



The Insolvency  
Service

**Rule 7.48 Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016**

**Report by the Official Receiver**

**THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**

**HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

**BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

**REPORT BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER ON THE THOMAS COOK GROUP  
COMPANIES (IN LIQUIDATION)**

On 23 September 2019, winding up orders were made against 26 companies (“the Companies”) in the Thomas Cook Group (“the Group”), on the petition of the Companies’ directors presented on the same date.

A list of the Companies in liquidation is available in the schedule at the end of this document.

The Official Receiver was appointed Liquidator by the Court. The Court also appointed Simon Jonathan Appell, Alastair Paul Beveridge, Daniel Christopher Imison and Benjamin James Browne of AlixPartners UK LLP and Blair Carnegie Nimmo, James Robert Tucker, David John Pike, Michael Robert Pink and Ben Maitland Leith of KPMG LLP as Special Managers, to assist the Official Receiver in managing the affairs, business and property of the Companies.

This is my report to creditors and contributories under Rule 7.48 of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016.

This report only refers to the 26 Thomas Cook Group companies which were wound up on 23 September 2019. A further 27 UK companies in the Group were wound up on 8 November 2019, and the Official Receiver will report separately about them in due course. Information about companies in other jurisdictions is included on the Creditor Information Sheet published with this report.

## **ABOUT THE GROUP**

Thomas Cook was one of the prominent European brands in the leisure travel industry, which offered holiday and flight options, including traditional packaged holidays, independent travel products, seat-only airline tickets and a selection of travel-related financial services.

These products were typically sold directly to customers (through retail outlets, Thomas Cook websites and call centres) or via third-party travel agents on a business-to-business basis.

The Group served approximately 22 million customers annually and its key markets were the United Kingdom (the “UK”), Germany and Northern Europe.

## **ASSETS**

Total estimated asset realisations are between £176M and £244M. These figures indicate the range of total asset realisations across the Companies scheduled below but may be subject to change. This range excludes the costs of realising the assets.

Realisations to date include the sale of retail outlets, aircraft landing slots, intellectual property rights, subsidiary and joint venture businesses and the collection of currency and cash from retail stores. Special Managers continue to negotiate the sale of assets including the aircraft and engineering stock.

The position regarding intercompany trading, assets and liabilities is still to be fully determined.

Creditors should note that although assets have been, or are in the process of being realised, there will be some of the Companies, that did not have assets and creditors of those companies will not benefit from these realisations. **An estimate of the likelihood of a dividend in each company can be found in the schedule of the Companies, placed at the end of this document.**

Any payment made to creditors is dependent on the value of the assets realised and the costs of the proceedings.

## LIABILITIES

The Companies' total liabilities are estimated to total approximately £9 billion. This figure is not final and is subject to change. The figure can be broken down as follows:

<b>Creditor Group</b>	<b>Amount owed (£m)</b>
Debts due to other group companies	5,700
Banks and other lenders (including commitments under lease agreements) (see note 1)	1,775
Trade Creditors (see note 2)	885
Customers for package holidays, flights and other services, including contingent liabilities (see note 3)	585
Employees (Including Redundancy Service Payments) (see note 4)	45
<b>TOTAL (see note 5)</b>	<b>8,990</b>

### Note 1

There may be changes to the bank figure as a result of any claims regarding the banks' right of set off.

### Note 2

Approximately £885M is owed to suppliers of which £393M is due in respect of the Thomas Cook Tour Operations, £448M in respect of the Airline business and £44M in respect of Group Corporate functions.

### Note 3

Individual customers who paid for holidays through a credit card may be able to claim a refund from their credit card supplier or from applications under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974. If such claims are successful, then the right to claim in the liquidation estate falls to the credit card company. Amounts of such claims are yet to be determined.

The claim of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has not yet been fully quantified and is not included in this figure.

#### Note 4

This figure relates to the sums paid out by Redundancy Payment Service. Employees may have additional claims which have not yet been quantified.

#### Note 5

Estimates for some contingent liabilities (e.g. Bonding Lines) have not been included.

## **BACKGROUND AND CAUSE OF INSOLVENCY**

The Thomas Cook travel business was started by Thomas Cook in 1841. It developed into a worldwide leisure travel business. The ultimate holding company is Thomas Cook Group PLC, which was incorporated in 2007 as part of a merger agreement with MyTravel Group plc.

Between 2008 and 2011 the Group expanded further, including the acquisition of Hotels4U.com, an online booking service in 2008, and a merger with the Co-operative group of travel companies.

In 2011 the Group suffered a loss in bookings due to disruption in the Middle East/African region. The Group required an additional £200M loan from its bankers to fund a shortfall in cashflow.

The Group commenced a transformation project in 2012/2013 to reform the business and move it towards profitable growth.

In 2015 the Group refinanced its existing borrowing and entered into a partnership with Fosun International Ltd, who acquired a 18% shareholding in the Thomas Cook Group plc.

The Group suffered a fall in bookings in 2016 which was attributed to overseas terrorist attacks in the previous year.

In September 2018, following consultation with auditors and other professional advisors, the Group issued a profit warning that full-year profits would fall by 15% from the previous year. On 16 May 2019, the Group then published its half-year results for the six months ending 31 March 2019. Sales in the traditional peak trading period were below sales at the equivalent point in the 2018 financial year.

The directors attribute the Group's financial deterioration to a number of factors, which include:

- a reduction in demand across its geographical trading areas due to a change in customer holiday patterns
- customer uncertainty caused by the decision of the UK to exit the European Union, which was originally proposed for 29 March 2019, which led UK customers to delay booking holidays in Europe

- the hot weather in the UK during the summer of 2018 which caused potential customers to take holidays at home
- increased challenges from online competitors, who focused on lower-cost structures, unlike the traditional Thomas Cook retail travel outlets

Due to a reduction in the Group's income because of the above factors the board took the decision to write down the value of the goodwill shown in the Group's accounts by £1.1 billion in the 2019 half year results.

It was acknowledged by the board of directors of Thomas Cook Group PLC that the Group was carrying significant historical debt and that restructuring of the business and its finances was necessary. A number of options were pursued in an effort to address its financial difficulties with the final attempts to recapitalise the Group failing in September 2019. As a result of which, the directors determined that the Group was insolvent on both an assets and liabilities and a cashflow basis, and it was necessary to petition for the Winding Up of the companies within the Group.

## **KEEPING YOU INFORMED**

The Official Receiver will report further to creditors where relevant. This may only include creditors of specific companies in liquidation where there will be a distribution to creditors.

Further information about your claim against the Thomas Cook Group of companies can be found within the schedule below and the Creditor Information Sheet.

If you are registered for VAT, you may wish to assess if you are eligible for Bad Debt Relief on VAT, and assistance can be found at the following web address:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vat-notice-70018-relief-from-vat-on-baddebts/vat-notice-70018-relief-from-vat-on-bad-debts>

If you are a shareholder and are over the capital gains tax threshold you may wish to review the following guidance on reporting a loss to HMRC:  
<https://www.gov.uk/capital-gains-tax/losses>

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Company	Former name(s)	Period	Special Manager's Firm	Former Registered Office	Company Registered Number	VAT Number	Principal Business Activity	Prospect of a Dividend
Thomas Cook Group PLC	SHAKESPEARECO PLC	08 Feb 2007 - 12 Feb 2007	AlixPartners UK LLP	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, South Building, 200 Aldersgate, London, EC1A 4HD	06091951	239 3841 42	Ultimate Parent Company	Unlikely
Thomas Cook Services Ltd	ACCOLADIA SERVICES LIMITED	05 Nov 2001 - 31 Mar 2003	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough <sup>1</sup>	03028914	271 8346 89	Procurement of air transport for tour operations of group	Unlikely
	THOMAS COOK SERVICES LIMITED	06 Jun 1995 - 05 Nov 2001						
	DESIGNCARGO LIMITED	03 Mar 1995 - 06 Jun 1995						
Thomas Cook Group Tour Operations Ltd	THOMAS COOK GROUP TOUR OPERATIONS PLC	27 Oct 2017 - 26 Sep 2018	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	10699895	239 3841 42	Holding company	Possible
	THOMAS COOK GROUP TOUR OPERATIONS LIMITED	24 Aug 2017 - 27 Oct 2017						
	THOMAS COOK HOLDINGS LIMITED	30 Mar 2017 - 24 Aug 2017						

<sup>1</sup> "Peterborough" refers to Westpoint, Peterborough Business Park, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FZ

Company	Former name(s)	Period	Special Manager's Firm	Former Registered Office	Company Registered Number	VAT Number	Principal Business Activity	Prospect of a Dividend
Thomas Cook Group Airlines Ltd	THOMAS COOK GROUP AIRLINES PLC	27 Oct 2017 - 26 Sep 2018	AlixPartners UK LLP	Hangar 1, Western Maintenance Area, Runger Lane, Manchester Airport, Manchester M90 5FL	10645850	633 7818 21	Holding Company	Unlikely
	THOMAS COOK GROUP AIRLINES LIMITED	18 Jul 2017 - 27 Oct 2017						
	THOMAS COOK HOLDCO 1 LIMITED	01 Mar 2017 - 18 Jul 2017						
Thomas Cook West Investments Ltd			AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	08157544	239 3841 42	Holding company	Unlikely
Thomas Cook Finance 2 PLC	THOMAS COOK FINANCE 2 LIMITED	20 Nov 2017 - 20 Nov 2017	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	10645715	Not registered for VAT	Finance	Unlikely
	THOMAS COOK HOLDCO 2 LIMITED	01 Mar 2017 - 20 Nov 2017						
Travel and Financial Services Ltd			KPMG LLP	Peterborough	07397859	239 3841 42	Employee contract services	Unlikely
Retail Travel Ltd	THOMAS COOK RETAIL LIMITED	24 Nov 1999 - 01 Nov 2007	KPMG LLP	Peterborough	00918380	239 3841 42	Dormant	Unlikely
	THOMAS COOK LIMITED	16 Oct 1967 - 24 Nov 1999						

Company	Former name(s)	Period	Special Manager's Firm	Former Registered Office	Company Registered Number	VAT Number	Principal Business Activity	Prospect of a Dividend
Thomas Cook UK Travel Ltd	THOMAS COOK BELGIUM LIMITED	31 Dec 1980 - 09 Dec 1999	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	01362039	239 3841 42	Employee contract services	Unlikely
	THOMAS COOK BELGE LIMITED	07 Apr 1978 - 31 Dec 1980						
Thomas Cook Group Treasury Ltd	THOMAS COOK AIRLINES TREASURY LIMITED	12 Oct 2017 - 26 Sep 2018	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	06575598	239 3841 42	Provision of banking facilities to the group	Possible
Thomas Cook Airlines Treasury PLC	THOMAS COOK AIRLINES TREASURY LIMITED	12 Oct 2017 - 26 Sep 2018	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	11011161	633 7818 21	Finance	Possible
Thomas Cook Airlines Ltd	MYTRAVEL AIRWAYS LIMITED	01 Oct 2002 - 01 Nov 2007	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	02012379	633 7818 21	Flight provider	Possible
	AIRTOURS INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS LIMITED	02 Sep 1993 - 01 Oct 2002						
	INTER EUROPEAN AIRWAYS LIMITED	16 Sep 1986 - 02 Sep 1993						
	TRANS-EUROPEAN AIRWAYS LIMITED	30 May 1986 - 19 Sep 1986						
	FERNWARD LIMITED	21 Apr 1986 - 30 May 1986						



Company	Former name(s)	Period	Special Manager's Firm	Former Registered Office	Company Registered Number	VAT Number	Principal Business Activity	Prospect of a Dividend
Thomas Cook Aircraft Engineering Ltd	MYTRAVEL AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING LIMITED	22 Mar 2002 - 22 Oct 2007	KPMG LLP	Peterborough	04339114	633 7818 21	Aircraft maintenance & support services	Unlikely
	INHOCO 2565 LIMITED	12 Dec 2001 - 22 Mar 2002						
Thomas Cook In Destination Management Ltd	THOMAS COOK IN DESTINATION SERVICES LIMITED	19 May 2016 - 14 Feb 2019	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	08927429	239 3841 42	Resort activities in Europe & UK	Unlikely
	THOMAS COOK FINANCE (2) LIMITED	7 Mar 2014 – 19 May 2016						
Blue Sea Overseas Investments Ltd	GOING ABROAD LIMITED	08 Aug 1994 - 26 Apr 1995	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	02950050	239 3841 42	Investment holding company	Unlikely
	INHOCO 348 LIMITED	19 Jul 1994 - 08 Aug 1994						
Thomas Cook Money Ltd			AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	10344118	239 3841 42	Holding company	Unlikely
Thomas Cook Group UK Ltd	BLUE SEA INVESTMENTS LIMITED	09 Feb 1994 - 18 Jun 2008	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	02319744	239 3841 42	Investment holding company	Unlikely
	SKI CANADA LIMITED	04 May 1989 - 09 Feb 1994						
	LOPMIT LIMITED	21 Nov 1988 - 04 May 1989						

Company	Former name(s)	Period	Special Manager's Firm	Former Registered Office	Company Registered Number	VAT Number	Principal Business Activity	Prospect of a Dividend
Thomas Cook Tour Operations Ltd	MYTRAVEL TOUR OPERATIONS LIMITED	24 Sep 2001 - 01 Nov 2007	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	03772199	239 3841 42	Sale of charter holiday packages	Unlikely
	UKLG TOUR OPERATIONS LIMITED	25 Jun 1999 - 24 Sep 2001						
	INHOCO 930 LIMITED	18 May 1999 - 25 Jun 1999						
Thomas Cook Retail Ltd	GOING PLACES LEISURE TRAVEL LIMITED	27 Dec 1993 - 01 Nov 2007	KPMG LLP	Peterborough	00102630	239 3841 42	Online travel services	Possible
	PICKFORDS TRAVEL SERVICE LIMITED	22 Apr 1909 - 27 Dec 1993						
Thomas Cook UK Ltd	THOMAS COOK HOLDINGS LIMITED	22 Dec 1998 - 20 Jun 2001	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	02631252	239 3841 42	Intermediate holding company & employee contract services	Unlikely
	PERSONAL RECEIVABLES LOAN SECURITISATION (NO.3) LIMITED	04 Oct 1991 - 22 Dec 1998						
	TRUSHELFCO (NO.1728) LIMITED	22 Jul 1991 - 04 Oct 1991						
TCCT Retail Ltd	THOMAS COOK TRAVEL LIMITED	05 Oct 2010 - 31 Aug 2012	KPMG LLP	Peterborough	07397858	239 3841 42	Network of 555 retail stores selling package holidays	Possible

Company	Former name(s)	Period	Special Manager's Firm	Former Registered Office	Company Registered Number	VAT Number	Principal Business Activity	Prospect of a Dividend
Thomas Cook Investments (2) Ltd	EXHIBITIONS ONE LIMITED	23 Jan 2007 - 07 Jan 2008	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	06062179	239 3841 42	Intermediate holding company	Unlikely
Thomas Cook Continental Holdings Ltd			AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	06614883	239 3841 42	Investment holding company	Not yet known
The Freedom Travel Group Ltd	ALL STARS TRAVEL LIMITED EVER 1185 LIMITED	04 Oct 1999 - 28 Nov 2001 30 Jul 1999 - 04 Oct 1999	KPMG LLP	Peterborough	03816981	239 3841 42	Management services for a network of third-party member travel agents and related suppliers.	Unlikely
Mytravel Group Ltd	MYTRAVEL GROUP PLC AIRTOURS PLC PENDLE TRAVEL SERVICES LIMITED	08 Feb 2002 - 15 May 2014 29 Sep 1986 - 08 Feb 2002 03 Dec 1962 - 29 Sep 1986	AlixPartners UK LLP	Peterborough	00742748	239 3841 42	Holding company	Unlikely
Future Travel Ltd	PERSONAL TRAVEL ADVISORS LIMITED	25 Nov 1996 - 11 Mar 1997	KPMG LLP	Peterborough	03283092	239 3841 42	Telesales travel agency & support services	Unlikely