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NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 December 2000



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NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
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REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 December 2000

CONTENTS	Page
Report of the Board of Management	1
Auditors' Report	5
Revenue Account	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes on the Accounts	8

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The members of the Board present their twenty fourth report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2000.

**Responsibilities of Members of the Board**

Company law requires members of the Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements Members of the Board are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently, make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

Members of the Board 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Results**

In 2000 the company recorded a deficit of £1,790 for the year caused by reduced membership fees, due to resignations and increased expenditure on the Awards and in the political liaison areas. The Director has been requested to introduce a strict spending reduction regime for 2001 and the fees to members have been increased by 5% for 2001. It is believed that simultaneously these measures will correct the situation in the coming year.

**Review of the business**

The company was incorporated on the 26 September 1975 and on that date took over the activities and surplus assets of the National Home Improvement Council.

The Director has maintained a strict financial regime but there have been some additional costs associated with an enlarged Awards Programme and a more pro-active position with political liaison.

Membership of the NHIC fell in 2000 despite 2 new members joining, bringing the total to 45. Discussions are always in hand with Companies and Trade Associations but care is taken to ensure that only organisations of sufficient size and status are considered to ensure that the list of members is sufficiently prestigious strengthening the NHIC case for the renovation and modernisation of existing homes. A net increase of 4 additional members is forecast for the year 2001.

The NHIC has re-published its Objectives within its new brochure. These include the continuing release of Capital Receipts to fund home improvements, an increase in the funding of Discretionary Grants to reduce the number of unfit dwellings, and a reduction in VAT for labour and products to stimulate the whole home improvement industry.

The government spending plans for housing over the next years will see significant support for the public sector, and the NHIC has now entered the debate on the best way forward to stimulate the private home owner and private rented sector. These account for 80% of the housing market.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The NHIC continues to make a point that of the estimated 4.4 million additional households to be formed in the next 20 years, as many as over 1 million could be accommodated by the conversion of existing and empty homes plus offices and shops. The debate will continue into 2001.

The NHIC website established in 1998 was completely reviewed during the year and will undergo a further revision in the year 2001. This is a large site which contains a private area for members information, a list of members with a Hotlink to Members' Own Internet Site, an Our House page for general home improvement information, and the press releases both current and in the archive for use by the media and journalists. This is continually being updated and steps taken to ensure that the site is more easily found through search engines.

Publicity and Promotion to the media and the general public in 2000 centred on two Press Packs. Both these contained new NHIC generic material and members press releases. The first was in April - National Home Improvement Month, which featured strongly the need to check the house following the winter and to think about updating and modernising in the summer ahead. This covered broad topics across the spectrum, including roofs, bricks, insulation, central heating and kitchens.

During the summer, the Autumn Press Pack under the 'Preparing for Winter' campaign was similarly distributed. These were sent to over 800 newspapers, journalists and news agencies. A further 100 Packs were sent out to independent journalists, TV and radio stations, etc.

It is now very evident following discussions with the media that much of this material is being used throughout the year. The Press Packs remain excellent value for all NHIC members securing national media coverage for their company and products at very low cost.

Progress magazine was published in the Spring and Autumn as this magazine has been updated in a new format and is proving very popular and informative.

The NHIC is very fortunate in having Lord Ezra as its President and in liaison with the Director His Lordship asked several Questions in the House. In addition to the specific questions His Lordship has dedicated considerable time and energy outside the Houses in lobbying the Government on the VAT reduction issue and together with like minded organisations we believe that those messages will soon bring a result. In October a parliamentary lunch was held with interested peers and MPs.

The NHIC Annual Awards took place at One Great George Street, London in November 2000 with a luncheon hosted by our President Lord Ezra..

There were 10 categories this year with the introduction of two new categories, one concerning the elimination of fuel poverty and the second concerning roofing projects. There were a very high number of good quality entries from Local Authorities, Housing Associations, the Media and Mortgage Lenders.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The sheer number of enquiries and entries plus the organisation of the judging which takes 2 days means that the preparation of the Awards and the Lunches severely stretches the resources of the Director and staff, and with a revised number of categories in 2000 plus a larger Luncheon of upwards of 180 people, the whole event took up a considerable amount of time for the NHIC and staff. Greater concentration is being made in 2001 to capitalise on the event and get greater publicity both for the housing projects and the NHIC.

The NHIC has maintained strong relationships with the Urban Officers Renewal Group and the Director would like to thank Martin Cruttenden, Hon Treasurer, for attending the Northern meetings. The Director is an active member of the Liaison Committee of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation looking at housing research in the UK.

The Director has maintained liaison in 2000 with relevant organisations including the Local Government Association, Empty Homes Agency and DETR.

The Director has been determined to ensure that all members are involved in the work of the NHIC and can bring forward their ideas to the Council. Four Council Meetings took place in 2000 for members and prospective members, whilst each month the Director sends a newsletter with relevant up-to-date information which many Trade Organisations also send out to their members for their information resulting in further feedback.

The Director would also like to express his appreciation to Frank Whitefoot, the Chairman, who gave him considerable support during the past year. He would also like to give his thanks to Richard Wilton his predecessor at the NHIC who continues to give good support.

He also wished to express his personal thanks and gratitude to Robin Newhouse of the APHC and Chairman of the Marketing Sub-Group for his help and advice throughout the year on marketing initiatives.

Finally, the Director would like to thank all members for their enthusiasm and active participation in the work of the NHIC enabling it to meet its and the members objectives, taking the housing debate further in 2001.

**Auditors**

A resolution to re-appoint Scott-Moncrieff as auditors will be put to the members at the annual general meeting.

**Board**

Board of Management. The following served in the year :

E Cantle  
W D Chaplin (resigned 14.11.00)  
L W D Corney (resigned 23.11.00)  
N G Cruttenden (Hon Treasurer)  
J A Demont  
J Hawksley  
M J Haydon  
J A Pennell (resigned 15.11.00)  
R St. Quintin (resigned 23.11.00)  
R S Warom

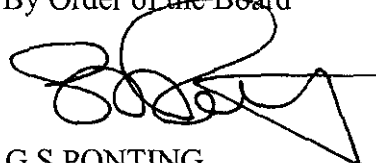
NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

**Board (cont'd)**

F Whitefoot  
R M Wilton  
R M Webb  
R A Newhouse  
K Butler  
S Stephens  
P Gardner  
G Simcock  
P J Dancy  
G S Ponting  
M Orrill (appointed 11.12.00)  
A Johnston (appointed 11.12.00)

By Order of the Board

 26/02/01

G S PONTING  
Secretary

NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
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AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

We have audited the accounts on pages 6 to 10.

**Respective responsibilities of members of the board of management and auditors**

As described in the report of the board of management the members of the board are responsible for the preparation of accounts. It is our responsibility as auditors to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on these accounts 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 accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the members of the board of management in the preparation of the accounts, and 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 that we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts 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 accounts.

**Opinion**

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2000 and of its deficit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

*Scott - Moncrieff*  
SCOTT-MONCRIEFF

Chartered Accountants  
Registered Auditors

25 Bothwell Street  
Glasgow G2 6NL

*5 March 2001*

NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 December 2000

		2000	1999
	Note	£	£
TURNOVER	1	67,877	66,658
Operating expenditure		<u>73,479</u>	<u>70,411</u>
Operating (deficit)		(5,602)	(3,753)
Bank interest receivable		312	567
Donation from NHIC Educational Trust		<u>3,500</u>	<u>-</u>
(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR BEFORE TAXATION	3	(1,790)	(3,186)
Taxation	4	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR AFTER TAXATION	8	<u>(1,790)</u>	<u>(3,186)</u>

All disclosures relate only to continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the deficit for the year.

The statement of accounting policies and notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of these accounts



NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
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BALANCE SHEET

31 DECEMBER 2000

	Note	2000 £	1999 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	4	1,086	1,383
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	5	30,739	15,058
Bank balance due by METCOM		2,988	16,713
Cash		200	200
		<u>33,927</u>	<u>31,971</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	6	38,742	35,293
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)		<u>(4,815)</u>	<u>(3,322)</u>
		<u>(3,729)</u>	<u>(1,939)</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES:			
Capital and reserve	7	5,061	5,061
Revenue account	8	(8,790)	(7,000)
		<u>(3,729)</u>	<u>(1,939)</u>

F WHITEFOOT

Chairman

*Frank Whitefoot*  
2 March '01

M G CRUTTENDEN

Treasurer

*M G Cruttenden*  
31/3/01

The statement of accounting policies and notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of these accounts

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NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 December 2000

1. Statement of accounting policies

(i) Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

(ii) Turnover

This represents the invoiced amount of services provided to members during the year, excluding value added tax.

(iii) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided in equal monthly instalments at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets over their estimated useful lives. Furniture and fittings are depreciated at 20% p.a.

2. Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation	2000	1999
	£	£
Is stated after charging		
Depreciation	297	168
Directors remuneration	18,450	18,375
Auditors remuneration	810	800
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

3. Taxation

There is no tax charge for the year due to tax losses.

4./

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NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 December 2000

4.	Tangible fixed assets	£	
	Furniture & fittings		
	Cost:		
	At 1 January 2000	1,818	
	Additions in year	-	
		<u>1,818</u>	
	Depreciation:		
	At 1 January 2000	435	
	Charge for year	297	
		<u>732</u>	
	At 31 December 2000		
	Net book amount:		
	At 31 December 2000	<u>1,086</u>	
	At 31 December 1999	<u>1,383</u>	
		2000	1999
		£	£
5.	Debtors		
	Trade debtors	25,221	9,067
	Prepayments and accrued income	2,472	2,078
	Value added tax recoverable	3,046	3,913
		<u>30,739</u>	<u>15,058</u>

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Year ended 31 December 2000

6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2000	1999
	£	£
Trade creditors	22,195	19,361
Sundry creditor	-	90
Accruals and deferred income	16,547	15,842
	<u>38,742</u>	<u>35,293</u>

7. Capital reserve

On 26 September 1975 the company acquired, for no consideration, the net assets of The National Home Improvement Council amounting to £5,061.

8. Revenue account

Deficit as at 1 January	(7,000)	(3,814)
Deficit for year	<u>(1,790)</u>	<u>(3,186)</u>
Deficit as at 31 December	<u>(8,790)</u>	<u>(7,000)</u>

9. Members' liability

In the event of the company being wound up, the liability of each full member is £1.