Vanquis Banking Group Q3 Results | Video Webcast 17th of October 2023 Transcript



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Ian McLaughlin:

Hello, everyone. I'm Ian McLaughlin, Chief Executive of Vanquis Banking Group, and it's great to be with you today. On the call with me, I've got Gareth Cronin, our interim Chief Financial Officer, and Miriam McKay, our new Head of Investor Relations. And as you know, this is my first trading statement since I joined some 11 weeks ago. After our interim results on the 28th of July, I talked to many of our shareholders and analysts for the first time, and from those discussions we promised to provide you a fuller than usual Q3 trading statement. So here we are with that today.

I hope that what we will share with you today will demonstrate not just that we've listened, but that we are taking action and responding positively. So while it is still early days, my objectives for this call are to give you some more detail on the immediate actions that we're taking, what these do to improve the 2023 financial profile of the group, and to provide some early guidance points for 2024. And to do that, I want to cover four key points:

What I've observed about the business in those first 11 weeks enrolled, the positives and the issues, and what we're already doing to improve things. The key points from our Q3 trading update, which we issued earlier this morning, and Gareth will talk you through the key numbers. And then how we see the outlook for our business over the rest of 2023 and as we enter 2024. We will provide a fuller outlook for 2024 and beyond when we present our full year results and our capital market day, which we are committing to hold on the 27th of March 2024.

So look, if I start with what I found so far, fundamentally, I believe that we have the basis of a really good business here. And what allows me to say that, well, I've experienced a business with a strong sense of social purpose, a business that helps to put our approximately two million existing customers on a path to a better everyday life and a business that our customers are positive about already. Our net

promoter scoring cards, for example, is a very respectable plus 56. And while there is upside, that is a pretty good base to work from.

We're also a business operating in a growing market of around 15 million working people in the UK who find it difficult to access credit from the mainstream banking system. And we have few competitors who are purely focused on this customer space in the way that we are. And we have structural advantages too, including access to retail deposits. Our customers vary, but in the main, they are the UK's nurses, police constables, social workers, construction workers, retail workers, taxi drivers, teachers, painters, and decorators. The list goes on. I describe them as the spine of working Britain. We are also blessed with passionate, experienced colleagues who care deeply about delivering great customer service.

But while this is all good to find, it is clear that we also do have challenges and they need to be addressed. And we are addressing these at pace. The main challenges I would call out are that the business has been product led and siloed with significant duplication of functions between the product lines. We need to immerse ourselves in the financial needs of our customers and think about them the way they do, providing them with broader integrated solutions for their financial needs. We have also not been focused enough on profitable growth. While we can demonstrate an ability to deliver absolute growth, our net receivables were up 26% year-on-year in HI, and they were trending even higher for the full year. But this growth was causing NIM erosion and we need to strike a better balance. We have also not been disciplined enough on cost management, so our cost base is disproportionately high.

So to sum up what I found so far, we have a large and growing addressable customer market to serve, an existing customer base who need us and who value us, motivated people, a significant opportunity to rightsize our central cost base, and therefore, overall I see great potential in our business.

Now over my banking career, I've developed the belief that if you can understand your customer's needs better than anyone else, then you can help your customers better than anyone else can. From that, you become relevant, you become necessary, or even essential in your customer's lives. And being that builds loyalty and that allows you to grow long-term revenue. We've already commissioned a detailed

review of our target customers, their lifestyles, their financial needs, their decision-making, looking at where we already help them and where we could help them more. And we'll tell you more about this at our capital market day.

If you focus on your customers, transaction values and revenues will grow. Then, as long as you keep your cost controlled, your jaws widen and everyone gets happier. Banking should be as simple as that. And I've spent this first period at Vanquis working with the team to review every product line and every call center against those simple beliefs. And my message for today is therefore equally simple: we have quickly assessed the situation we find ourselves in from HI, and we have taken decisive management actions to begin to improve. The actions we have underway already are on cost reduction, margin improvement, continuing to invest for future growth, and strengthening our leadership team. So let me expand a little bit on those.

On cost reduction, we are moving to a simpler organisational structure built around customers with clear accountability and zero duplication. We are moving from three product managing directors and their individual teams into a structure with a single chief customer officer and bringing all of the previous siloed teams together into single centers of excellence. I was really impressed with our outsourcing arrangements in South Africa when I visited there in August. We have an efficient well set up operation that we can build on there. So we announced an extension of those arrangements last week. Together, all of these initiatives mean that we are removing 350 rules of which 120 operations rules will be transferred to our outsourcers. For your ease of reference, 350 rules is just under 20% of our total current workforce. And doing all of this, will deliver around £60 million of cost savings within the 2024 calendar year. And the cost to achieve that £60 million savings is just under £6 million.

On margin improvement, we are making sure we've got the banking basics right, that includes actions to improve our margin and better manage our new business volumes and mix. We are introducing price increases to reflect the increased cost of funding that we have experienced. In September, for example, we applied a 1.8% price increase in vehicle finance. We've put through a 2.36% increase for about half our credit card customers because we're very careful to exclude certain segments, including the most vulnerable. And there

is another 2.8% price increase already agreed that after the notice of variation period, will go live in cards in December and therefore further help our NIM and our risk-adjusted margin as we run into 2024. Now, obviously these actions will have a greater effect on subsequent periods than they have had in Q3, but nevertheless, taking immediate and decisive action means we are already starting to see an improvement in our profitability.

If I turn to investing for the future, and we will provide a fuller update on the size of the opportunity that we see in the future at our capital market day, but to capitalise on the opportunity we see, we do need to keep investing in continuous improvement and our technology transformation strategy is well-defined. We've brought in Jem Walters from Snoop as our new chief technology officer, and while he came with the Snoop acquisition, he was also the outstanding candidate in our full market search. Jem brings deep experience of both mainstream banking and credit card platform build, as well as great fintech and cloud knowledge built through his five years developing Snoop. We are though temporarily pausing our current IT transformation spend just to give Jem and the team some time to look at the work we have underway with fresh eyes and to ensure it does align to our strategy review work that we're running through Q4.

And look, while we're on the topic of Snoop, just let me say that this is an asset I'm delighted with. As well as helping customers better manage their money, the data and analytical insight we get from Snoop is invaluable. In fact, the data packaging that we have within Snoop represents 25% to 30% of Snoop's current revenues. There are about 7,000 Vanquis Banking Group customers who've already found Snoop for themselves and they're already using it. We know from the analytics that I've just talked about that they are 42% more active than the average Snoop user. And so they're benefiting from the average £100 a month savings that Snoop delivers to customers. That helps the customers be better off, it means that they're on their way to making themselves a better credit risk. And by the end of this month, we will be marketing Snoop to the first 100,000 tranche of Vanquis customers. This helps us be relevant to our customers and builds that customer loyalty that I talked about earlier.

If I then turn to recruiting talented and experienced individuals into key positions, one of the things that I've been really encouraged by is our ability to recruit people with great capability and experience from top class institutions. As well as Jem that I've been nice enough about already as our new CTO, you'll also see that we've announced Dave Watts, who will be joining us as our new Chief Financial Officer from HSBC on the 1st of November.

As well as Jem and Dave, we've also recruited a new head of IR, a new chief of staff, and we've made an offer to a new chief customer officer and we'll be announcing the successful candidate for the chief customer officer role over the next couple of weeks.

To complete my executive team for now, John Natalizia, CEO of Snoop will caretake our chief digital and analytics role as we review the market for a permanent candidate for that role. So the team is full.

So look, we've got out of the blocks with pace and determination and we can show tangible progress over the last 11 weeks. But before I hand to Gareth to talk about our Q3 performance, I did just want to acknowledge that there are always two sides to right sizing a business and especially in doing so at the pace that we've set set out.

On the one hand, getting a business into fit, leaner shape does generate much of the same energy and motivation that you get from embarking on a personal fitness campaign. But those of us who've done that personally know that getting fit can also hurt. And we are making hard decisions in Vanquis. It is never pleasant when you have to say goodbye to decent, hardworking colleagues and we are doing that with humanity and humility. It is necessary, but it is not easy. And I want to take a moment to thank all of my colleagues for their immense professionalism while we go through this difficult process.

Let me now hand you over to Gareth who will tell you about our Q3 performance. Gareth.

Gareth Cronin:

Thanks Ian. And I would absolutely echo gratitude to all of our colleagues as we push through the transformation of our business. Good morning everyone.

With respect to performance, I'm glad to see the group return to profit in the third quarter. This has been driven by cost reduction and

lower impairments. We continue to grow our net receivables but by a more reasonable 5.7%. Total net receivables are just over 2.2 billion at end of September. This is the result of deliberate action to moderate growth. We have repriced proportionately in cards and vehicle finance which reflects and responds to the increasing cost of credit within the interest rate environment. This will help support NIM in Q4 and beyond.

Despite the continued macroeconomic uncertainty, the performance of our book remained robust and the group's move to lower risk customers was reflected in lower loss rates. It's important to note that whilst cost of funding has increased, the group has repaid all unsecured wholesale debt, which has been replaced by more efficient retail funding from Vanquis Bank. The cost income ratio has fallen by 3.8 percentage points to 62.4%. And as per lan's earlier comments, we will continue to focus carefully on our cost base.

We continue to hold significant capital and liquidity resources above minimum regulatory requirements. Our CETI ratio remains in line with our previously guided target of 20%, which includes any confidential and management buffers.

The last comment I would like to make about Q3 is with respect to CMC activity in our Moneybarn vehicle finance business. In Q3, we saw a drop in the level of CMC complaints and our uphold rates remained low. We remain committed to focusing on and resolving genuine customer complaints. Furthermore, I would reinforce that we have never used discretionary commission and therefore we do not have a conduct risk in that respect.

Now moving on to our outlook. We've given you an estimate as to where we expect full year adjusted PBT to land at somewhere between £25 million and £30 million. This is largely as a result of management actions with the big delta between Q3 and year-end being lower impairments.

Our cost guidance today is we expect to deliver cost savings of around £60 million within 2024. Approximately 80% of these savings are expected to be recurring in nature and the exceptional cost to deliver these savings in 2023 is estimated at £6 million pounds.

We've given you a sense of other trends we're expecting to continue as we look forward into Q4. These are a move back to disciplined returns focused growth in net receivables following continued action to moderate growth in Q4. Further support for NIM, which is expected to exit 2023 in the range of between 17% and 18% and continued low levels of impairment and continued investment in customer proposition and our technology platform.

Given the FY23 profit profile we are describing to you, it should come as no surprise that we've said today that we expect any final dividend payment for FY23 to be no more than 1p per share. That is in addition to the 5p per share we paid for the first half. And we'll tell you more about our thinking on capital allocation and dividend policy at our capital market stay scheduled in Q1. Thank you. And Ian, I'll hand back to you.

lan McLaughlin: Thank you Gareth. Again, let me thank you for the fantastic job that

you've done as you have helped me learn the business and get to grips with everything in your time as interim CFO. You really have

done an amazing job and I genuinely appreciate it.

Gareth Cronin: Thank you.

lan McLaughlin: So just want to say that.

So look, I hope this has helped give you a clearer picture of the shape of our financials going forward, the changes we're already implementing, the foundations that we have to build upon, and probably most importantly, the principles upon which you will see us manage the business from here on.

I want to end again by talking about customers. Understanding our customers better than ever and targeting their needs through custom insight will be at the heart of what you see us invest in Vanquis, and you'll see us do that under the theme of what we describe as customer obsession.

While our metrics look sound at the moment, we do remain vigilant on the macroeconomic picture and the financial resilience of our customers, but our focus is what can we do to help them? So that's the story for Vanquis in Q3, actions taken at pace, but more still to do. And in a nutshell, you're seeing us apply our own customer purpose to ourselves as a bank. So we're reviewing our own income and expenditure to put Vanquis on the path to a better life.

None of this is easy though, and I'm sure there will be bumps in the road, particularly given the pace we're working at, but we are making progress. For the moment, I think if you ask anyone at Vanquis Banking Group, they will say they can already see evidence of a change of direction based on a change in management style that prioritises customers, sets clearer financials and demonstrates a bias to action. We hope that's come across to you in what we have shared with you in our update today. Thank you for your attention and we will now be delighted to take your questions.

Operator:

Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, if you'd like to ask a question on today's call, please signal by pressing star one on your telephone keypad. That is star one for your questions. And our first question today comes from Gary Greenwood of Shore Capital. Please go ahead.

Gary Greenwood:

Hi. Thanks for taking my questions. I've got a couple if I can. So first was just a general question really on the strategy review, and I just wondered if you could talk a little bit more about the things that you're looking at particularly there, the various strands and how you're thinking about that.

And then the second was on costs. So you've obviously given some guidance on costs and cost reduction for 2024. I wonder if you could just talk about the base level of cost for 2023 that people should benchmark that from, and then also whether there's any seasonality within the cost base noting the improvement in the cost-to-income ratio that you saw in Q3. Thank you.

Ian McLaughlin:

Gary, thank you. As always, you go for good value. Three questions for the price of one. If I take strategy review, yeah, look, this is the work we should be doing as a priority, but we've obviously spent a lot of our time getting some immediate actions taken to improve the position that we found at the end of H1. So the strategy review work, we're calling Project North Star, and it is literally that. It is taking apart our business through a series of what is actually 22 deep dives into every corner of it to make sure we understand at a granular level

exactly how things work and that we look at the opportunities grounded in the research we're doing with customers around where their needs are.

And as I mentioned earlier, where we serve them already, we want to make sure that we are absolutely the best we can possibly be in that. But we also want to be clearer on where else they might like us to help them and start building solutions out in those areas. Small example would be, we know 9% of our vehicle finance customers buy panel vans. Now no one can tell me that they're driving their children around in a van with no seats and seat belts in the back. I think if you looked in the back of those vans, you'd find paint brushes and paint pots or window cleaning equipment or whatever. So we want to understand, can we help those customers through a small business perspective rather than just viewing them as a retail customer? So lots to come from the strategy review, and I really look forward to sharing the outcome of all that work at our capital market stay.

On costs, I'll maybe get Gareth just to do the detail on this, but look, you've seen us take a pretty big bite out of our cost base. And some of that is catching up, the guidance that we previously put out on costs over the last couple of years, which frankly, we haven't been as tight on delivering as we could have been, so we're making up for that. But it is around removing duplication in the main. The structure that we had did lead to multiple data teams, marketing teams, digital teams, all doing great work and working hard, but actually we want to create one team to do one thing so that we've got clear accountability and not duplication of costs. So Gareth, maybe you could just touch a bit on the cost base and where we've taken the £60 million from and then maybe the seasonality point that Gary asked about as well.

Gareth Cronin:

Sure. Well, if you looked at the half year presentation, the underlying costs were £140 million. The total costs were £157. So if you essentially double that and add in for inflation, the cost of the outsourcing to South Africa and the purchase of Snoop, that brings you to a consensus of in around £330 million. So that's where we started from in terms of reducing the £60 million. The slight reduction in the cost income ratio in Q3 was driven by management action, the removal of discretionary spend, tightening around real cost disciplines. We would expect that type of moderate reduction in Q4 also ahead of the real benefit of that £60 million coming through in 2024.

lan McLaughlin: And seasonality. Anything on that?

Gareth Cronin: Not particularly. I think in Q3 you would get a steady state, like we

have this year, so nothing particular on that.

Ian McLaughlin: And Gary, the only thing I'd add on seasonality, I mean, naturally we

see people spend a bit more on their credit cards over the Christmas period. That's why you've seen us moderate our receivables quite considerably for Q4, just to give us a little bit of headroom there as

well.

Gary Greenwood: That's great. Thanks very much for taking my questions.

Ian McLaughlin: Thank you, Gary.

Operator: Thank you. And our next question comes from Corinne Cunningham

from Autonomous research. Please go ahead.

Corinne Cunningham: Good morning, and thank you for taking my questions. Could

you give us some idea on costs to deliver? You talk about your adjusted profit expectations for the year, but would that mean that your net H2 result would actually be a loss after booking restructuring costs? And then perhaps if you can also give us some guidance on your capital ratios, and I guess if you are expecting a depressed profit in H2 with some growth, that would suggest that your capital ratio CTI is going a bit lower. So what do you expect the flaw to be on

that capital ratio? Thank you.

lan McLaughlin: Thank you, Corinne, cost to deliver, we called out in the presentation

about £6 million of implementation costs to get out the £60 million of costs that we are announcing this morning. And as I said, that is a big bite out of our £330 million cost base. And I think that £6 million for £60 and the fact that that £60, about 80% of it is in perpetuity, it continues, just illustrates that this is the right thing to do. We don't believe we will make a loss in H2. Obviously we haven't finished H2 and we do talk about external variables, but we're pretty confident that we're on a good path now to actually be profitable. We've seen that improvement in profitability through the months of Q3. And capital ratios, we talked about the 20%. We're pretty comfortable with that. But again, Gareth, anything you want to add in on those?

Gareth Cronin: No, at the end of Q3, our capital ratios at 20%. The fact that we'll

return to profitability and maintain profitability in each month to year-end sustains the fact that we will continue to have that 20%

ratio, at least to year-end.

Ian McLaughlin: That okay, Corinne?

Corinne Cunningham: Most companies when they talk about cost to deliver, it's kind

of like a multiple of the cost savings. Why is it so little for yourselves?

Ian McLaughlin: You can't win, can you? Look, it's a very good payback, right?

Basically because we're taking out duplication and because the majority of the cost saving is statutory redundancy plus a bit, it's not actually as much as you might think for the number of roles that we're taking out. It really is a simple mathematical equation based on that. But as Gareth mentioned earlier, I don't want to shy away from the fact there are actually some costs coming back in as well. So Snoop, there's 49 FTE there who, as I said, we're delighted with, but

we have to absorb that cost. And we obviously have the very

predictable amount of inflation coming back through as well, which adds some costs back in. So it is £6 million to get the £60 million out, but there are a few other parts that we need to add in, but again,

Gareth, anything you want to explain?

Gareth Cronin: No, I would just echo that the key driver of the reduction in costs is

headcount and therefore if you apply the statutory redundancy plus

a little, it does bring you to that £6 million figure.

Corinne Cunningham: Thank you.

Ian McLaughlin: Thank you, Corinne.

Operator: Thank you. And as a brief reminder, that is star one for your questions

today, with a pause for a brief moment. There appears to be no further audio questions, so I'd like to hand the call back over to

Miriam McKay for any questions from the webcast.

Ian McLaughlin: Thanks, Saskia.

Miriam McKay: Thanks very much, Saskia. The first question on the webcast is from

Andy Brough at Schroders, who's referring Ian to some benchmarking information I think you've provided previously. Andy's question is, "You

had 712 employees to serve each billion of lending. What do you think the right number is now given the average for financial companies is 170?"

Ian McLaughlin:

Well, Andy, first of all, I'm delighted to hear that you pay such attention to the information that I've provided you in the past. Yeah, look, benchmarking is a pretty crude tool, right? But it does give you a reference to your comparables. The numbers Andy's referring to were seven of the closest comparables, the sort of smaller, more specialist banks in the UK that we did some benchmarking against. And the average FTE per billion of assets was 170. We stood at 722, actually. So obviously what we're doing with taking 350 out, which is 20% of our cost base, is moving ourselves back towards the average. Though you would obviously make the point that that doesn't get us there straight away, but we do have to be careful.

As I said, it's a crude tool. You've got to look at the systems and infrastructure that your people are working on before you look at their productivity and ability to deliver their jobs, before you look at where you should be in a benchmarking range. So I think you've seen this be a pretty substantive, decisive move in the right direction. But are we finished? I would say not yet. Gareth, again, anything you want to add?

Gareth Cronin:

No, well clearly the 700 is far too high. I think it is worth bearing in mind, given that our customer base does need slightly more handson customer service, we'll be slightly higher than the average, even when we're finished all of this work. But certainly this is a really, really good step in terms of getting to where we need to be.

Ian McLaughlin:

And look, the final point I'd make on this one, Andy, is this is a new reflection on our people. Our people are amazing, their commitment to serving customers well, and as Gareth said, at times taking much longer on a call with a customer who is vulnerable and needs support. We don't want to get anywhere in the way of that. That is critical activity and our people do it brilliantly, but it is more in the sort of central roles where we've seen our central costs in the organisation increase by 200% since 2019. That's where we're really tackling and delivering the moves that we've talked about today. So hopefully that answers your question.

Miriam McKay: Thank you. I've now got questions from two members of Team

Canaccord. So the first question's from Portia Patel, what amount of the targeted £60 million cost reduction relates to head count and

how much relates to other categories, and what are these

categories?

lan McLaughlin: Do you want to take that one, Gareth?

Gareth Cronin: Sure. The headcount percentage would be between 80% and 90%.

The residual 10% would be reviewing our third party spend, reviewing all other areas of discretionary spend within our cost base. But as I said earlier, it is predominantly headcount between that 80% and

90%.

lan McLaughlin: And look, maybe just to build on that, to flesh that out a little bit, this

is what I mean when I talked about inefficiencies in our process. We find multiple contracts with the same vendor that are individual to the three product areas that we had previously. So instead of us taking ourselves as one entity and saying, right, we want a Vanquis contract with you, and the volume is therefore greater because we've added everything together so we've got a better value contract, we've actually gone individually in with smaller volumes because we've taken the three product areas individually and therefore we're

more one bank in the way that we organise ourselves. That's what we're announcing through the New York Operating Model.

Miriam McKay: And another question on costs from Justin Bates at Canaccord. You

mentioned 80% of the £60 million savings recurring in perpetuity.

not getting the value that we should out of our third party support matrix. That is critical to us, but we need to be more efficient and

Please can you clarify what the 20% difference is?

Gareth Cronin: I think that's the same answer as we've just given. It is primarily a

review of our third party spend and then looking through the rest of

our cost base to eliminate as much duplication as is possible.

lan McLaughlin: Yeah. So look, naturally, you find some one offs, so that's what makes

up the balance.

Miriam McKay: Thank you. Saskia, that's all I have on the webcast for the time being,

but I think we've got another question coming in on the conference

call.

Operator:

Yes. We have one further question from Pearly Wong of PBW. Please go ahead.

Pearly Wong:

Hello. I just wanted to understand a bit more about the income impact of the cost program because it's a lot of stuff you're getting rid of and it's a big part of the cost base, so presumably that would have some impact on the revenues. And, I guess, also just, if that's the focus, does that change your thinking about new products as well? I think previously, the previous management team certainly talked a lot about growing personal loans as a key growth area, as well as maybe starting with mortgages, second charge mortgages, I believe, so does the cost cutting program impact on your thinking on that?

Ian McLaughlin:

Pearly, thank you. Simple answer is no, it doesn't. So as Gareth has already described, this is central costs mainly, not revenue generating rules, and about 18% of our total FTE are pure revenue generating, there's therefore then a chunk that are about customer service. We've stayed away from there as much as we can. These are more of the sort of central teams and they're at every level from my executive committee through to frontline. In terms of new products, which is exactly the right question, I referenced that in my introductory remarks that the work we're doing on Project North Star through to the end of the year is about really understanding, yes, we serve customers in cards, we serve them in vehicle finance, we serve in personal loans at the minute, but we also have savings, we've got Snoop now, as I mentioned earlier, SME lending, I think, is an important thing for us to build out as well.

So we'll talk more in our capital market, stay about how we see the overall product suite and solution suite that builds our future proposition for our customers, but we definitely see there is room to improve and we will want to invest in that.

Gareth Cronin:

Yeah, I just added the emphasis of the cost reduction was on right sizing the support functions at the group center and therefore, whilst it was across the whole group, there would be more focus on that and less reduction with respect to customer facing roles.

Pearly Wong:

Okay, that makes sense. Thank you. And can I ask you to make a comment on credit quality? I know you said that you're happy with it, but just obviously it's not something that people are very concerned

about in the current economic environment, so if you could just provide a little bit more colour on that, that'll be helpful.

lan McLaughlin: The lovely thing, Pearly, with Gareth is you get a CRO and a CFO rolled

into one, so he's very good value. Gareth, do you want to cover?

Gareth Cronin: Well, thank you very much for that. Now I can confirm there's been no

increase in delinquency default. The quality of our credit book

continues to be very, very strong and that gives us confidence as we

look forward to enhancing our models and deriving further

efficiencies in the future.

Ian McLaughlin: So Pearly, I think on that one, as I mentioned in my introductory

remarks, we remain very vigilant on the overall macroeconomic position, but our customers are proving to be very resilient, so our

numbers are looking very good at the minute.

Gary Greenwood: Okay. Thank you.

Ian McLaughlin: Thank you, Pearly.

Operator: And as a final reminder, that is star one for your questions today. We

will pause for a brief moment.

Ian McLaughlin: Saskia, I think we'll probably call it there if that's okay. I mean,

obviously we've got meetings arranged over the next couple of days and the rest of today. If anyone has any further questions that they want to come to us directly on, obviously we'll be delighted to respond as quickly as we possibly can to that, but I think for today, I would just like to thank Gareth again for all his great work and helping me induct myself into the business, to all of our teams for the

amazing support and the warmth of the welcome that I've received and the embracing of the changes that I think most people realise the business did need to make, and to all of you for not just listening

this morning, but your questions and your ongoing support, genuinely appreciated. Watch this space with Vanquis Bank.