Report and Accounts

31 October 1997

III ERNST & YOUNG



Registered No: 1990682

DIRECTORS

Mrs M Hays Mr J Hays Mr M Hays

SECRETARY

Mr W Thompson

AUDITORS

Ernst & Young Norham House 12 New Bridge Street West Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8AD

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC 53 Fawcett Street Sunderland Tyne & Wear SR1 1SD

REGISTERED OFFICE

25 Vine Place Sunderland Tyne & Wear SR1 3NA

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors submit their report and accounts for the year ended 31 October 1997.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The trading profit for the year, after taxation, amounted to £198,177. The directors do not recommend the payment of a final ordinary dividend and propose that the profit for the year be carried to reserves.

REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The company's principal activity during the year was as a travel agent operating through twenty branches located in Tyne & Wear and County Durham.

The directors are satisfied with the company's performance during the year and intend to continue with the profitable development of its activities.

FIXED ASSETS

The changes in fixed assets during the year are summarised in the notes to the accounts.

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The directors who served throughout the year and their interests in the ordinary share capital of the company were as follows:-

	At 31 October 1997	At 31 October 1996
Mrs M Hays	4,000	4,000
Mr J Hays	40,800	40,800
Mr M Hays	35,200	35,200

Mr J Hays retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

CLOSE COMPANY

The company is a close company within the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

AUDITORS

A resolution to re-appoint Ernst & Young as auditors will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the Board

J Hays Director

Date

20/3/98

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which 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 those accounts, 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 accounts; and
- prepare the accounts 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 accounts 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.



REPORT OF THE AUDITORS to the members of Hays Travel Limited

We have audited the accounts on pages 6 to 14, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 9.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 4 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those 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 directors in the preparation of the accounts, 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 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 affairs of the company as at 31 October 1997 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Ernst & Young Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor

Newcastle upon Tyne

23 March 1998

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 October 1997

	Notes	1997 £	1996 £
TURNOVER	2	43,207,332	30,114,327
Commission on turnover	2	4,425,348	3,228,333
Administrative expenses		4,269,387	3,033,404
OPERATING PROFIT Interest receivable	3	155,961 143,863	194,929 101,168
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		299,824	296,097
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	5	101,647	69,490
RETAINED PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	11	£198,177	£226,607

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those dealt with above in the profit and loss account.

BALANCE SHEET at 31 October 1997

	Notes	1997 £	1996 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	6	323,695	357,609
Investments	7	2,000	-
		325,695	357,609
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	413,997	187,117
Cash at bank and in hand		3,000,465	1,551,128
		3,414,462	1,738,245
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	9	2,345,283	899,157
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,069,179	839,088
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		£1,394,874	£1,196,697
		27311	
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Called up share capital	10	80,000	80,000
Profit and loss account	11	1,314,874	1,116,697
	11	£1,394,874	£1,196,697

J Hays

Date

Director

20/3/98

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the year ended 31 October 1997

	Notes	1997 £	1996 £
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	12(a)	1,487,856	698,074
RETURNS ON INVESTMENT AND SERVICING OF FINANCE	12(b)	144,105	99,100
TAXATION	12(b)	(80,607)	(63,674)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT	12(b)	(102,017)	(164,214)
INCREASE IN CASH		£1,449,337	£569,286
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET	DEBT		
		1997 £	1996 £
INCREASE IN CASH	12(c)	1,449,337	569,286
MOVEMENT IN CASH CASH AT 1 NOVEMBER 1996	12(c)	1,449,337 1,551,128	569,286 981,842
CASH AT 31 OCTOBER 1997	12(c)	£3,000,465	£1,551,128

at 31 October 1997

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold buildings - over 25 years

Leasehold buildings - over the shorter of lease term and 8 years

Computer equipment - over 5 years
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment - over 5 years
Motor vehicles - over 3 years

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided on the liability method on all timing differences which are expected to reverse in the future, calculated at the rate at which it is estimated that tax will be payable.

Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Basis of consolidation

Group accounts have not been prepared because the company is entitled for the year ended 31 October 1997 to the exemption conferred by Section 248 of the Companies Act 1985 from the requirement to prepare group accounts. Consequently the accounts presented relate only to the company.

2. TURNOVER

Turnover represents the gross value of sales as a travel agent.

Commission on turnover represents commission earned as a travel agent, all of which is stated net of value added tax and arises from continuing operations.

3. OPERATING PROFIT

	1997 £	1996 £
This is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Auditors' remuneration	4,000	4,000
Depreciation	136,135	130,051
Operating lease rentals - plant and machinery	1,701	1,855
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(2,204)	-

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS at 31 October 1997

4. DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

£	1996 £
258,594	125,142
£258,594	£125,142

Directors' emoluments, excluding pension contributions, fell within the following ranges:

			1997 No.	1996 No.
£Nil	_	£5,000	1	1
£55,001	-	£60,000		ī
£60,001	-	£65,000	<u>-</u>	. Î
£120,001	-	£125,000	1	• -
£125,001	-	£130,000	1	-

The emoluments, excluding pension contributions of the Chairman were £129,568 (1996: £59,630), and the emoluments, excluding pension contributions, of the highest paid director were £129,568 (1996 £ 61,168).

5. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Based on the profit for the year:	1997	1996
UK Corporation tax Under/(Over)provided in prior years	101,000 647	79,960 (10,470)
	£101,647	£69,490
		

At 31 October 1997 there was no potential deferred tax liability (31 October 1996: £Nil).

at 31 October 1997

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Short leasehold buildings f	Freehold land and buildings f	Office equipment £	Fixtures and fittings f	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost:	<i>a</i>	2	2	*	*	*
At 1 November 1996	53,727	127,865	414,196	222,862	167,507	986,157
Additions	-	•	69,887	35,630	-	105,517
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(34,122)	(34,122)
At 31 October 1997	53,727	127,865	484,083	258,492	133,385	1,057,552
Depreciation:						
At 1 November 1996	53,727	39,415	273,083	156,374	105,949	628,548
Provided during year	-	5,115	64,693	32,963	33,364	136,135
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(30,826)	(30,826)
At 31 October 1997	53,727	44,530	337,776	189,337	108,487	733,857
Net book value: At 31 October 1997	_	£83,335	£146,307	£69,155	£24,898	£323,695
At 1 November 1996	-	£88,450	£141,113	£66,488	£61,558	£357,609

7. INVESTMENTS

Investment in subsidiary undertaking

Cost: At 1 November 1996	£
Additions	2,000
At 31 October 1997	£2,000

The investment in subsidiary undertaking comprises a holding of 100% of the issued ordinary share capital of Hays Airseats Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. During its latest financial year Hays Airseats Limited made a profit after tax of £91,785, and at the end of that year the aggregate of its capital and reserves was £93,785.

8. DEBTORS

	1997 £	1996 £
Trade debtors Other debtors	350,561	143,116 3,372
Prepayments	63,436	40,629
	£413,997	£187,117

9. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

1997 1996

at 31 October 1997

				£	£
	Trade creditors			1,962,947	776,036
	Current corporation tax			101,000	79,960
	Other creditors			23,312	24,505
	Accruals			258,024	18,656
				£2,345,283	£899,157
10.	SHARE CAPITAL				
				Alla	otted, called up
			Authorised		and fully paid
		1997	1996	1997	1996
		No.	No.	£	£
	Ordinary shares of £1 each	80,000	80,000	£80,000	£80,000
11.	RECONCILIATION OF MOVEME	NT IN SHAREH			
			Share	Profit and	
			capital £	loss account £	Total £
	At 1 November 1996		80,000	1,116,697	1,196,697
	Retained profit for the year		-	198,177	198,177
	At 31 October 1997		£80,000	£1,314,874	£1,394,874
			1		
12.	NOTES TO STATEMENT OF CASI	H FLOWS			
	a) Reconciliation of operating pro-	fit to net cash infl	ow from operatir	ng activities	
				1997	1996
	A			£	£
	Operating profit Depreciation			155,961	194,929
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors			136,135	130,051
	Increase in creditors			(227,122) 1,425,086	37,563 335,531
	Profit on disposal of tangible fixed asse	ets		(2,204)	222,331
	Net cash inflow from operating activities	es		£1,487,856	£698,074

at 31 October 1997

(b) Analysis of cash flows for h	eadings netted in the	statement of cash	flows 1997	1996
RETURNS ON INVESTMENT AND SE	RVICING OF FINANCI	E	£	£
Interest received		£144,105	£99,100	
TAXATION			1997 £	1996 £
Corporation tax paid			£80,607	£63,674
CAPITAL EVDENDITUDE AND SINAN	ICIAI INVECTMENT		1997 £	1996 £
Payment to acquire tangible fixed assets Receipts from sales of tangible fixed assets Payments to acquire fixed asset investments			(105,517) 5,500 (2,000)	(165,044) 830 -
(c) Analysis of changes in net of	lebt		£(102,017)	£(164,214)
	At 1 November 1996 £	Cash flow £	Other changes £	At 31 October 1997 £
Cash at bank and in hand	£1,551,128	£1,449,337	<u>-</u>	£3,000,465

13. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 October 1997 there were no capital commitments authorised by the directors (31 October 1996:£Nil).

14. LEASING COMMITMENTS

At 31 October 1997 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect of fixtures and fittings as set out below:-

	1997 £	1996 £
Operating leases which expire:		
within one year	232	_
in two to five years	1,469	1,701
	£1,701	£1,701
		

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS at 31 October 1997

15. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The company's bankers have provided The Association of British Travel Agents Limited with a bond for £732,123 with recourse to the company. This bond expires in January 1998. The charge is secured by a fixed charge over the company's freehold properties, book debts and a floating charge over all other assets.

In addition to this, the company's bankers have provided the Civil Aviation Authority with a bond for £64,500 with joint recourse to the company and the company's subsidiary undertaking in Hays Airseats Limited..