

Extracted from the financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

40 Matters arising from investigations

The Group completed its acquisition of Fortis Healthcare Limited (“Fortis”) and its subsidiaries (“Fortis Group”) in November 2018. Prior to this acquisition, an investigation report by an independent external legal firm was submitted to the former Fortis board and there are ongoing investigations on Fortis by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”) and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (“SFIO”), Ministry of Corporate Affairs of India, both further explained below.

a) Independent investigation by external legal firm (prior to the acquisition of Fortis by IHH Group)

The external legal firm’s significant findings revealed that the Fortis Group had made investment placements in the nature of inter-corporate deposits (“ICDs”) with three companies (“borrowing companies”) totalling INR4,450 million (equivalent to \$84.4 million) which were impaired in full in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018 of Fortis Group. The report suggested that the ICDs were utilised by the borrowing companies (possible related parties of Fortis Group in substance) for granting/repayment of loans to certain entities whose former directors of Fortis are connected with the former controlling shareholders of Fortis.

Additionally, the placement of ICDs, their subsequent assignment and the cancellation of such assignment were done without following the normal treasury operations and treasury mandate of Fortis Group; and without specific authorisation by the former board of Fortis.

As disclosed in note 39, a third party (to whom the ICDs were previously assigned) filed a civil suit in February 2018 against various entities including Fortis and have, *inter alia*, claimed implied ownership of brands “Fortis”, “SRL” and “La-Femme”. In the suit, it claimed that consequent to a term sheet, Fortis is liable for claims due to the third party from a certain party, in addition to total claims of INR2,534 million (equivalent to \$48.1 million) and other claims by the said certain party. Based on advice from external legal counsel, Fortis believes that these claims are without legal basis and are not tenable and accordingly, no provisions were required. Whilst this legal matter was included as part of the terms of reference of the investigation, the merits of the case cannot be reported since the matter was *sub-judice*.

Fortis Group acquired 71% equity interest in Fortis Healthstaff Limited (“Fortis Healthstaff”) at consideration of INR346,000 (equivalent to \$7,000), and 51% equity interest in Fortis Emergency Services Limited (“Fortis Emergency Services”) at consideration of INR25,000 (equivalent to \$474). Loans of INR79.45 million (equivalent to \$1.5 million) and INR20.8 million (equivalent to \$0.4 million), were advanced to these newly-acquired subsidiaries to repay the outstanding unsecured loan amounts due to companies related to the former controlling shareholders of Fortis. The report suggested that the loan repayment and some other payments to companies connected to the former controlling shareholders of Fortis may have been ultimately routed through various intermediary companies and used for repayment of the ICDs/vendor advance to Fortis Group. Further the said loan advanced by EHIRCL to Fortis Healthstaff was impaired in the books of accounts at EHIRCL due to anticipated chances of non-recovery.

b) Regulatory investigations (prior to the acquisition of Fortis by IHH Group)

On 17 October 2018, 21 December 2018 and 19 March 2019, SEBI issued interim orders, indicating, amongst others, certain transactions were structured by some identified entities, which were *prima facie* fictitious and fraudulent in nature, resulting in, *inter alia*, diversion of funds from the Fortis Group for the ultimate benefit of former controlling shareholders of Fortis (and certain entities controlled by them) and misrepresentation in financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018 of Fortis Group. Further, it issued certain interim directions, *inter alia*, directing Fortis shall take all necessary steps to recover INR4,030 million (equivalent to \$76.4 million), along with due interest, from former controlling shareholders of Fortis and various other entities identified in the orders.

The matter before SEBI is *sub-judice* and its investigation has not yet concluded.

Similarly, the investigation by the SFIO is ongoing. Fortis Group has been submitting all the information required by the various investigating agencies and is fully cooperating in the investigations/ inquiries.

c) Actions taken by Fortis Group

With respect to the above findings by the external legal firm, the Fortis Board has implemented specific improvement projects to strengthen the process and control environment. These include review and revision of operational and financial authority levels, greater oversight by Fortis Board, review and improve financial reporting processes, more robust secretarial documentation in regards to compliance to regulatory requirements and improving systems design and control enhancement. Accordingly, steps have been taken in relation to enhanced authority levels for payments/transfer of funds within Fortis Group, and review of borrowings above certain levels by the Fortis Board. Fortis Group had also disengaged itself from the former controlling shareholders. Fortis Board continues to evaluate other areas to strengthen processes and build a robust governance framework. The Fortis Board has initiated an enquiry of the management of the certain entities in the Fortis Group that were impacted in respect of the matters investigated by the external legal firm. To this end, Fortis Board has also appointed an independent accounting firm, to conduct enquiries of certain entities and transactions in Fortis Group to ascertain, amongst other things, the extent of diversion of funds from Fortis Group. As at 26 March 2020, the Board of Fortis is reviewing the findings of the independent accounting firm.

As per the directions from SEBI, Fortis Group has taken steps to recover dues from the former controlling shareholders of Fortis and various other entities. These include initiating civil actions against these entities demanding recovery of the outstanding amounts together with interest and to secure repayment of the outstanding amounts on the assets of these entities.

Based on the findings of investigations to-date, all identified/required adjustments/disclosures have been recorded in the financial statements of Fortis Group prior to the Group's acquisition in November 2018. Any further adjustments/disclosures, if required, would be made in the financial statements of Fortis Group pursuant to the above actions to be taken by the internal/regulatory investigations, as and when the outcome of the above is known.