

Highlights

Financial highlights

Financial year ended 31 March (£m unless otherwise specified)	2017	2016	Change %
Revenue	919.3	898.1	+2.4
Profit before tax and goodwill impairment	136.5	137.1	-0.4
Profit before tax	125.5	44.4	+182.7
Capital expenditure	156.4	147.6	+6.0
Net debt ¹	132.7	303.3	-56.2
Gearing ² (%)	35.9%	49.1%	-26.9
Dividends	24.0	81.7	-70.6

¹ Excludes derivative financial instruments

² Ratio of the net debt to regulatory assets of the economically regulated business (NERL)

Deliver a safe, efficient and reliable service every day

- > The volume of flights we handled increased by 7.6% to 2.45 million (2016: 2.28 million). We maintained our safety record, with no risk-bearing Airprox³ attributable to NATS (2016: nil).
- > Average en route delay per flight increased to 10.9 seconds (2016: 4.3 seconds), reflecting in part higher than expected traffic. We enabled additional annual savings for airline customers of 55,900 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Deliver SESAR and transform the business for the future

- > We consulted customers on our revised investment plan for RP2, which accelerates the deployment of SESAR technology.
- > Important milestones included: implementation of our new flight data processor (iTEC⁴) into Prestwick upper airspace, and live trials of electronic flight strips by the Terminal Control (TC) operation.

Win and retain commercial business

- > We were awarded ATC and engineering contracts by George Best Belfast City Airport and an airspace design contract for Thailand. FerroNATS secured ATC contracts at three additional Spanish airports.
- > We renewed ATC contracts with Aberdeen, Glasgow and Southampton and extended our ATC contract with Luton for one year. We also renewed the engineering service with Highlands and Islands Airports.
- > Edinburgh Airport's ATC service will transfer to a competitor in March 2018.

Other priorities for 2016/17

- > We invested in April 2017 in Searidge Technologies, a provider of technology for remote tower services and continue to develop a remotely-operated airport control tower capability at Swanwick.
- > We are supporting Aquila with the MOD's Project Marshall and we have formed a task force with our partner, Thales, to re-plan the delivery of the asset provision milestones.