revenues. Further expansion is planned in the second half with the opening of an office in Sydney and we have relocated a fee earner to Johannesburg to investigate opportunities in the Republic of South Africa where early indications are encouraging.

## Operating Review (continued)

In the UK, we have continued to benefit from the strong demand for property professionals. Our move to new premises in Manchester has started to show positive results in increased performance from that region. We also established an Architecture business unit in London by appointing a senior manager, experienced in the sector, to head up this new division. Whilst initially focused in the UK market, we anticipate that this business unit will be rolled out internationally within the next twelve months. The strong organic growth we are experiencing, will give rise to costs in the current year with benefit accruing in subsequent years.

#### **Financial Results**

#### Macdonald

Our core business, which is the provision of recruitment services to the Commercial Property and Real Estate markets, has performed well during the period. Net Fee Income (NFI) increased by 30.7% from £3.62m to £4.73m over the same period last year.

#### **Harper Craven**

Harper Craven, which provides bespoke sales, marketing and management training and coaching programmes, has performed in line with expectations during the period and made a contribution of £29,022 to group profits in the first half (2005:loss of £2.915).

#### Dividend

An interim dividend of 1.25 pence per ordinary share will be paid on 21 December 2006 to shareholders on the register at 8 December 2006. The payment of this dividend reflects the positive impact of the acquisition of Macdonald and the Board's continuing intention is to have a progressive dividend policy.

#### **Inheritance Taxation**

The company is quoted and regulated solely on AIM. The Board and its advisers believe that its activities and status makes investment in its Ordinary Shares compliant for Inheritance Tax Relief. However, shareholders, as always, are advised to seek professional advice in respect of their own tax positions.

#### **Prospects**

The performance of Macdonald continues to be very encouraging and we anticipate that there will be further opportunities for significant organic growth both in the UK and abroad.

As referred to above, in the UK and internationally demand for property professionals remains strong. Our new architecture business unit, our recently opened offices in Dubai and Hong Kong, and our opening of an office in Sydney next month, all offer good prospects for solid organic growth.

Acquisitions remain a part of our overall growth strategy and we have held a number of preliminary discussions during the period. However, none of these have met our stringent acquisition criteria. We continue actively to explore opportunities.

We look forward to the second half confident of making further good progress and producing results in line with expectations.

R J G Macdonald Executive Chairman

## Consolidated income statement

## for the six months ended 30 September 2006 (unaudited)

	Notes	6 months ended 30 September 2006 £	9 months ended 30 September 2005 £	15 months ended 31 March 2006 £
Continuing operations				
Gross fee income		9,289,344	490,049	5,373,053
Direct costs		(4,380,192)	(141,304)	(2,256,403)
Net fee income		4,909,152	348,745	3,116,650
Administrative expenses		(4,087,631)	(533,982)	(2,985,125)
Operating profit / (loss)		821,521	(185,237)	131,525
Share of operating loss in associate		-	(20,825)	(78,756)
Impairment loss in associated undertaking	5	-	(9,000)	(155,920)
		-	(29,825)	(234,676)
Profit / (loss) before interest		821,521	(215,062)	(103,151)
Interest receivable and similar income		4,781	100,760	134,253
Interest payable and similar charges	2	(50,002)	(1,098)	(42,109)
Profit / (loss) before taxation		776,300	(115,400)	(11,007)
Taxation	3	(247,166)	(15,510)	-
Profit/(loss) after tax for continuing activities		529,134	(94,575)	52,239
Share of loss after tax in associate		-	(20,825)	(78,756)
Profit/(loss) for the period attributable to equity shareholders		529,134	(115,400)	(26,517)
Earnings / (loss) per share	5			
- Basic		4.56р	(3.13p)	(0.52p)
- Diluted		4.40p	-	(0.52p)
- Continuing basic		4.56p	(2.57p)	6.69p
- Continuing diluted		4.40p	-	6.09p

## Consolidated statement of changes in shareholders equity for the six months ended 30 September 2006 (unaudited)

	Called up Share capital £	Shares t be issue		um reserve	Share option reserve £	Retained earnings £	Total £
At 1 January 2005	368,467	-	909,925	173,077	-	1,888,868	3,340,337
Loss	-	-	-	-	-	(115,400)	(115,400)
At 30 September 2005	368,467		909,925	173,077		1,773,468	3,224,937
New shares issued	715,559	-	5,304,441	-	-	-	6,020,000
Consideration shares to be iss	sued -	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
Profit	-	-	-	-	-	88,883	88,883
Equity dividends	-	-	-	-	-	(46,090)	(46,090)
At 31 March 2006	1,084,026	1,000,000	6,214,366	173,077		1,816,261	10,287,730
New shares issued	118,864	(1,000,000)	881,136	-	-	-	-
Profit	-	-	-	-	-	529,134	529,134
Share option charge	-	-	-	-	22,671	-	22,671
Equity dividends	-	-	-	-	-	(120,289)	(120,289)
At 30 September 2006	1,202,890		7,095,502	173,077	22,671	2,225,106	10,719,246

## Consolidated balance sheet

## at 30 September 2006 (unaudited)

	As at 30 September 2006 £	As at 30 September 2005 £	As at 31 March 2006 £
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Goodwill	9,769,229	-	9,769,229
Property, plant and equipment	280,994	35,717	259,861
Investment in associate	- 70 227	381,851	74.660
Deferred tax asset	70,337 10,120,560	417,568	74,669 10,103,759
Current assets			
Investment held for sale	-	-	177,000
Trade and other receivables	3,837,708	290,183	3,332,890
Cash and cash equivalents	35,055	2,722,309	317,877
	3,872,763	3,012,492	3,827,767
Total assets	13,993,323	3,430,060	13,931,526
Liabilities Current liabilities			
Financial liabilities - borrowings	393,660	36,563	445,001
Trade and other payables	1,653,834	161,686	1,771,922
Current tax liabilities	246,583	<u>-</u> _	303,749
	2,294,077	198,249	2,520,672
Non current liabilities			
Financial liabilities - borrowings	980,000	6,874	1,123,124
	980,000	6,874	1,123,124
Total liabilities	3,274,077	205,123	3,643,796
Net assets	10,719,246	3,224,937	10,287,730
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	1,202,890	368,467	1,084,026
Share premium account	7,095,502	909,925	6,214,366
Other reserve	173,077	173,077	173,077
Consideration shares to be issued	-	-	1,000,000
Share option reserve	22,671	-	-
Retained earnings	2,225,106	1,773,468	1,816,261
Equity shareholders' funds	10,719,246	3,224,937	10,287,730

	Notes	As at 30 September 2006 £	As at 30 September 2005 £	As at 31 March 2006 £
Cash flows from operating activities				
Cash generated by operations	6	270,427	(218,102)	154,792
Taxation received		-	-	4,815
Corporation tax paid		(300,000)	-	(589,679)
Net cash used in operating activities		(29,573)	(218,102)	(430,072)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Interest received		4,781	100,760	134,253
Interest paid		(50,002)	(1,098)	(42,109)
Purchase of subsidiary undertaking		-	-	(9,875,994)
Net cash acquired with business		-	-	202,368
Proceeds from sale of associate		177,000	-	-
Net purchase of property, plant and equipment		(70,272)	(2,874)	(12,791)
Net cash from /(used) in investing activities		61,507	96,788	(9,594,273)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Issue of ordinary share capital		-	-	6,020,000
New bank loan		-	-	1,400,000
Repayment of bank loan		(140,000)	-	-
Capital element of hire purchase obligations		(3,748)	(5,623)	(9,373)
Dividend paid to shareholders		(120,289)		(46,090)
Net cash (used)/from financing activities		(264,037)	(5,623)	7,364,537
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(232,103)	(126,937)	(2,659,808)
Cash and cash equivalents at start of period		160,374	2,820,182	2,820,182
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period		(71,729)	2,693,245	160,374

## Notes to the Interim Financial Statements

for the six months ended 30 September 2006(unaudited)

## 1. Accounting Policies

The consolidated interim financial statements are for the six months ended 30 September 2006. They have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) using the same accounting policies as those used in the preparation of the accounts for the fifteen months period ended 31 March 2006.

#### 2. Interest

	Six months ended 30 September 2006 £	Nine months ended 30 September 2005 £	15 months ended 31 March 2006 £
Interest expense:	40.270		40.270
Interest payable on bank borrowings Interest payable on finance leases	49,270 732 50,002	1,098	40,279 1,830 42,109

## 3. Taxation on profit on ordinary activities

Taxation has been provided by applying the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK.

#### 4. Dividends

	Six months ended 30 September 2006 £	Nine months ended 30 September 2005 £	15 months ended 31 March 2006 £
Interim dividend for 2006 of 1.25 pence per share	-	-	46,090
Final dividend for 2006 of 1 pence per share	120,289	<del></del>	49,090

An interim dividend of 1.25 pence per ordinary share will be paid on 21 December 2006 to those shareholders whose names are on the register on 8 December 2006.

## Notes to the Interim Financial Statements (continued)

for the six months ended 30 September 2006 (unaudited)

## 5. Earnings per share

Earnings per share (EPS) has been calculated in accordance with IAS 33 "Earnings per share" and is calculated by dividing the profit/(loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period.

Earnings and weighted average number of shares used in the calculations are shown below:

S	ix months ended 30 September 2006 £	Nine months ended 30 September 2005 £	15 months ended 31 March 2006 £
Retained profit/(loss) for basic earnings/(loss) per share Tax on profit / (loss) Exceptional item Loss arising from associate undertaking Profit before tax, exceptional items Taxation	529,134 247,166 - 776,300 (247,166)	(115,400) - - - 20,825 (94,575)	(26,517) 15,510 185,700 234,676 409,369 (71,220)
Adjusted retained profit/(loss) for adjusted earnings per share	529,134	(94,575)	338,149
Weighted average number of shares used for basic	Number	Number	Number
and continuing earnings per share  Dilutive effect of share options and shares to be issued	11,593,516 434,259	3,684,670 187,608	5,052,844 257,522
Diluted weighted average number of shares used for diluted earnings per share	12,027,775	3,872,278	5,310,366
	Pence	Pence	Pence
Basic diluted earnings per share Diluted earnings per share Continuing basic earnings per share Continuing diluted earnings per share	4.56p 4.40p 4.56p 4.40p	(3.31p) - (2.57p) -	(0.52p) (0.52p) 6.69p 6.09p

## Notes to the Interim Financial Statements (continued)

for the six months ended 30 September 2006 (unaudited)

## 6. Reconciliation of operating profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	Six months ended 30 September 2006 £	Nine months ended 30 September 2005 £	15 months ended 31 March 2006 £
Operating profit/(loss)	821,521	(185,237)	131,525
Depreciation	49,171	11,096	38,127
Profit/(loss) on sale of tangible fixed assets	(32)	90	90
Share option charge	22,671	-	-
Increase in debtors	(504,816)	(28,131)	(205,943)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(118,088)	(15,920)	190,993
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	es 270,427	(218,102)	154,792

## 7. Nature of the financial information

The interim financial information for the six months ended 30 September 2006, was approved by the board on 21 November 2006.

The financial information set out above does not constitute full accounts within the meaning of Section 254 of the Companies Act 1985. The comparative results for the fifteen months ended to 31 March 2006 have been extracted from the Group's financial statements for that period which have received an unqualified audit report and have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Copies of the interim results are being sent to shareholders. Further copies can be obtained from the company's registered office at: 40a Dover Street, Mayfair, London W1S 4NW

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