



**HOW ENGINEERING SERVICES  
SOUTHERN LIMITED**

**Report and Financial Statements**

**31 December 1996**

**Deloitte & Touche  
Colmore Gate  
2 Colmore Row  
Birmingham  
B3 2BN**



## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 1996.

### **ACTIVITIES**

The Company has not traded during the year and consequently no profit and loss account is presented with this report.

### **DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS**

The directors who served during the year were:

D Summerfield (Chairman)

C S Dixon

In accordance with the Articles of Association directors are not required to retire by rotation.

The directors hold no shares of the Company.

The director who is not also a director of the ultimate parent undertaking, How Group plc, held the following interests in the 10p ordinary shares of that company:

	At 31 December 1996		At 31 December 1995	
	Fully paid	Share options	Fully paid	Share options
C S Dixon	252,110	215,000	252,110	215,000

D Summerfield is also a director of How Group plc and his interests are disclosed in that company's financial statements.

### **AUDITORS**

Deloitte & Touche have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors and a resolution to reappoint them will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Board of Directors  
 and signed on behalf of the Board



C S DIXON

Secretary



## **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 as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss of the Company 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
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



## Chartered Accountants

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## AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

## HOW ENGINEERING SERVICES SOUTHERN LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 4 and 5 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 5.

### Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 2 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 Company'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 the Company's affairs at 31 December 1996 and of its result for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

*Neville. Pearce*

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

*2 June 1997*





**BALANCE SHEET**  
**31 December 1996**

	Note	1996 £	1995 £
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	2	<u>(267,342)</u>	<u>(267,342)</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>			
Called up share capital	3	10,000	10,000
Other reserves		37,651	37,651
Profit and loss account		<u>(314,993)</u>	<u>(314,993)</u>
<b>EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' DEFICIT</b>		<u>(267,342)</u>	<u>(267,342)</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 21 March 1997.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

D SUMMERFIELD

Director

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**Year ended 31 December 1996**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

The ultimate parent undertaking, How Group plc, has informed How Engineering Services Southern Limited that it intends to make available the finance necessary to satisfy all agreed creditors reflected in the Balance Sheet at 31 December 1996.

**2. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	1996 £	1995 £
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	267,342	267,342

**3. CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL**

	1996 £	1995 £
Authorised, allotted and fully paid 10,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	10,000	10,000

**4. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

The Company has entered into an unlimited multilateral guarantee in respect of the bank borrowings of How Group plc and its subsidiary undertakings, under which the Company had a contingent liability at 31 December 1996 of £17,285,303 (1995 - £16,369,737) relating to the overdrafts of certain companies.

**5. PARENT UNDERTAKINGS**

The Company's ultimate parent undertaking is How Group plc.

How Group plc is the parent undertaking of the largest group of which How Engineering Services Southern Limited is a member and for which group accounts are drawn up.

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Accounts for both parent undertakings have been delivered and are available from the Registrar of Companies, Crown Way, Maindy, Cardiff, CF4 3UZ.