

BARBADOS PUBLIC WORKERS' CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT UNION LIMITED

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2019

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

26. Financial Risk Management, continued

26.1 Introduction, continued

Risk management structure

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall risk management approach and for approving the risk management strategies and principles.

Supervisory and Audit Committees have the responsibility to monitor the overall risk process within the Group.

The Group's policy is that risk management processes are audited annually by the Internal Audit function, which examines both the adequacy of the processes and the Group's compliance with the processes. Internal Audit discusses the results of all assessments with management, and reports its findings and recommendations to the Supervisory and Finance Committees.

Risk mitigation

As part of its overall risk management, the Group invests a portion of its available funds in lending, financial investments and non-earning assets. The Group's main source of income is derived from lending and it seeks to actively use collateral to reduce its credit risk. The Group also has sought long term funding requirements to match their long term loan position.

In order to avoid excessive concentrations of risk, the Group's policies and procedures include specific guidelines to focus on maintaining a diversified portfolio.

26.2 Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that the Group will incur a loss because its customers or counterparties fail to discharge their contractual obligations. The Group manages and controls credit risk by setting limits on the amount of risk it is willing to accept for individual counterparties and by monitoring exposures in relation to such limits. Credit risk exposures arise principally in lending activities that lead to loans and advances, and investment activities that bring debt securities into the Group's asset portfolio. There is also credit risk in off-balance sheet financial instruments, such as commitments.

Loans and advances

The Group employs a range of policies and practices to mitigate credit risk relating to loans and advances. The most traditional of these is the taking of security for funds advanced. The principal collateral types for loans and advances within the Group are:

- Mortgages over residential properties
- Charges over financial instruments such as debt securities and equities
- Charges over business assets such as premises
- Hypothecation of deposit balances

It is the Group's policy to dispose of repossessed properties in an orderly fashion. The proceeds are used to reduce or repay the outstanding claims. The Group does not occupy repossessed properties for business use.