305912

WITTON MILL CO., LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1996

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COMPANY INFORMATION

DIRECTORS:

J. W. Walsh

N. J. Walsh E. C. Birtwell

R. H. Emsley

SECRETARY:

J. N. Ratcliffe

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Witton Mill

Stancliffe Street

Blackburn Lancs BB2 2QU

REGISTERED NUMBER:

305912

AUDITORS:

Waterworths

Registered Auditors Chartered Accountants Central Buildings Richmond Terrace Blackburn BB1 7AP

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The Directors present their Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 1996.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the Group is the manufacture and merchanting of textile fabrics.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS

The results for the year and financial position of the Group are as shown in the annexed financial statements. During the year the company commenced a project to replace the existing buildings and equipment with more efficient ones.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The loss for the year, after taxation, amounted to £53,373.

FIXED ASSETS

The Directors are of the opinion that the current market value of the Freehold Land and Buildings is in excess of the book value.

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The directors of the Company in office during the year and their beneficial interests in the issued share capital were as follows:

	<u>At 31 March 1996</u>		At	31 March 1995
	<u>Ordinary</u>	'A' Ordinary	<u>Ordinary</u>	'A' Ordinary
J. W. Walsh	26	-	26	-
E. C. Birtwell	16	34	16	34
N. J. Walsh	10	16	10	16
R. H. Emsley	-			

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the group and of the profit or loss for that period. In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

AUDITORS

On 1 January 1996 our auditors changed the name under which they practise to Waterworths and, accordingly, have signed their report in their new name.

A resolution will be proposed that Waterworths be re-appointed as the company's auditors.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

J. N. RATCLIFFE - Secretary

Dated: 19th July 1996

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF WITTON MILL CO., LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages five to seventeen which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages nine and ten.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page two the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the group's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the group at 31 March 1996 and of the loss of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Waterworths
Registered Auditors
Chartered Accountants
Central Buildings
Richmond Terrace
Blackburn BB1 7AP

TA = 40 C

Dated: 194 July 1996

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

	Notes	19 £	96	1995	
TURNOVER	2	£	£ 15,448,075	£	£ 14,275,722
Change in Stocks of Finished Goods and Work-in-Progress			<u> 185,574</u>		88,925
			15,633,649		14,364,647
Raw Materials and Consumables Other External Charges		8,831,021 2,365,127		8,392,887 1,680,896	
			<u>11,196,148</u>		10,073,783
			4,437,501		4,290,864
Other Operating Income			2,500		9,500
			4,440,001		4,300,364
Staff Costs Depreciation Other Operating Charges	3 4	2,902,536 284,541 1,746,723		2,825,047 338,532 1,522,204	
- 0			4,933,800	11,722,201	4,685,783
OPERATING LOSS	5		(493,799)		(385,419)
Profit on sale of Fixed Assets Income from Fixed Asset Invest Interest Receivable	ments 8		480,080 17,162 640		- 4,700 19,596
Interest Payable	9		(61,829)		(5,226)
LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION			(57,746)		(366,349)
Taxation Credit on loss on Ordinary Activities	10		8.373		13.374
LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION			(49,373)		(352,975)
Dividends: Equity Shares			4,000		4,000
RETAINED LOSS FOR FINANCIAL YE	AR		(53,373)		(356,975)
Retained Profit brought forwar	đ		4.231.194		4,588,169
RETAINED PROFIT CARRIED FORWAR	D		4,177,821		4,231,194

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

None of the group's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current and previous years.

TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

The group has no recognised gains and losses other than the losses for the current year and previous year.

The notes form part of these financial statements

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET As at 31 March 1996

			996	1995	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS:					
Tangible Assets	12		1,403,623		689,268
Investments	13		<u>267,694</u>		<u>258,264</u>
			1,671,317		947,532
CURRENT ASSETS:					
Stocks	14	3,938,442		3,864,263	
Debtors Cash at Bank and in Hand	15	3,441,491 314,217		3,713,730	
odon do bank and in hand				3.374	
		7,694,150		7,581,367	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling	4.0	• 06- 6h6			
due within one year	16	<u>3.867.646</u>		4,277,705	
NET CURRENT ASSETS:			<u>3,826,504</u>		3,303,662
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT L	IABILITIES:		5,497,821		4,251,194
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one					
year	17		_1,300,000		
			4,197,821		4,251,194
CAPITAL AND RESERVES:					
Called Up Share Capital	18		20,000		20,000
Profit and Loss Account			4,177,821		4,231,194
Shareholders' Funds	23		4.197.821		4,251,194

J. W. Walsh - DIRECTOR

Approved by the Board on 1940 July 1996

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 March 1996

			996	1995	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS: Tangible Assets	12		1,270,493		587,844
Investments	13		<u>272,694</u>		<u>263,264</u>
			1,543,187		851,108
CURRENT ASSETS: Stocks Debtors Cash at Bank and in Hand	14 15	2,961,021 1,907,165		2,940,426 2,132,154	
cash at bank and in hand		117,379		2,067	
		4,985,565		5,074,647	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	16	2.187.992		2,830,678	
NET CURRENT ASSETS:			2,797,573		2,243,969
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT L	IABILITIES:		4,340,760		3,095,077
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one					
year	17		1,300,000		
			<u>3,040,760</u>		<u>3.095.077</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES:					
Called Up Share Capital Profit and Loss Account	18		20,000 <u>3,020,760</u>		20,000 <u>3,075,077</u>
a			<u>3,040,760</u>		<u>3.095.077</u>

J. W. Walsh - DIRECTOR

Approved by the Board on 19th July 1996

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

		1996		1995	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	20		(283,766)		(987,886)
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE Interest Received Income from Fixed Asset Inv Interest Paid Dividends paid	estments	640 7,607 (61,829) (4,000)		19,596 5,807 (4,226) (4,000)	
NET CASH (OUTFLOW)/INFLOW FROM RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE	i.		(57,582)		17,177
TAX RECOVERED/(PAID)			13,733		(211,394)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES Purchase of Investments Sale of Investments Purchase of Fixed Assets Sale of Fixed Assets		(59,754) 59,879 (859,698) _508,830		(19,528) 1,644 (97,787) 6,800	
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			(350,743)		(108,871)
NET CASH OUTFLOW BEFORE FINANCING			(678,358)		(1,290,974)
FINANCING Loan advance Capital element of hire purchase contracts		1,500,000 (7.361)		-	
NET CASH INFLOW FROM FINANC	ING 22		1.492.639		<u> </u>
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	21		814,281		(<u>1,290,974</u>)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards issued by the U.K. accountancy bodies.

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Company's financial statements.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting rules.

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated profit and loss account and balance sheet include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertakings made up to 31 March 1996 and accounted for by the acquisition method. The results of subsidiaries sold or acquired are included in the consolidated profit and loss account up to, or from, the date control passes. Intra-group sales are eliminated on consolidation.

A separate profit and loss account dealing with the results of the company is not presented, as permitted by Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985.

Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost less provision for permanent diminution in value.

Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the Cost or Valuation of Tangible Fixed Assets over their estimated useful lives. The rates used on the straight line method are:-

Freehold Buildings : 10% per annum

Leasehold Property : over the period of the lease

Plant and Machinery : 12.5% per annum Motor Vehicles : 25% per annum

Office Furniture & Equipment

- additions to 31 March 1995 : 10%, 20% and 100% : 10% 20% and 20%

Government grants all of which were received prior to 31 March 1991 are shown as a deduction from the cost of the assets to which they relate and depreciation is provided on the net cost.

Hire Purchase

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts are capitalised in the balance sheet and depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

Rentals payable are apportioned between the finance charge and a reduction of the outstanding obligation for future amounts payable, so that the charge for each accounting period is a constant percentage of the remaining balance of the capital sum outstanding.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

Stocks and Work-in-Progress

Stocks and work-in-progress are valued on a 'first-in-first-out' basis at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes all direct expenditure and appropriate production overheads.

Turnover

Turnover represents amounts invoiced by the Company in respect of goods supplied during the year, excluding Value Added Tax.

Repairs and Renewals

Repairs and Renewals are written off as incurred.

Deferred Taxation

Deferred taxation arises when profits and surpluses are recognised in the financial statements in one period, but are assessed to corporation tax in another period.

Deferred taxation is provided on the liability method on all timing differences except where it is probable that the liability will not crystallise.

Foreign Exchange

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Pensions

During the accounting year the group has operated a number of defined contribution schemes, under which contributions are paid by Group Companies and employees. Contributions are charged to profit and loss account as they are paid.

Contributions to the defined benefit scheme ceased on 31 March 1992 and the scheme was wound up during the year.

2. TURNOVER AND LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

Turnover and the loss on ordinary activities before taxation arose from the group's principal activities.

Analysis of turnover by geographical market, is as follows:

United Kingdom

Overseas

1996
£
£
£
14,436,048
14,062,551
1,012,027
213,171

15,448,075
14,275,722

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

3.	STAFF COSTS	1006	1005
	The average number of persons employed by the Group (including Directors) during the year was as follows:	1996	1995
	Office and Management Manufacturing Others	36 136 9	32 155 <u>9</u>
	Staff costs comprise:	<u>181</u>	<u>196</u>
	Wages and Salaries Social Security Costs Other Pension Costs Pension to widow of former Director Redundancy and Ex Gratia payments	£ 2,511,579 230,805 23,862 23,270 113,020	47,461
		2,902,536	2,825,047
4.	DEPRECIATION	£	C
	Depreciation Charge for year - Owned Assets - Assets on Hire Purchase	284,541	£ 337,314 1,218
		284,541	<u>338,532</u>
5.	OPERATING LOSS		
	Operating loss is stated after charging the following:		
	Directors' Remuneration (Note 6) Auditors' Remuneration - audit - non audit services	£ 279,709 15,500 8,700	£ 274,513 15,000 <u>9,700</u>
6.	DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION		
	Emoluments excluding Pension Contributions:		
	Chairman Highest Paid Director	£124,017 Chairman	£124,859 Chairman
	These emoluments are included in the information which foll	.ows.	
	The directors' emoluments, excluding Pension Contributions, franges.	ell within th	ne following
	£ NIL - £ 5,000 £55,001 - £60,000 £60,001 - £65,000	1 1 -	1 1 -

1

1

£75,001 - £80,000 £80,001 - £85,000 £85,001 - £90,000

£125,000

£120,001 -

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

7. PROFIT ON SALE OF FIXED ASSETS

Comprises the profit on sale of machinery in connection with the company's project to replace existing buildings and equipment with more efficient ones. The profit is taxable although the liability to corporation tax has been offset by current year trading losses.

8.	INTEREST RECEIVABLE Interest on Bank Deposits Interest received from Factors	1996 £ 640	1995 £ 16,605 2,991
		<u>640</u>	<u>19.596</u>
9.	INTEREST PAYABLE Interest on Bank Overdraft	£ _61,829	£ 5,226
10.	TAXATION		
	The tax credit on the loss on ordinary activities for the year is as follows:	£	£
	UK Corporation Tax	<u>8.373</u>	<u>13.374</u>
11.	LOSS FOR THE YEAR		
	Dealt with in the financial statements of the Company	£ (<u>54,317</u>)	£ (<u>356,151</u>)

The exemption contained in Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985 applies and a Profit and Loss Account for the Company has not been presented.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

	<u>Land and</u> Freehold	Buildings Short	and Asset		Plant an Machiner	
		Term	under construct:	ion		
GROUP: COST:	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 1995 Additions Disposals	1,390,673 - -	188,227 - -	- 839,696 -	443,853 104,872 (81,526)	6,820,115 83,078 (920,148)	1,027,
At 31 March 1996	1,390,673	188,227	839,696	467,199	5,983,045	8,868.
DEPRECIATION:						
At 31 March 1995 Charge for the year Eliminated on	1,199,714 108,526	24,987 6,275	- -	261,236 76,295	6,667,663 93,445	8,153, 284,
Disposals		-	-	(52,776)	(920,148)	(972.
At 31 March 1996	1,308,240	31,262	-	284,755	5,840,960	<u>7.465.</u>
NET BOOK VALUE:						
As at 31 March 1996	82,433	<u> 156,965</u>	839,696	182,444	142,085	1,403,
As at 31 March 1995	190,959	163,240	-	182,617	152,452	689.
COMPANY:						
COST:						
At 31 March 1995 Additions	1,390,673	188,227	- 839,696	280,464	6,761,380	-
Disposals				7,500 -	78,067 (918,448)	925, (918,
At 31 March 1996	1,390,673	188,227	839,696	287,964	5,920,999	8,627,
DEPRECIATION:						
At 31 March 1995	1,199,714	24,987	-	182,706	6,625,493	8,032,
Charge for the year	108,526	6,275	-	43,382	84,431	242,
Eliminated on Disposal		-	-	-	(918,448)	(918.4
At 31 March 1996	1,308,240	31,262	-	226,088	5,791,476	7,357.
NET BOOK VALUE:						
As at 31 March 1996	82,433	156,965	839,696	61,876	129,523	1.270

135,887

97,758

587,844

<u> 190,959 163,240 - </u>

As at 31 March 1995

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

13.	INVESTMENTS	COMPANY			CDOUD
		Shares in Subsidiary (Note 19)	Listed Investments	Total	GROUP Listed Investments
	COST Balance 1 April 1995 Additions Disposals	£ 10,000	£ 258,264 59,754 (50,324)	£ 268,264 59,754 (50,324)	£ 258,264 59,754 (50,324)
	Balance 31 March 1996	10,000	<u> 267.694</u>	<u>277.694</u>	<u>267,694</u>
	PROVISION FOR DIMINUTION IN VALUE				
	At 1 April 1995 & 31 March 1996	<u>(5,000</u>)		<u>(5,000</u>)	
	NET BOOK VALUE				
	As at 31 March 1996	<u>5,000</u>	<u>267.694</u>	<u>272,694</u>	<u>267.694</u>
	As at 31 March 1995	<u>5,000</u>	<u>258,264</u>	<u>263,264</u>	<u>258,264</u>
	Market value of listed investments		<u>303.946</u>		<u>303,946</u>
		COME	PANY	GROU	JP
14.	STOCKS	1996 £	1995 £	1996 £	1995 £
	Raw Materials Work-in-Progress Finished Goods	1,759,630 471,058 730,333	1,914,293 677,175 348,958	2,003,718 720,506 1,214,218	2,115,112 905,676 843,475
		<u>2,961,021</u>	<u>2.940.426</u>	3.938.442	<u>3.864.263</u>
15.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2	a	٥
	Trade Debtors Factored Trade Debtors Advance Corporation Tax recoverable after more	£ 1,329,951 -	£ 1,618,330 -	£ 1,390,694 2,020,652	
	than one year Dividend Receivable from	-	2,000	-	2,000
	Group Company	260,000	150,000	10.060	10= 071
	Prepayments Amounts owed by Group Company	5,000 302,038	183,939 164,349	19,969	185,971
	Corporation Tax Recoverable	10,176	13,536	10.176	13,536
	corporation tax necoverable				

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

		COMPANY		GROUP	
		1996	1995	1996	1995
16.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING				
	DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR				
		£	£	£	£
	Bank Loan and Overdraft	200,000	727,812	200,000	503,438
	Trade Creditors	1,532,899	1,687,860	2,944,868	2,875,909
	Other Taxes and Social Security	132,406	287,788	340,595	436,010
	Hire Purchase	-	-	-	7,361
	Other Creditors	18,844	21,227	18,844	21,227
	Accruals	273,666	85,026	333,162	119,897
	Advances from Factors	-	-	-	292,898
	Directors' Loan Accounts	26,177	16,965	26,177	16,965
	Proposed Dividend	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
		<u>2,187,992</u>	<u>2,830,678</u>	<u>3,867,646</u>	4,277,705

The Bank loan and overdraft are secured by a legal charge over all the group's assets.

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

AFTER MORE TRAN ONE TEAM	£	£	£	£
Bank loan - repayable in two to five years Bank loan - repayable over five years	1,100,000	-	1,100,000	-
	200,000		200,000	
	1,300,000	-	1,300,000	

The Bank loan and overdraft are secured by a legal charge over all the group's assets.

The Bank loan is repayable in equal quarterly instalments over a five year period commencing mid 1996. Interest is charged at a commercial rate.

18. CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL

Authorise	i:		_	
Number:	Class:	Nominal	1996	1995
		Value:	£	£
100	Ordinary Shares	£100	10,000	10,000
100	'A' Ordinary		·	
	Shares	£100	10,000	10,000
	Onar CD			
			20,000	20,000
Allotted	issued and full;	v naid:		
	Class:	Nominal	1996	1995
Number:	Class:	··	£	£
		Value:	**	·= -
100	Ordinary Shares	£100	10,000	10,000
100	'A' Ordinary			
	Shares	£100	<u> 10,000</u>	<u> 10,000</u>
			20,000	20,000
100	-	£100		

The ordinary shares and 'A' ordinary shares rank equally in all respects other than the holders of 'A' ordinary shares and have no voting rights.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

19. INVESTMENT IN SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

	Name of Subsidiary	Principal Activity	Share Holding		
	Norjon Fabrics Ltd. Wittrex International	Dormant	100%		
	Limited	Textile Merchants	100%		
20.	RECONCILIATION OF OPERATION OUTFLOW FROM OPERATING ACCORDERATING ACCORDERATING ACCORDERATING ACCORDERATION (Profit)/Loss on Sale of Increase in Stocks Decrease/(Increase) in De(Decrease)/Increase in Cr	TIVITIES Fixed Assets btors		1996 £ (493,799) 290,254 (5,713) (74,179) 266,879 (267,208)	335,541 2,991
21.	ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN CA	SH AND CASH EQUIVALE	NTS	1996 £	1995 £
	Cash and Bank Balances at Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow)			(500,064) <u>814,281</u>	790,910
	Cash and bank balances at	31 March 1996		314,217	<u>(500,064</u>)
22.	ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN FI	NANCING DURING THE Y	EAR		Loans £
	Balance 1 April 1995 Hire Purchase capital rep Bank loan advance	payments			7,361 (7,361) 1,500,000
	Balance 31 March 1996				<u>1,500,000</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 March 1996

23.	RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	1996 £	1995 £
	Loss for the Financial Year Dividends	(49,373) (4,000)	(352,975) (4,000)
	NET REDUCTION IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	(53,373)	(356,975)
	Opening Shareholders' Funds	4.251.194	4,608,169
	Closing Shareholders' Funds	4,197,821	4,251,194
	Equity Interests	4,197,821	<u>4,251,194</u>
24.	PENSION COSTS	£	£
	Pension costs charged against profit: Defined Contribution Schemes Ex Gratia Pension	23,862 23,270	47,461 22,162
		47,132	69,623

The defined benefit scheme referred to last year has been wound up during the year.

25. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company has guaranteed the bank borrowings of the subsidiary trading company, which at the balance sheet date were £Nil (1995: £Nil).

26. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The capital commitments of the group and the company at the year end were:

	1996	1995
	£	£
Authorised and contracted for	<u>2,721,000</u>	-