

SIGNET JEWELERS LTD
Form 8-K
January 16, 2019

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): January 16, 2019

SIGNET JEWELERS LIMITED
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Commission File Number: 1-32349

Bermuda Not Applicable
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

Clarendon House
2 Church Street
Hamilton
HM11
Bermuda
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(441) 296 5872
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter). Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.



Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement

As previously disclosed, Signet Jewelers Limited (the “Company”) has been cooperating with investigations by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (“CFPB”) and Attorney General for the State of New York (“NY AG”) related to the Company’s in-store credit practices, promotions, and payment protection products. On January 16, 2019, without admitting or denying any of the allegations, findings of fact or conclusions of law (except to establish jurisdiction), the Company’s subsidiary, Sterling Jewelers Inc. (“Sterling”), reached a settlement and entered into a consent order (the “Consent Order”) with the CFPB and NY AG. Pursuant to the Consent Order, Sterling will pay civil money penalties of \$10 million to the CFPB and \$1 million to the NY AG. The Company will recognize the related \$11 million pre-tax charge in the fourth quarter ending February 2, 2019. The Consent Order also includes certain compliance actions the Company must undertake, including continuing to maintain policies and procedures related to the issuance of credit cards, including with respect to credit applications, credit financing terms and conditions and any related add-on products, such as payment-protection insurance, that are reasonably designed to ensure consumer knowledge or consent, and submitting a report to the CFPB and NY AG within 90 days describing compliance with the Consent Order.

A copy of the Consent Order is attached as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference. The description of the Consent Order set forth above does not purport to be complete and is qualified by reference to its full text.

Forward-looking Statements

This Form 8-K contains statements which are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements, based upon management’s beliefs and expectations as well as on assumptions made by and data currently available to management, appear in a number of places throughout this document and include statements regarding, among other things, Signet’s results of operation, financial condition, liquidity, prospects, growth, strategies and the industry in which Signet operates. The use of the words “expects,” “intends,” “anticipates,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “believes,” “should,” “potential,” “may,” “forecast,” “objective,” “plan,” or “t” similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, our ability to implement Signet’s transformation initiative, the effect of US federal tax reform and adjustments relating to such impact on the completion of our quarterly and year-end financial statements, changes in interpretation or assumptions, and/or updated regulatory guidance regarding the US federal tax reform, the benefits and outsourcing of the credit portfolio sale including technology disruptions, future financial results and operating results, the impact of weather-related incidents on Signet’s business, deterioration in the performance of individual businesses or of the Company’s market value relative to its book value, resulting in impairments of fixed assets or intangible assets or other adverse financial consequences, including tax consequences related thereto, especially in view of the Company’s recent market valuation, and our ability to successfully integrate Zale Corporation and R2Net’s operations and to realize synergies from the Zale and R2Net transactions, general economic conditions, potential regulatory changes or other developments following the United Kingdom’s announced intention to negotiate a formal exit from the European Union, a decline in consumer spending, the merchandising, pricing and inventory policies followed by Signet, the reputation of Signet and its banners, the level of competition in the jewelry sector, the cost and availability of diamonds, gold and other precious metals, regulations relating to customer credit, seasonality of Signet’s business, financial market risks, deterioration in customers’ financial condition, exchange rate fluctuations, changes in Signet’s credit rating, changes in consumer attitudes regarding jewelry, management of social, ethical and environmental risks, the development and maintenance of Signet’s omni-channel retailing, security breaches and other disruptions to Signet’s information technology infrastructure and databases, inadequacy in and disruptions to internal controls and systems, changes in assumptions used in making accounting estimates relating to items such as extended service plans and pensions, risks related to Signet being a Bermuda corporation, the impact of the acquisition of Zale Corporation on relationships, including with employees, suppliers, customers and competitors, and an adverse decision in legal or regulatory proceedings.

For a discussion of these and other risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statement, see the “Risk Factors” section of Signet’s Fiscal 2018 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on April 2, 2018 and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC. Signet undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances, except as required by law.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

See Exhibit Index

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

Number Description

99.1 Consent Order, dated January 16, 2019, with Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and Attorney General for the State of New York

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 hereunto duly authorized.

SIGNET JEWELERS LIMITED

Date: January 16, 2019

By: /s/ Lynn Dennison

Name: Lynn Dennison

Title: Chief Legal & Transformation Officer
