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Research:

New Issue: First Flexible No. 5 PLC

£500 million mortgage-backed floating-rate notes

Publication date: 04-Oct-2002

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■ Ratings Detail

Profile

New Ratings

Class A	AAA
Class B	BBB
Class M	A

Closing date: June 11, 2002

Transaction Summary

Collateral: A pool of first-ranking mortgages over freehold and leasehold "investment home loans" properties located in the U.K.

Participants

Underwriters: Barclays Capital and The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC.

Seller: Arianty No. 1 PLC.

Originator and servicer: Britannic Money PLC.

Standby servicer: First Active PLC.

Trustee: JPMorganChase Bank.

Transaction account: Barclays Bank PLC (AA/Stable/A-1+).

GIC account: Barclays Bank PLC.

Redraw facility provider: Barclays Bank PLC.

Hedging counterparties: Barclays Bank PLC and JPMorganChase Bank 1+).

■ Rationale

The ratings assigned to the class A, M, and B mortgage-backed floatin by First Flexible No. 5 PLC reflect the sound payment structure and ca the transaction, a cash flow analysis to verify that the notes are repaid scenarios, and the sound legal structure of the transaction.

Other considerations included:

- The strong protection for class A noteholders provided by a con subordinate £22.5 million class M notes, the £12.5 million class cash reserve fund (building up to 1.7% from excess spread), an cover credit losses and income shortfalls;
- The strong protection for class M noteholders provided by a con subordinate class B notes, the cash reserve fund, and excess s losses and income shortfalls;
- The strong protection for class B noteholders provided by the ca excess spread to cover credit losses and income shortfalls; and
- The issuer's ability to meet interest shortfalls on all rated notes t spread on the mortgages and drawings that may be made unde

■ Strengths, Concerns, and Mitigating Factors

Strengths

The transaction's strengths that influenced the ratings are:

- The low LTV ratio of the mortgage pool, particularly with respect to the occupied pool;
- The good proportion of the investment home loans portfolio that includes rental incomes that can cover the monthly outstanding payments by more than 2.0 times (x);
- A fully performing mortgage portfolio;
- The strong protection provided by the nonamortizing cash reserve funded to 1.7% of the outstanding balance of the mortgages (cash prefunding) at closing; and
- Britannic Money PLC's origination of four transactions to date.

Concerns

Concerns highlighted during the rating process are as follows:

- The nonbalance guaranteed interest rate swap may present high prepayment scenarios.
- An interest rate risk arises because one-month LIBOR is payable on a portion of the mortgage loans is linked to the base rate.
- The nature of flexible mortgages allows borrowers to prepay these amounts are redrawable in the future. These redraws are payable to the issuer. There is a concern that under certain severe circumstances the issuer has insufficient available funds to meet these obligations. For the potential redraw amount is about £33.7 million (6.75%).

Mitigating Factors

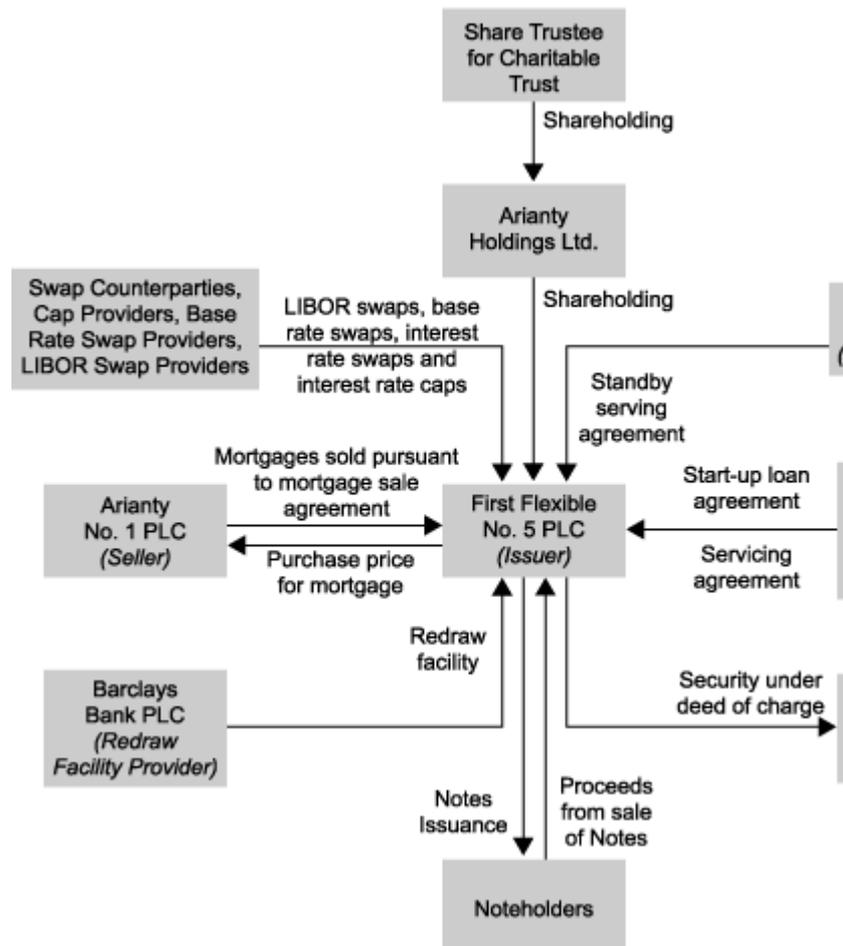
The above concerns are mitigated by the following:

- The risk related to the interest rate swaps was appropriately factored into the cash flow analysis stress testing and the required credit enhancements were factored into this risk.
- The risk was factored into the cash flow analysis by looking at extreme historical differentials; a separate-purpose reserve was established to cover additional risk inherent in the base-rate mortgages.
- The potential redraw risk is covered through the redraw facilities amounts sized in the cash flow analysis, which were conservative to cover any potential shortfall in the available issuer funds. Amounts factored into the cash flow analysis were based on the redraw facilities in previous transactions originated by Britannic Money PLC.

Transaction Structure

The structure of the transaction is shown in the following chart.

First Flexible No. 5 PLC Structure



First Flexible No. 5 PLC (Issuer)

The issuer is a public limited company incorporated in England and special-purpose entity (SPE) criteria and its principal objectives have equitable title to a mortgage portfolio from Arianty No. 1 PLC, to issue, manage and administer the mortgages. The accountant's report confirms the issuer had not traded from its incorporation to the issuance of the notes. The issuer has two independent directors. The issuer's shareholders are Arianty Holdings PLC and are ultimately held for charitable purpose subsidiaries.

Britannic Money PLC (Originator and Servicer)

Britannic Money was incorporated under the name Mortgage Trust England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 with private company status on Aug. 21, 1986. Mortgage Trust was acquired by First Active Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken in December 1994. Prior to Sept. 2000, Britannic Money was an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of First Active PLC. An agreement between First Active and Britannic Assurance PLC, Britannic Money became a 60% shareholder in Britannic Money on Sept. 29, 2000.

The company now has residential mortgage assets under management, the majority of which is off-balance-sheet. Britannic Money was re-structured as a public limited company and its name changed to First Active Financial PLC on Sept. 4, 1998 and then to Britannic Money PLC on Feb. 1, 2000.

As servicer, Britannic Money is responsible for the day-to-day administration and ongoing servicing of the underlying portfolio of mortgages. It is responsible for all reports and accounts for the trustee and Standard & Poor's in connection with the performance of the mortgages.

The origination, underwriting, and valuation processes of Britannic I as well as its collection and default management procedures. Such integral part of the corporate overview undertaken during the rating transaction and is maintained throughout the transaction's life. Stan satisfied that Britannic Money is capable of performing the functions the collection of borrower payments and management of the arrears cases.

First Active acts as standby servicer in the event that Britannic Mon obligations as servicer.

Barclays Bank PLC (GIC Provider, Transaction Account Provider, and Cap Provider)

Barclays Bank PLC acts as the guaranteed investment contract (GI transaction account provider under the bank agreement. It also provides a facility, which may be used by the issuer to fund the purchase of real estate, which may be used by the issuer to fund the purchase of real estate compliance with certain tests. In addition, Barclays Bank acts as a trustee

Transaction Overview

On the closing date, and in accordance with the terms of a mortgage servicer issuer acquired from Arianty No. 1 PLC the beneficial interest in the pool of mortgages issuer funded this purchase via the issuance of the class A, M, and B tranches. The issuer transferred its interest in the mortgages and the collateral security to the trustee for the benefit of the noteholders in accordance with the deed of charge.

The issuer entered into an interest rate swap with an appropriately rate sensitive counterparty to eliminate interest risk associated with fixed-rate and three-month LIBOR. To hedge the interest rate risk between the one-month LIBOR payable on the mortgage loans, the issuer established a residential mortgage-backed security (RMBS) trust (the trust) that has been sized to account for the risk.

Redraw Risk

Substantially, all of the mortgages acquired by the issuer from Arianty No. 1 PLC are flexible mortgages. The terms of the flexible mortgages allow borrowers to prepay amounts that have been paid in excess of the scheduled mortgage payments. To the extent that a borrower prepays more than 20% (or lower as agreed in the mortgage) of the scheduled principal balance at any time, the borrower is required to pay a fee of 1% of the amount by which the prepayment exceeds 20%. Where prepayments are validly made and funded, borrowers ultimately have the obligation to repay the amounts borrowed by the maturity dates of their mortgages.

Standard & Poor's has access to historical data and behavioral patterns of borrowers in the redraw component of the mortgages, which illustrated that there are sufficient available funds from prepayments and redemptions to ensure that there are sufficient funds to cover potential redraws assuming that the behavioral patterns remain unchanged. Standard & Poor's noted, however, that past behavioral patterns may not necessarily be a predictor of future trends in borrower behavior. Consequently, conclusions were made as to the levels of potential redraw requests throughout the life of the mortgages. A redraw facility in an amount equal to £25 million is available to fund potential redraw requests in the event that the issuer has insufficient funds to cover potential redraw requests. Standard & Poor's viewed this level as adequate to cover any potential redraws that may arise, based on conservative assumptions.

In circumstances where the redraw requests cannot be funded, borrowers may have claims for damages, which may ultimately affect the issuer's obligations to the noteholders. As yet there exists no legal precedent to give clear guidance on how to handle potential claims against Britannic Money for redraw requests that cannot be funded.

■ Note Terms and Conditions

The issuer issued three classes of notes, the class A, M, and B notes. The class A notes are payable at one-month British pound LIBOR plus a yearly margin of 20 bps on the class A notes, 80 bps on class M, and 180 bps on class B, step and 270 bps respectively in July 2009. Interest on the notes is payable on the first business day of each calendar month, with the exception of payment, which was made in respect of the period commencing on (ar date and ending on (but excluding) the interest payment date falling in

Interest on the class B notes is deferred and paid after maintaining a curing principal deficiencies in the waterfall if the balance of the principal exceeds the class B notes' size. Interest on the class M notes is deferred after maintaining the first-loss fund and curing principal deficiencies but prior to the class B note coupon if the balance of the principal deficiency ledger exceeds the class M and B note principal amount outstanding.

The servicer, on behalf of the issuer and trustee, sets the rates of interest on standard variable-rate mortgages. The administrator must ensure that the contractual rate of interest applicable to the mortgages, after taking into account hedging arrangements and income received from the investment of funds in the account, is not less than 1.0% on the owner-occupied pool and 1.2% on the home loans pool over the relevant one-month note LIBOR.

Collections received in respect of payments from borrowers under the mortgages are transferred into the collection accounts held at Barclays Bank in the name of the issuer. The amounts are transferred to the transaction account held at Barclays Bank in the name of the issuer.

The collection accounts and the transaction account must each be held at a bank rated at least 'A-1+'. If the bank's short-term corporate rating is lower than 'A-1+', the accounts are either transferred or guaranteed by a counterparty with a rating of at least 'A-1+'.

Substitutions

The issuer has the right to purchase substitute mortgages on any day up to the interest payment date falling in July 2005. The issuer may purchase substitute mortgage loans to the extent it receives scheduled principal from redemptions and these receipts are not needed to fund redemptions. The purchase of these mortgages is subject to certain criteria and credit assessment detailed in the underlying documentation. To the extent prepayments are not needed to fund redemptions, these payments are passed through to the issuer.

Mandatory Redemption

The notes are subject to mandatory redemption in part on each interest payment date from available funds. There is no mandatory redemption of the class A notes until five years after the end of the term of the class A notes. Thereafter, the notes may be redeemed pro rata subject to the following conditions:

The conditions for pro rata redemption of the class M notes are that

- The initial credit enhancement for the class A notes must have been at least 100% of the principal amount of the class A notes;
- The principal deficiency ledger must be equal to zero;
- The arrears test must be met; and
- The size of the class M and B notes must be at least 2x the principal amount of the largest loan outstanding.

The conditions for pro rata redemption of the class B notes are that

- The initial credit enhancement for the class A and B notes must be equal to the principal deficiency ledger must be equal to zero;
- The arrears test must be met; and
- The size of the class B notes must be at least 2x the principal amount of the largest loan outstanding.

Optional Redemption

The issuer may redeem all of the notes at their outstanding principal amount with accrued interest, under the following circumstances:

- If the notes become subject to a withholding tax;
- On the interest payment date falling in July 2009 or on any subsequent interest payment date thereafter;
- If at any time the principal amount outstanding of the notes is equal to or greater than the initial aggregate principal amount outstanding of the notes at the time of issuance;
- On the second interest payment date after any determination is made that the redemptions made by borrowers on the collection dates ending exceed the sum of principal collections, the credit balance, and the available facility under the redraw facility.

Final Redemption

The notes will be redeemed in full no later than the interest payment date in 2034.

Credit and Liquidity Support

Support for the class A notes is provided by a combination of the subordinated class B notes, excess spread on the mortgages, and the cash reserve fund. Support for the class M notes is provided by the subordinated class B notes, excess spread on the mortgages, and the cash reserve fund. Support for the class B note is provided by the subordinated class B notes, excess spread on the mortgages and the cash reserve fund.

Collateral Details

The mortgage pool totaled £467.9 million (comprising 5,316 loans) at the time of issuance. All loans in the pool were originated by Britannic Money between 1996 and 2002 and have been administered by Britannic Money since origination. The notes issued are equal in amount to the principal outstanding of the pre-funded loans, a total of £467.9 million. These loans are to be formally purchased by the issuer no later than the interest payment date.

Features of the mortgage pool include the following:

- Each loan is secured by a first legal charge of a residential property.
- Of the total mortgages, 47.22% are capital repayment mortgages and 52.78% are interest-only mortgages by value. Of the interest-only mortgages, 10.0% are originated as endowment mortgages.
- Of the mortgages, 32.13% are investment home loans mortgages and 67.87% are owner-occupied mortgages.
- The weighted-average LTV ratio of the mortgage pool is 61.51%.
- The weighted-average LTV of the mortgage pool, assuming the redemptions, is 63.87%.
- The average outstanding mortgage balance (drawn) is £81,019. The mortgage balances range between about £17 and £1,750,050. The aggregate amount is £33,689,023.
- The average potential redraw amount is £6,337.
- The largest concentration of mortgages by geographical area is in the South East of England.

- England (including London) with 59.2% of all the mortgages in t
- The weighted-average seasoning is 5.4 months.
- The weighted-average rental cover for the investment home loa

■ Standard & Poor's Stress Test

The analysis included a conservative assessment of the credit risk in the transaction. The credit enhancement levels were sized after analyzing severe stress scenarios would have on the collateral. In determining the mortgage pool, an estimate must be made of a worst case of potential occur because of foreclosures. In this instance, this has been sized as potential balance in respect of the flexible mortgages as opposed to the balance. This estimate of potential losses is the amount of loss protect

A feature of the portfolio is the buy-to-let mortgages, which make up 3% (by drawn balance). These include professional lettings. The levels of originator are considered to be conservative, but the characteristics of create additional risks relative to a typical prime mortgage portfolio, no weighted-average LTV ratio of this portfolio.

The cash flow analysis simulated the performance of this portfolio with documented structure under certain stressful scenarios. In addition, the the swaps, caps, and cash reserves to prevent the interest rate mismatch accounts of the issuer are required to be with suitably rated providers.

■ Surveillance Details

Continual surveillance is maintained on the transaction until the notes are otherwise retired. To do this, regular servicer reports detailing the performance underlying collateral are analyzed, supporting ratings monitored, and reviewed with the servicer to ensure that minimum servicing standards are being any material changes in the servicer's operations are communicated a

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