

2018/19  
Full Year Results  
presentation

12 months to 31 July 2019



# Gareth Davis, Chairman

## Agenda

Highlights

John Martin

Operating and financial review

Mike Powell

Business review and outlook

John Martin

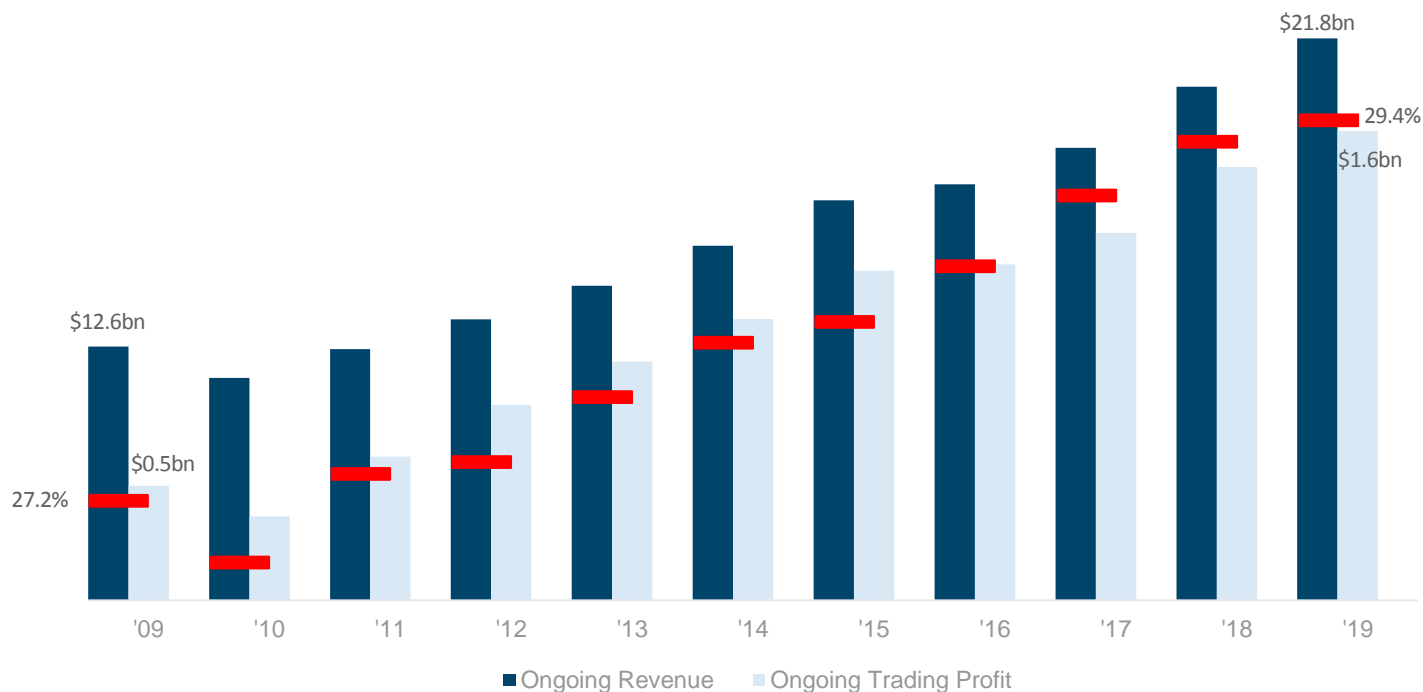
Questions

# Highlights

**John Martin, Chief Executive**

# Highlights – financial performance

9th consecutive year of	- Revenue growth <sup>1</sup>	<b>2019</b> +7.9%
	- Gross margin expansion	+10 bps
	- Trading profit growth <sup>1</sup>	+7.5%
	- Headline EPS growth	+16.4%



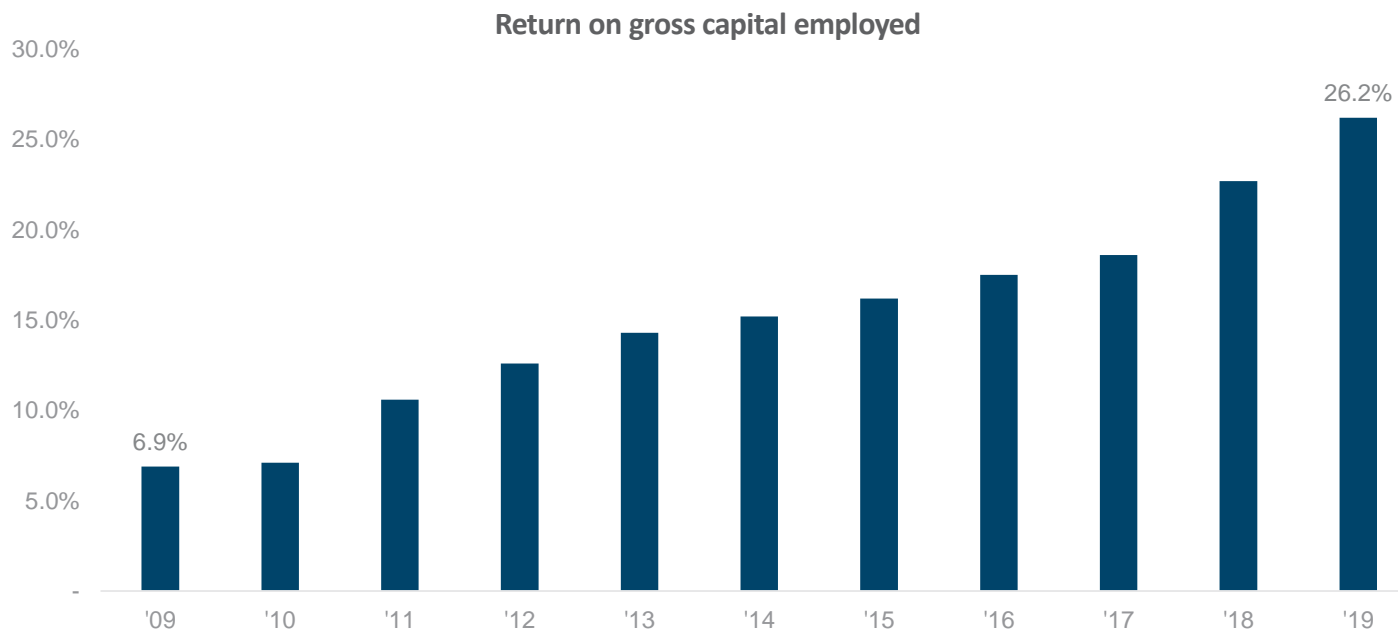
<sup>1</sup> Constant currency growth

## **Highlights – operations and strategy**

- Continued market share gains
- Strong control of operating expenses in weaker market
- Completion of 15 great acquisitions for \$657m
- Own brand grown to 8.6% of group ongoing sales in H2
- Concluded on strategic future of UK: demerger in process

## Highlights – capital and returns

- Excellent cash conversions with \$1.6bn of cash from operations
- c.\$600m from dividends and buy back
- Dividends up 10%



# Operating and financial review

Mike Powell, Chief Financial Officer



## Financial highlights

	2019	2018	Change	Change (at constant exchange rates)
Ongoing revenue	<b>\$21,771m</b>	\$20,334m	+7.1%	+7.9%
Ongoing gross margin	<b>29.4%</b>	29.3%	+0.1%	
Ongoing trading profit	<b>\$1,601m</b>	\$1,493m	+7.2%	+7.5%
Ongoing trading margin	<b>7.4%</b>	7.3%	+0.1%	
Headline earnings per share	<b>517.4c</b>	444.4c	+16.4%	
Ordinary dividend per share	<b>208.2c</b>	189.3c	+10.0%	
Net debt : adjusted EBITDA	<b>0.7x</b>	0.6x		

Strong operating performance in the year with tight cost control

## Revenue and trading profit growth

	Revenue	Trading Profit
Organic growth	+4.4%	+5.3%
Acquisition growth	+3.8%	+3.0%
FX and trading day impact	(1.1%)	(1.1%)
	+7.1%	+7.2%

Robust organic profit progression

## Organic revenue growth

	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	FY 2019
USA	+11.4%	+9.6%	+9.7%	+3.3%	+3.0%	+6.2%
UK <sup>1</sup>	(0.6%)	+0.8%	(1.0%)	+2.8%	(0.3%)	+0.6%
Canada	+6.3%	+3.3%	+0.5%	(2.9%)	(5.2%)	(1.1%)
Ongoing businesses	+8.1%	+6.7%	+6.4%	+2.7%	+2.1%	+4.4%

<sup>1</sup> The UK revenue growth rate is presented on a like-for-like basis to remove the impact of closed branches and the exit of low margin business.

We remain focused on growing ahead of the market

# USA



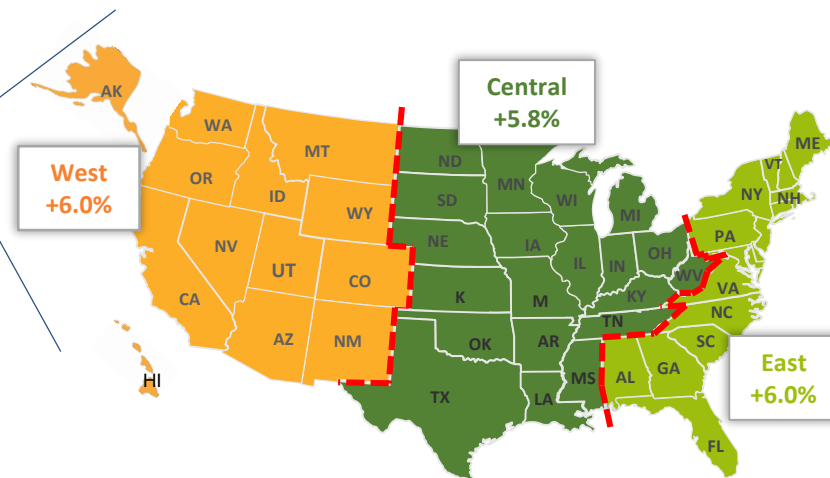
	2019 \$m	2018 \$m	Change
Revenue	<b>18,358</b>	16,670	+10.1%
Organic revenue growth	<b>+6.2%</b>	+9.9%	
Trading profit	<b>1,508</b>	1,406	+7.3%
Trading margin	<b>8.2%</b>	8.4%	(0.2%)

	2019 Revenue growth	2019 Trading Profit growth
Organic	<b>+6.2%</b>	<b>+5.3%</b>
Acquisition	<b>+4.2%</b>	<b>+2.8%</b>
Trading day impact	<b>(0.3%)</b>	<b>(0.8%)</b>
Total growth	<b>+10.1%</b>	<b>+7.3%</b>

Strong trading result despite weaker market conditions in H2

# USA organic revenue growth

Business unit	Revenue \$m	Organic growth
Blended Branches (see regional analysis on the right)	10,463	+5.9%
Waterworks standalone	2,899	+6.7%
eBusiness standalone	1,541	(2.4%)
HVAC standalone	1,351	+8.6%
Industrial standalone, Fire & Fabrication and Facilities Supply	2,104	+14.1%
	18,358	+6.2%



Broadly based geographic growth, continued market outperformance

**UK (local currency)**


	2019 £m	2018 £m	Change	Like for like
Revenue - Underlying	<b>1,725</b>	1,712	+0.8%	+0.6%
- Exited business	-	123		
	<b>1,725</b>	1,835	(6.0%)	
Trading profit - Underlying	<b>54</b>	51	+5.0%	
- Exited business	-	2		

Trading profit was ahead despite challenging RMI markets



## Canada (local currency)

	2019 \$CADm	2018 \$CADm	Change
Revenue	<b>1,576</b>	1,517	+3.9%
Organic revenue growth	<b>(1.1%)</b>	+7.0%	
- Underlying trading profit	<b>89</b>	81	+9.9%
- One-off gain	-	8	
Trading profit	<b>89</b>	89	
Underlying trading margin	<b>5.6%</b>	5.3%	+0.3%

	2019 Revenue growth	2019 Trading Profit growth
Organic	<b>(1.1%)</b>	<b>+2.1%</b>
Acquisition	<b>+5.0%</b>	<b>+7.8%</b>
Total growth	<b>+3.9%</b>	<b>+9.9%</b>

Good underlying profit performance in weaker markets

## Exceptional items

\$m	2019 P&L total
US restructuring and early retirement programme	<b>62</b>
UK restructuring costs	<b>29</b>
Other	<b>3</b>
Total included in operating profit	<b>94</b>



## Financing & tax

\$m	2019	2018
<b>Financing</b>		
Reported P&L charge	<b>74</b>	53
<b>Tax</b>		
Ongoing P&L charge	<b>344</b>	363
Ongoing effective tax rate	<b>22.5%</b>	25.1%

Interest and tax costs as expected

## Cash

\$m	2019	2018
Continuing adjusted EBITDA	<b>1,788</b>	1,687
Working capital	<b>(77)</b>	(245)
Pension, exceptional cash and other	<b>(102)</b>	(119)
Cash generated from operations	<b>1,609</b>	1,323
Interest & tax	<b>(319)</b>	(287)
Capex	<b>(418)</b>	(299)
Acquisitions of businesses	<b>(657)</b>	(416)
Disposals of businesses, associates and assets held for sale	<b>303</b>	1,440
Dividends & buybacks	<b>(595)</b>	(2,034)
Other items and FX	<b>(38)</b>	(101)
Increase in net debt	<b>(115)</b>	(374)

Strong cash generation with c.\$600m returned to shareholders and c.\$650m of great acquisitions

## Capital structure

	2019	2018
Net debt as reported	<b>\$1,195m</b>	\$1,080m
Net debt : adjusted EBITDA	<b>0.7x</b>	0.6x
Buy back announced 10 June 2019:		
- completed as at 31 July 2019	<b>\$150m</b>	
- to complete in FY20	<b>\$350m</b>	
Net pension asset	<b>\$153m</b>	\$174m
Minimum operating lease commitments	<b>\$1.1bn</b>	\$1.1bn

**Strong balance sheet maintained**

# Technical guidance for the full year to 31 July 2020

One additional trading day impact on trading profit

\$12 million

2019/20 impact from completed acquisitions

Revenue \$230m, trading profit \$15m

Interest charge<sup>1</sup>

\$85 million

Effective tax rate

25% - 26%

Capital investment

\$300 – \$350 million

<sup>1</sup> Pre-IFRS16 basis

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## Capital allocation

### Capital priorities

- Ferguson is highly cash generative through the cycle
- Remain committed to target net debt : adjusted EBITDA range of 1x – 2x and priorities for cash usage
  - 1) Re-invest in organic growth
  - 2) Progressive dividend policy, aim to grow the dividend in line with the long-term growth in earnings
  - 3) Invest in selective bolt-on acquisitions to improve our market leadership positions or expand the capabilities of our existing business model
  - 4) Return surplus capital to shareholders reasonably promptly

### Capital returns

- Returned approximately \$600m in 2018/19 via dividends and buy backs.
- 2018/19 total ordinary dividend of 208.2c, an increase of 10%.

Consistent capital policy

# Markets, strategy and outlook

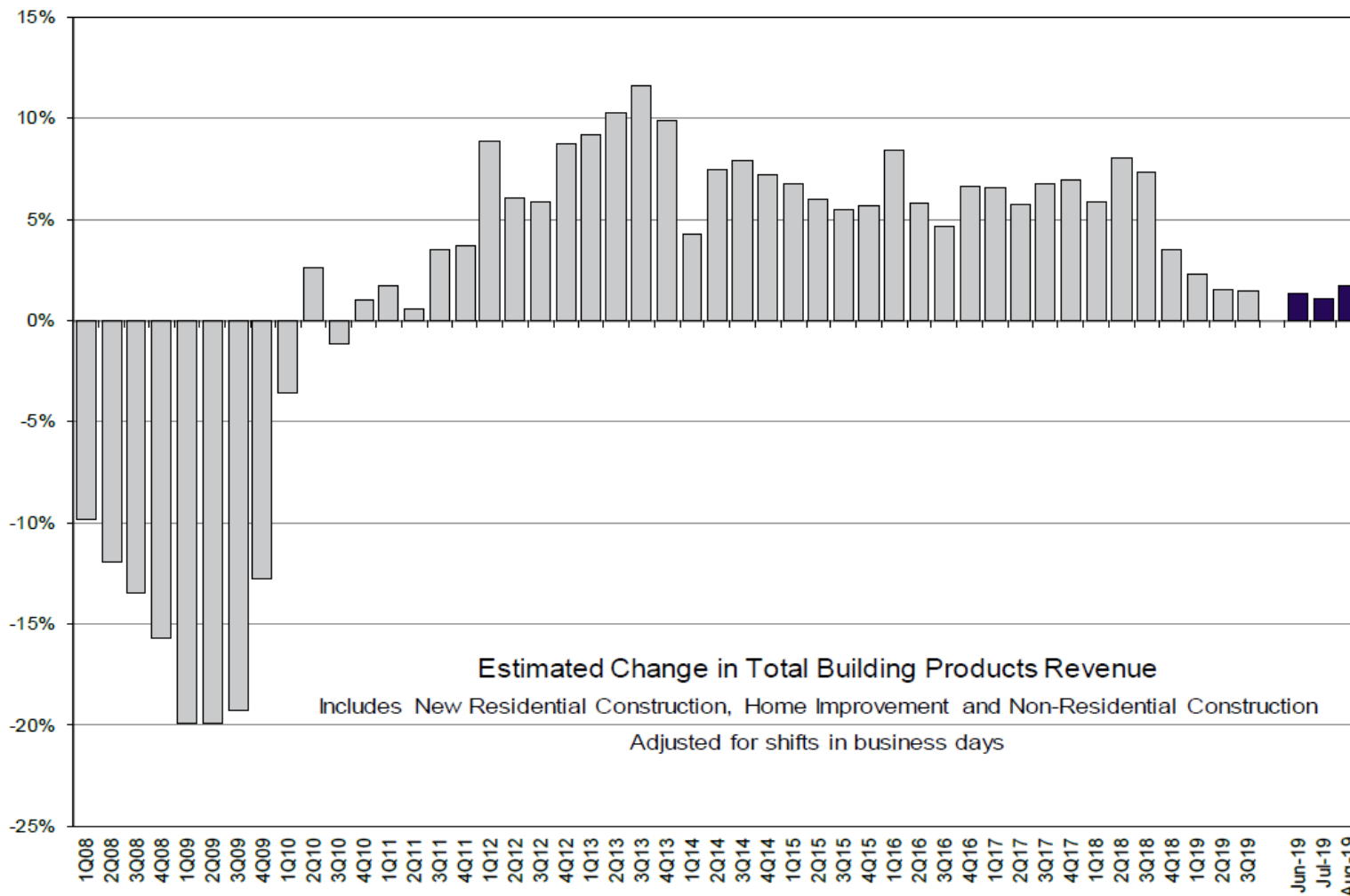
 **John Martin, Chief Executive**

## Markets – growth of US end-markets in 2019

	% of US revenue 2019	Estimated market growth in 2019			Organic revenue growth 2019
		H1 2019	H2 2019	2019	
Residential	~50%	6%	1%	3%	<b>+5%</b>
Commercial	~35%	5%	2%	3%	<b>+7%</b>
Civil / Infrastructure	~7%	5%	2%	3%	<b>+6%</b>
Industrial	~8%	13%	-	6%	<b>+9%</b>
		6%	1%	3%	<b>+6.2%</b>

- Markets slowed in the second half
- Ferguson continued to take market share across all end markets

# Markets – US total building products revenue (Zelman)

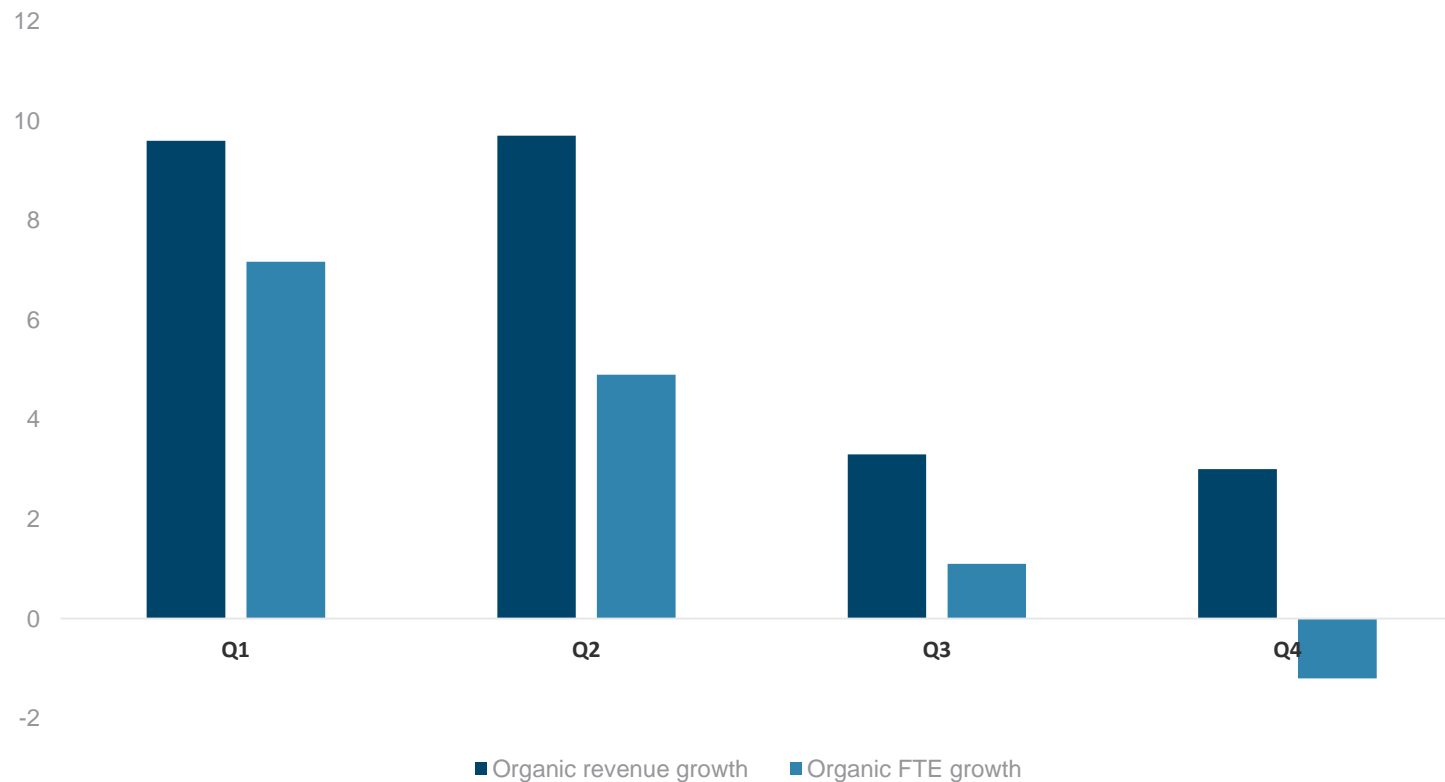


Source: Zelman & Associates Building Products Review



## Key initiatives – efficient operating model

Organic revenue growth v organic headcount growth in the US



- Strong discipline on headcount growth throughout the year
- Enables us to invest in our strategic initiatives

## Key initiatives - own brand



JAMES MARTIN



VANITIES™



PARK HARBOR™

Millennium Lighting™

EDGE STAR™



Pollardwater



Koldfront™



Avallon

US own brand penetration 5.4% to 8.6% over last 4 years

## Key initiatives – reconfiguration of distribution centres

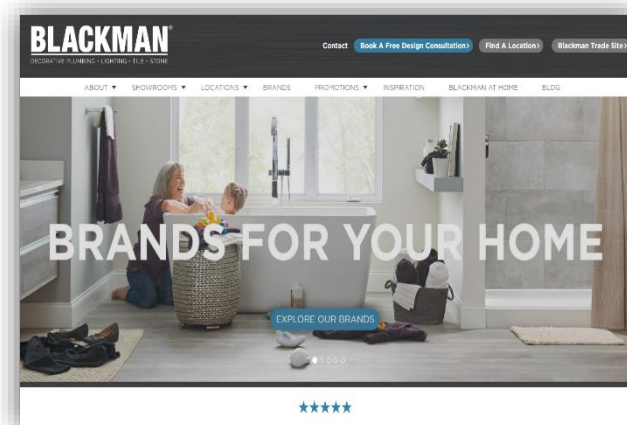
- Perris, Southern California DC opened in July 2019
- Servicing all business units across Southern California, Arizona, Utah and Nevada
- 1 million square foot distribution centre built on 47 acres
- Brought into full operation with no disturbance to customer service
- Solar system being installed to generate 3.5m kilowatt hours of electricity a year



Our largest ever distribution centre was brought into operation with no disruption to customer service

## Key initiatives - acquisitions

- Acquired Blackman Plumbing Supply in December 2018
- \$240m revenue in plumbing, heating, HVAC and waterworks categories
- Based in Long Island – population 8m
- Market leader in residential and commercial plumbing
- 23 branches



Up to 100 Ferguson associates worked on integration

## Key initiatives – reaffirmation of our values

**People**  
We recruit passionate people and provide excellent development opportunities.

**Integrity**  
We act fairly, honestly and with integrity.

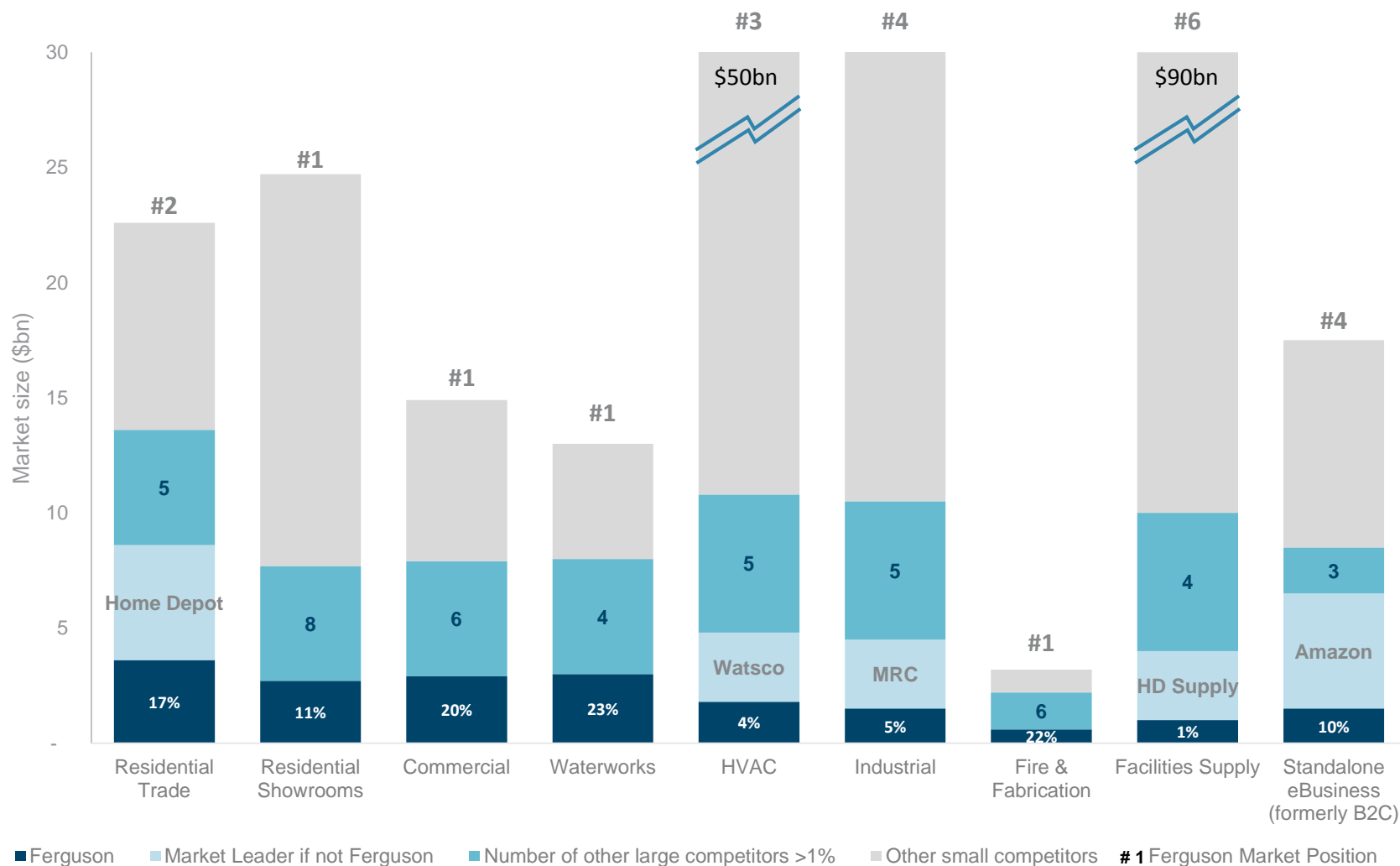
**Innovation**  
We encourage innovation to improve our customers' solutions.

**Safety**  
We are accountable for our own safety and the safety of others.

**Service**  
We source great products, provide unrivalled service and build enduring relationships to deliver value to our customers.

**Results**  
We have high expectations and drive performance to deliver excellent results.

## Ferguson – attractive market structure



## Ferguson – shared infrastructure

Shared	Residential trade	Residential showrooms	Commercial	Waterworks	HVAC	Industrial	Fire & Fabrication	Facilities Supply	B2C
Branches	●		●	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	
Distribution Centres	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
ERP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Sourcing	●	●	●	◐	◐	◐	●	◐	◐
Back office	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Own brand	●	●	●		◐		●	◐	●
Sales associates	●	◐	●		◐	◐		◐	
Other large competitors	●	●	●	◐	◐	◐			◐

## Wolseley UK - operations today

- Clear branding under the Wolseley banner
- Focused on trade and contract customers
- Principally serving the lower volatility RMI market
- Good market positions in residential plumbing and heating, commercial building services and infrastructure.
- Largest network with nationwide coverage (551 branches)
- Clear strategy focused on service and availability
  - Industry-leading fulfilment (core range, in branch) > 99%
  - Focus on customer service, NPS of 44



New management has stabilised the business in a tough trading environment



## Wolseley UK - opportunities

- Grown own brand capability (currently 8.4% of sales) to drive gross margin expansion (50% +)
- Effective online functionality (currently 9% of sales)
- Leverage overnight fulfilment of 30,000 products
- Opportunity to drive pricing discipline
- Incremental bolt-on acquisition opportunities (like Continental Engineering)



## Wolseley UK – financials

		2019 £m	2018 £m	Change
Revenue	Underlying	<b>1,725</b>	1,712	+0.8%
	Exited business	-	123	
		<b>1,725</b>	1,835	
Trading profit	Underlying	<b>54</b>	51	+5.0%
	Exited business	-	2	
		<b>54</b>	53	

- Improved performance in a challenging market
- Net assets (excl. pension, debt and tax) : £339m

## **Listing - assessment of listing structure**

- Board has kept listing under review over several years
- After demerger of Wolseley UK, 100% of Ferguson's revenue will be generated in North America
- Approximately 40% of shareholders are US based
- A number of shareholders have requested that we review the listing structure
- Considering the feasibility, costs and benefits of a range of options

## Listing – some considerations

### Internal controls and governance

- Sarbanes Oxley
- Corporate governance

### Structural considerations

- Tax, pensions
- Registration
- Settlement mechanism

### Market considerations

- Index inclusion
- Sell side analyst coverage and peer group
- Shareholders' wishes

### Reporting

- US GAAP, IFRS
- SEC reporting

## **Markets - outlook**

- US markets are broadly flat – we continue to outperform
- Order books support modest growth in the months ahead
- Expect to make further progress in the year ahead

# Questions



# Appendix

## Impact of tariffs

Tariff	Effective date	Products impacted	Total headline US value impacted	Rate	Value of Ferguson direct imports affected \$m
S 232	Feb 2018	Steel			
S 301 List 1	Jul 2018	818 lines	\$34bn	25%	\$1m
S 301 List 2	Aug 2018	279 lines	\$16bn	25%	\$1m
S 301 List 3 round 2 <sup>1</sup>	May 2019	5,745 lines	\$200bn	25%	\$34m
S 301 List 4 Phase I	Sep 2019	c. 3200 lines	\$300bn <sup>2</sup>	15%	\$3m
Current impact on Ferguson					\$39m
S 301 List 1-3 increase in rate from 25% to 30%	Oct 2019	c. 6,800 lines	\$250bn	30%	\$7m <sup>3</sup>
S 301 List 4 Phase II	Dec 2019	c. 600 lines	\$300bn <sup>2</sup>	15%	\$7m

We will continue to work with customers to pass through price increases

<sup>1</sup> S 301 List 3 round 1 was introduced in September 2018 at a rate of 10% resulting in a \$13m impact. This was increased to 25% during round 2.

<sup>2</sup> \$300bn is the total value of list 4, phase I and II combined

<sup>3</sup> Reflects just the increase in impact from 25% to 30% rates.



## Regional analysis

\$m	Revenue 2019	Revenue 2018	Trading profit 2019	Trading profit 2018
USA	<b>18,358</b>	16,670	<b>1,508</b>	1,406
UK	<b>2,222</b>	2,472	<b>69</b>	72
Canada	<b>1,191</b>	1,192	<b>67</b>	70
Central costs	-	-	<b>(43)</b>	(55)
<b>Group ongoing</b>	<b>21,771</b>	20,334	<b>1,601</b>	1,493
Non-ongoing	<b>239</b>	418	<b>5</b>	14
<b>Group reported</b>	<b>22,010</b>	20,752	<b>1,606</b>	1,507

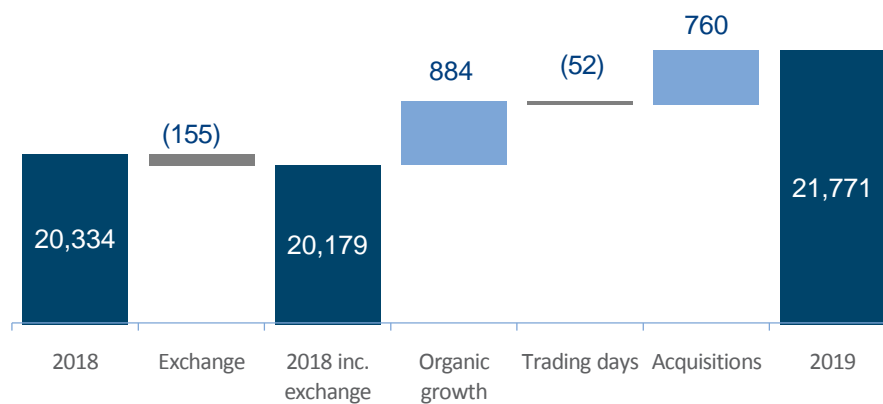
## Quarterly analysis

Revenue \$m	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	FY 2019
USA	4,607	4,267	4,457	5,027	<b>18,358</b>
UK	580	546	567	529	<b>2,222</b>
Canada	340	275	250	326	<b>1,191</b>
<b>Group ongoing</b>	<b>5,527</b>	<b>5,088</b>	<b>5,274</b>	<b>5,882</b>	<b>21,771</b>

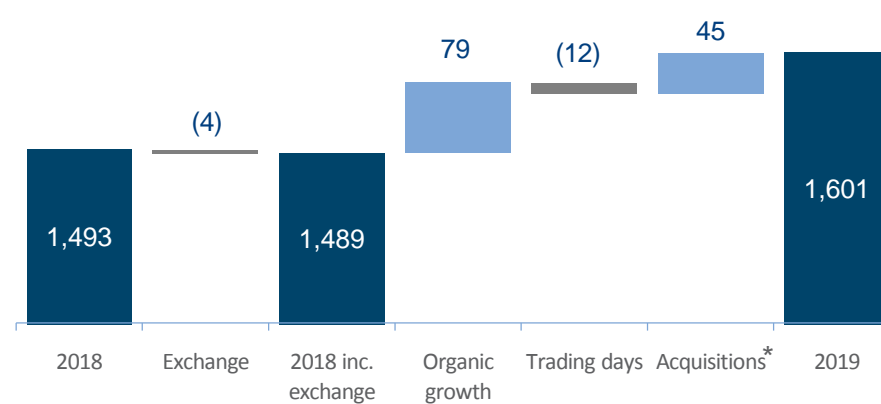
Trading profit \$m	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	FY 2019
USA	400	300	346	462	<b>1,508</b>
UK	19	13	20	17	<b>69</b>
Canada	27	12	4	24	<b>67</b>
Central costs	(14)	(11)	(11)	(7)	<b>(43)</b>
<b>Group ongoing</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>1,601</b>

# Revenue and trading profit growth

**Ongoing revenue (\$m)**



**Ongoing trading profit (\$m)**



\* Net of transaction and integration costs.

## Branch numbers

	Brought forward 31 July 2018	Acquired	Net Closed	Carried forward 31 July 2019
USA	1,448	72	(29)	1,491
UK	567	-	(16)	551
Canada	230	1	(14)	217
	2,245	73	(59)	2,259

## Headcount<sup>1</sup>

	Brought forward 31 July 2018	Acquired	Disposals	Net joiners / (leavers)	Carried forward 31 July 2019
USA	26,501	1,120	-	(145)	27,476
UK	5,617	-	(236)	(272)	5,109
Canada	2,742	60	-	(172)	2,630
Other	85	-	-	(7)	78
	34,945	1,180	(236)	(596)	35,293

<sup>1</sup> Permanent full time equivalents

## IFRS16 impact

- Applies to year ending 31 July 2020 for Ferguson
- First financial statements published under IFRS 16 will be 2019/20 half year in March 2020
- No impact on economics of lease transactions, cash payments made or capital allocation
- Impact on opening financial statements (i.e. balance sheet as at 31 July 2019) and estimated impact for year ending 31 July 2020:

\$m	Balance sheet	Income Statement
Opening right of use asset	+1,200	
Opening lease liability	(1,500)	
EBITDA		+300
Depreciation		(250)
Trading profit		+50
Finance costs		(50)
EPS		Immaterial