Accounting policies

The Company

De La Rue plc (the Company) is a public limited company incorporated and domiciled in the United Kingdom. The address of its registered office is disclosed on page 159 of this Annual Report. The consolidated financial statements of the Company for the period ended 31 March 2018 comprise the Company and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the Group) and the Group's interest in associates. The Company financial statements present information about the Company as a separate entity and not about its Group. The principal activities of the Group are described in note 1.

Statement of compliance

European Union (EU) law (IAS Regulation EC 1606/2002) requires that the consolidated financial statements, for the period ended 31 March 2018, be prepared in accordance with international financial reporting standards (IFRS) as adopted by the EU. These consolidated financial statements have been approved by the Directors and prepared in accordance with IFRS including interpretations issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of certain items which are measured at fair value as disclosed in the accounting policies below. The accounts have been prepared as at 31 March 2018, being the last Saturday in March. The comparatives for the 2016/17 financial period are for the period ended 25 March 2017.

The Company has elected to prepare its financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 *Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*. They are set out on pages 152 to 156 and the accounting policies in respect of the Company financial statements are set out on page 154.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below or have been incorporated with the relevant notes to the accounts where appropriate. These policies have been consistently applied to all the periods presented, unless otherwise stated.

The Group's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out on pages 4 to 32 of the Strategic report. In addition, pages 128 to 136 include the Group's objectives, policies and processes for financial risk management, details of its financial instruments and hedging activities and its exposure to credit risk, liquidity risk and commodity pricing risk. The financial position of the Group, its cash flows, liquidity position and borrowing facilities are described on page 34 of the Strategic report.

The Group meets its funding requirements through cash generated from operations and a revolving credit facility which expires in December 2021. The Group's forecasts and projections, which cover a period of more than 12 months, taking into account reasonably possible changes in normal trading performance, show that the Group should be able to operate within its currently available facilities. The Group has sufficient financial resources together with assets that are expected to generate cash flow in the normal course of business.

As a consequence and notwithstanding the net liability position being reported in the consolidated balance sheet, which has primarily arisen due to the value of the deficit in the retirement benefit obligations, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company and the Group are well placed to manage their business risks and to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Directors continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

Accounting developments during the period

During the period a number of amendments to IFRS became effective and were adopted by the Group, none of which had a material impact on the Group's net cash flows, financial position, total comprehensive income or earnings per share.

Changes to IFRS not yet adopted

A number of other new and amended IFRS were issued during the period, which do not become effective until after 30 March 2018.

IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (effective for the year ending 30 March 2019, provides a single, principles based, five step model to be applied to all sales contracts. The group continues to assess the impact of the new standard.

The group has undertaken a diagnostic evaluation of the impact of IFRS 15 on the way that revenue is currently recognised and is in the process of finalising the impact analysis. Based on this preliminary assessment the group does not anticipate a material impact from the adoption of the new standard. The revenue in the Currency segment is primarily derived from the supply of goods and whilst the group will be required to recognise revenue against other performance obligations such as design and storage, the relative values of these amounts are not anticipated to be material to the group. Within ID and PAT, current revenue recognition policies will not change materially when the standard is implemented.

IFRS 16 *Leases* was issued by the IASB in January 2016 (effective for the year ending 28 March 2020) replaces IAS 17. Under the new standard it requires lessees to recognise a lease liability and a right of use asset for all leases unless the lease term is 12 months or less or the underlying asset has a low value. Interest expense on the lease liability and depreciation on the right of use asset will be recognised in the income statement, resulting in a higher total charge to the income statement in the initial years of a lease. IFRS 16 is not expected at the current time to have a significant impact on the results of the group. The group continues to assess the impact during 2017/18.

IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* was issued by the IASB in July 2014. IFRS 9 introduces new requirements for the classification, measurement and impairment of financial instruments and hedge accounting, and is required to be adopted by 29 March 2019. The group is reviewing the standard to determine the likely impact.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the Company and entities controlled by the Company (its subsidiaries) up to 31 March 2018. Control exists when the Group has the power to direct the activities of an entity so as to affect the return on investment. The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the period are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences or until the date that control ceases. The majority of the subsidiaries prepare their financial statements up to 31 March.

Business combinations

Acquisitions of subsidiaries and businesses are accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting. The Consideration transferred in the acquisition is measured at fair value as are the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired.

The excess of the fair value of consideration transferred over the fair value of net assets acquired is accounted for as goodwill. Any goodwill that arises is tested annually for impairment.

Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

Significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements have been incorporated into the relevant notes where possible. General accounting policies which are not specific to an accounting note, for example foreign exchange, are set out below.

Foreign currency

Foreign currency transactions

These financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional and presentational currency of the Company. The functional currency of Group entities is principally determined by the primary economic environment in which the respective entity operates.

Transactions in foreign currencies entered into by Group entities are translated into the functional currencies of those entities at the rates of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the income statement.

Foreign currency non-monetary items measured in terms of historical cost are translated at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences on non-monetary items are recognised in line with whether the gain or loss on the non-monetary item itself is recognised in the income statement or in equity.

In order to hedge its exposure to certain foreign exchange risks, the Group enters into forward contracts. Refer to note 14 for details of the Group's accounting policies in respect of such derivative financial instruments.

Financial statements of foreign operations

Assets and liabilities of foreign operations, including goodwill and intangible assets, are translated at the exchange rate prevailing at the balance sheet date. Income and expenses are translated at average exchange rates (which approximate to actual rates). Exchange differences arising on re-translation are recognised in the Group's translation reserve, which is a component of equity. When a foreign operation is sold, exchange differences that were recorded in equity are recognised in the income statement as part of the gain or loss on sale.

Net investment in foreign operations

Foreign currency differences arising on the re-translation of a financial liability designated as a hedge of a net investment in foreign operations are recognised in the translation reserve to the extent the hedge is effective. To the extent that the hedge is ineffective, such differences are recognised as finance income or costs in the income statement. Cumulative gains or losses in equity arising since the date of transition to Adopted IFRS are taken to the income statement on disposal of the foreign operation.

Revenue recognition

Group revenue predominantly represents sales to external customers of manufactured products which fall within the Group's ordinary trading activities. This excludes VAT and other sales taxes.

Revenue is recognised in the income statement to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow into the Group and the amount can be reliably measured. In practice, the timing of the transfer of risks and rewards varies depending on the individual terms of the sales agreement. For sales of products and associated components, when sold separately, the transfer usually occurs on loading the goods onto the relevant carrier or, at an earlier point in time when conditions are met for recognition of revenue on a bill and hold basis.

Revenue is recognised on a bill and hold basis when a formal contract is in place, the product is in hand and ready for delivery, the customer has acknowledged acceptance of the bill and hold transaction and normal payment terms apply.

Revenue on service based contracts is recognised as services are provided. If the services under a single arrangement are rendered in different reporting periods, or under an arrangement that also includes the sale of goods, then the consideration is allocated on a relative fair value basis between the sale of goods and rendering of services and then allocated to the appropriate reporting periods in accordance with the transfer of risks and rewards and the contractual life of the service contract.

Revenues and costs on a small number of project based contracts are recognised by reference to the stage of completion, based on the work performed to date and the overall contract profitability. The assessment of the stage of completion is dependent on the nature of the contract and is assessed by reference to reviews of work performed, achievement of contractual milestones and costs incurred.

Held to maturity investments

As part of the consideration received for the disposal of the Portals De La Rue paper business the group has received loan notes, preference shares and ordinary shares in Mooreco Limited, a parent company of the purchaser. As these instruments will be repaid or redeemed on the earlier of their contractual life or a sale or liquidity event they are accounted for as held to maturity investments. See note 5 for further details.

Prior period adjustments

During the period the following prior period adjustments have been made:

1) A restatement of £3.8m credit relating to tax on discontinued operations to reflect the release of uncertain tax provisions relating to the CPS business which should have been recorded in the prior year. The impact on the financial statements at 25 March 2017 is a decrease in current tax liabilities of £3.8m, a decrease in the loss for the year from discontinued operations of £1.6m and increase in the brought forward retained earnings as at 26 March 2016 by £2.2m;

2) A reclassification adjustment £17.0m has been made between the cumulative translation reserve and retained earnings at 26 March 2016 and 25 March 2017. (see page 109 for further details);

3) During the year the purchase price accounting for the Group's acquisition of DuPont Authentication (subsequently renamed De La Rue Authentication Solutions) has been completed. This has resulted in a change in the net assets recognised on acquisition. In accordance with IFRS 3 the prior year balance sheet amounts have been restated. There has been no impact on the prior year income statement.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Management has discussed with the Audit Committee the development, selection and disclosure of the Group's critical accounting policies and estimates and the application of these policies and estimates. Management is required to exercise significant judgement in the application of these policies. Estimates are made in many areas and the outcome may differ from that calculated. The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are set out below.

Revenue recognition and cut-off in Currency

Customer contracts within the Currency business will often include specific terms that impact the timing of revenue recognition. The timing of the transfer of risks and rewards varies depending on the individual terms of the sales agreement. For sales of products and associated components, when sold separately, the transfer usually occurs on loading the goods onto the relevant carrier or, at an earlier point in time when conditions are met for recognition of revenue on a bill and hold basis. Judgement is used in interpreting these terms and conditions in assessing when the risks and rewards have been transferred to the customer especially where they include complex acceptance criteria.

Valuation of inventory in Currency

At any point in time, the Group has significant levels of inventory, including work in progress. Currency manufacturing is a complex process and the final product is required to be made to exacting specifications and tolerance levels. In valuing the work in progress at the balance sheet date, assessments are made over the level of waste contained within the product based on the production performance to date and past experience. In assessing the recoverability of finished stock assessments are made to validate that inventory is correctly stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value and that obsolete inventory, including inventory in excess of requirements, is provided against.

Classification of exceptional items

The Directors consider items of income and expenditure which are both material by size and/or by nature and non-recurring should be disclosed separately in the financial statements so as to help provide an indication of the Group's underlying business performance. The Directors label these items collectively as 'exceptional items'. Determining which transactions are to be considered exceptional in nature is often a subjective matter. However, circumstances that the Directors believe would give rise to exceptional items for separate disclosure would include: gains or losses on the disposal of businesses (other than those within the scope of IFRS 5), curtailments on defined benefit pension arrangements, restructuring of businesses, asset impairments and costs associated with the acquisition and integration of business combinations. All exceptional items are included in the appropriate income statement category to which they relate. Refer to note 4 on page 118 for further details.

Post-retirement benefit obligations

Pension costs within the income statement and the pension obligations as stated in the balance sheet are both dependent upon a number of assumptions chosen by management. These include the rate used to discount future liabilities, the expected longevity for current and future pensioners and estimates of future rates of inflation.

The discount rate is the interest rate that should be used to determine the present value of estimated future cash outflows expected to be required to settle the pension obligations. In determining the appropriate discount rate, the Group considers the interest rates of high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms to maturity approximating to the terms of the related pension liability. See page 145 for detail of the relative sensitivity of the value of the scheme liabilities to changes in the discount and inflation rates.

Estimation of warranty provisions

The Group measures warranty provisions at the Directors' best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the balance sheet date, discounted where the time value of money is considered material. These estimates take account of available information, historical experience and the likelihood of different possible outcomes. Both the amount and the maturity of these liabilities could be different from those estimated. Refer to note 19 on page 138 for further details.

Impairment of disposal group held for sale

During the year the Group disposed of the Portals De La Rue paper business. Judgement was applied by the directors in assessing when criteria for recognising a disposal group as held for sale were met, and the paper business was not treated as a discontinued operation. Further judgement was required in estimating fair value less costs to sell when determining the remeasurement of assets and liabilities within the disposal group based on the lower of the carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. Refer to note 5 on page 119 for further details.

Business combinations

During the 2016/17 year end De La Rue has acquired of DuPont Authentication Inc (subsequently renamed to De La Rue Authentication Solutions). Determination of the balance sheet fair value of assets acquired is dependent upon the understanding of the circumstances at acquisition and estimates of the future results of the acquired business and management judgement is a factor in making these determinations. Refer to note 32 on page 150 for further details.

Tax

The Group is subject to income taxes in numerous jurisdictions and significant judgement is required in determining the worldwide provision for those taxes. The level of current and deferred tax recognised is dependent on subjective judgements as to the outcome of decisions to be made by the tax authorities in the various tax jurisdictions around the world in which the Group operates. It is necessary to consider which deferred tax assets should be recognised based on an assessment of the extent to which they are regarded as recoverable, which involves assessment of the future trading prospects of individual statutory entities. The actual outcome may vary from that anticipated. Where the final tax outcomes differ from the amounts initially recorded, there will be impacts upon income tax and deferred tax provisions and on the income statement in the period in which such determination is made.

The Group has current tax provisions recorded within Current tax liabilities, in respect of uncertain tax positions. Provisions are recognised where there are specific uncertainties identified and it is considered probable that there will be a future outflow of funds to a taxing authority, and are measured based on management's best estimate of the likely outcome.