

Results for the half year ended 30 September 2022

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# **Agenda**





### **HY23 – strong & profitable growth**

#### **Financial Performance in HY23:**

- Group revenues +14% YoY (13% organic):
  - Advisory +15% (Actuarial consulting +14%, Investment consulting +19%)
  - > Administration +11%
  - > SIP +57% (21% organic); NPT flat
- Strong growth in all relevant adjusted profit measures<sup>(1)</sup>
  - Growth in Adj. EBITDA of +15%, Adj. FD EPS up 18%

#### **Key Market Trends**

- Strong demand for services driven by multiple factors
  - Market volatility and rising gilt yields
  - Opportunities for schemes to de-risk
  - Ongoing regulatory change
  - Industry wide increase in GMP related work

#### **CEO Highlights**

- Strong financial performance in current economic conditions provides further validation of business model
- Growth reflects investment in services increased activity across client base
- Delivering on M&A acquisition of Penfida, a market leader in covenant advisory
- Continued ESG focus signatory to FRC's UK Stewardship Code, offsetting of Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions, direct footprint reduced
- Interim dividend up 13% versus prior year

(1) Adjusted measures exclude the impact of exceptional and non-trading items



### HY23 – Best firm for clients, best firm for people

Industry awards

Winner of all three main awards in the UK Pension Awards – first firm to achieve this in 25 year history











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### **Continued improvement in employee survey results**

of employees agree XPS is a good place to work (2021 survey : 95%)





# **Financial highlights**

Strong financial performance and positive outlook underpins 13% YoY growth in dividends













<sup>1)</sup> Adjusted measures exclude the impact of exceptional and non-trading items

<sup>(2)</sup> Excluding M&A and one-off capex investment in Admin platform, like for like net debt is £50.9m (i.e. an 8% reduction YoY)

### **Income statement**

	HY 2023	HY 2022	YoY
	£m	£m	%
Revenue			
Pensions Actuarial & Consulting	35.1	30.9	14%
Pensions Investment Consulting	8.1	6.8	19%
Pensions Advisory	43.2	37.7	15%
Pensions Administration	27.3	24.7	11%
SIP	4.4	2.8	57%
NPT	2.1	2.1	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	77.0	67.3	14%
Total costs	59.2	51.8	(14%)
Adj. EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	17.8	15.5	15%
Depreciation & amortisation	2.6	2.7	5%
Adj. EBIT (1)	15.2	12.8	19%
Net finance costs	1.4	0.8	(75%)
Tax	2.6	2.4	(12%)
Adjusted profit (1)	11.2	9.6	17%
Exceptional and non-trading items	5.3	8.3	36%
Statutory Profit after tax	5.9	1.3	>100%
Adjusted DEPS (pence)	5.3	4.5	18%
Adjusted basic EPS (pence)	5.5	4.7	17%

### **Highlights**

- Group revenues +14% YoY; good organic growth (+13%)
- Total costs up 14% in line with revenue despite inflationary pressures
- Adj. EBITDA +15% YoY; margin 23%
- Net finance cost up in line with higher debt (M&A) and increase in base rates
- Adjusted fully diluted EPS of 5.3p; +18% YoY operational gearing in the business coming through
- Interim dividend of 2.7p; +13% YoY Board confidence in Group prospects
- Exceptional and non-trading items PY had deferred tax liability re-valuation to reflect higher CT rates in the future



<sup>(1)</sup> Adjusted measures exclude the impact of exceptional and non-trading items: acquisition related amortisation, share based payments, corporate transaction costs, restructuring costs and other items considered exceptional by virtue of nature, size and incidence.

# Stable cost base despite higher inflation

	HY 2023	HY 2022	YoY CHANGE	HY 2023	HY 202
	£m	£m	%	% of revenue	%of revenue
Staff Costs	45.4	40.0	14%	59%	59%
Property Costs	1.7	1.3	31%	2%	2%
IT	5.5	5.3	4%	7%	8%
Professional Fees	3.3	2.9	14%	4%	4%
Marketing	0.5	0.3	67%	1%	0%
Other Costs	2.8	2.0	40%	4%	3%
Total	59.2	51.8	14%	77%	77%

### **Highlights**

- Overall costs as % of revenue are in line with the prior year
- Higher property costs reflects higher energy costs
- Staff costs increase of 14% is in line with revenue growth of 14% YoY; reflecting higher headcount and M&A
- After successive years of double digit increases in IT costs, in the half year grew 4%
- Increase in Professional fees largely due to PI insurance
- Marketing costs expectedly increased as the impacts of the pandemic reduced.
- Other cost increases in relation to higher client commissioned mail-outs and more T&E



### **Net debt**

OCF conversion stable; reduction in like for like covenant leverage

Operating cash flow conversion

95%

in line with prior year

Bolt on M&A

£13.4m

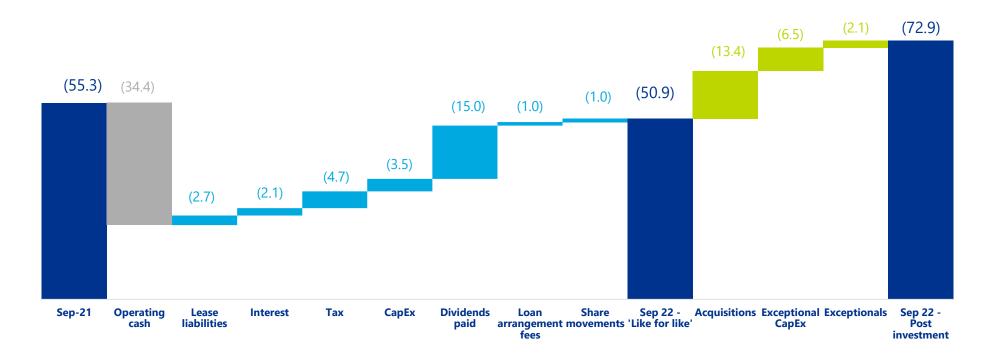
Like for like covenant leverage at 30 Sep 2022

1.54<sub>x</sub>

Undrawn committed facility of

£25m

at half year end (total committed facility £100m plus uncommitted £50m)







# Strategy for continued sustainable growth

Plan for long-term sustainable growth



#### UNDERPINNED BY HIGHLY RECURRING WORK AND STABLE CLIENT BASE



Focus on operational excellence and efficiency



Initiative to deploy transferable skills into tangential growing markets





### Regulatory and market change



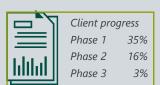
#### WHAT HAPPENED IN HY23

- DWP consultation launched on new funding rules
- Rising gilt yields affecting pension schemes (particularly after 'mini budget' and impact on LDI investments)
- Improved funding levels creating need for advice in wide range of areas
- Continued delivery of GMP equalisation advice

#### LOOKING FORWARD

- Review of long term pension scheme funding and investment strategies to reflect 'new world'
- Increased demand for de-risking and data cleansing services
- Continued support to clients on GMP exercises (advice and implementation)











# **Expand services**

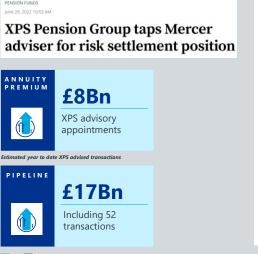


#### ACHIEVED IN HY22

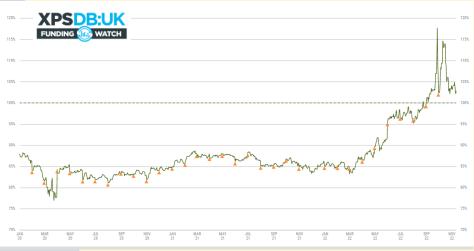
- · Continued investment to grow risk transfer team
- Development of data cleansing and 'dashboard ready' services
- Climate modelling capability to enhance ESG advisory offering
- Growing covenant advisory offering

#### CURRENT FOCUS

- Strategic advice on long term pension scheme strategy
- Risk transfer market and wind-up services
- Continued distribution of DC consulting services and NPT through XPS client base
- Investment in technology to enhance member experience







Estimated aggregate funding level across the universe of UK defined benefit schemes, on a gilts + 0.5% basic

### **Growing market share**

#### ACHIEVED IN HY23

- Onboarding of clients won in H2 FY22 now past 1 million members under administration
- Upgrade to CRM system
- Expansion of new business capabilities for public sector administration
- Healthy new business pipeline, albeit lower than summer peak

#### CURRENT FOCUS

- Relationships with Trustee and Intermediary firms
- Market force and cross-selling opportunities
- NPT opportunities in 'active discussion' of £1bn+
- Expanding sales channels for SIPP business
- Opportunity to deploy services into insurance sector

### XPS Pensions Group reaches one million members under administration

15 Nov 2022

XPS Pensions Group (XPS) now administers pensions for over one million members which is almost double the number since the acquisition of Punter Southall by Xafinity in 2018. This membership spans defined benefit (DB) and defined contribution (DC) schemes in both the private and public sector, as well as XPS' Master Trust; the National Pension Trust (NPT).







# Consolidation driving opportunities

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#### ACHIEVED IN HY23

- Progressing integration of Michael J Field Consulting Actuaries into SIPP / SSAS business
- Acquisition of Penfida Market leading covenant advisory business
- Continued disciplined approach to potential M&A opportunities

#### PENFIDA - OVERVIEW

- Enhances capability and capacity in covenant advisory market
- Significant 'cross-selling opportunities'
  - Provision of covenant advisory services to more XPS clients
  - ➤ Penfida client base includes schemes with assets totaling c. £300bn

£5<sub>m</sub>

Revenues

£11.6m

Purchase Price - Deferral mechanism applies

>20

Employees Based in London





# **Summary & Outlook**





Organic revenue growth at highest level since listing as a result of strong demand for services and higher headline inflation





Performance driven by broad range of services now offered to clients following investment over recent years





Good revenue 'drop through' as cost pressures offset by increased focus on recovery and client profitability





Acquisition of Penfida enhances covenant advisory capability and further increases cross-selling opportunities within the Group





Market volatility and regulatory change will continue to drive strong demand for higher value services over the coming years







# **Sustainability**

### Being a responsible business

#### **GOVERNANCE**

- Operate high standard of Corporate Governance centered around strong engagement with all stakeholders
- · Strong business ethics embedded throughout
- Second year of our "Values in Practice Awards" celebrating our people who have lived them
- Expanded ISO 27001 and successfully retained Cyber Essentials Plus certification – protecting the data of our clients

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

- Net carbon neutral for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions
- Full compliance with TCFD reporting requirements
- Strong commitment to reduce our emissions
- Energy efficient offices 39% are supplied by certified renewable energy (up from 11% on 31 March 22)
- Environmental Champions at each office driving local initiatives
- ISO 14001 awarded for 3 offices, more planned for 2022/23
- Developing our net zero ambition



#### **EMPLOYEES**

- New Inclusion & Diversity framework launched
- 5 employee networks lead our programme of events and campaigns on Inclusion & Diversity
- MyXPSMyChoice providing continuous flexibility
- Continued investment in L&D
- Comprehensive wellbeing support for all our employees training of Mental Health Allies
- Positive impact on results of this year's staff survey







#### **COMMUNITIES**

- Supplier code of conduct to ensure high standards on ESG
- Support employees and offices to fund raise for local charities
- Providing support to employee volunteering opportunities
- Continued partnership with Business In The Community (BITC) and Tax Help for Older People



#### **CLIENTS**

- Signatory to the FRC's Stewardship Code as well as the UN Principles of Responsible Investment
- Over 350 DB pensions schemes and over £113bn of assets advised to invest in a more sustainable way
- Established range of sustainable investment funds across all asset classes
- Helped over 8,000 members through our Pension Scam Protection Service (>£1.8 bn in transfers)







### **About XPS**



40yr track record



**Specialis**t pensions advisory and administration firm



**Employs** 

1,550+

people



High level of staff satisfaction



+22% cagr revenue since listing in 2017



Listed on the London Stock Exchange



Client service excellence



Award

# **Strong** geographic presence across UK





WINNER
Actuarial/Pensions
Consultancy of the Year
XPS Pensions Group



WINNER
Third-Party Administrator of the Year
XPS Pensions Group



WINNER
Investment Consultancy
of the Year
XPS Pensions Group



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Technology Innovation of the Year

XPS Pensions Group



WINNER
Actuarial/Pensions Consultan
of the Year
XPS Pensions Group



WINNER
Investment Consultancy
of the Year
XPS Pensions Group



HIGHLY COMMENDED
Third-Party Administrator
of the Year
XPS Pensions Group



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Educational and Thought
Leadership Initiative of the Year

XPS Pensions Group



WINNER
Third-Party Administrator of the Year
XPS Pensions Group











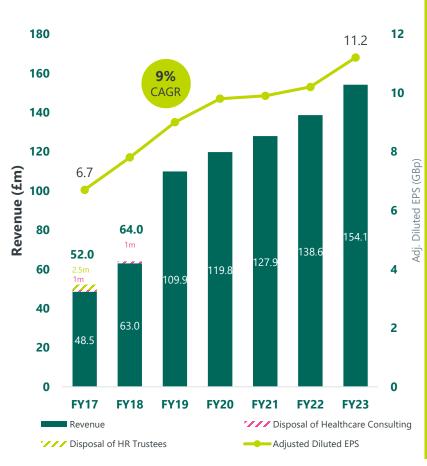






### The XPS investment case

### **Significant Growth Since IPO**





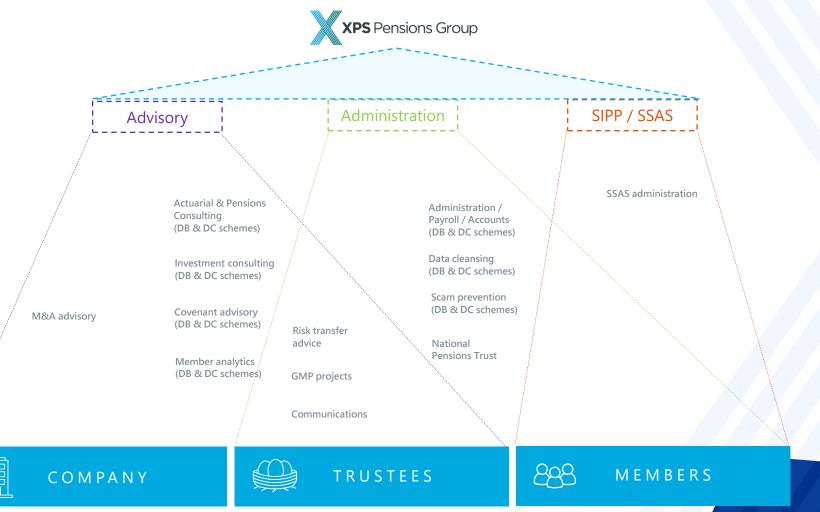
FY23 based on market consensus figures.



### **Overview of XPS services**

A comprehensive range of services for sponsors, trustees and members

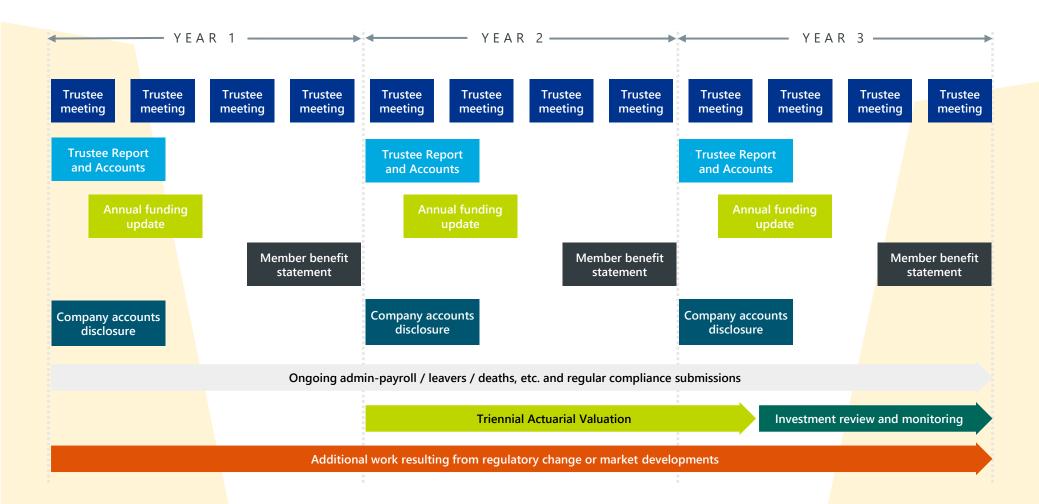
"We exist to shape and support safe, robust and well-understood pension schemes for the benefit of people and society"





# The stable, predictable core of the business...

Fee delivery throughout the life of the scheme





# **Competitive landscape**

A highly visible DB market complemented by a rapidly growing DC market

#### LARGE MARKET IN DEFINED BENEFIT CONSULTING AND ADMINISTRATION





schemes



c£2bn

Pensions advisory

services market p.a.

# **Divisional KPIs – Advisory**

Advisory business covers the Actuarial & Consulting and Investment divisions, which are closely connected through common clients and business models, and where the nature of the work is increasingly similar given the wider focus by clients on risk management

- Revenue growth of 15% across the advisory business; Pensions Actuarial & Consulting growing by 14% and Pensions Investment growing by 19%.
- Growth reflects strong demand for services and broad range of services now offered to clients high growth areas include investment consulting, GMP, Risk Transfer, Communications, Corporate advisory
- Impact of higher headline inflation has contributed to revenue growth as per the increase in average charge out rate
- Increased focus on client recovery rates has led to improved profitability
- · High level of market activity has reduced volume of new business opportunities, albeit retention has remained strong

Advisory	S E P - 19	M A R - 20	S E P - 2 0	M A R - 2 1	S E P - 2 1	M A R - 22	S E P - 2 2
Reported revenue (£'000)	31,964	36,389	34,401	37,872	37,718	39,684	43,098
No. of fee earners <sup>1</sup>	397	406	417	425	425	443	450
Average charge out rate (£) <sup>2</sup>	326	316	322	313	341	328	376
Client activity KPI <sup>3</sup>	593	677	636	666	632	637	613
Recurring revenue <sup>4</sup>	93%	91%	93%	93%	95%	95%	96%
New Logo wins (>£40k annual revenue)	7	5	2	7	8	4	5
Logo losses (>£40k annual revenue)	(7)	(3)	(6)	(12)	(3)	(4)	(1)

- 1. Number of fee earners definition: headcount of the relevant departments within the business at the end of the reporting period
- 2. Average charge out rate definition: sum of charge out rates for all staff in the relevant departments, divided by total staff (excluding support staff)
- 3. Number of clients (Advisory) definition: this is the number of clients in the 6 month period where annual income exceeds £5,000
- 4. Recurring revenue definition: revenue from customers who have a regular revenue stream. The revenue is either earned from the same customers who have a regular revenue stream. The revenue is either earned from the same customers who have a regular revenue stream. The revenue is either earned from the same customers who have a regular revenue stream.
- 5. The above table excludes the impact of Penfida Limited which was acquired on 21 September 2022 as the impact is considered immaterial.



# **Divisional KPIs – Actuarial & Consulting**

- Revenue growth of 13% reflects strong demand for services and broad range of services now offered to clients
- High growth areas include GMP, Risk Transfer, Communications, Corporate advisory
- Impact of higher headline inflation has contributed to revenue growth as per the increase in average charge out rate
- Increased focus on client recovery rates has led to improved profitability
- · High level of market activity has reduced volume of new business opportunities, albeit retention has remained strong

Pensions	SEP-19	M A R - 20	SEP-20	M A R - 2 1	SEP-21	M A R - 22	S E P - 22
Reported revenue (£'000)	27,742	31,060	28,978	31,710	30,885	32,839	34,974
No. of fee earners <sup>1</sup>	336	341	349	350	342	355	366
Average charge out rate (£) <sup>2</sup>	329	317	322	313	343	332	380
Client activity KPI <sup>3</sup>	534	568	538	548	517	533	520
Recurring revenue <sup>1</sup>	92%	89%	93%	93%	95%	94%	96%
New Logo wins (>£40k annual revenue)	6	5	2	5	6	4	3
Logo losses (>£40k annual revenue)	(5)	(2)	(6)	(12)	(3)	(4)	(1)

- 1. Number of fee earners definition: headcount of the relevant departments within the business at the end of the reporting period
- 2. Average charge out rate definition: sum of charge out rates for all staff in the relevant departments, divided by total staff (excluding support staff)
- 3. Number of clients (Pensions) definition: this is the number of clients in the 6 month period where annual income exceeds £10,000
- 4. Recurring revenue definition: revenue from customers who have a regular revenue stream. The revenue is either earned from the same customer every month, or in some cases every quarter
- 5. The above table excludes the impact of Penfida Limited which was acquired on 21 September 2022 as the impact is considered immaterial.

# **Divisional KPIs – Investment Consulting**

- Revenue growth of 19% reflects strong demand for services and impact of higher headline inflation
- Market turmoil and rising interest rates has fueled strong demand for services
- Increased focus on client recovery rates has led to improved profitability
- · High level of market activity has reduced volume of new business opportunities, albeit retention has remained strong

Pension Investment Consulting	SEP-19	M A R - 20	S E P - 2 0	M A R - 2 1	S E P - 2 1	M A R - 2 2	S E P - 22
Reported revenue	4,221	5,330	5,422	6,162	6,834	6,844	8,123
No. of fee earners <sup>1</sup>	61	65	68	75	83	88	85
Average revenue per fee earner	69	82	80	82	88	78	94
Average charge out rate <sup>2</sup>	314	310	322	309	332	316	359
Client Activity KPI <sup>3</sup>	190	233	242	248	263	254	255
Recurring revenue <sup>4</sup>	78%	83%	86%	85%	87%	87%	88%
New logo wins (>£40k Annual revenue)	2	2	0	4	4	0	2
Logo Losses (>£40k annual revenue)	(1)	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	(1)
New logo wins (>£10k Annual revenue)	n/a	n/a	13	11	10	2	6
Logo losses (>£10k annual revenue)	n/a	n/a	(1)	(1)	(2)	0	(4)

- 1. Number of fee earners definition: headcount of the relevant departments within the business at the end of the reporting period
- 2. Average charge out rate definition: sum of charge out rates for all staff in the relevant departments, divided by total staff (excluding support staff)
- 3. Number of clients (Investment) definition: this is the number of clients in the 6 month period where annual income exceeds £5,000
- 4. Recurring revenue definition: revenue from customers who have a regular revenue stream. The revenue is either earned from the same customer every month, or in some cases every quarter



### **Divisional KPIs – Administration**

- Revenue growth of 11% during the year driven by new clients coming on stream and impact of high headline inflation
- Strong demand for data related services including GMP, data cleansing and dashboard preparation
- · High level of market activity has reduced volume of new business opportunities, albeit retention has remained strong
  - Growing presence in public sector administration market
- Significant investment in administration platform to enhance member experience and drive efficiency

Administration	S E P - 19	M A R - 20	S E P - 2 0	M A R - 2 1	S E P - 2 1	M A R - 2 2	S E P - 2 2
Reported revenue (£'000)	20,210	22,715	22,754	24,059	24,722	26,064	27,306
No. of schemes	588	619	625	617	613	591	593
Average fee per scheme (£'000)	34	37	36	39	40	44	46
No. of members	883,778	920,459	936,013	927,537	949,588	957,177	992,537
Average fee per member (£)	23	25	24	26	26	27	28
No. of staff	622	627	662	716	770	785	807
New Logo wins (>£40k annual revenue)	8	3	1	3	8	3	2
Logo Losses (>£40k annual revenue)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)



### **Divisional KPIs – NPT & SIP**

NPT	S E P - 19	M A R - 20	S E P - 2 0	M A R - 2 1	S E P - 2 1	M A R - 22	S E P - 2 2
Reported revenue (£'000)	1,055	1,337	1,396	1,843	2,084	2,269	2,063
Value of assets (£'m)	710	649	824	1,096	1,229	1,337	1,305
Average charge per £ of assets (bp)	35	38	36	35	35	35	31
SIP	S E P - 19	M A R - 2 0	S E P - 2 0	M A R - 2 1	S E P - 2 1	M A R - 2 2	S E P - 2 2
Reported revenue (£'000)	3,036	3,027	2,850	2,757	2,810	2,957	4,390
No. of schemes - Total	3,852	3,926	4,000	4,176	4,284	4,530	6,736
No. of schemes - SSAS	1,080	1,064	1,050	1,045	1,027	1,083	1,727
No. of schemes - SIPP	2,772	2,862	2,950	3,131	3,257	3,447	4,649
£ per scheme (£) - Total	788	771	721	673	663	671	693
£ per scheme (£) – SSAS	1,549	1,539	1,473	1,392	1,413	1,407	1,230
£ per scheme (£) - SIPP	491	486	448	426	421	443	492
No. of staff	69	67	65	67	70	70	88
Average fee per staff	44	46	44	41	40	42	50
Staff costs	1,202	1,170	1,141	1,193	1,258	1,255	1,762
Average staff cost	18	18	17	18	18	18	20

SIP SEP-22 includes figures relating to the acquisition of the Michael J Field business on 1 February 2022.



### **Cash flow**

NON-GAAP CASH-FLOW	HY 2023 £m	HY 2022 £m
Operating		
Adjusted EBITDA	17.8	15.5
Change in net working capital	(6.2)	(5.5)
Adjusted operating cash-flow	11.6	10.0
OCF conversion	65%	65%
Financing & tax		
Interest paid	(1.1)	(0.5)
Taxes paid	(2.2)	(1.4)
Drawdown / (repayment) of RCF	11.0	2.0
Repayment of lease liabilities	(1.4)	(1.4)
Share related movements	0.4	(1.9)
Net cash-flow after financing	18.3	6.8
Investing		
Acquisitions	(8.3)	-
Capex	(2.8)	(0.7)
Net cash-flow after investing	7.2	6.1
Dividends paid	(9.8)	(8.9)
Exceptionals	(1.9)	(0.1)
Movement in cash	(4.5)	(2.9)
Net debt	72.9	55.3
Leverage	2.09x	1.87x

### **Highlights**

- Adjusted EBITDA up £2.3m benefiting from higher revenues
- OCF conversion in H1 was 65% FY guidance remains 90-95%
- The Group drew-down an additional £11m of its RCF during the period
- Acquisition of Penfida Limited
- Higher level of capex investment in our technology & platforms
- Net debt at 30 Sep 22 was £72.9m; leverage 2.09x (30 Sep 21: 1.87x)
- Excluding M&A and one-off capex investment in our administration platform, like for like leverage was 1.54x
- Cash at 30 Sep 22 was £5.7m (30 Sep 21: £5.7m). £25m of undrawn RCF at 30 Sep 22



# **Executive Director biographies**



Ben Bramhall
Co-Chief Executive Officer

Ben is a senior actuary with c.25 years' experience in the pensions and insurance industry, and is the Scheme Actuary to a number of large pension schemes clients. Ben joined XPS in 2014 to focus on the development and implementation of the strategy including the hiring of key staff and development of new services and infrastructure. Ben joined XPS from KPMG in London where he played a key role in its development from a small team to a leading provider of pensions advisory services.



Paul Cuff
Co-Chief Executive Officer

Paul is a qualified actuary with c.25 years' experience in the pensions industry. He was a partner at KPMG for 8 years, and joined XPS in October 2016. Immediately prior to joining XPS, Paul was head of the KPMG London pensions team, where he was instrumental in growing the London pensions business.



**Snehal Shah**Chief Financial Officer

Snehal is a Chartered Accountant with over 20 years of experience in finance, investor relations, M&A execution and post deal integration. He spent 10 years in the early part of his career with PwC, before joining Ladbrokes plc in 2009 where he held a number of senior finance roles including Group Financial Controller, Head of Investor Relations and Finance Director for Integration. He joined XPS as CFO in May 2019.



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