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**RMBS Presale Report**

## Paragon Mortgages (No. 7) PLC £800 million (equivalent) mortgage-backed floating-rate notes

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*(Editor's note: This presale, which was published earlier today, is being republished with a change in each of the "Mandatory and Discretionary Advances" and "Mandatory Redemption" sections. A corrected version follows.)*

This presale report is based on information as of May 7, 2004. The credit ratings shown are preliminary. This report does not constitute a recommendation to buy, hold, or sell securities. Subsequent information may result in the assignment of final credit ratings that differ from the preliminary credit ratings. For further ratings information, call one of the following Standard & Poor's numbers: London Ratings Desk (44) 20-7176-7400; London Press Office Hotline (44) 20-7176-3605; Paris (33) 1-4420-6708; Frankfurt (49) 69-33-999-225; Stockholm (46) 8-440-5916; or Moscow (7) 095-783-4017. Members of the media may also contact the European Press Office via e-mail on: media\_europe@standardandpoors.com.

Class	Prelim. rating*	Prelim. amount (Mil. £ equiv.)	Recommended credit support (%)	Margin base	Step-up margin	Optional call date	Legal final maturity
A1	AAA	720	12.2	Three-month U.S. dollar LIBOR/three-month GBP LIBOR/three-month EURIBOR	May 2010	May 2008	May 2034
B1	A	80	2.2	Three-month U.S. dollar LIBOR/three-month GBP LIBOR/three-month EURIBOR	May 2010	May 2008	May 2043

\*The rating on each class of securities is preliminary as of May 7, 2004 and subject to change at any time. Final credit ratings are expected to be assigned on the closing date subject to a satisfactory review of the transaction documents and legal opinion, and completion of a corporate overview. Standard & Poor's ratings address timely interest and principal.

Transaction Profile	
Expected closing date	May 26, 2004
Originators	Paragon Mortgages Ltd. and Mortgage Trust Ltd.
Arrangers	Royal Bank of Scotland PLC and Barclays Capital
Mortgage administrators	Paragon Finance PLC and Mortgage Trust Services PLC
Security trustee	Citicorp Trustee Co. Ltd.
Substitute servicer	GHL Mortgage Services Ltd.
Underwriters	Royal Bank of Scotland PLC and Barclays Capital
Sellers	Paragon Mortgages Ltd. and Arianty No.1 PLC
Administrators and servicers	Paragon Finance PLC and Mortgage Trust Services PLC
Interest rate swap counterparty	JPMorganChase Bank
Currency swap counterparty	Royal Bank of Scotland PLC
Transaction account provider	National Westminster Bank PLC

Supporting Ratings	
Institution/role	Ratings
National Westminster Bank PLC as transaction account provider	AA/Stable/A-1+
JPMorganChase Bank as interest rate swap provider	AA-/Stable/A-1+
Royal Bank of Scotland PLC as currency swap provider	AA/Stable/A-1+

Transaction Key Features	
Collateral	Portfolio of first-ranking residential mortgages secured over freehold, leasehold, or feudal properties in the U.K.
Principal outstanding (Mil. £)	577.17
Geographic concentration - London and southeast (%)	43.42
Property occupancy	97.2% buy-to-let, 2.8% owner occupied
Weighted-average LTV ratio (%)	75.85
Average loan size balance (£)	76,735
Loan size range (£)	377 to 1,577,339
Weighted-average seasoning (months)	23
Weighted-average asset life remaining (years)	20.15
Weighted-average liability interest rate (%)	5.86
Redemption profile	20.2% repayment, 79.8% interest-only
Excess spread at closing (%)	0.75
Cash reserve	2.2%, building up to 2.9% if arrears trigger is hit
Prefunding period	To first determination date
Prefunding amount	Up to £100 million
Maximum LTV ratio (%)	99.46
Principal deficiency ledger	0
Percentage of jumbo loans (> £150,000 by number of loans)	10.62

## Transaction Summary

The preliminary credit ratings assigned to the £800 million equivalent class A1 and B1 notes to be issued by Paragon Mortgages (No. 7) PLC reflect the transaction's sound payment structure, the ability of the servicers (Paragon Finance PLC and Mortgage Trust Services PLC) to perform their roles, and the cash flow mechanics of the transaction.

Further key considerations include the strong protection for the class A1 noteholders provided by a combination of the subordinate class B1 notes (10% of the notes issued), the first-loss fund (2.2% of the notes issued, building to 2.9% of the initial note balance if loans greater than 60 days in arrears exceed 3.0%), and excess spread to cover credit losses and income shortfalls. Strong protection for the class B1 noteholders is provided by the first-loss fund and excess spread to cover credit losses and income shortfalls.

### **Notable Features**

This is Paragon Mortgages' seventh securitization of its buy-to-let mortgages. The main structural features of this latest transaction closely resemble those of the previous ones.

## Strengths, Concerns, and Mitigating Factors

### **Strengths**

- The average size of the loans in the portfolio is low at approximately £77,000 (considering that more than 43% of the mortgages are secured by properties in southeast England). The loans are, therefore, considered to have a lesser inherent risk than larger loans, which have increased sensitivity to changes in the borrowers' financial circumstances.
- The borrowers are high quality, with no adverse credit history (e.g., no county court judgments).
- The sellers and administrators have an experienced and sound understanding of the buy-to-let market (97.2% of all mortgages in the initial portfolio are buy-to-let). This experience, coupled with strong underwriting standards, has kept arrears low at 0.65% over one month.
- The transaction includes an efficient payment structure for investors, which provides support to all the notes through the use of triggers when the transaction is under stress. This is made possible because the cash reserve permanently increases if arrears greater than 60 days exceed 3%. The transaction allows principal available funds to be used to make pro rata redemption payments under the class A1 and B1 notes subject to certain conditions.

### **Concerns and Mitigating Factors**

A concern with respect to the transaction is mandatory further advances. This is mitigated by the cap on liability in the provisional pool of 16% of the notes to be issued. In addition, Standard & Poor's stress tests confirm that the mandatory further advances can be funded through available redemption funds.

## Roles of the Parties

### **Paragon Mortgages (No. 7) PLC (Issuer)**

The issuer is a public company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales on Aug. 16, 2002, and is a subsidiary of The Paragon Group of Companies PLC, the ordinary shares of which are listed on the London Stock Exchange.

The issuer is an SPE established to issue the notes and purchase the mortgages. It fully meets Standard & Poor's SPE criteria for bankruptcy remoteness. The issuer has an independent director.

### **Paragon Mortgages Ltd. (Originator)**

Paragon Mortgages is a private company incorporated in England and is the originator of 95.5% of the mortgages in the portfolio, either directly or indirectly via broker intermediaries.

Paragon Mortgages has established itself as a specialist lender in the buy-to-let sector, and its operations and underwriting standards are robust. Paragon Mortgages targets the professional landlord, who will normally have had several years' experience in property investment and have more than three properties. These borrowers will be underwritten based on rental cover, usually set at a minimum of 130% above borrowing costs. In addition, as part of the underwriting process, a full assessment of the borrowers' financial history and status will be made. More than 80% of Paragon Mortgages' current loans are made to professional landlords.

***Mortgage Trust Ltd. (Originator)***

Mortgage Trust, an established mortgage lender, was acquired by the Paragon Group of Companies on June 30, 2003. Mortgage Trust now operates exclusively in the buy-to-let sector, and is the originator of 4.5% of the mortgages in the portfolio.

Mortgage Trust targets both the professional landlord and emerging professional landlords who purchase property to let usually for either long-term investment purposes or with the aim of becoming a professional landlord. Mortgage Trust underwrites similarly to Paragon Mortgages based on both rental cover and a borrower financial assessment. Emerging professionals typically have between two and five properties, and approximately 36% of Mortgage Trust's originations are made to this segment. The remaining 64% of originations are made to professional landlords.

***Citicorp Trustee Co. Ltd. (Trustee)***

The trustee's role is to supervise the administrator in its administration of the issuer under the terms of the transaction and generally to represent and protect the interests of the noteholders. Only the trustee will be able to enforce the security under the terms and conditions of the notes and it will always have to act in the best interests of the noteholders.

***Paragon Finance PLC and Mortgage Trust Services PLC (Mortgage Administrators and Servicers)***

As administrator, Paragon Finance will be responsible for the day-to-day administration and ongoing servicing of the underlying portfolio of mortgages originated by Paragon Mortgages, and Mortgage Trust Services will be responsible for the day-to-day administration and ongoing servicing of the underlying portfolio of mortgages originated by Mortgage Trust. Paragon Finance and Mortgage Trust Services are also responsible for producing all reports and accounts for the trustee and Standard & Poor's in connection with the performance of the mortgages.

A review of Paragon Mortgages' and Mortgage Trust's origination, underwriting, and valuation processes and Paragon Finance's and Mortgage Trust Services' collection and default management procedures (as administrators) has been conducted. This review is an integral part of the corporate overview carried out during the rating process of any transaction and is maintained throughout the life of the transaction. Paragon Finance and Mortgage Trust Services are both deemed capable of performing the functions necessary to ensure the collection of borrower payments and management of arrears and repossession cases.

***Paragon Finance PLC (Subordinated Loan Provider and Shortfall Fund Provider)***

Paragon Finance will also provide a subordinated loan to the issuer, which will fund the first-loss fund, which is a cash reserve forming part of the credit enhancement for the notes.

***National Westminster Bank PLC (Transaction Account Provider)***

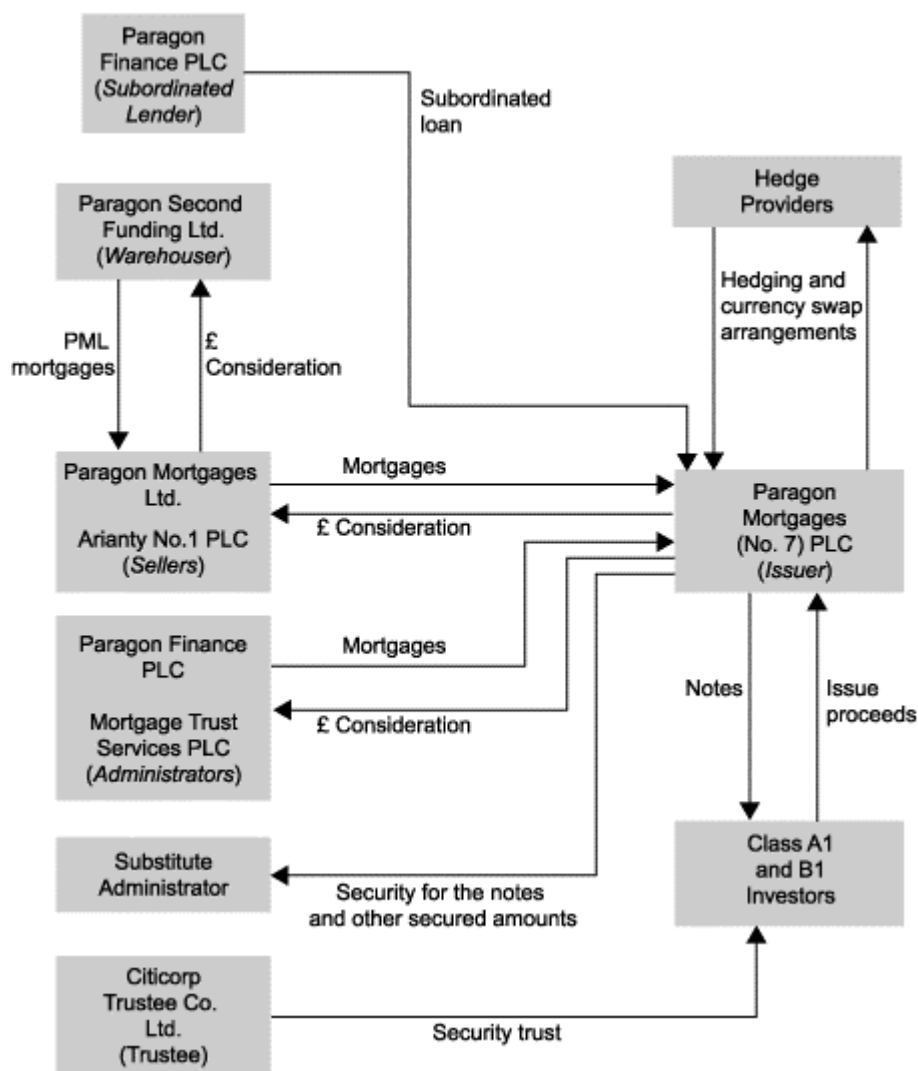
NatWest (AA/Stable/A-1+) will provide the transaction account. Payments from Paragon Mortgages' borrowers will be paid into a collection account, which is also held with NatWest, and then transferred to the transaction account. Payments from Mortgage Trust's borrowers will be paid into a collection account held with Barclays Bank PLC, and then transferred to the transaction account held with NatWest.

## **Transaction Structure**

At closing, and in accordance with the terms of a mortgage sale agreement, the issuer will acquire from Paragon Mortgages and Arianty No.1 PLC the beneficial interest in certain mortgages (issuer mortgages), which will form part of the security for the notes (see

"Security Package" below). The borrowers in respect of the issuer mortgages are individuals or limited liability companies incorporated in the U.K., guaranteed by directors (see chart).

### Paragon Mortgages (No. 7) PLC Structure



Part of the note proceeds will be used to establish a prefunding reserve in an amount of approximately £100 million. Until the first principal determination date, the issuer may use the prefunding reserve to purchase further mortgages from Paragon Mortgages, subject, among other things, to Standard & Poor's being satisfied that the purchases will not adversely affect the existing ratings on the notes. Any amounts outstanding in the prefunding reserve at the end of October 2004 will be applied in redemption of the class A1 notes.

All classes of notes will be secured by all of the mortgages in the pool and repayments to noteholders will be financed from the cash flow generated by the mortgages.

#### **Security Package**

Under the deed of charge to be entered into between the issuer and the trustee, the notes will be secured by a first-fixed charge over the issuer's interest in the mortgages, the issuer's rights under various transaction documents, and other security such as bank accounts (covered under a floating charge ranking behind preferred creditors) and hedging agreements.

#### **Conversion Mortgages**

The administrator may (but is not obliged to) convert a borrower's mortgage into any other type of mortgage if certain conditions are met. These conditions include the following:

- No enforcement notice must have been given by the trustee.
- Conversion will not affect the then ratings on the notes.
- As of the closing date of the transaction, neither Paragon Mortgages nor Arianty No. 1 has failed to repurchase a mortgage for breach of representations in respect of that mortgage.
- The issuer must enter into a hedging arrangement (if required) to ensure that conversion will not affect the ratings on the notes.

#### ***Mandatory and Discretionary Further Advances***

If the issuer is unwilling or unable to make a discretionary further advance, Paragon Mortgages or Mortgage Trust may decide to do so on the condition that this advance is secured by a second mortgage over the property in question.

The issuer may make discretionary further advances, subject to certain conditions, which include the following:

- Lending guidelines must be satisfied.
- If applicable, provisions of the Consumer Credit Act must be complied with.
- Discretionary further advances may not be made out of funds notified as being available for redemption of the notes between the principal determination date and the interest payment date.
- As a result of the discretionary further advance (and any mandatory further advance) the LTV ratio for the entire pool may not increase by more than 1% relative to the LTV ratio at closing.
- Principal available funds or drawn amounts under the subordinated loan must be sufficient to fund the discretionary further advances.
- As a result of the discretionary further advance, the final maturity of the mortgage may not extend beyond the legal final maturity of the notes.
- No more than 2% of the issuer mortgages by current balance may be more than three months in arrears.
- The first-loss fund must be at its required amount.
- There must be no debit balance on the principal deficiency ledger.
- There can be no breach by the borrower of mortgage conditions.

In all cases where Paragon Mortgages or Mortgage Trust makes a mandatory further advance (see below), the issuer is obliged to make funds available from the principal ledger to fund this advance. If there are insufficient funds in the principal ledger, the administrator may draw on funds under the subordinated loan agreement in an amount required to cover this deficiency.

In accordance with Standard & Poor's rating assumptions, as Paragon Finance does not have a sufficient rating, no reliance was placed on the mandatory further advances being financed out of the subordinated loan facility. Standard & Poor's has performed various cash flow stresses and is comfortable that the issuer's obligations with respect to the mandatory further advances can be funded out of available redemption funds.

No mandatory further advance will be made if the borrower breaches any of the mortgage conditions. The issuer will not agree to make a discretionary further advance if the sum of the discretionary and mandatory further advances is greater than 16% of the notes to be issued.

### **Note Terms and Conditions**

The issuer is expected to issue two classes of notes, the class A1 and B1 notes. The class A1 notes will rank senior to the class B1 notes.

Interest will be payable quarterly on the notes based on either three-month U.S. dollar LIBOR plus an annual margin, three-month British pound sterling LIBOR plus an annual margin, or three-month EURIBOR plus an annual margin. Note margins on all outstanding classes will double after May 2010.

#### ***Mandatory Redemption***

The notes will be subject to mandatory redemption in part on each interest payment date, from available funds. There will be no mandatory redemption of the class B1 notes for the first five years from the closing date. Thereafter, while the class A1 and B1 notes remain outstanding, redemption will be applied pro rata, subject to:

- The ratio of the class B1 notes to the aggregate of the outstanding class A1 and B1 notes being no less than twice the ratio at closing;
- There being a zero balance on the principal deficiency ledger;
- The minimum outstanding amount of the class B1 notes being 4.76% of the notes to be issued; and
- Arrears of more than three months being less than 7.5%.

#### ***Prefunding and Nonverified Mortgages***

The issuer may purchase mortgages after the closing date and on or before the first principal determination date. These mortgages are known as nonverified mortgages and must meet certain criteria, including:

- Standard & Poor's confirmation that their inclusion will not have a negative impact on the then ratings on the notes;
- Satisfaction of the conditions precedent and lending criteria for mortgage purchases (e.g., the mortgages have made at least one payment); and
- No occurrence of an administrator termination event.

On closing, the difference between the proceeds from the note issuance and subordinated loan drawing, and the closing mortgage portfolio and the first-loss fund will be credited to the prefunding reserve ledger.

#### ***Purchase of Preclosing Arrears***

Based on the provisional pool data, the issuer will purchase mortgages with an approximate principal balance of £3.6 million that have an outstanding arrears amount in excess of one monthly payment. This outstanding arrears amount is known as "purchased preclosing accruals and arrears". The maximum principal amount of mortgages in arrears by more than one month that will be purchased by the issuer (to include mortgage purchases during the prefunded period) is £8 million. The increased mortgage arrears amount will not present an additional risk to the transaction, as the quality of the portfolio is required to remain similar to that of the closing mortgage pool.

#### ***Optional Redemption***

The issuer may redeem all (but not part only) of the notes at their outstanding principal amount, together with accrued interest if:

- A withholding tax is imposed on the notes or on payments by either party to the swap agreement; or
- The aggregate principal amount outstanding of the notes falls below 20% of the notes to be issued.

The issuer may also redeem at its option the notes on the interest payment date in May 2008 or at any interest payment date thereafter.

#### ***Final Redemption***

If not already redeemed, the class A1 notes will be redeemed at their legal final maturity in May 2034 and the class B1 notes will be redeemed at their legal final maturity in May 2043.

#### ***Withholding Tax***

The issuer will not be required to gross up for any withholding tax that might be imposed on the notes in future.

## **Protection Against Key Risks (Credit and Liquidity)**

#### ***Mortgage Interest Rate Setting***

The administrator will, on behalf of the issuer and trustee, set the rates of interest applicable on the relevant mortgages (other than the fixed-rate, base-rate-linked, or LIBOR-linked mortgages). The administrator must ensure that the weighted average of the rate of interest applicable to the mortgages after taking into account all hedging arrangements and income received from the investment of funds in the transaction account is not less than 1.6% until May 2010 and 2.0% thereafter above the three-month sterling LIBOR applicable.

The administrator may set a lower rate of interest to the extent that the shortfall can be provided out of amounts available in the shortfall fund.

### **Subordinated Loan**

Before closing, Paragon Finance will make available to the issuer a subordinated loan facility that will be drawn on closing. The facility will be used to establish the first-loss fund at 2.2% of the value of the outstanding notes (the "required amount") on closing.

The required amount will increase to 2.9% of the value of the outstanding notes on closing (by trapping issuer income) if arrears greater than 60 days exceed 3.0% of the outstanding collateral balance, and will remain at this level thereafter.

Paragon Finance may agree to make sufficient funds available to allow the issuer to make discretionary further advances to the extent that they cannot be funded out of the available redemption funds.

Additionally, Paragon Finance may (at its discretion) make further amounts available under the subordinated loan agreement. It might want to do this, say, to reduce the principal deficiency ledger to zero, and to bring the first-loss fund up to the required amount, thus enabling the issuer to fund the discretionary further advances from available redemption funds.

Further amounts may also be borrowed, for example, (i) to cover swap and hedging amounts that are junior in the priority of payments, (ii) to pay the issuer any prepayment fees waived by the administrator, (iii) to pay part of the purchase price in relation to discounts on the nonverified mortgages, and (iv) to fund the purchase of additional hedging instruments to the extent they cannot be funded out of the issuer revenue ledger in accordance with the priority of payments.

Amounts borrowed under the subordinated facility will be repaid in accordance with the priority of payments.

### **Collateral Details**

The provisional mortgage pool of £557 million comprises 7,261 loans and was drawn up on March 31, 2004. The loans in the provisional portfolio were originated by Paragon Mortgages and Mortgage Trust between 1996 and 2004 and have been administered by either Paragon Finance, Mortgage Trust, or Mortgage Trust Services PLC (each a member of the Paragon Group of Companies) since origination.

Features of the provisional mortgage pool include the following:

- Each loan is secured by a first legal charge of a residential property in the U.K.
- Of the total pool, 97.2% are buy-to-let mortgages.
- Of the total mortgages, 79.8% are repayment mortgages and 20.2% are interest-only mortgages.
- Of the total loans, 55.91% were used for house and apartment purchases and 44.09% were used for remortgaging.
- The weighted-average LTV ratio of the mortgage pool is 75.85%.
- The average outstanding mortgage balance is £76,735.
- The largest concentration of mortgages by geographic area is in southeast England (including London) at 43.42%. There are no significant concentrations in other regions.
- The weighted-average term to maturity is approximately 20.15 years.

### **Standard & Poor's Stress Test**

The rating analysis includes a conservative assessment of the credit risk inherent in the transaction. The credit enhancement levels have been sized after analyzing the impact that severe stress scenarios would have on the collateral. In determining the credit quality of a mortgage pool, an estimate must be made of a worst case of potential losses that could occur because of foreclosures. This estimate of potential losses is the amount of loss protection needed. All types of loans are thus eligible for inclusion in a pool, provided their credit risk can be quantified and adequate loss protection is supplied.

A feature of the portfolio is the high level of different types of buy-to-let mortgages. These include professional and amateur lettings through personal or corporate loans (usually through SPEs that are guaranteed by directors). The levels of underwriting by the originator are considered to be conservative, but the characteristics of the buy-to-let market create additional risks relative to a typical prime, owner-occupied mortgage

portfolio (such as reliance on tenants to make timely rental payments), notwithstanding the weighted-average LTV ratio of this portfolio. These risks are mitigated through Paragon Mortgages' greater understanding of the market as a specialist lender, its conservative buy-to-let underwriting policy, and its predominance in the professional landlord sector.

The cash flows simulate the performance of this portfolio in the transaction's documented structure under certain stressed scenarios. In addition, the issuer will make use of the basis swap to prevent mismatches in interest rates on any fixed-rate loans. Any bank accounts of the issuer are required to be with appropriately rated providers.

### **Surveillance Details**

Surveillance will be maintained on the transaction until the notes mature or are otherwise retired. To do this, regular servicer reports detailing the performance of the underlying collateral will be analyzed, supporting ratings will be monitored, and regular contact will be made with the servicer to ensure that minimum servicing standards are being sustained and that any material changes in the servicer's operations are communicated and assessed.

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