

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

BT GROUP PLC
Form 6-K
November 10, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

10 November, 2005

BT Group plc
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

BT Centre
81 Newgate Street
London
EC1A 7AJ
England

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F..X... Form 40-F.....

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No ..X..

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- _____

Enclosures: 1. Interim Results announcement made on 10 November, 2005

November 10, 2005

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

SECOND QUARTER AND HALF YEAR RESULTS TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

SECOND QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Revenue of GBP4,822 million, up 5 per cent
- New wave revenue of GBP1,439 million, up 39 per cent
- Profit before taxation, specific items(1) and leaver costs of GBP596 million, up 7 per cent
- Earnings per share before specific items(1) of 5.0 pence, up 4 per cent
- Net debt(2) of GBP8,133 million, 3 per cent lower than previous year
- Broadband end users of 6.2 million at September 30, 2005, up 89 per cent

HALF YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Revenue of GBP9,605 million, up 5 per cent
- New wave revenue of GBP2,824 million, up 43 per cent
- Profit before taxation, specific items(1) and leaver costs of GBP1,113 million, up 3 per cent
- Earnings per share before specific items(1) of 9.5 pence, up 13 per cent
- Interim dividend of 4.3 pence per share, up 10 per cent

The income statement, cash flow statement and balance sheet, drawn up in accordance with IFRS, from which this information is extracted are set out on pages 13 to 19.

(1) Specific items are material one off or unusual items as defined in note 4 on page 23.

(2) Net debt is defined in note 9 on page 26.

Chairman's statement

Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman, commenting on the half year results said:

"The half year results show that we have delivered another good set of financial results and made further progress in transforming the business.

"I am pleased to report that we will be paying an interim dividend of 4.3 pence, up 10 per cent on last year, showing our commitment to improving shareholder returns and confidence about the future."

Chief Executive's statement

Ben Verwaayen, Chief Executive, commenting on the second quarter results, said:
"The transformation of BT is right on track with the delivery of another successful quarter.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

"Revenue has again grown by 5 per cent, with new wave revenues up 39 per cent. Earnings per share* has now grown for fourteen consecutive quarters and we are encouraged by the trend in underlying EBITDA. Our order book remains strong with networked IT services contract wins again being over GBP8 billion for the last twelve months. The settlement we have reached with Ofcom in the UK provides a foundation for certainty and clarity which will deliver further benefits to our retail and wholesale customers and shareholders.

"We are delivering value to our customers and shareholders through the transformation of the business."

* Before leaver costs and specific items which are material one off or unusual items as defined in note 4 on page 23.

RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER AND HALF YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

	Second quarter			Half year		Better (worse) %
	2005 GBPm	2004 GBPm	Better (worse) %	2005 GBPm	2004 GBPm	
Revenue	4,822	4,602	5	9,605	9,169	5
EBITDA						
- before specific items and leaver costs	1,385	1,418	(2)	2,748	2,807	(2)
- before specific items	1,348	1,410	(4)	2,705	2,697	-
Profit before taxation						
- before specific items and leaver costs	596	557	7	1,113	1,084	3
- before specific items	559	549	2	1,070	974	10
- after specific items	489	571	(14)	988	982	1
Earnings per share						
- before specific items and leaver costs	5.3p	4.8p	10	9.8p	9.3p	5
- before specific items	5.0p	4.8p	4	9.5p	8.4p	13
- after specific items	4.4p	5.0p	(12)	8.8p	8.6p	2
Capital expenditure	694	803	14	1,410	1,497	6
Free cash flow	503	594	(15)	377	751	(50)

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Interim dividend	4.3p	3.9p	10
Net debt	8,133	8,373	3

The commentary focuses on the results before specific items and leaver costs. This is consistent with the way that financial performance is measured by management and we believe allows a meaningful analysis to be made of the trading results of the group. Specific items are defined in note 4 on page 23.

The comparative results have been restated to reflect the requirements of IFRS which the group has adopted (see note 1).

The income statement, cash flow statement and balance sheet are provided on pages 13 to 19. A reconciliation of EBITDA to group operating profit is provided on page 28. A reconciliation of net debt is provided on page 27.

GROUP RESULTS

Revenue was 5 per cent higher at GBP4,822 million in the quarter with the continued strong growth of new wave revenue more than offsetting the decline in traditional revenue. Underlying revenue, adjusted for the acquisitions of Albacom and Infonet and mobile termination rate reductions, was 2.5 per cent higher than last year. Profit before taxation, specific items and leaver costs increased by 7 per cent to GBP596 million. Earnings per share before specific items increased by 4 per cent to 5.0 pence.

The strong growth in new wave revenue continued and at GBP1,439 million was 39 per cent higher than last year. New wave revenue accounted for 30 per cent of the group's revenue compared to 22 per cent in the second quarter of last year. New wave revenue is mainly generated from networked IT services, broadband and mobility. Networked IT services revenue grew by 31 per cent to GBP918 million, broadband revenue increased by 76 per cent to GBP350 million and mobility revenue increased by 33 per cent to GBP65 million. Excluding Albacom and Infonet, the organic growth in new wave revenue was 25 per cent.

Networked IT services contract wins were GBP0.8 billion in the second quarter. Total orders achieved over the last twelve months were GBP8.2 billion. BT had 6.2 million wholesale broadband connections at September 30, 2005, an increase of 89 per cent compared to last year. During the second quarter BT announced commercial trials of higher speed services of up to 8Mbit/s which are set to begin at the end of November at 25 exchanges initially with a view to product launch in Spring 2006.

Revenue from the group's traditional businesses declined by 5 per cent (4 per cent excluding the impact of reductions to mobile termination rates and Albacom). This was a continuation of recent trends and reflects regulatory intervention, competition, price reductions and also technological changes that we are using to drive customers from traditional services to new wave services.

Consumer revenue in the second quarter was 5 per cent lower. New wave consumer revenue increased by 76 per cent, driven by the continuing growth of broadband. Traditional consumer revenue declined by 11 per cent year on year (10 per cent lower excluding the impact of reductions to mobile termination rates) reflecting the continued impact of Carrier Pre-Selection (CPS), wholesale line rental (WLR) and broadband substitution.

The underlying 12 month rolling average revenue per consumer household (net of mobile termination charges) of GBP253 declined by GBP1 compared to last quarter, with increased broadband volumes almost offsetting lower call revenues.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Contracted revenues remained stable at 65 per cent compared to last quarter, 5 percentage points higher than last year.

Revenue from smaller and medium sized (SME) UK businesses declined by 7 per cent (5 per cent excluding the impact of reductions to mobile termination rates). New wave revenue grew by 13 per cent driven by continued growth in broadband and networked IT services. The number of BT Business Plan locations increased by 57 per cent against last year to 507,000 by September 30, 2005, an increase of 4 per cent in the quarter. BT Business Plan continues to grow successfully covering over 50 per cent of BT's SME call revenue.

Major corporate (UK and international) revenue showed strong growth of 15 per cent compared to the second quarter of last year, with strong growth in new wave revenue (34 per cent) more than offsetting the decline in traditional services. Excluding the impact of Albacom and Infonet, new wave revenue grew by 12 per cent. There is a continued migration from traditional voice only services to networked IT services and an increase in mobility and broadband revenue. New wave revenue now represents 55 per cent of all major corporate revenue.

Wholesale (UK and Global Carrier) revenue increased by 11 per cent (12 per cent excluding the impact of reductions to mobile termination rates and Albacom). UK Wholesale new wave revenue increased by 63 per cent to GBP240 million, mainly driven by broadband and managed services.

Our estimate of market share by volume of fixed to fixed voice minutes is based on our actual minutes, market data provided by Ofcom and an extrapolation of the historical trends. BT's estimated UK consumer market share declined by 1.6 percentage points compared to last quarter to around 59 per cent whilst the estimated business market share remained at around 41 per cent.

Group operating costs before specific items increased by 7 per cent year on year to GBP4,219 million, including the costs from Albacom and Infonet. Net staff costs before leaver costs increased by GBP143 million to GBP1,002 million due mainly to the acquisitions of Albacom and Infonet and additional staff resulting from growth in networked IT services and increased levels of activity in the network. Leaver costs were GBP37 million in the quarter (GBP8 million last year). Payments to other telecommunication operators declined by 3 per cent year on year at GBP939 million with the reduction in mobile termination rates partially offset by the impact of Albacom and Infonet. Other operating costs before specific items increased by GBP130 million mainly due to increased costs of sales from both organic and inorganic growth in networked IT services. These were partly offset by cost savings from our efficiency programmes. Depreciation and amortisation decreased by 2 per cent year on year to GBP692 million.

EBITDA before specific items and leaver costs decreased by 2 per cent. This includes the effect of the GBP15 million profit on property disposals recognised in the prior year. Group operating profit before specific items and leaver costs decreased by 3 per cent to GBP693 million.

Net finance costs were GBP100 million, an improvement of GBP54 million against last year. This includes the effect of a GBP31 million net gain arising from the fair value movement in, and realised gain arising from, the early redemption of the US dollar 2008 LG Telecom convertible bond. In addition, net finance income associated with the group's defined benefit pension scheme was GBP15 million higher than the prior year.

Profit before taxation and specific items increased by 2 per cent to GBP559 million.

The effective tax rate on the profit before specific items was 24.9 per cent (26.0 per cent last year). The effective tax rate reflects tax efficient investment of surplus cash and continued improvements in the tax efficiency

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

within the group.

Earnings per share before specific items increased by 4 per cent to 5.0 pence, and increased by 10 per cent before specific items and leaver costs.

Specific items

A provision of GBP70 million has been recognised in the quarter relating to the incremental and directly attributable costs to create a new line of business, called Openreach, required under the legal undertakings agreed with Ofcom. There will also be capital expenditure required to deliver equivalent systems and processes, a significant element of which will be absorbed within existing capital programmes.

Earnings per share after specific items were 4.4 pence in the quarter (5.0 pence last year). Specific items are defined in note 4 on page 23.

Cash flow and net debt

Net cash from operating activities in the second quarter amounted to GBP1,263 million compared to GBP1,414 million last year. This reduction was primarily a result of the normalisation of tax payments following low tax payments in the prior year.

Cash flows from investing activities were a net cash inflow of GBP120 million in the second quarter compared to an outflow of GBP373 million last year. This reflects the cash inflow upon maturity of certain short term investments, the majority of which was used to fund the dividend payment of GBP540 million made in the quarter. The net cash outflow from capital expenditure, net of disposal proceeds, amounted to GBP671 million in the quarter compared to GBP726 million last year.

Cash flows from financing activities were a net outflow of GBP785 million in the second quarter compared to GBP771 million last year.

Free cash flow was a net inflow of GBP503 million in the second quarter (GBP594 million last year). The share buyback programme continued with the repurchase of 45 million shares for GBP102 million in the quarter. Net debt was GBP8,133 million at September 30, 2005, GBP240 million below the level at September 30, 2004. Free cash flow and net debt are defined in notes 8 and 9 on pages 25 to 27.

Pensions

The IAS 19 pension obligation position at September 30, 2005 was a deficit of GBP2.6 billion, net of tax, being a reduction of GBP0.8 billion since March 31, 2005.

21st Century Network

BT's work on preparing for the implementation of the 21st Century Network progressed during the quarter. BT is working on concluding the contractual agreements with eight preferred suppliers to build a converged core network. BT is auditing sites nationally, and is working to put in place a world class inventory management system to prepare for the installation of equipment from preferred suppliers. This process has already been completed in the Cardiff area, which will see the first live implementation of 21CN in the second half of 2006. The plan for national rollout is being discussed with industry through the communication forum, Consult21, and agreement is expected around the end of the current financial year. Trials for delivery of services over 21CN are continuing using equipment from BT's preferred suppliers.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Telecommunications Strategic Review

During the second quarter a final settlement was reached with Ofcom following the conclusion of the Telecommunications Strategic Review. Their acceptance of legally binding undertakings offered by BT provides a foundation for certainty and clarity which will deliver further benefits to retail and wholesale customers and shareholders.

As part of the settlement BT has agreed to create a new line of business called Openreach. This line of business will ensure all service providers have transparent and equal access to the nationwide local BT network.

Shareholder distributions

An interim dividend of 4.3 pence per share, an increase of 10 per cent on last year, will be paid on February 13, 2006 to shareholders on the register on December 30, 2005. The ex dividend date is December 28, 2005. In the first half year 55 million shares were repurchased for GBP123 million under the group's share buyback programme.

Prospects

The strategy is working well and we continue to deliver our key strategic goals. Our traditional business continues to operate in what remains a challenging environment. Our new wave businesses show strong growth both in the UK and internationally. We expect to continue to see the benefits from our investment in new wave activities and cost transformation plans.

Line of business results

We reviewed our internal trading arrangements and with effect from April 1, 2005 have made changes to simplify our internal trading and drive synergies. We have restated the comparative line of business results to assist readers in understanding the year on year performance. There is no change to the overall group reported results.

The main changes are firstly, the transfer of BT's UK Major Business operations into BT Global Services from BT Retail. Secondly, Field Services have moved from BT Retail to BT Wholesale, in anticipation of the creation of Openreach.

The half year report, which contains the independent review report of the auditors, will be advertised in The Times on November 11, 2005. The third quarter results are expected to be announced on February 9, 2006.

BT Retail

	Second quarter ended September 30				Half year ended September 30	
	2005 GBPm	2004* GBPm	Better GBPm	(worse) %	2005 GBPm	2004* GBPm
Revenue	2,136	2,221	(85)	(4)	4,255	4,420
Gross margin	586	579	7	1	1,149	1,161
Sales, general and administration costs	380	388	8	2	770	787

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

EBITDA	206	191	15	8	379	374
Depreciation and amortisation	39	38	(1)	(3)	73	76
Operating profit	167	153	14	9	306	298
	=====	=====			=====	=====
EBITDA before leaver costs	208	193	15	8	384	382
Operating profit before leaver costs	169	155	14	9	311	306
	=====	=====			=====	=====
Capital expenditure	33	41	8	20	68	72
	=====	=====			=====	=====

*Restated to reflect changes in intra-group trading arrangements.

BT Retail's EBITDA was 8 per cent higher than last year, reversing the trend of recent quarters. Gross margin increased by 1.3 percentage points, and coupled with a reduction in SG&A costs, more than compensated for the 4 per cent decline in revenues (3 per cent excluding the impact of reductions to mobile termination rates).

New wave revenue grew by 41 per cent but was more than offset by the traditional revenue decline of 9 per cent. New wave revenue accounted for 15 per cent of total revenue in the quarter, up from 10 per cent last year.

Revenue from traditional services was 9 per cent lower than last year (8 per cent excluding the impact of reductions to mobile termination rates). The reduction includes the effects of continued high levels of migration to new wave services such as broadband, which is reflected in a fall of over 40 per cent in dial up internet minutes and a reduction in ISDN lines. In addition, there has been an estimated 3 per cent decline in the overall fixed to fixed calls market and a reduction in market share from competitive pressure.

BT Privacy, a service to address the problem of unwanted calls by giving customers greater control over the calls they receive, was launched on 1st July with more than 1.8 million customers already registered.

Broadband revenue grew by 57 per cent to GBP179 million. The growth of broadband continues with 2,111,000 BT Retail connections at September 30, 2005, an increase of 9 per cent in the quarter. Net additions of 171,000 resulted in a 27 per cent share of the BT Wholesale broadband DSL additions in the quarter. Our programme to upgrade customers to high speed services at no extra cost continues with a further 500,000 business and consumer customers upgraded to speeds of up to 2Mbit/s in the quarter. BT Retail has now upgraded in excess of one million customers in total.

Revenue from mobility services increased by 65 per cent year on year to GBP38 million. In June we launched BT Fusion, the world's first seamless combined fixed and mobile communications service on a single handset. Over 20,000 registrations have been received on www.btfusion.bt.com and sales activity to this group commenced at the end of September. We will shortly offer this service to BT Broadband customers followed by a more general marketing campaign. Additional handset choices will be available next year.

Revenue for BT Directories increased by 50 per cent to GBP24 million as the take up of full colour adverts and Phonebook Online grows. BT Conferencing increased revenues by over 20 per cent, and is Europe's number one conferencing business.

Overall the gross margin percentage increased by 1.3 percentage points due to greater network efficiency and maturity of broadband products.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Cost transformation programmes contributed to SG&A savings of GBP8 million. Overall these results led to an improvement in operating profit in the quarter to GBP167 million which is 9 per cent higher than last year.

BT Wholesale

	Second quarter ended September 30				Half year ended September 30	
	2005 GBPm	2004* GBPm	Better GBPm	(worse) %	2005 GBPm	2004* GBPm
External revenue	1,024	952	72	8	2,045	1,893
Internal revenue	1,254	1,311	(57)	(4)	2,537	2,643
Revenue	2,278	2,263	15	1	4,582	4,536
Variable cost of sales	527	556	29	5	1,083	1,109
Gross variable profit	1,751	1,707	44	3	3,499	3,427
Network and SG&A costs	789	742	(47)	(6)	1,544	1,531
EBITDA	962	965	(3)	-	1,955	1,896
Depreciation and amortisation	462	477	15	3	919	956
Operating profit	500	488	12	2	1,036	940
EBITDA before leaver costs	968	965	3	-	1,961	1,954
Operating profit before leaver costs	506	488	18	4	1,042	998
Capital expenditure	444	548	104	19	931	1,025

*Restated to reflect changes in intra-group trading arrangements.

BT Wholesale revenue of GBP2,278 million increased by 1 per cent driven by external revenue growth of 8 per cent (14 per cent excluding the impact of regulatory reductions to mobile termination rates). The growth continues to be driven by new wave services, mainly broadband and managed services, increasing by 63 per cent to GBP240 million. Revenue from new wave services now accounts for more than 23 per cent of external revenue compared to 15 per cent last year.

Internal revenue has declined by 4 per cent to GBP1,254 million due to the impact of lower volumes of calls and lines and lower regulatory prices being reflected in internal charges. This was partially offset by strong growth from internal broadband revenue.

Gross variable profit of GBP1,751 million is 3 per cent higher than last year reflecting overall volume increases and a favourable change in sales mix with broadband growth more than offsetting the decline in traditional products. This has been offset by higher network and SG&A costs, reflecting benefits last year

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

from improved working capital management and increased broadband activity levels this year, which has resulted in EBITDA remaining flat.

Lower depreciation, partially offset by higher leaver payments, has resulted in an operating profit increase of 2 per cent.

Capital expenditure in the quarter was 19 per cent lower than last year. Capital expenditure continues to be focused on supporting the growth in broadband and the transformation of the network. Investment in legacy network technologies is lower than last year.

BT Global Services

	Second quarter ended September 30				Half year ended September 30	
	2005 GBPm	2004* GBPm	Better GBPm	(worse) %	2005 GBPm	2004* GBPm
Revenue	2,108	1,823	285	16	4,180	3,583
EBITDA	215	228	(13)	(6)	448	421
Operating profit	57	90	(33)	(37)	138	152
EBITDA before leaver costs	237	233	4	2	472	459
Operating profit before leaver costs	79	95	(16)	(17)	162	190
Capital expenditure	171	161	(10)	(6)	313	305

*Restated to reflect changes in intra-group trading arrangements.

BT Global Services revenue for the quarter rose by 16 per cent to GBP2,108 million. Underlying growth, excluding Albacom and Infonet, was 5 per cent. Corporate revenues grew by 15 per cent supported by Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) with a year on year increase of 35 per cent. Carrier revenue in underlying terms was flat but was boosted by additional revenues from Albacom. Order intake remained strong with networked IT services contract orders of GBP0.8 billion taken in the quarter resulting in orders of GBP8.2 billion over the last twelve months.

Progress towards BT Global Services' goal of becoming the international business partner and supplier of choice was evidenced by the award of Best Global Carrier at the recent World Communications Awards, while the first of a new generation of products developed by BT Infonet, MobileXpress, came on line.

EBITDA before leaver costs improved by 2 per cent year on year. Growth in new wave profitability, including the effect of acquisitions, more than offset a decline of approximately GBP20 million in UK traditional products, including migration to IPVNs sold to UK corporates and reductions in dial IP due to broadband substitution. Higher depreciation costs in the acquisitions and higher leaver costs of GBP17 million, following the acceleration of the early leaver programme, led to a fall in operating profit of GBP33 million.

Capital expenditure in the quarter at GBP171 million increased by GBP10 million due to the increased spend from Albacom and Infonet.

GROUP INCOME STATEMENT

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

for the three months ended September 30, 2005

(unaudited)	Notes	Before specific items GBPm	Specific items (note 4) GBPm	Total GBPm
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Revenue	2	4,822	-	4,822
Other operating income		53	-	53
Operating costs	3	(4,219)	(70)	(4,289)
Operating profit (loss)	2	656	(70)	586
Finance costs		(676)	-	(676)
Finance income		576	-	576
Net finance costs	5	(100)	-	(100)
Share of post tax profits of associates and joint ventures		3	-	3
Profit (loss) before taxation		559	(70)	489
Taxation		(139)	21	(118)
Profit (loss) for the period		420	(49)	371
Attributable to:				
Equity shareholders		420	(49)	371
Minority interests		-	-	-
Earnings per share	7			
- basic		5.0p		4.4p
- diluted		4.9p		4.3p

GROUP INCOME STATEMENT

for the three months ended September 30, 2004

(unaudited)	Notes	Before specific items GBPm	Specific items (note 4) GBPm	Total GBPm
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Revenue	2	4,602	-	4,602

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Other operating income		58	-	58
Operating costs	3	(3,954)	(3)	(3,957)
Profit on sale of non current asset investments		-	25	25
		-----	-----	-----
Operating profit	2	706	22	728
Finance costs		(700)	-	(700)
Finance income		546	-	546
		-----	-----	-----
Net finance costs	5	(154)	-	(154)
Share of post tax losses of associates and joint ventures		(3)	-	(3)
		-----	-----	-----
Profit before taxation		549	22	571
Taxation		(143)	1	(142)
		-----	-----	-----
Profit for the period		406	23	429
		=====	=====	=====
Attributable to:				
Equity shareholders		407	23	430
Minority interests		(1)	-	(1)
		=====	=====	=====
Earnings per share	7			
- basic		4.8p		5.0p
		=====	=====	=====
- diluted		4.7p		5.0p
		=====	=====	=====

GROUP INCOME STATEMENT

for the six months ended September 30, 2005

(unaudited)	Notes	Before specific items GBPm	Specific items (note 4) GBPm	Total GBPm
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Revenue	2	9,605	-	9,605
Other operating income		95	-	95
Operating costs	3	(8,396)	(82)	(8,478)
		-----	-----	-----
Operating profit (loss)	2	1,304	(82)	1,222
Finance costs		(1,392)	-	(1,392)
Finance income		1,150	-	1,150
		-----	-----	-----
Net finance costs	5	(242)	-	(242)
Share of post tax profits of associates and joint ventures		8	-	8
		-----	-----	-----

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Profit (loss) before taxation		1,070	(82)	988
Taxation		(268)	25	(243)
		-----	-----	-----
Profit (loss) for the period		802	(57)	745
		=====	=====	=====
Attributable to:				
Equity shareholders		802	(57)	745
Minority interests		-	-	-
		=====	=====	=====
Earnings per share	7			
- basic		9.5p		8.8p
		=====	=====	=====
- diluted		9.3p		8.7p
		=====	=====	=====

GROUP INCOME STATEMENT
for the six months ended September 30, 2004

(unaudited)	Notes	Before specific items GBPm	Specific items (note 4) GBPm	Total GBPm
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Revenue	2	9,169	-	9,169
Other operating income		99	-	99
Operating costs	3	(7,975)	(20)	(7,995)
Profit on sale of non current asset investments		-	28	28
		-----	-----	-----
Operating profit	2	1,293	8	1,301
Finance costs		(1,392)	-	(1,392)
Finance income		1,083	-	1,083
		-----	-----	-----
Net finance costs	5	(309)	-	(309)
Share of post tax losses of associates and joint ventures		(10)	-	(10)
		-----	-----	-----
Profit before taxation		974	8	982
Taxation		(256)	5	(251)
		-----	-----	-----
Profit for the period		718	13	731
		=====	=====	=====
Attributable to:				
Equity shareholders		719	13	732
Minority interests		(1)	-	(1)
		=====	=====	=====
Earnings per share	7			
- basic		8.4p		8.6p

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

- diluted	=====	=====	=====
	8.4p		8.5p
	=====	=====	=====

GROUP STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENSE
for the six months ended September 30, 2005

(unaudited)	Half year	
	ended September 30 2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm
-----	-----	-----
Profit for the period	745	731
	=====	=====
Actuarial gains (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	1,090	(198)
Net gains on revaluation of available-for-sale investments	1	-
Net losses on cash flow hedges	(7)	-
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	(4)	16
Tax on items taken directly to equity	(325)	59
	-----	-----
Net gains (losses) recognised directly in equity	755	(123)
Total recognised income for the period	1,500	608
	=====	=====
Effect of adoption of IAS 32 and IAS 39	(337)	-
	-----	-----
Total recognised income	1,163	608
	=====	=====
Attributable to:		
Equity shareholders	1,163	608
Minority interests	-	-
	=====	=====

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the three months and six months ended September 30, 2005

(unaudited)	Second quarter		Half year	
	ended September 30 2005	2004	ended September 30 2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cash flow from operating activities				
Cash generated from operations (note 8 (a))	1,374	1,415	2,346	2,623
Income taxes paid	(111)	(1)	(242)	(42)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net cash inflow from operating activities	1,263	1,414	2,104	2,581

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Cash flow from investing activities				
Net sale (acquisition) of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures	-	13	(88)	11
Net purchase of property, plant, equipment and software	(671)	(726)	(1,357)	(1,455)
Interest received	59	48	96	103
Net sale of short term investments and non current asset investments	732	292	582	278
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net cash received (used) in investing activities	120	(373)	(767)	(1,063)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Repurchase of ordinary share capital	(88)	(68)	(109)	(99)
Net repayments of borrowings	(10)	(104)	(24)	(276)
Interest paid	(147)	(145)	(465)	(504)
Equity dividends paid	(540)	(454)	(540)	(454)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net cash used in financing activities	(785)	(771)	(1,138)	(1,333)
Effects of exchange rate changes	(6)	28	23	2
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	592	298	222	187
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	940	894	1,310	1,005
Cash and cash equivalents, net of bank overdrafts, at end of period (note 8 (c))	1,532	1,192	1,532	1,192
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Free cash flow (note 8 (b))	503	594	377	751
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Increase (decrease) in net debt from cash flows (note 9 (b))	125	(85)	360	(209)
	-----	-----	-----	-----

GROUP BALANCE SHEET
at September 30, 2005

	September 30 2005 GBPm	September 30 2004 GBPm	March 31 2005 GBPm
(unaudited)	-----	-----	-----
Non current assets			
Goodwill and other intangible assets	1,385	726	1,259
Property, plant and			

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

equipment	15,386	15,126	15,386
Other non current assets	101	542	133
Deferred tax assets	1,105	1,604	1,434
	-----	-----	-----
	17,977	17,998	18,212
	-----	-----	-----
Current assets			
Inventories	126	118	106
Trade and other receivables	4,060	4,261	4,269
Other financial assets	3,217	3,972	3,634
Cash and cash equivalents	1,727	1,193	1,312
	-----	-----	-----
	9,130	9,544	9,321
	-----	-----	-----
Total assets	27,107	27,542	27,533
Current liabilities			
Loans and other borrowings	4,667	972	4,261
Trade and other payables	5,552	6,379	6,772
Other current liabilities	1,377	747	1,080
	-----	-----	-----
	11,596	8,098	12,113
	-----	-----	-----
Total assets less current liabilities	15,511	19,444	15,420
	=====	=====	=====
Non current liabilities			
Loans and other borrowings	8,171	11,934	7,744
Deferred tax liabilities	1,581	1,749	1,715
Retirement benefit obligations	3,682	5,345	4,781
Other non current liabilities	1,449	1,349	1,085
	-----	-----	-----
	14,883	20,377	15,325
	-----	-----	-----
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	432	432	432
Reserves	147	(1,413)	(387)
	-----	-----	-----
Total equity shareholders' funds (deficit)	579	(981)	45
Minority interests	49	48	50
	-----	-----	-----
Total equity	628	(933)	95
	-----	-----	-----
	15,511	19,444	15,420
	=====	=====	=====

NOTES (unaudited)

1 Accounting policies and basis of preparation

These primary statements and selected notes comprise the unaudited interim consolidated financial results of BT Group plc ("the group") for the quarter and six months ended September 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. These interim

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

financial results do not comprise statutory accounts within the meaning of Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985. Statutory accounts for the year ended March 31, 2005 were approved by the Board of Directors on May 18, 2005 and published on June 1, 2005. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified and did not contain any statement under Section 237 of the Companies Act 1985.

Previously the group prepared its audited annual financial statements and unaudited quarterly results under UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (UK GAAP). From April 1, 2005 the group is required to present its annual consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted for use in the European Union (EU). On July 28, 2005, the group issued its first quarter results which also contained information on the impact of IFRS on comparative periods in advance of the publication of the group's annual results under IFRS. Details of the group's principal accounting policies under IFRS were also included. The financial information set out in this interim statement has been prepared in accordance with those accounting policies and the directors intend to apply those policies in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2006.

Standards currently in issue and adopted by the EU are subject to interpretation issued from time to time, by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC). Further standards may be issued by the International Accounting Standards Board that will be adopted for financial years beginning on April 1, 2005. Furthermore, due to a number of new and revised Standards included within the body of the Standards that comprise IFRS, there is not yet a significant body of established practice on which to draw in forming opinions regarding interpretation and application. Accordingly, practice is continuing to evolve. At this preliminary stage, therefore, the full financial effect of reporting under IFRS as it will be applied and reported on in the group's first IFRS financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2006 may be subject to change.

These interim financial results have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except in respect of certain financial assets and liabilities. As permitted, the group has chosen not to adopt IAS 34 "Interim Financial Statements", and therefore these interim financial results are not in full compliance with IFRS.

2 Results of businesses

(a) Operating results

	External revenue	Internal revenue	Group revenue	Group operating profit (loss)	EBITDA
				(ii)	(ii)
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Second quarter ended September 30, 2005					
BT Retail	2,054	82	2,136	167	206
BT Wholesale	1,024	1,254	2,278	500	962
BT Global Services	1,740	368	2,108	57	215
Other	4	-	4	(68)	(35)
Intra-group items (i)	-	(1,704)	(1,704)	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	4,822	-	4,822	656	1,348
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Second quarter					

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

ended					
September 30, 2004					
(restated - see below)					
BT Retail	2,153	68	2,221	153	191
BT Wholesale	952	1,311	2,263	488	965
BT Global Services	1,491	332	1,823	90	228
Other	6	-	6	(25)	26
Intra-group items(i)	-	(1,711)	(1,711)	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	4,602	-	4,602	706	1,410
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Half year ended					
September 30, 2005					
BT Retail	4,094	161	4,255	306	379
BT Wholesale	2,045	2,537	4,582	1,036	1,955
BT Global Services	3,456	724	4,180	138	448
Other	10	-	10	(176)	(77)
Intra-group items(i)	-	(3,422)	(3,422)	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	9,605	-	9,605	1,304	2,705
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Half year ended					
September 30, 2004					
(restated - see below)					
BT Retail	4,299	121	4,420	298	374
BT Wholesale	1,893	2,643	4,536	940	1,896
BT Global Services	2,964	619	3,583	152	421
Other	13	-	13	(97)	6
Intra-group items(i)	-	(3,383)	(3,383)	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	9,169	-	9,169	1,293	2,697
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

(i) Elimination of intra-group revenue between businesses, which is included in the total revenue of the originating business.

(ii) Before specific items.

We have reviewed our internal trading arrangements and with effect from April 1, 2005 have made changes to simplify our internal trading and drive synergies. We have restated the comparative line of business results to assist readers in understanding the year on year performance. There is no change to the overall group reported results.

2 Results of businesses continued

(b) Revenue analysis

	Second quarter ended September 30				Half year ended September 30	
	2005 GBPm	2004 GBPm	Better GBPm	(worse) %	2005 GBPm	2004 GBPm
Traditional	3,383	3,569	(186)	(5)	6,781	7,200
New wave	1,439	1,033	406	39	2,824	1,969

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

	-----	-----			-----	-----
	4,822	4,602	220	5	9,605	9,169
	=====	=====			=====	=====
Consumer	1,345	1,421	(76)	(5)	2,679	2,846
Business	588	629	(41)	(7)	1,179	1,252
Major Corporate	1,666	1,444	222	15	3,296	2,868
Wholesale/ Carrier	1,219	1,102	117	11	2,441	2,190
Other	4	6	(2)	(33)	10	13
	-----	-----			-----	-----
	4,822	4,602	220	5	9,605	9,169
	=====	=====			=====	=====

(c) New wave revenue analysis

	Second quarter ended September 30				Half year ended September 30	
	2005	2004	Better	(worse)	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	%	GBPm	GBPm
Networked IT services	918	699	219	31	1,822	1,333
Broadband	350	199	151	76	664	385
Mobility	65	49	16	33	126	92
Other	106	86	20	23	212	159
	-----	-----			-----	-----
	1,439	1,033	406	39	2,824	1,969
	=====	=====			=====	=====

(d) Capital expenditure(1) on property, plant, equipment, software and motor vehicles:

	Second quarter ended September 30				Half year ended September 30	
	2005	2004	Better	(worse)	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	%	GBPm	GBPm
BT Retail	33	41	8	20	68	72
BT Wholesale						
Access	228	274	46	17	485	543
Switch	8	25	17	68	18	55
Transmission	52	50	(2)	(4)	98	95
Products/systems support	156	199	43	22	330	332
	-----	-----			-----	-----
	444	548	104	19	931	1,025
BT Global Services	171	161	(10)	(6)	313	305
Other (including fleet vehicles and property)	46	53	7	13	98	95
	-----	-----			-----	-----
Total	694	803	109	14	1,410	1,497
	=====	=====			=====	=====

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

(1) Capital expenditure, which is recognised on an accruals basis, includes computer software which is classified within intangible assets.

3 Operating costs

	Second quarter ended September 30		Half year ended September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Net staff costs before leaver costs	1,002	859	1,967	1,757
Leaver costs	37	8	43	110
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net staff costs	1,039	867	2,010	1,867
Depreciation and amortisation	692	704	1,401	1,404
Payments to telecommunication operators	939	964	1,910	1,952
Other operating costs	1,549	1,419	3,075	2,752
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total before specific items	4,219	3,954	8,396	7,975
Specific items (note 4)	70	3	82	20
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	4,289	3,957	8,478	7,995
	=====	=====	=====	=====

4 Specific items

BT will continue to separately identify and disclose any material one off or unusual items (termed "specific items"). This is consistent with the way that financial performance is measured by management and we believe assists in providing a meaningful analysis of the trading results of the group. "Specific items" may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies. In the comparative period the specific items were previously referred to as exceptional items under UK GAAP.

	Second quarter ended September 30		Half year ended September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Operating costs (income)				
Creation of Openreach(1)	70	-	70	-
Property rationalisation costs	-	3	12	20
Profit on sale of non current asset investments	-	(25)	-	(28)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total specific items	70	(22)	82	(8)
	=====	=====	=====	=====

(1) A provision of GBP70 million has been recognised in the second quarter, relating to the incremental and directly attributable costs to create Openreach arising from the legal undertakings agreed with Ofcom.

5 Net finance costs

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

	Second quarter ended		Half year ended	
	September 30		September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Finance costs(1) before pension interest	222	270	484	532
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	454	430	908	860
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Finance costs	676	700	1,392	1,392
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Finance income before pension income	(58)	(67)	(115)	(124)
Expected return on pension scheme assets	(518)	(479)	(1,035)	(959)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Finance income	(576)	(546)	(1,150)	(1,083)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net finance costs	100	154	242	309
	=====	=====	=====	=====

(1) Finance costs in the second quarter and half year ended September 30, 2005 include a GBP19 million and GBP7 million net credit, respectively, arising from the re-measurement of financial instruments which are not in hedging relationships on a fair value basis. A component of these net credits is the fair value movement in, and realised gain arising from, the early redemption of the US dollar 2008 LG Telecom convertible bond amounting to GBP31 million for the second quarter and GBP27 million for the half year.

6 Dividends

	Half year		Half year	
	ended September 30		ended September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	Pence per share		GBPm	GBPm
Amounts recognised as distributions to equity holders in the period	6.5	5.3	551	454
	-----	-----	-----	-----

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 4.3 pence per share (3.9 pence last year), payable on February 13, 2006 to the shareholders on the register at the close of business on December 30, 2005. This interim dividend, amounting to GBP362 million, has not been included as a liability as at September 30, 2005 (GBP332 million as at September 30, 2004). The final dividend for the year ended March 31, 2005 of 6.5 pence per share was approved on July 13, 2005.

7 Earnings per share

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to shareholders by the average number of shares in issue after deducting the company's shares held by employee share ownership trusts and treasury shares. In calculating the diluted earnings per share, share options outstanding and other potential ordinary shares have been taken into account.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

The average number of shares in the periods were:

	Second quarter ended September 30		Half year ended September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	millions of shares		millions of shares	
Basic	8,456	8,535	8,463	8,546
Diluted	8,589	8,596	8,579	8,597

8 (a) Reconciliation of profit to cash generated from operations

	Second quarter ended September 30		Half year ended September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Profit before tax	489	571	988	982
Depreciation and amortisation	692	704	1,401	1,404
Associates and joint ventures	(3)	3	(8)	10
Employee share scheme costs	25	8	37	12
Net finance costs	100	154	242	309
Profit on disposal of property assets and non current asset investments	-	(40)	-	(43)
Changes in working capital	(8)	(14)	(461)	(151)
Provisions movements, pensions and other	79	29	147	100
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cash generated from operations	1,374	1,415	2,346	2,623
	=====	=====	=====	=====

(b) Free cash flow

	Second quarter ended September 30		Half year ended September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Cash generated from operations	1,374	1,415	2,346	2,623
Income taxes paid	(111)	(1)	(242)	(42)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net cash inflow from operating activities	1,263	1,414	2,104	2,581
Included in cash flows from investing activities				
Net purchase of property, plant, equipment and software	(671)	(726)	(1,357)	(1,455)
Net (purchase) sale of non current asset investments	(1)	2	(1)	25
Dividends received from associates	-	1	-	1
Interest received	59	48	96	103
Included in cash flows from financing activities				
Interest paid	(147)	(145)	(465)	(504)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Free cash flow	503	594	377	751
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

8 (b) Free cash flow continued

Free cash flow is defined as the net increase in cash and cash equivalents less cash flows from financing activities (except interest paid) and less the acquisition or disposal of group undertakings. It is not a measure recognised under IFRS but is a key indicator used by management in order to assess operational performance.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents

	At September 30		At March 31
	2005	2004	2005
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Cash at bank and in hand	475	117	206
Short term deposits	1,252	1,076	1,106
	-----	-----	-----
Cash and cash equivalents	1,727	1,193	1,312
Bank overdrafts	(195)	(1)	(2)
	-----	-----	-----
	1,532	1,192	1,310
	=====	=====	=====

9 Net debt

Net debt at September 30, 2005 was GBP8,133 million (September 30, 2004 - GBP8,373 million, March 31, 2005 - GBP7,893 million).

Net debt consists of borrowings less financial assets and cash and cash equivalents. Borrowings are measured at the net proceeds raised, adjusted to amortise any discount over the term of the debt. Financial assets and cash and cash equivalents are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Currency denominated balances within net debt are translated to sterling at swapped rates where hedged.

This definition of net debt reflects the future cash flows due to arise on maturity of financial instruments and removes the balance sheet volatility arising from the re-measurement of hedged risks under fair value hedges and the use of the amortised cost method that is required by IAS 39. It is not a measure recognised under IFRS but is used by management to measure and monitor performance.

9 Net debt continued

(a) Analysis

	At September 30		At March 31
	2005	2004	2005
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Loans and other borrowings	12,838	12,906	12,005
Cash and cash equivalents	(1,727)	(1,193)	(1,312)
Other current financial assets(1)	(2,996)	(3,972)	(3,491)
	-----	-----	-----
	8,115	7,741	7,202

Adjustments:

To retranslate currency denominated balances at

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

swapped rates where hedged	399	632	691
To recognise investments and borrowings at net proceeds and unamortised discount	(383)	-	-
Other	2	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
Net debt	8,133	8,373	7,893
	=====	=====	=====

After allocating the element of the adjustments which impact loans and other borrowings, gross debt at September 30, 2005 was GBP12,586 million (September 30, 2004 - GBP13,536 million, March 31, 2005 - GBP12,696 million).

(1) Excluding derivative financial instruments of GBP221 million, GBPnil and GBP143 million at September 30, 2005 and 2004 and March 31, 2005, respectively.

(b) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt

	Second quarter ended		Half year	
	September 30		ended September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Net debt at beginning of period	8,121	8,422	7,893	8,530
Increase (decrease) in net debt resulting from cash flows	125	(85)	360	(209)
Net debt assumed or issued on acquisitions	-	-	1	-
Currency movements	(10)	30	(24)	41
Other non-cash movements	(103)	6	(97)	11
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net debt at end of period	8,133	8,373	8,133	8,373
	=====	=====	=====	=====

10 Changes in equity

	Half year ended	
	September 30	
	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm
Shareholders' funds (deficit)	45	(1,085)
Minority interests	50	46
	-----	-----
Effect of adoption of IAS 32 and IAS 39	95	(1,039)
	(337)	-
	-----	-----
Deficit at beginning of period	(242)	(1,039)
Total recognised income and expense for the period	1,500	608
Employee share schemes	26	27
Issues of shares	4	-
Net movement in treasury shares	(108)	(80)
Dividends on ordinary shares	(551)	(454)
Other	(1)	5
	-----	-----

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Net changes in equity for the financial period	870	106
Equity at end of period		
Shareholders' funds (deficit)	579	(981)
Minority interests	49	48
	-----	-----
	628	(933)
	=====	=====

11 Earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA)

	Second quarter ended		Half year ended	
	September 30		September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm	GBPm
Operating profit	586	728	1,222	1,301
Specific items (note 4)	70	(22)	82	(8)
Depreciation and amortisation (note 3)	692	704	1,401	1,404
	-----	-----	-----	-----
EBITDA before specific items	1,348	1,410	2,705	2,697
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) before specific items is not a measure recognised under IFRS, but it is a key indicator used by management in order to assess operational performance.

12 United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (US GAAP)

The results set out above have been prepared in accordance with the basis of preparation as set out in note 1. The table below sets out the results calculated in accordance with US GAAP.

	Second quarter ended		Half year	
	September 30		ended September 30	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Net income attributable to shareholders (GBPm)	191	407	583	480
Earnings per ADS (GBP)				
- basic	0.23	0.48	0.69	0.56
- diluted	0.22	0.47	0.68	0.56

Each American Depositary Share (ADS) represents 10 ordinary shares of BT Group plc.

Shareholders' equity, calculated in accordance with US GAAP, is a GBP615 million deficit at September 30, 2005 (September 30, 2004 - GBP1,442 million deficit, March 31, 2005 - GBP584 million deficit).

13 Reconciliation of UK GAAP to IFRS for comparative periods

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

On July 28, 2005 the group issued its first quarter results which also included appendices presenting and explaining the consolidated results of the group restated from UK GAAP onto an IFRS basis for the year ended March 31, 2005, the three months ended June 30, 2004 and the balance sheet as at April 1, 2004 and June 30, 2004. The group has adopted IAS 39 and IAS 32 prospectively from April 1, 2005 and a reconciliation of the group's IFRS balance sheet from March 31, 2005 to April 1, 2005 was also included in the IFRS information presented with the first quarter results. The first quarter results are available on the group's website at www.btplc.com/Sharesandperformance

In this interim statement the group is also presenting a reconciliation from UK GAAP to IFRS of the profit for the comparable financial period (the quarter and six months ended September 30, 2004), together with the equity at the end of the comparable period (September 30, 2004).

13 Reconciliation of UK GAAP to IFRS for comparative periods continued

(a) Reconciliation of profit between UK GAAP and IFRS

	Notes	Second quarter ended September 30 2004 GBPm	Half year ended September 30 2004 GBPm
Profit attributable to shareholders under UK GAAP		427	732
Effect of transition to IFRS (net of tax)			
Pensions	i	20	42
Goodwill	ii	4	8
Share based payments	iii	(6)	(9)
Leases	iv	(18)	(37)
Other		2	(5)
Profit attributable to shareholders under IFRS		--- 429 ===	--- 731 ===

(b) Reconciliation of equity between UK GAAP and IFRS

	Notes	At September 30 2004 GBPm
Total equity under UK GAAP		3,462
Effect of transition to IFRS (net of tax)		
Pensions	i	(4,486)
Goodwill	ii	8
Share based payments	iii	3
Leases	iv	(252)
Dividends	v	332
Total equity under IFRS		--- (933)

Notes

i Pensions

Cumulative actuarial gains and losses in respect of the group's defined benefit pension schemes have been recognised in full on transition to IFRS (April 1, 2004). Actuarial gains and losses arising from the transition date are being recognised immediately in reserves, in accordance with the amended version of IAS 19 "Employee benefits". An actuarial loss of GBP139 million (net of tax) arose in the six months ended September 30, 2004. The income statement charge is split between an operating charge and a net finance charge. The charge to operating costs in respect of pensions has increased by GBP20 million for the second quarter ended September 30, 2004 (GBP39 million for the six months ended September 30, 2004) and net finance income has increased by GBP49 million for the second quarter ended September 30, 2004 (GBP99 million for the six months ended September 30, 2004), giving rise to an overall increase in earnings of GBP29 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 (GBP60 million for the six months ended September 30, 2004). The associated deferred tax benefit recognised in the income statement for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 was GBP9 million (GBP18 million for the six months ended September 30, 2004).

A pension liability was recognised at September 30, 2004 of GBP5,345 million and associated deferred tax asset of GBP1,604 million. This was offset by the reversal of provisions and other creditors of GBP37 million. The pension prepayment of GBP1,113 million on the UK GAAP balance sheet has also been reversed including the associated deferred tax liability of GBP331 million. The net effect has been a reduction in shareholders' funds of GBP4,486 million.

ii Goodwill

The group has used the exemption available under IFRS 1 for not restating business combinations. IFRS 3 "Business Combinations" requires that goodwill arising from business combinations should not be amortised. Accordingly, the UK GAAP goodwill amortisation charge of GBP4 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 (GBP8 million for the six months ended 30 September 2004) has been reversed. There is no tax impact.

iii Share based payments

Under IFRS 2 "Share based payment", an expense must be recognised in the income statement for all share based payments. This expense is based on the fair value at the date of the award, using an option pricing model, and is charged to the income statement over the related performance period. This has resulted in an increased operating charge for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 of GBP8 million (GBP12 million for the six months ended September 30, 2004). The credit entry for the share based payments is recognised directly in reserves as the awards are equity settled, therefore there is no overall impact on shareholders' equity.

iv Leases

Under IAS 17 "Leases" the buildings element of a small number of properties have been reclassified from operating leases under UK GAAP to finance leases under IFRS, and lease rentals under BT's sale and leaseback transactions are recognised on a straight line basis. For those properties reclassified as finance leases, profit before tax for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 has been reduced by GBP1 million (GBP2 million for the six months ended September 30, 2004) as a result of the recognition of depreciation and finance lease interest charges and the removal of the UK GAAP operating lease charges. Recognising the operating lease charges on a straight line basis has further reduced profit before tax for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 by GBP26

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

million (GBP52 million for the six months ended September 30, 2004). The associated deferred tax benefit recognised in the income statement for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 was GBP9 million (GBP17 million for the six months ended September 30, 2004).

v Dividends

Under UK GAAP the dividend charge was recognised in the profit and loss account in the period to which it related. Under IAS 10 "Events after the balance sheet date", dividends are not recognised in the income statement but directly within reserves, when they have been declared. In addition, the final dividend is recognised only when it has been declared and approved by the company in general meeting. The final dividend for the year ended March 31, 2004 of GBP454 million was approved by the company on July 14, 2004 and has therefore been recognised in reserves, however the interim dividend of GBP332 million has been reversed since it was declared after September 30, 2004.

Forward-looking statements - caution advised

Certain statements in this results release are forward-looking and are made in reliance on the safe harbour provisions of the US Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, without limitation, those concerning: continued growth in new wave revenue, mainly from broadband, networked IT services and mobility growth; implementation of BT's 21st Century Network; expectations regarding revenue growth, cost transformation and savings; and delivering value through transformation of the business.

Although BT believes that the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that these expectations will prove to have been correct. Because these statements involve risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements.

Factors that could cause differences between actual results and those implied by the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to: material adverse changes in economic conditions in the markets served by BT; future regulatory actions and conditions in BT's operating areas, including competition from others; selection by BT and its lines of business of the appropriate trading and marketing models for its products and services; fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates; technological innovations, including the cost of developing new products, networks and solutions and the need to increase expenditures for improving the quality of service; prolonged adverse weather conditions resulting in a material increase in overtime, staff or other costs; developments in the convergence of technologies; the anticipated benefits and advantages of new technologies, products and services, including broadband and other new wave initiatives, not being realised; and general financial market conditions affecting BT's performance. BT undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

The IFRS position as stated is BT's current view, based on the Standards currently in issue, and changes may arise as new accounting pronouncements are developed and issued. Due to a number of new and revised Standards, included within the body of Standards that comprise IFRS, there is not yet a significant body of established best practice on which to draw in forming opinions regarding interpretation and application. Accordingly, practice is continuing to evolve. At this stage, therefore, the full financial effect of reporting under IFRS, as it will be applied and reported in the group's first full IFRS financial statements, cannot be determined with certainty and may be subject to change.

Edgar Filing: BT GROUP PLC - Form 6-K

Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BT Group PLC
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Patricia Day

Patricia Day, Assistant Secretary.

Date 10 November, 2005