

VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LTD CO

Form 6-K

January 27, 2003

Form 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

**Pursuant to Rules 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Dated January 27, 2003

VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

THE COURTYARD, 2-4 LONDON ROAD, NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE, RG14 1JX, ENGLAND

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes

No

If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82

THIS REPORT ON FORM 6-K SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON FORM F-3 (FILE NO. 333-10762) AND REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON FORM S-8 (FILE NO. 333-81825) OF VODAFONE GROUP PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY AND TO BE A PART THEREOF FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED, TO THE EXTENT NOT SUPERSEDED BY DOCUMENTS OR REPORTS SUBSEQUENTLY FILED OR FURNISHED.

This Report on Form 6-K contains a press release issued by Vodafone Group Plc on January 27, 2003, entitled VODAFONE ANNOUNCES STRONG THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE .

2002/006

27 January 2003

VODAFONE ANNOUNCES STRONG THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE

Vodafone Group Plc (Vodafone) announces today key performance indicators for the quarter ended 31 December 2002. The main highlights are:

Increase in customer base to 112.5 million, including over 4 million organic net additions in the quarter

12 month rolling ARPU up in all key European markets

Data revenue at 16.0% of service revenues in the month of December, up from 12.7% in the prior year

Sir Christopher Gent, Chief Executive of Vodafone, commented: These KPI s demonstrate continued strong operational performance with better than expected organic customer growth. This is the third consecutive quarter that has seen an increase in Group organic customer growth and in annual ARPU in some of our key markets. Our progress in data revenues is pleasing ahead of the additional benefits expected from our new data service environments.

Customer Growth

In total, over 4.9 million registered proportionate customers were added in the quarter, including 0.9 million from stake changes. The total base has increased to 112.5 million from 107.5 million.

Net additions in Germany of 922,000 and in Italy of 529,000 were the highest levels since March 2001 and December 2001 respectively. In the UK, net additions were 267,000, reflecting the expected return to net growth following periods of disconnecting non-revenue earning handsets.

Growth in contract customers continued to be strong in controlled markets, even though this quarter is traditionally stronger for prepaid growth, with over 500,000 net contract additions in Germany and over 100,000 in the UK.

[More/...](#)

2002/006 - Page 2

Active customers in the Group's controlled businesses remained at 94% of total customers.

Registered Blended ARPU

All key markets in Europe showed an increase this quarter in registered blended ARPU on a 12 month rolling basis. This is the third consecutive quarter to show such an increase in Germany and the UK. The trend in Japan continues to reflect the effect of increasing market penetration levels.

Data as a percentage of service revenues

For the Group's controlled operations, data as a percentage of service revenues increased to 13.9% for the year to December 2002, up from 13.2% for the year to September. Data in the month of December 2002 was 16.0%, up from 12.7% in December 2001.

- ends -

For further information contact:

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VODAFONE GROUP PLC MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESSES

PROPORTIONATE NET CUSTOMERS 1 OCTOBER 2002 TO 31 DECEMBER 2002

| COUNTRY | PERCENTAGE OWNERSHIP(1) (%) | AT 1 OCT 2002 (000s) | CUSTOMER BASE | | AT 31 DEC 2002 (000s) | PREPAID(4) (%) |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | | NET ADDITIONS (000s) | STAKE CHANGES(2) (000s) | | |
| NORTHERN EUROPE | | | | | | |
| UK | 100.0 | 12,957 | 267 | | 13,224 | 59 |
| Ireland | 100.0 | 1,705 | 24 | | 1,729 | 71 |
| Netherlands | 77.6 | 2,290 | * | * | * | * |
| Sweden | 74.6 | 948 | * | * | * | * |
| Others | | 5,141 | 138 | | 5,279 | 52 |
| TOTAL | | 23,041 | 469 | 247 | 23,757 | 56 |
| CENTRAL EUROPE | | | | | | |
| Germany | 100.0 | 21,810 | 922 | | 22,732 | 54 |
| Hungary | 68.3 | 480 | 88 | | 568 | 89 |
| Others | | 1,687 | 106 | | 1,793 | 44 |
| TOTAL | | 23,977 | 1,116 | | 25,093 | 53 |
| SOUTHERN EUROPE | | | | | | |
| Greece | 62.7 | 1,615 | 55 | 349 | 2,019 | 72 |
| Italy | 76.8 | 14,063 | 529 | | 14,592 | 91 |
| Malta | 80.0 | 124 | 8 | | 132 | 92 |
| Portugal | 61.4 | 1,827 | * | | * | * |
| Spain | 93.8 | 7,715 | 406 | | 8,121 | 56 |
| Albania | 81.7 | 207 | 59 | 19 | 285 | 98 |
| Others | | 495 | * | | * | * |
| TOTAL | | 26,046 | 1,145 | 368 | 27,559 | 78 |
| AMERICAS | | | | | | |
| United States(3) | 44.3 | 13,953 | 430 | 3 | 14,386 | 7 |
| Others | | 751 | (32) | | 719 | 83 |
| TOTAL | | 14,704 | 398 | 3 | 15,105 | 11 |
| ASIA PACIFIC | | | | | | |
| Japan | 69.7 | 9,031 | 223 | | 9,254 | 5 |
| Australia | 100.0 | 2,266 | 188 | | 2,454 | 47 |
| New Zealand | 100.0 | 1,156 | 64 | | 1,220 | 78 |
| Others | | 3,712 | 213 | | 3,925 | 58 |

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| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------|
| TOTAL | | 16,165 | 688 | | 16,853 | 53 |
| MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA | | | | | | |
| Egypt | 60.0 | 1,187 | 91 | | 1,278 | 85 |
| Others | | 2,420 | 157 | 262 | 2,839 | 85 |
| TOTAL | | 3,607 | 248 | 262 | 4,117 | 85 |
| GROUP TOTAL | | 107,540 | 4,064 | 880 | 112,484 | 53 |

(1) All ownership percentages are stated as at 31 December 2002 and exclude options, warrants or other rights or obligations of Vodafone Group Plc to increase or decrease ownership in any venture. Ownership interests have been rounded to the nearest tenth of one percent.

(2) Represents the acquisition of stake increases in Vodafone Netherlands from approximately 70.0% to 77.6%, Vodafone Greece from approximately 51.9% to 62.7%, Vodafone Albania from approximately 76.4% to 81.7%, Vodacom Group (Pty) Limited in South Africa from approximately 31.5% to 35.0%, a minor acquisition in the US by Verizon Wireless and a stake dilution in Vodafone Sweden from approximately 74.7% to 74.6%.

(3) The Group's proportionate customer base has been adjusted for Verizon Wireless's proportionate ownership of its customer base across all its network interests of approximately 98.4% at 31 December 2002. In the absence of acquired interests, this proportionate ownership will vary slightly from quarter to quarter dependent on the underlying mix of net additions across each of these networks.

(4) Prepaid customer percentages are calculated on a venture basis.

* Listed subsidiary still to report.

VODAFONE GROUP PLC MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESSES

CONTROLLED ACTIVE CUSTOMER INFORMATION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002

| COUNTRY | PREPAID (%) | CONTROLLED ACTIVE(1) CONTRACT (%) | TOTAL (%) | CONTROLLED INACTIVE (%) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---|--------------|-------------------------------|
| NORTHERN EUROPE | | | | |
| UK | 90 | 96 | 92 | 8 |
| Ireland | 100 | 99 | 100 | 0 |
| Netherlands | * | * | * | * |
| Sweden | * | * | * | * |
| TOTAL | 91 | 96 | 93 | 7 |
| CENTRAL EUROPE | | | | |
| Germany | 90 | 94 | 92 | 8 |
| Hungary | 90 | 97 | 91 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 90 | 94 | 92 | 8 |
| SOUTHERN EUROPE | | | | |
| Greece | 71 | 93 | 77 | 23 |
| Italy | 95 | 92 | 95 | 5 |
| Malta | 94 | 97 | 94 | 6 |
| Portugal | * | * | * | * |
| Spain | 93 | 97 | 95 | 5 |
| Albania | * | * | * | * |
| TOTAL | 92 | 96 | 93 | 7 |
| ASIA PACIFIC | | | | |
| Japan(2) | N/A | N/A | 99 | 1 |
| Australia | 94 | 93 | 93 | 7 |
| New Zealand | 93 | 100 | 95 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 94 | 94 | 98 | 2 |
| MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA | | | | |
| Egypt | 96 | 100 | 96 | 4 |
| TOTAL | 96 | 100 | 96 | 4 |
| CONTROLLED GROUP | | | | |
| TOTAL | 91 | 95 | 94 | 6 |

CONTROLLED ACTIVE CUSTOMER INFORMATION HISTORY

| COUNTRY | CONTROLLED INACTIVE CUSTOMERS AS AT | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | DECEMBER 2001 (%) | MARCH 2002 (%) | JUNE 2002 (%) | SEPTEMBER 2002 (%) | DECEMBER 2002 (%) |
| Germany | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Italy | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| Japan | N/A | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| United Kingdom | 16 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| Controlled Total | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 6 |

(1) Active customers are defined as customers who have made or received a chargeable event in the last three months or, where information is not available, defined as customers who have made a chargeable event in the last three months (indicated by).

(2) Customer activity information for Japan is only available on a total customer basis.

* Listed subsidiary still to report.

VODAFONE GROUP PLC MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESSES

MONTHLY REGISTERED BLENDED ARPU FOR THE 15 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2002

| Country | | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Germany | EUR | 25.6 | 24.3 | 24.1 | 25.1 | 22.7 | 25.4 | 25.2 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 27.9 | 27.7 | 26.8 | 27.4 | 25.4 | 25.4 |
| Italy | EUR | 29.4 | 27.3 | 28.4 | 28.8 | 25.6 | 29.6 | 27.9 | 29.4 | 28.9 | 31.9 | 28.6 | 29.0 | 29.3 | 28.0 | 29.5 |
| Japan | JPY | 7,410 | 7,770 | 7,640 | 7,470 | 7,200 | 7,630 | 7,310 | 7,400 | 7,160 | 7,670 | 7,410 | 7,180 | 7,350 | 7,120 | 7,360 |
| United Kingdom | GBP | 23.8 | 23.2 | 21.8 | 22.9 | 22.0 | 23.8 | 22.9 | 24.6 | 22.7 | 24.9 | 24.7 | 24.9 | 25.5 | 24.3 | 23.5 |

ARPU INFORMATION FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD TO 31 DECEMBER 2002

| COUNTRY | CURRENCY | ARPU(1) | | REGISTERED TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | REGISTERED PREPAID | REGISTERED CONTRACT | |
| NORTHERN EUROPE | | | | |
| UK | GBP | 123 | 533 | 287 |
| Ireland | EUR | 328 | 1,075 | 542 |
| CENTRAL EUROPE | | | | |
| Germany | EUR | 126 | 530 | 312 |
| Hungary | HUF | 43,788 | 177,275 | 56,754 |
| SOUTHERN EUROPE | | | | |
| Italy | EUR | 298 | 800 | 347 |
| Malta | MTL | 87 | 906 | 152 |
| Spain | EUR | 154 | 641 | 377 |
| ASIA PACIFIC | | | | |
| Japan | JPY | N/A | N/A | 88,238 |
| Australia | AUD | 312 | 869 | 648 |
| New Zealand | NZD | 307 | 1,861 | 658 |
| MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA | | | | |
| Egypt | EGP | 694 | 2,861 | 1,001 |

ARPU HISTORY

| COUNTRY | CURRENCY | REGISTERED TOTAL ARPU FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD TO | | | | |
|---------|----------|--|---------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | DECEMBER 2001 | MARCH 2002 | JUNE 2002 | SEPTEMBER 2002 | DECEMBER 2002 |
| Germany | EUR | 303 | 298 | 302 | 308 | 312 |
| Italy | EUR | 345 | 345 | 345 | 345 | 347 |
| Japan | JPY | 93,550 | 91,903 | 90,302 | 89,193 | 88,238 |
| UK | GBP | 278 | 276 | 278 | 282 | 287 |

(1) ARPU is calculated as total revenues excluding handset revenues and connection fees divided by the weighted average number of customers during the period.

VODAFONE GROUP PLC MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESSES

NON-VOICE SERVICES AS A PERCENTAGE OF SERVICE REVENUES

PROPORTIONATE BASIS

| COUNTRY | 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2002 | | | DECEMBER 2002 (MONTH ONLY) | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | MESSAGING DATA | INTERNET DATA | TOTAL DATA | MESSAGING DATA | INTERNET DATA | TOTAL DATA |
| NORTHERN EUROPE | | | | | | |
| UK | 12.9% | 1.0% | 13.9% | 15.2% | 0.8% | 16.0% |
| Others | 8.7% | 0.4% | 9.1% | 10.2% | 0.5% | 10.7% |
| TOTAL | 11.1% | 0.7% | 11.8% | 12.9% | 0.7% | 13.6% |
| CENTRAL EUROPE | | | | | | |
| Germany | 15.3% | 0.8% | 16.1% | 18.4% | 0.8% | 19.2% |
| Others | 7.7% | 0.8% | 8.5% | 9.6% | 1.1% | 10.7% |
| TOTAL | 14.3% | 0.8% | 15.1% | 17.3% | 0.9% | 18.2% |
| SOUTHERN EUROPE | | | | | | |
| Italy | 10.3% | 0.4% | 10.7% | 12.3% | 0.6% | 12.9% |
| Others | 8.6% | 0.2% | 8.8% | 10.2% | 0.5% | 10.7% |
| TOTAL | 9.5% | 0.3% | 9.8% | 11.3% | 0.5% | 11.8% |
| AMERICAS | | | | | | |
| United States | 0.3% | 0.6% | 0.9% | 0.6% | 0.7% | 1.3% |
| Others | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0.3% | 0.6% | 0.9% | 0.5% | 0.7% | 1.2% |
| ASIA PACIFIC | | | | | | |
| Japan | 7.1% | 12.2% | 19.3% | 7.4% | 13.2% | 20.6% |
| Others | 8.0% | 0.4% | 8.4% | 9.7% | 0.4% | 10.1% |
| TOTAL | 7.3% | 9.8% | 17.1% | 7.9% | 10.4% | 18.3% |
| MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA | | | | | | |
| | 3.5% | | 3.5% | 4.5% | | 4.5% |
| PROPORTIONATE GROUP TOTAL | | | | | | |
| | 8.4% | 2.3% | 10.7% | 10.0% | 2.5% | 12.5% |
| <u>STATUTORY BASIS</u> | | | | | | |
| CONTROLLED GROUP TOTAL | | | | | | |
| | 10.5% | 3.4% | 13.9% | 12.3% | 3.7% | 16.0% |

NON-VOICE SERVICES AS A PERCENTAGE OF SERVICE REVENUES - HISTORY

| COUNTRY | 12 MONTHS TO | | | | MONTH ONLY | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | DEC 2001 | MAR 2002 | JUN 2002 | SEP 2002 | DEC 2002 | DEC 2001 | MAR 2002 | JUN 2002 | SEP 2002 | DEC 2002 |
| Germany | 14.3% | 14.4% | 14.8% | 15.4% | 16.1% | 14.6% | 15.2% | 15.6% | 16.2% | 19.2% |
| Italy | 7.9% | 8.7% | 9.4% | 10.1% | 10.7% | 10.7% | 9.8% | 10.4% | 10.4% | 12.9% |
| Japan | 13.4% | 15.1% | 16.6% | 18.1% | 19.3% | 16.0% | 19.8% | 19.9% | 20.2% | 20.6% |
| UK | 10.1% | 11.8% | 12.6% | 13.2% | 13.9% | 12.7% | 13.4% | 14.3% | 13.8% | 16.0% |
| Proportionate Total | 8.0% | 8.7% | 9.5% | 10.1% | 10.7% | 9.7% | 10.3% | 10.9% | 10.9% | 12.5% |
| Statutory Total | 10.2% | 11.1% | 12.1% | 13.2% | 13.9% | 12.7% | 13.5% | 14.0% | 14.3% | 16.0% |

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorised.

VODAFONE GROUP
PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
(Registrant)

Dated: January 27, 2003

By: /s/ S R SCOTT
Name: Stephen R. Scott
Title: Company Secretary
