



**PARAGON CAR FINANCE PRESS RELEASE
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PARAGON GROUP REPORTS RECORD FIRST HALF PROFITS

The Paragon Group of Companies today reported record first half profits, with profit before tax up 19.3% to £58.2 million.

The surge in profit follows a strong first half for the specialist lender's established buy-to-let lending and loan servicing operations, as well as a return to consumer loan origination through the launch of Paragon Bank and its initial range of car finance products through Paragon Car Finance.

For Paragon, the development of Paragon Bank is a key strategic priority, providing an important diversification of the Group's funding sources and putting it in a strong position to take advantage of the growth opportunities in consumer and SME finance markets presented by the UK economic recovery.

Julian Rance, Head of Paragon Car Finance, said: "We've been hugely encouraged by the positive response from brokers and dealers to our recent launch of Paragon Car Finance. The Group's backing and strong financial position are key factors in establishing confidence among the dealer community as we build our distribution and establish our focus on tailored lending solutions."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Paragon Car Finance is part of Paragon Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Paragon Group of Companies. Paragon Bank launched on 18 February 2014.

Established in 1985, The Paragon Group of Companies is best-known as the UK's leading specialist buy-to-let lender and consumer finance Group. A FTSE 250 company, the Group has helped one and half million customers with their finances and has over £10 billion of assets.

Paragon Group was an active lender in the car finance market between 1998 and 2008, originating in excess of £900 million of business via 2,100 dealers and funding over 100,000 cars.

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