Directors' report and financial statements

Year ended 27 December 2019

Registered number: 00983376

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## Directors' report and financial statements

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#### Directors and other information

**Directors** R. J. McClean

M. R. Preston (resigned 31 January 2019)

R. Gray (appointed and resigned 31 January 2019)

S. Harton (appointed 31 January 2019)

Secretary R. Gray

Registered office 39 Welbeck Street

London W1G 8DR United Kingdom

Independent auditor KPMG

**Chartered Accountants** 

1 Stokes Place St. Stephen's Green

Dublin 2 Ireland

Bankers First Trust Bank Ltd

35 University Road

Belfast

Registered number 00983376

#### Directors' report

The directors present their directors' report and the audited financial statements of Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd ("the Company") for the year ended 27 December 2019.

#### **Principal activities**

The principal activity during the year was that of investment holding.

#### **Business review**

The directors do not foresee any significant changes to the business in the forthcoming year.

#### Results and dividends

The loss for the year, after taxation, amounted to £630,000 (2018: loss of £630,000).

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2018: £Nil).

#### Going concern

This financial information has been prepared on the going concern basis, despite the Company having net liabilities of £183,450, which assumes that the Company will continue to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future.

The Company's parent undertaking, Independent News & Media Group Limited, has confirmed that it will not request repayment of the intercompany balances for a period of at least twelve months from the date these financial statements are approved to ensure the Company can continue to trade.

Due to the current challenging environment of COVID – 19, the directors have considered the impact on the Company's use of the going concern basis of preparation at the date of signing of these financial statements.

The Independent News & Media Group, of which the Company is a member, has already taken various actions to secure the business of the Group including:

- a) Employee Health & Safety Plan;
- b) Forecasted cash inflows and outflows for the upcoming 12 months;
- c) Cost cutting measures such as adjustments to paginations, reallocation of distribution schedules, removal of discretionary spend and appropriate renegotiations with suppliers.

The Directors, having made enquiries, believe that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and that it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

#### **Directors and secretary**

The names of the persons who were directors during the year are set out below. Except where indicated, they served as directors for the entire year:

- R. J. McClean
- M. R. Preston (resigned 31 January 2019)
- R. Gray (appointed and resigned 31 January 2019)
- S. Harton (appointed 31 January 2019)

#### Directors' report (continued)

#### **Small companies exemption**

The directors have availed of the small companies exemption provided by Section 414B of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented a separate strategic report.

#### Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the persons who are directors at the time of approval of this report has confirmed that:

- so far as that director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware, and
- that director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware
  of any information needed by the Company's auditors in connection with preparing their report and to
  establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

#### Political contributions

The Company made no political contributions or incurred any political expenditure during the current or prior year.

#### Subsequent events

Information in respect of subsequent events is contained in note 13.

#### Independent auditor

Pursuant to Section 487 of the Companies Act 2006, the auditor will be deemed to be reappointed and KPMG will therefore continue in office.

On behalf of the board

R. J. McClean Director 39 Welbeck Street London W1G 8DR

29/09/ 2020

Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the directors' report and the financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 101 *Reduced Disclosure Framework*.

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that year. In preparing these 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;
- assess the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are responsible for such internal controls as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board

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R. J. McClean Director 29/09/2020



KPMG Audit 1 Stokes Place St. Stephen's Green Dublin 2 D02 DE03 Ireland

Independent auditor's report to the members of Independent News & Media (UK) Limited

#### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Independent News & Media (UK) Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 27 December 2019 set out on pages 8 to 19, which comprise the statement of profit or loss account and other comprehensive income, the balance sheet, the statement of changes in equity and related notes, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is UK Law and FRS 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 27 December 2019 and
  of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council (FRC)'s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### We have nothing to report on going concern

The directors have prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to liquidate the Company or to cease its operations, and as they have concluded that the Company's financial position means that this is realistic. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

We are required to report to you if we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting is inappropriate or there is an undisclosed material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt over the use of that basis for a period of at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In our evaluation of the directors' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the Company's business model and analysed how those risks might affect the Company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period. We have nothing to report in these respects.



Independent auditor's report to the members of Independent News & Media (UK) Limited (continued)

Report on the audit of the financial statements (continued)

#### We have nothing to report on going concern

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the Company will continue in operation.

#### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information presented in the Annual Report together with the financial statements. The other information comprises the information included in the directors' report. The financial statements and our auditor's report thereon do not comprise part of the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

Based solely on our work on the other information;

- we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report;
- in in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements:
- in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

We have nothing to report in these respects.



Independent auditor's report to the members of Independent News & Media (UK) Limited (continued)

#### Respective responsibilities and restrictions on use

#### Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements including being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

#### The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Eamon Ollon

29 September 2020

Eamon Dillon
Senior Statutory Auditor
for and on behalf of
KPMG Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
1 Stokes Place
St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

# Statement of profit or loss account and other comprehensive income for the year ended 27 December 2019

	Note	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Profit for the year Interest payable and similar charges	2 4	(630)	(630)
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation		(630)	(630)
Taxation on loss on ordinary activities	5	•	<b>-</b>
Loss for the financial period		(630)	(630)
Other comprehensive income		-	
Total comprehensive loss for the year		(630)	(630)

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form an integral part of the financial statements.

All activates relate to continuing operations.

## Balance sheet as at 27 December 2019

	Note	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Non-current assets Financial assets	6	50	50
Current assets Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	7	67,669	68,299
		67,669	68,299
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(251,169)	(251,169)
Net current liabilities		(183,500)	(182,870)
Total assets less current liabilities		(183,450)	(182,820)
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	<b>9</b> .	-	-
Net liabilities		(183,450)	(182,820)
Capital and reserves Called up share capital	10	328,900	328,900
Share premium account Retained deficit		8 (512,358)	8 (511,728)
Shareholders' deficit		(183,450)	(182,820)

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

29/09/2020

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on and were signed on its behalf by:

R J McClean Director

Registered number: 00983376

## Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 27 December 2019

	Called up share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Retained deficit £'000	Total equity £'000
Balance at 29 December 2017	328,900	8	(511,098)	(182,190)
Total comprehensive income for the year				
Loss for the year		-	(630)	(630)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-		(630)	(630)
Balance at 28 December 2018	328,900	8	(511,728)	(182,820)
Total comprehensive income for the year				
Loss for the year	-	<u>-</u>	(630)	(630)
Total comprehensive loss for the year		<u>-</u>	(630)	(630)
Balance at 27 December 2019	328,900	8	(512,358)	(183,450)

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

#### **Notes**

forming part of the financial statements

#### 1 Accounting policies

Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd ("the Company") is a private company incorporated, domiciled and registered in England in the UK. The registered number is 00983376 and registered address is 39 Welbeck Street, London, W1G 8DR, United Kingdom.

#### 1.1 Statement of compliance

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework ("FRS 101").

In preparing these financial statements, the Company applies the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU ("Adopted IFRSs"), amendments where necessary in order to comply with the Companies Act 2006 and has set out below where advantage of the FRS 101 disclosure exemptions has been taken.

The company is exempt by virtue of Section 400 of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirement to prepare group financial statements. These financial statements present information about the Company as an individual undertaking and not about its group.

The company's ultimate parent undertaking, Mediahuis NV, includes the company in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements of Mediahuis NV are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and are available to the public and may be obtained from www.mediahuis.be.

In these financial statements, the Company has applied the exemptions available under FRS 101 in respect of the following disclosures:

- Cash flow statement and related notes;
- Comparative period reconciliations for share capital;
- Disclosures in respect of transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries;
- Disclosures in respect of capital management;
- An additional balance sheet for the beginning of the earliest comparative period following the
  retrospective change in accounting policy, the correction of error, or the reclassification of items
  in the financial statements;
- Disclosures in respect of the compensation of key management personnel.

As the consolidated financial statements of Mediahuis NV include the equivalent disclosures, the Company has also taken the exemption under FRS 101 available in respect of the following disclosures:

 Certain disclosures required by IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement and the disclosures required by IFRS 7 Financial Instrument Disclosures.

#### Change in accounting policy/prior period adjustment

- The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently
  to all periods presented in these financial statements.
- IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and IFRS 9 Financial Instruments were adopted during the year. These did not have a material effect on the financial statements.

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.1 Statement of compliance (continued)

#### Change in accounting policy/prior period adjustment (continued)

- The Company has not changed any of its accounting recognition and measurement policies to disclose:
  - o IAS 7 (effective in 2017)
  - o IAS 12 (effective in 2017)

#### 1.2 Basis of preparation of the financial statements

#### Functional currency

The Company's financial statements are denominated in pound sterling which is its functional currency.

#### Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

#### Judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with FRS 101 requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which are the basis of making the judgement about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The areas requiring a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the consolidation financial statements, relate primarily to accounting for exceptional items.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

#### 1.3 Going concern

This financial information has been prepared on the going concern basis, despite the Company having net liabilities of £183,450, which assumes that the Company will continue to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future.

The Company's parent undertaking, Independent News & Media Group Limited, has confirmed that it will not request repayment of the intercompany balances for a period of at least twelve months from the date these financial statements to ensure the Company can continue to trade.

Due to the current challenging environment of COVID-19, the directors have considered the impact on the Company's use of the going concern basis of preparation at the date of signing of these financial statements.

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.3 Going concern (continued)

The Independent News & Media Group, of which the Company is a member, has already taken various actions to secure the business of the Group including:

- a) Employee Health & Safety Plan;
- b) Forecasted cash inflows and outflows for the upcoming 12 months;
- c) Cost cutting measures such as adjustments to paginations, reallocation of distribution schedules, removal of discretionary spend and appropriate renegotiations with suppliers.

The Directors, having made enquiries, believe that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and that it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.4 Financial assets

#### Non-derivative financial assets

Financial assets are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is objective evidence of impairment.

Objective evidence that financial assets are impaired includes:

- default or delinquency by a debtor;
- restructuring of an amount due to the Company on terms that the Company would not consider otherwise:
- indications that a debtor will enter bankruptcy;
- adverse changes in the payment status of borrowers or issuers;
- observable data indicating that there is measurable decrease in expected cash flows from a group of financial assets.

#### Financial assets measured at amortised cost

The Company consider evidence of impairment for these assets at both an individual asset and at a collective level. All individually significant assets are individually assessed for impairment. Those found not to be impaired are then collectively assessed for any impairment that has been incurred but not yet individually identified. Assets that are not individually significant are collectively assessed for impairment. Collective assessment is carried out by grouping together assets with similar risk characteristics. In assessing collective impairment, the Company use historical information on the timing of recoveries and the amount of loss incurred and makes an adjustment if current economic and credit conditions are such that actual losses are likely to be greater or lesser than suggested by historical trends.

An impairment loss is calculated as the difference between an asset's carrying amount, and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Losses are recognised in profit or loss and reflected in an allowance account. When the Company consider that there are no realistic prospects of recovery of the asset, the relevant amounts are written off. If the amount of impairment loss subsequently decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, then the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed through profit or loss.

#### 1.5 Financial year

The financial year ends on the Friday nearest 31 December. Periodically, this will result in a fifty-three week year. There were 52 weeks in the 2019 financial year and 52 weeks in the 2018 financial year.

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.6 Taxation

Income tax comprises the sum of current and deferred tax. It is recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to a business combination or item recognised directly in equity or in other comprehensive income.

Current tax is based on taxable profit for the year and any adjustments in respect of previous years. It is measured using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of temporary differences that exist at the reporting date. A temporary difference is a difference arising between the tax base of all assets (except goodwill) and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. However, if the temporary difference arises from the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination, that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss, it is not recognised. Deferred tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date and are expected to apply when the related deferred tax asset is realised or the deferred tax liability is settled. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Deferred tax is provided on temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries, joint arrangements and associates, except where the timing of the reversal of the temporary difference is controlled by the Group and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

#### Group relief

Payments receivable in respect of tax losses surrendered as group relief are recognised in the year the losses are surrendered.

Unrealised tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities and other future taxable profits.

#### 1.7 Basic financial instruments

The Company classify non-derivative financial assets as loans and receivables and non-derivative financial liabilities as trade creditors.

#### Non-derivative financial assets and financial liabilities - recognition and derecognition

The Company initially recognise loans and receivables on the date when they are originated. All loans and receivables and other financial liabilities are initially recognised on the trade date when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instruments.

The Company derecognise a financial asset only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset to another entity. If the Company neither transfer nor retain substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership and continue to control the transferred asset, the Company recognise its retained interest in the asset and an associated liability for amounts it may have to pay. If the Company retain substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of a transferred financial asset, the Company continue to recognise the financial asset. On de-recognition of a financial asset the difference between the carrying amount and the consideration received is recognised in profit or loss. The Group and the Company derecognise a financial liability when their contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled or expired.

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.7 Basic financial instruments (continued)

Non-derivative financial assets and financial liabilities - recognition and derecognition (continued)

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset, and the net amount presented in these separate statements of financial position when, and only when, the Company have a currently enforceable legal right to offset the amounts and intends either to settle them on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### Non-derivative financial assets - measurement

Loans and receivables

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transactions costs.

Subsequent to initial recognition, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts (including all fees on points paid or received that form an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Loans and receivables comprise of cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables.

#### 1.8 Expenses

#### Interest payable

Interest payable and similar expenses include interest payable, finance expense on shares classified as liabilities and net foreign exchange losses that are recognised in the profit and loss account.

#### 1.9 Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the Company's functional currencies at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are retranslated to the functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are stated at fair value are retranslated to the functional currency at foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates the fair value was determined. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the profit and loss account.

#### 2 Operating (loss)/profit

Auditor's remuneration was borne by the parent company in 2019 and 2018.

#### 3 Directors' emoluments and employees

The Company has no employees other than the directors, who did not receive any remuneration during the year (2018: £Nil).

4	Interest payable and similar charges	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	On loans from Group undertakings	630	630
		630	630
5	Tax on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	UK corporation tax charge on profit for the year	-	-

#### Factors affecting tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is lower than (2018: lower than) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2018: 19%). The differences are explained below:

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Loss on ordinary activities before tax	(630)	(630)
Loss on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19 % (2018: 19%)	(120)	(120)
Effects of: Expenses not deductible for tax purposes Deferred tax not recognised Group relief	- - 120	- 120
Tax charge for the year		-

#### 5 Tax on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities (continued)

No deferred tax was recognised at 27 December 2019 (2018: £Nil) on the basis that there is insufficient evidence of suitable taxable profits against which the tax losses can be offset against. The Company has a total potential deferred tax asset of £7.9m (2018: £7.9m).

#### Factors that may affect future tax charges

Reductions in the main rate of UK corporation tax rate to 19% (effective from 1 April 2017) and to 18% (effective 1 April 2020) were enacted on 26 October 2015. Finance Act 2016 further reduced the 18% rate to 17% from 1 April 2020. Budget 2020 announced that the rate would remain at 19% for years commencing 1 April 2020 and 1 April 2021. Deferred tax has been provided at the rate at which it is expected to reverse.

6	Financial assets	Investments in subsidiary companies £'000		
	Carrying amount at beginning of the year Impairment during the year	50 -		
	Carrying amount at the end of the year	50		

The following were subsidiary undertakings of the Company:

Name	Class of shares	Holding 2019	Holding 2018
Independent News and Media Ltd <sup>1</sup>	Ordinary	100%	100%
Independent Newspapers (Finance) Plc1*	Ordinary	100%	100%
Independent News & Media (Northern Ireland) Ltd1*	Ordinary	100%	100%
Belfast Telegraph Newspapers Ltd <sup>2*</sup>	Ordinary	100%	100%
Belfast Telegraph Pension Trustees Ltd1*	Ordinary	100%	100%
Newspread (United Kingdom) Ltd1*	Ordinary	100%	100%
Wholesale Newspaper Services Ltd <sup>3</sup>	Ordinary	100%	100%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Registered at 39 Welbeck Street, London, W1G 8DR

The directors are of the opinion that the values of the investments in subsidiaries and in other investments are not less than their book values.

Consolidated accounts are not submitted in accordance with Section 400 of the Companies Act 2006 as the Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mediahuis NV, a company incorporated in Belgium.

The directors believe that the carrying amount of the investments is supported by their underlying net assets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Registered at 33 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 3BG

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Registered at Wns Building, Altnagelvin Industrial Estate, Londonderry, Co Londonderry, BT47 2ED \*Direct holdings

7	Debtors	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Due within one year Amounts owed by Group undertakings	67,669	68,299
		67,669	68,299
	Amounts due from group undertakings are interest free, unsecu	red and repayable	on demand.
8	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Amounts owed to group undertakings	251,169	251,169
		251,169	251,169
	Amounts owed to group undertakings are interest free, unsecur-	ed and repayable	on demand.
9	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-
	Amount due to group undertakings are interest free and unsecu	red.	<del></del>
10	Share capital	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Allotted, called up and fully paid 328,900,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	328,900	328,900

#### 11 Contingent liabilities

The Company had no material contingent liabilities as at 27 December 2019 (2018: £nil).

#### 12 Capital commitments

The Company had no capital commitments as at 27 December 2019 (2018: £nil).

#### 13 Ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party

The immediate parent company is Independent Communications (International) Limited, a company incorporated in the Republic of Ireland.

On 31 July 2019, Independent News and Media PLC was acquired by MediaHuis NV, a private European media group, headquartered in Antwerp, Belgium by way of a Court approved Scheme of Arrangement. The ultimate parent of the Company is now MediaHuis NV.

The Company's holding undertaking, MediaHuis NV includes the Independent News and Media Group Limited in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements of MediaHuis NV are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and are available to the public and may be obtained from www.mediahuis.be

#### 12 Related party transactions

The Company has availed of the exemptions available in FRS 101 from disclosing transactions entered into between two or more members of a group and also key management personnel compensation disclosures. There were no other related party transactions.

#### 13 Subsequent events

The global markets have experienced and may continue to experience significant volatility resulting from the spread of a novel coronavirus known as COVID – 19. It is still not possible to reliably estimate the length and severity of this outbreak and hence it's financial and economic impact. The outbreak of COVID – 19 has resulted in travel and border restrictions, quarantines, supply chain disruptions, lower consumer demand, lockdown of economic activity and general market uncertainty. The directors have assessed any potential impact on the application of the Going Concern basis.

On 21 January 2020, the Company acceded as guarantor to the banking facilities ('the facilities') of Mediahuis NV, in conjunction with other group companies.