a better way forward



**Lowell Group** 

# Q1 2013 Results

Investor Presentation 28 January 2013

#### **Disclaimer**



#### By reading or reviewing the presentation that follows, you agree to be bound by the following limitations.

This presentation has been prepared by Lowell Group ("the Company") solely for informational purposes. For the purposes of this disclaimer, the presentation that follows shall mean and include the slides that follow, the oral presentation of the slides by the Company or any person on their behalf, any question-and-answer session that follows the oral presentation, hard copies of this document and any materials distributed in connection with the presentation. By attending the meeting at which the presentation is made, dialing into the teleconference during which the presentation is made or reading the presentation, you will be deemed to have agreed to all of the restrictions that apply with regard to the presentation and acknowledged that you understand the legal regulatory sanctions attached to the misuse, disclosure or improper circulation of the presentation.

The Company has included certain non-GAAP financial measures in this presentation, including estimated remaining collections ("ERC"), Adjusted EBITDA, Unlevered Net IRR, Net Debt and certain other financial measures and ratios. These measurements may not be comparable to those of other companies and may be calculated differently from similar measurements under the indenture governing the Company's 10.75% Senior Secured Notes due 2019. Reference to these non-UK GAAP financial measures should be considered in addition to GAAP financial measures, but should not be considered a substitute for results that are presented in accordance with GAAP.

The information contained in this presentation has not been subject to any independent audit or review. A significant portion of the information contained in this document, including all market data and trend information, is based on estimates or expectations of the Company, and there can be no assurance that these estimates or expectations are or will prove to be accurate. Our internal estimates have not been verified by an external expert, and we cannot guarantee that a third party using different methods to assemble, analyze or compute market information and data would obtain or generate the same results. We have not verified the accuracy of such information, data or predictions contained in this report that were taken or derived from industry publications, public documents of our competitors or other external sources. Further, our competitors may define our and their markets differently than we do. In addition, past performance of the Company is not indicative of future performance. The future performance of the Company will depend on numerous factors which are subject to uncertainty.

Certain statements contained in this document that are not statements of historical fact, including, without limitation, any statements preceded by, followed by or including the words "targets," "believes," "expects," "aims," "intends," "may," "anticipates," "would," "could" or similar expressions or the negative thereof, constitute forward-looking statements, notwithstanding that such statements are not specifically identified. In addition, certain statements may be contained in press releases, and in oral and written statements made by or with the approval of the Company that are not statements of historical fact and constitute forward-looking statements. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to: (i) statements about future financial and operating results; (ii) statements of strategic objectives, business prospects, future financial condition, budgets, projected levels of production, projected costs and projected levels of revenues and profits of the Company or its management or board of directors; (iii) statements of future economic performance; and (iv) statements of assumptions underlying such statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions which are difficult to predict and outside of the control of the management of the Company. Therefore, actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed or forecasted in such forward-looking statements. We have based these assumptions on information currently available to us, if any one or more of these assumptions turn out to be incorrect, actual market results may differ from those predicted. While we do not know what impact any such differences may have on our business, if there are such differences, our future results of operations and financial condition, and the market price of the notes, could be materially adversely affected. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the proposed transaction or other matters and attributable to the Company or any person acting on its behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements referenced above. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which such statements are made. The Company expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to disseminate any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made, or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

The presentation does not constitute or form part of, and should not be construed as, an offer to sell or issue, or the solicitation of an offer to purchase, subscribe to or acquire the Company or the Company's securities, or an inducement to enter into investment activity in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation, inducement or sale would be unlawful prior to registration, exemption from registration or qualification under the securities laws of such jurisdiction. No part of this presentation, nor the fact of its distribution, should form the basis of, or be relied on in connection with, any contract or commitment or investment decision whatsoever. This presentation is not for publication, release or distribution in any jurisdiction where to do so would constitute a violation of the relevant laws of such jurisdiction nor should it be taken or transmitted into such jurisdiction.



### Contents

Overview and highlights Page 4

Financial performance Page 9

Markets and outlook Page 15

Q&A

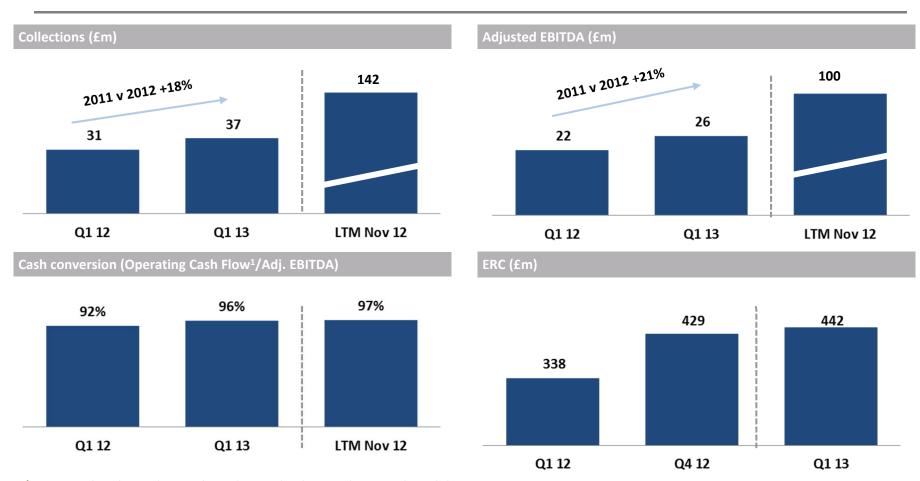


## Overview and highlights

James Cornell, CEO



### Summary performance



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Represents Adjusted EBITDA less capital expenditures and working capital movement but excluding portfolio purchases

LTV ratio reduced from 57% at bond issuance to 43% at November 30, 2012 Nebt debt/adjusted EBITDA reduced from 2.3x at bond issuance to 1.9x at November 30, 2012 PF fixed charge cover increased from 3.9x at bond issuance to 4.5x at November 30, 2012



### Summary of the quarter

#### • Strong performance continues

- ERC of £442.1 million at November 2012, a 31% year-on-year increase
- Adjusted EBITDA of £26.1 million, a 21% year-on-year increase
- Adjusted EBITDA converting at 96% into cash flow before debt and tax service
- £37.1 million of collections in the quarter, an 18% year-on-year increase
- Collections in the quarter on portfolios owned at August 31, 2012 at 105% of ERC projections from August 31, 2012
- Collections on portfolios purchased in the last 6 months performing at 109% of collection forecast assumptions at pricing

#### Continued industry leading return on capital

- Net IRRs of 24.2% after total costs
- Net IRRs of 37.9% after collection activity costs<sup>1</sup>
- Cash asset return (LTM Adjusted EBITDA/Average Gross ERC) of 25.7%<sup>2</sup>

#### • Continued deleveraging achieved

- LTV reduced from 57% at bond issuance to 43% as of November 2012
- Net debt/Adjusted EBITDA reduced from 2.3x at bond issuance to 1.9x as of November 2012, at bottom-end of industry peers
- Fixed charge cover increased from 3.9x at bond issuance to 4.5x as of November 2012, at high-end of industry peers

#### • Strong pipeline of debt sales/majority of budgeted FY13 purchases already committed

- £14.8 million of portfolio purchases in Q1 2013, 43% up on Q1 2012
- 25 portfolios purchased in the quarter bringing the total purchased since inception to 611
- Over 10.1 million customer accounts with an aggregate face value of c. £9.2 billion
- 52% of portfolio purchases in Q1 2013 contributed by forward flow contracts



### Recent Developments

- New CFO Colin Storrar is due to commence on 11th February
  - Colin brings a longstanding track record in the financial services industry formerly as CFO or in operational leadership roles at HSBC,
     First Direct and GE Capital
- New CIO Gary Edwards further strengthens our focus on technology and operational excellence
  - Gary brings significant experience as CIO of companies such as Thomson Travel and Barclaycard
- We have created and filled a new role as Director of New Ventures, to continue strengthening the level of strategic relationships we establish with clients
- We further enhanced liquidity and capital available to grow ERC by increasing our RCF
  - Revolver upsized by £15 million, plus £15 million of uncommitted accordion
  - RCF increase completed with existing lenders, showing their continued support for Lowell's positioning and the strength of portfolio purchase opportunities the company is pursuing in the market
- During the quarter we won a number of new accolades including
  - No.1, for the fifth year running, in the OC&C index of all the main credit management and debt collection companies in Europe
  - Debt Purchaser of the Year in Credit Today's Debt Sale and Purchase Awards for the second time in three years
  - Highest average score across the industry in the Credit Services Association's Collector Accreditation Initiative (CAI)
  - Winners of the regional stage of The National Apprenticeship Service training award for our future leaders programme



### Recent Developments

358.8

Dec 11



Dec 12

 Strong growth in ERC to £467.5 million as of December 2012, 30% up on prior year and up from £442.1 million in November 2012

• £28.7 million in purchases in December bringing portfolio purchases YTD to £43.5 million, 72% above prior year

 Significant diversification in portfolio purchases with the majority of December 2012 purchases in the home retail credit sector

 Majority of portfolio purchases budgeted for FY13 were already committed as of December 2012



## Financial performance

Andrew Russell, Acting CFO



### Key Financial and Operating Data

#### Key Financial and Operating Data (£m)

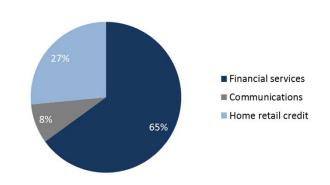
	Q1 12	Q1 13	LTM Nov 12
Cash generative asset backing:			
ERC	337.7	442.1	442.1
Reported portfolio purchases	10.3	14.8	95.1
PF Net Debt	193.0	190.5	190.5
Cash generation:			
Collections/income on owned portfolios	31.5	37.1	141.5
Otherincome	0.0	0.2	0.4
Servicing costs	(10.0)	(11.1)	(41.7)
Adjusted EBITDA	21.5	26.1	100.2
Capital Expenditure	(0.4)	(0.8)	(2.4)
Working Capital Movement	(1.4)	(0.2)	(0.5)
Cash flow before debt and tax servicing	19.7	25.1	97.4
Conversion of Adjusted EBITDA to Cash Flow	92%	96%	97%
Return on capital:			
Unlevered Net IRR of owned portfolios (total costs)	25.1%	24.2%	24.2%
Unlevered Net IRR of owned portfolios (collection activity costs)	37.9%	37.9%	37.9%
Cash asset return	N/A	N/A	25.7%

- Cash collections for the quarter of £37.1 million, 18% or £5.6 million higher than Q1 2012
- Debt sale activity continues at strong levels, with volume fluctuations across different quarters. £14.8 million of purchases in Q1 2013 helping drive ERC to £442.1 million
- Adjusted EBITDA of £26.1 million for the quarter, 21% up on Q1 2012
- Cash flow conversion of 96% for the quarter, significantly improved on Q1 2012
- Net IRRs on owned portfolios at 24.2% (37.9% based on collection activity costs only)
- Cash asset return (LTM Adjusted EBITDA / average ERC)
  performing strongly. Metric has been added to show the
  speed with which Lowell converts its ERC into cash flow and
  the strength of its return on purchased portfolio assets

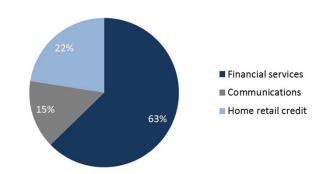


#### Portfolio Purchases

#### Portfolios purchased in the quarter



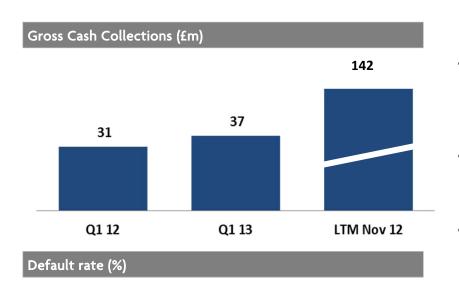
#### All portfolios purchased since inception

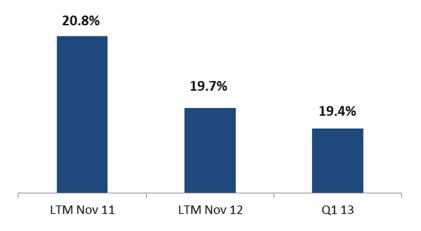


- Portfolio purchases of £14.8 million, £4.4 million (43%) up on Q1 2012, with significant further increase of £28.7 million in December 2012
- Portfolios continue to be diversified with 65% in Financial Services, 8% in Communications and 27% in Home retail credit acquired in quarter. Purchases in December, which primarily fall in the home-retail credit sector, continued to add to this diversification
- Forward flow agreements contributed 52% of purchases in Q1 2013, demonstrating our close relationships with vendors. They continue to provide a steady and predictable flow of account purchases, and add to the predictability of our earning growth
- A majority of our portfolio purchase budget for FY13 was committed under spot purchases or existing forward flow agreements as of December 2012
- We now have 611 portfolios across 48 clients which continues to provide diversification of client relationships and underlying portfolio performance



#### Collections



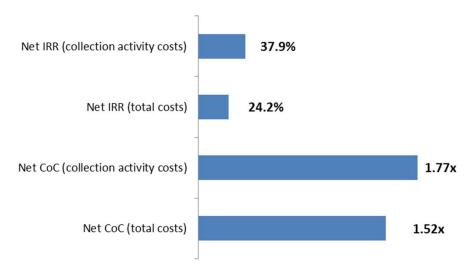


- Strong collections performance in the quarter delivering £37.1 million, 18% growth against prior year, driven through continued disciplined purchasing and investment in technology and people
- The default rate for Q1 2013 has dropped to 19% compared to 21% for FY 2012
- The business continues to demonstrate a strong cash flow conversion of Adjusted EBITDA into cash flow before debt and tax services at 96% in the last three months



### Portfolio Returns

#### Unlevered returns of existing book (November '12)



- Collections in the year to date on portfolios owned as of August 31, 2012 were 105% of the ERC projections from August 31, 2012
- Performance on portfolios acquired in the last six months are running at 109% of collection forecast assumptions at pricing
- Continued track record of generating strong and consistent unlevered returns
  - Net CoC and Net IRR were 1.52x and 24.2% after total costs,
  - Net CoC and Net IRR were 1.77x and 37.9% after collection activity costs

Note: Returns calculated based on actual performance since portfolio acquisitions and balance sheet valuation as of November 2012;



### Asset Coverage

#### Key B/S and coverage ratios as of November '12

	Q1 12*	Q1 1
Key Financial Metrics		
ERC	337.7	442.
Gross Debt	200.0	200.
Cash	(7.0)	(9.5
Net Debt	193.0	190.
Annual Interest payable	22.1	22.
Adjusted EBITDA (12 months to quarter end)	85.4	100.
Leverage and Coverage Ratios		
Loan to value ratio	57.1%	43.1
Net debt / Adjusted EBITDA	2.3	1.
EBITDA / total interest payable	3.9	4.

 $<sup>\</sup>star$  Q1 12 numbers for gross debt, net debt, cash, annual interest payable and the resulting ratios are on a proforma basis

Note: Leverage and Coverage ratios calculated on same basis as presented in the Offering Memorandum "Summary Consolidated Financial Data" Gross Debt, Cash and Net Debt are presented on a pro forma basis relating to the issuance included within the Offering memorandum

49% of cash collections are expected to be generated in the next 24 months

77% of cash collections are expected to be generated in the next 48 months

 Continued enhancement in leverage and coverage metrics since bond issuance

LTV ratio reduced from 57% at bond issuance to 43% at November 30, 2012

Nebt debt/adjusted EBITDA reduced from 2.3x at bond issuance to 1.9x at November 30, 2012

PF Fixed charge cover increased from 3.9x at bond issuance to 4.5x at November 30, 2012

Lowell's portfolios are forecast to generate £442.1 million in cash collections (ERC) in the next 84 months



### Markets and outlook

James Cornell, CEO



#### Current Market Context

#### Continued success in expanding and diversifying the asset base

- Completed 2-year forward flow agreement with a large credit card operator which commenced in November
- Completed a significant purchase with a new vendor in home retail credit
- Increased amount of paying debt purchased, focusing on low average balances and with strong return expectations

#### • Significant activity YTD, strong pipeline and high level of committed purchases for FY13

- Majority of FY13 budgeted purchases already committed
- Lowell is benefiting from a very visible pipeline as a result of the proportion of purchases coming from forward flows
- Current pipeline well above FY13 budgeted purchases
- Lowell is carefully picking the segments in which to price, to optimize RoC and leverage the competitive advantages of its operating platform and client relationships
- The business is proving the value of its "outsource to sell model" at Preston:
  - Large new home retail credit client was sourced through the Preston operation
  - Investigating potential debt sales with two existing utility contingent clients; looking to enter into a forward flow agreement with a third client where we have already completed 2 spot sales
  - Reviewing debt sale options with an insurance vendor where we are currently working the debt on a contingent basis
  - Continuing focus on the government sector



#### Outlook

#### Debt Purchase Market

- Very strong pipeline across sectors and significant debt sales from UK clearing banks now underway (e.g. £620 million sale by one of the major high street banks recently)
- Focus on pricing discipline and areas of competitive advantage
- Continued diversification into the "un-tapped" opportunities in the sectors of government, utilities and insurance
- Continued focus on stronger strategic relationships with clients and predictable portfolio purchase strategies to further enhance visibility
- Continued regular portfolio sales expected from communications and home retail sectors

#### Operations

- "Voice analytics" now being rolled out across all customer facing teams continuing to enhance compliance on customer calls and increasing overall collections conversion
- Contract agreed with new print and fulfillment supplier saving the business over £0.5 million of costs in the first year
- Trial of new MI system successful. Full drill down capability will be available to all operational areas as the system is rolled out.

#### Other

• Review of strategic initiatives opportunistically, such as in-fill M&A



## Q&A

a better way forward



**Lowell Group** 

# Q1 2013 Results

Investor Presentation 28 January 2013