

April 2025 / Primary Market / TN / 624.2

Primary Market Technical Note

Operating and financial reviews

The information in this note is designed to help issuers and practitioners interpret our UK Listing Rules, Prospectus Regulation Rules, Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules, and related legislation. The guidance notes provide answers to the most common queries we receive and represent FCA guidance as defined in section 139A FSMA

Rules and Guidance

Prospectus Regulation Rules (PRR) Appendix 2 Annexes, Guidelines on disclosure requirements under the Prospectus Regulation (TN 619)

The Operating and Financial Reviews (OFR) disclosure requirements are set out in PRR Appendix 2 Annexes 1 (section 7) and 24 (item 2.5 – where applicable). Guidance on the Operating and Financial Review is set out in Guidelines 1 to 4 of our technical note TN 619 (Guidelines on disclosure requirements under the Prospectus Regulation). To ensure completeness, issuers may wish to consider including annotations to the Guidelines (or within the margins of any annual accounts from which OFR information is being incorporated by reference).

Annexes 1 (section 7) and Annex 24 (item 2.5 – where applicable) require disclosure covering the full financial track record period, plus

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any interim period, for which financial information is included in the prospectus.

When discussing a company's development and performance for a given year of the track record, we suggest that issuers consider drawing a comparison with the preceding year. That is, comparing between the first and second years, and the second and third years of the track record. So for any interim periods, comparison would be drawn with the corresponding interim period of the previous year.

When drawing a comparison between periods within the track record it is suggested that, as far as possible, the comparison is undertaken using numbers prepared on the same accounting policies. Paragraph 72 of the Guidelines suggests that best practice should be that, where a change of GAAP occurs in the issuer's track record shown in the prospectus, the year of change should be shown in both GAAPs to assist such comparison.