BUSHBURY HOLDINGS LIMITED

Report and Financial Statements

31 December 1999

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

BUSHBURY HOLDINGS LIMITED



REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1999

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OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

DIRECTORS

M B Hughes (Chairman) B F Tinklin R Nicholls

SECRETARY

R Nicholls

REGISTERED OFFICE

PO Box 232 Shaw Road Bushbury Wolverhampton WV10 9LA

BANKERS

HSBC Bank PLC 36 Bennetts Hill Birmingham B2 5RJ

Allied Irish Bank Stillorgan Co Dublin Ireland

SOLICITORS

Martineau Johnson St Philips House St Philips Place Birmingham B3 2PP

A & L Goodbody Earlsfort House Earlsfort Terrace Dublin Ireland

AUDITORS

Deloitte & Touche Chartered Accountants Colmore Gate 2 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 2BN

BUSHBURY HOLDINGS LIMITED



DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1999.

RESULTS

The profit for the year on ordinary activities before taxation amounted to £8,071 (1998 - £173,277). The directors do not propose a dividend for the year (1998 - £Nil) and the retained profit for the year of £3,898 (1998 - £120,689) has been transferred to reserves.

ACTIVITY

Bushbury Holdings Limited is principally engaged in the provision of management consultancy services and is the parent company of the following subsidiaries:

- Eastfield Engineering Limited engaged in the manufacture of off-highway vehicle cab conditioning equipment,
 spares for this and for vehicle cabs and refurbishment of railway carriage window frames
- Epstone Limited invests in freehold property
- M.C. Air Filtration Limited manufactures high efficiency air filters and associated equipment.
- Walkair Limited distributes air conditioning and filtration products, is involved in the construction of clean rooms and controlled environments and provides installation, commissioning and maintenance services.

REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

The group's operating performance suffered from very difficult trading conditions in the first half of the year. However, the second half showed a considerable improvement resulting in the recovery of first half losses. Whilst our markets remain very competitive, order books at 31 December are considerably higher than at the start of the year and the directors anticipate, subject to unforeseen circumstances, an improved trading performance in 2000.

DIRECTORS

The directors during the year, together with the interests of the directors at the end of the year, as defined by the Companies Act 1985, in the shares of the Company were as follows:

	At 31 December	At 31 December
	1999	1998
M B Hughes (Chairman)	56,400	56,400
B F Tinklin	34,400	34,400
R Nicholls	6,700	6,700

The directors had no interest in the shares of other group companies.

Messrs M B Hughes, B F Tinklin and R Nicholls served throughout the year.

YEAR 2000

The directors considered the impact of the Year 2000 on its systems and operations and took all appropriate action, to the best of their knowledge and belief, to ensure that there was no significant disruption to the business. The cost of carrying out any modification work in relation to the above was not considered material.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

AUDITORS

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

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

R Nicholls

Secretary

Registered Office:

PO Box 232

Shaw Road

Bushbury

Wolverhampton

WV10 9LA

BUSHBURY HOLDINGS LIMITED



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 as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss of the group 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 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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



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Deloitte & Touche

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

BUSHBURY HOLDINGS LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 6 to 21 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 12 and 13.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 4 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 circumstances of the company and the group, 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 the group as at 31 December 1999 and of the profit of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

2 May 2000



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CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT Year ended 31 December 1999

	Note	1999 £	1998 £
TURNOVER	2	5,509,493	6,551,604
Cost of sales		(4,468,720)	(5,373,517)
		1,040,773	1,178,087
Distribution expenses		(412,369)	(444,407)
Administration expenses (including exceptional item of £21,089 – see note 4)		(598,041)	(542,892)
OPERATING PROFIT	5	30,363	190,788
Interest receivable Interest payable	6 7	1,695 (23,987)	7,637 (25,148)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		8,071	173,277
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	8	(4,173)	(52,588)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	19	3,898	120,689
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOG Year ended 31 December 1999 Statement of total recognised gains and losses		1999	1998
Drafit for the financial war		£ 2 000	£
Profit for the financial year Currency translation differences on foreign cu	rrency net investments	3,898 (17,025)	120,689 8,266
Total recognised gains and losses relating to	the year	(13,127)	128,955

All activities derive from continuing operations.

There is no material difference between the historical cost profit and the profit stated in the profit and loss account.



CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET 31 December 1999

	Note		1999		1998
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		754,415		804,297
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	12	725,614		632,020	
Debtors	13	1,378,554		967,789	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,350		168,446	
		2,106,518		1,768,255	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within		_,		2,. 22,2	
one year	14	(1,239,969)		(918,421)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			866,549		849,834
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT					
LIABILITIES			1,620,964		1,654,131
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after					
more than one year	15		(69,620)		(89,660)
TOTAL NET ASSETS			1,551,344		1,564,471
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	18		100,000		100,000
Capital redemption reserve	19		50,000		50,000
Revaluation reserve	19		12,306		12,526
Foreign exchange reserve	19		(47,882)		(30,857)
Profit and loss account	19		1,436,920	•	1,432,802
EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	20	·	1,551,344	•	1,564,471
					

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 1 the 2000

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

M B Hughes

B F Tinklin

Directors

BALANCE SHEET 31 December 1999

	Note	£	1999 £	£	1998 £
		∞	~	~	_
FIXED ASSETS	_				
Tangible assets	10		1,023		6,261
Investments	11		420,021		268,180
			421,044		274,441
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	84,210		265,287	
Cash at bank and in hand		102		30	
		84,312		265,317	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within					
one year	14	(76,922)		(155,970)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			7,390		109,347
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT					
LIABILITIES			428,434		383,788
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	18		100,000		100,000
Capital redemption reserve	19		50,000		50,000
Profit and loss account	19		278,434		233,788
EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			428,434		383,788

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 't the April 2000

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

M B Hughes

B F Tinklin

Directors

Deloitte & Touche

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT Year ended 31 December 1999

	Note	1999 £	1998 £
Cash flow from operating activities	(i)	(132,124)	381,786
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	(ii)	(22,292)	(17,511)
Taxation		(49,861)	(113,125)
Capital expenditure and financial investment	(ii)	(85,880)	(143,709)
Cash (outflow)/inflow before use of liquid resources and financing		(290,157)	107,441
Financing	(ii)	(170,040)	(21,478)
(Decrease)//increase in cash in the year		(460,197)	85,963
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt	(iii)	1999	1998
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the year		£ (460,197)	£ 85,963
		,	
Cash outflow from decrease in debt and lease financing		170,040	21,478
Change in net funds resulting from cash flows		(290,157)	107,441
Net (debt)/funds at 1 January 1999		(91,254)	(198,695)
Net debt at 31 December 1999		(381,411)	(91,254)

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT Year ended 31 December 1999

(i) RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO OPERATING CASH FLOWS

``		1999 £	1998 £
	Operating profit	30,363	190,788
	Depreciation	128,186	148,428
	Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(93,594)	336,496
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(409,291)	436,593
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	212,212	(730,519)
	Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	(132,124)	381,786
(ii)	ANALYSIS OF CASH FLOWS FOR HEADINGS NETTED		
	IN THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT	1000	4000
		1999	1998 £
	Deturns on investments and servicing of finance	£	ı.
	Returns on investments and servicing of finance Interest received	1,695	7,637
	Interest paid	(23,987)	(24,987)
	Interest element of finance lease rental payments	(23,567)	(161)
	Net cash outflow for returns on investments and servicing		
	of finance	(22,292)	(17,511)
	Capital expenditure and financial investment		
	Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(96,632)	(157,749)
	Sale of tangible fixed assets	10,752	14,040
	Net cash outflow for capital expenditure and		
	financial investment	(85,880)	(143,709)
	The second of		
	Financing Repairment of other loop	(150,000)	
	Repayment of other loan Repayment of bank loan	(150,000) (20,040)	(20,040)
	Capital element of finance lease rental payments	(20,040)	(1,438)
	Net cash outflow from financing	(170,040)	(21,478)
			=======================================



NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT Year ended 31 December 1999

(iii) MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT

	At 1 Jan 1999 £	Cash flow £	At 31 Dec 1999 £
Cash in hand and at bank Bank overdrafts	168,446 -	(166,096) (294,101)	2,350 (294,101)
		(460,197)	
Bank loan Other loan	(109,700) (150,000)	20,040 150,000	(89,660)
		170,040	
	(91,254)	(290,157)	(381,411)



1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The particular accounting policies adopted are described below.

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the company and all its subsidiaries.

Acquisitions

On the acquisition of a business fair values are attributed to the net tangible assets. Where the costs of acquisition exceeds the values attributable to such net assets, the difference is treated as purchased goodwill. This has been written off directly to reserves in the year of acquisition. For all years after (and including) 31 December 1998, this goodwill will be capitalised and amortised over the life of the business acquired.

Exchange rates

Balances denominated in foreign currencies have been translated into sterling at the rates ruling on 31 December 1999. Realised exchange differences in the course of trading have been taken to the profit and loss account.

Depreciation on fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis, to write off the assets concerned over their estimated useful lives, at the following annual rates:

Freehold land Nil Freehold buildings 2.5%

Short leasehold land and buildings

Plant and equipment

Over life of lease
10% - 50%

Stocks

Stocks, including work-in-progress, are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost represents materials, direct labour and an appropriate proportion of overheads.

Leased assets

Where fixed assets are financed by leasing agreements which give rights approximating to ownership, the assets are treated as if they had been purchased and the capital element of the leasing commitments is shown as obligations under finance leases. The rentals payable are apportioned between interest, which is charged to profit and loss account, and capital, which reduces the outstanding obligation.

Operating lease rentals payable are charged to profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost less any provisions against a permanent diminution in value.

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided at the anticipated tax rates on differences arising from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the financial statements to the extent that it is probable that a liability or asset will crystallise in the future.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Pension costs

The expected cost of providing pensions, as calculated periodically by professionally qualified actuaries is charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost over the service lives of employees in the scheme, in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and expected future pensionable payroll.

2. ANALYSES OF TURNOVER

		1999 £	1998 £
	Geographical analyses by location	T	æ
	United Kingdom	3,324,063	3,632,818
	Republic of Ireland	2,185,430	2,918,786
		5,509,493	6,551,604
	Geographical analyses of turnover by destination		
	United Kingdom	3,285,274	3,669,588
	Other European countries	2,219,998	2,654,715
	Rest of world	4,221	227,301
		5,509,493	6,551,604
3.	INFORMATION RELATING TO DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	Directors' emoluments		·
	Other remuneration	170,426	163,825
	Pension contributions	43,872	41,781
		214,298	205,606
		No	No
	Number of directors who are members of defined benefit		
	pension schemes	3	3

3. INFORMATION RELATING TO DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES (continued)

		1999	1998
	A	No	No
	Average number of persons employed Production staff	73	83
	Sales and distribution staff	11	11
	Administrative staff	8	7
			101
		92	101
		£	£
	Staff costs during the year (including directors)		
	Wages and salaries	1,511,393	1,715,67
	Social security costs	140,293	160,806
	Other pension costs	140,174	151,277
		1,791,860	2,027,762
4.	EXCEPTIONAL ITEM		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	Darling developed to a surface assured		
	Realised exchange loss on inter company loan account	21,089	_
	loan account	=====	
5.	OPERATING PROFIT		
	The operating profit is arrived at after taking into	1999	1998
	account the following items:	: £	£
	Depreciation		
	Assets owned	122,808	143,511
	Assets held under finance leases	5,378	4,917
	Rentals under operating leases		
	Hire of plant and equipment	12,108	17,256
	Other operating leases Auditors' remuneration	64,729	67,808
	Auditors remuneration Audit services	18,283	19,471
	Non audit services	3,906	5,640
	1102 4102 502 / 2000		
6.	INTEREST RECEIVABLE		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	Bank interest receivable	-	7,500
	Other interest	487	137
	Corporation tax repayment	1,208	-
		1,695	7,637



-	TREMOVER OF DIABLE OF THE	
1.	INTEREST PAYABLE	

7.	INTEREST FATABLE		
		1999 £	1998 £
	Bank loans, overdrafts and other loans repayable within five years Finance lease charges	23,987	24,987 161
		23,987	25,148
8.	TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
		1999	1998
	Tax charge on profit for the year	£	£
	UK corporation tax at 30% (1998 – 31%)	(1,464)	5,940
	Republic of Ireland corporation tax at 25%	10,328	48,602
	Adjustment in respect of previous year	(4,691)	(1,954)
		4,173	52,588
			
9.	PROFIT FOR THE YEAR ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF BUSHBURY HOLDINGS LIMITED		
		1999	1998
		£	£
	Profits dealt with in the accounts of the parent company	44,646	57,523

The Company has taken advantage of Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985 and consequently a profit and loss account for the Company alone is not provided.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The Group	Freehold land and buildings £	Short leasehold land and buildings £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 1999	400,000	211,322	1,229,880	1,841,202
Foreign exchange translation differences	-	_	(14,126)	(14,126)
Additions	-	-	96,632	96,632
Disposals		(4,811)	(67,427)	(72,238)
At 31 December 1999	400,000	296,511	1,244,959	1,851,470
Accumulated depreciation				-
At 1 January 1999	15,000	160,781	861,124	1,036,905
Foreign exchange translation differences	-	-	(6,550)	(6,550)
Charge for year	5,000	7,134	116,052	128,186
Disposals	-	(4,811)	(56,675)	(61,486)
At 31 December 1999	20,000	163,104	913,951	1,097,055
Net book value			•	
At 31 December 1999	380,000	43,407	331,008	754,415
At 31 December 1998	385,000	50,541	368,756	804,297
Comparable amounts determined according to the historical cost convention:			Ť	£
Cost				406,826
Accumulated depreciation				43,528
Net book value At 31 December 1999				363,298
At 31 December 1998				368,078

The value of freehold land not depreciated is £200,000.

The freehold land and buildings were valued as at 31 December 1995 by Messrs Walter and Randall, Chartered Surveyors. In their opinion the open market value for the existing use at that time was £400,000.

The net book value of the group's fixed assets includes £3,946 (1998 - £9,324) in respect of assets held under finance leases.



10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (continued)

	The Company		Plant and machinery £
	Cost		
	At 1 January 1999		20,962
	Additions		1,187
	Disposals		(2,162)
	At 31 December 1999		19,987
	Accumulated depreciation		
	At 1 January 1999	•	14,701
	Charge for year		6,425
	Disposals		(2,162)
	At 31 December 1999		18,964
	Net book value		
	At 31 December 1999		1,023
	At 31 December 1998		6,261
11.	INVESTMENTS HELD AS	S FIXED ASSETS	
	Shares in subsidiary compa	nnies	£
	At cost		
	At 1 January 1999	1	268,180
	Increase in share capital of V	Valkair Limited	151,841
	At 31 December 1999		420,021
	Name	Principal activity	Proportion of ordinary shares held
	Eastfield Engineering Limited	Manufacture of off-highway vehicle cab conditioning equipment, spares for this and for vehicle cabs and refurbishment of railway carriage window frames	100%
	M.C. Air Filtration Limited	Manufacture of high efficiency air filters and associated equipment	100%
	Epstone Limited	Investment in freehold property	100%
	Walkair Limited	Distribution of air conditioning and filtration products, the construction of clean rooms and controlled environments and the provision of installation, commissioning and maintenance services	100%

All of the companies except Walkair Limited were incorporated and registered in England and Wales. Walkair Limited is incorporated and registered in the Republic of Ireland.

12. STOCKS

	Group		
	1999	1998	
	£	£	
Raw materials and components	417,463	389,037	
Work in progress	122,837	99,640	
Finished goods	185,314	143,343	
	725,614	632,020	

13. DEBTORS

	Group		(Company	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	
	£	£	£	£	
Trade debtors	1,339,784	926,555	-	-	
Amount due from subsidiary companies	-	-	83,535	265,287	
Corporation tax	1,464	-	-	-	
Other debtors	543	471	-	<u>.</u> .	
Prepayments and accrued income	36,763	40,763	675		
	1,378,554	967,789	84,210	265,287	
					

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group		Company	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
	£	£	£	£
Bank overdraft (note 16)	294,101	~	4,381	75,381
Bank loan (note 16)	20,040	20,040	_	-
Other loan (note 16)	-	150,000	_	-
Trade creditors	621,205	360,546	8,636	183
Amount due to subsidiaries	-	~	44,646	44,847
Payroll and other taxes including social				
security	201,362	189,416	12,599	25,541
Other creditors	20,824	18,762	-	3,474
Accruals and deferred income	82,437	179,657	6,660	6,544
	1,239,969	918,421	76,922	155,970
				

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

			Group		Company
		1999	1998	1999	1998
		£	£	£	£
Bank loan	(note 16)	69,620	89,660	-	-
BORRO	WINGS				
		1999	Group 1998	1999	Company 1998
		£	£	£	£
Bank over	draft	294,101	-	4,381	75,381
Bank loan		89,660	109,700	_	
Other loan		-	150,000	-	-
		383,761	259,700	4,381	75,381
Due within	n one year	314,141	170,040	4,381	75,381
	more than one year	69,620	89,660	´ -	, <u> </u>
		383,761	259,700	4,381	75,381
Analysis o	f loan repayments:				
Bank over	draft				
In one Bank loans	year or less or on demand	294,101	-	4,381	75,381
In one	year or less or on demand	20,040	20,040	; _	_
	e than one year but not more than	20.040	20.040	-	-
two yea		20,040	20,040		
five ye	e than two years but not more than	49,580	60,120	-	-
	ive years	49,300	9,500		
Other loan	-	-	9,500	-	-
	year or less or on demand	-	150,000	-	-
		383,761	259,700	4,381	75,381

The bank loan and other loan are secured by fixed and floating charges over the group's property and other assets and are subject to interest rates of between base rate and base rate plus 2.75%. The other loan was due to the Bushbury Holdings Pension Plan.

The company is party to a multilateral guarantee securing the bank overdraft and borrowings of other group companies, together with a guarantee in respect of a subsidiary company's overdraft. Its maximum potential liability in relation to these guarantees at 31 December 1999 was £379,380 (1998 - £Nil).



17. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

The potential amounts of deferred taxation not provided in the accounts are:

				1999 £	1998 £
	Accelerated capital allowances Other timing differences			(1,922)	(1,347)
	Total potential liability			(1,922)	(1,347)
18.	CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL			•	
				1999 £	1998 £
	Authorised:			-	
	Ordinary shares of £1 each			160,000	160,000
	Allotted and fully paid:				
	Ordinary shares of £1 each			100,000	100,000
19.	RESERVES				
		Capital redemption reserve	Revaluation reserve	Foreign exchange reserve	Profit and loss account
	The Group	£	£	£	£
	Balance at 1 January 1999	50,000	12,526	(30,857)	1,432,802
	Retained profit for the year	-	-	-	3,898
	Foreign exchange translation differences Transfer of amount equivalent to additional	-	-	(17,025)	-
	depreciation on revalued assets	-	(220)	-	220
	Balance at 31 December 1999	50,000	12,306	(47,882)	1,436,920
	The Company				
	Balance at 1 January 1999	50,000	<u>-</u>	_	233,788
	Retained profit for the year		-		44,646
	Balance at 31 December 1999	50,000	-	_	278,434

In accordance with FRS 10, the cumulative amount of goodwill eliminated against reserves prior to 31 December 1998 is £20,862.



20. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	1999 £	1998 £
Profit for the financial year Other recognised gains and losses relating to the year	3,898 (17,025)	120,689 8,266
Net (reduction in)/addition to shareholders' funds	(13,127)	128,955
Opening shareholders' funds	1,564,471	1,435,516
Closing shareholders' funds	1,551,344	1,564,471

21. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 1999, the group was committed to making the following payments during the next year in respect of operating leases:

	Land ar	Land and buildings		
	1999	1998		
	£	£		
In respect of commitments that expire:				
After five years	64,729	67,808		

Capital commitments

The group has contracts for capital expenditure on hand amounting to £Nil (1998 - £Nil).

The company had capital commitments at 31 December 1999 of £Nil (1998 - £Nil).

22. PENSION COSTS

The group operates a defined benefit pension scheme, the assets of which are held separately from those of the group. Contributions to the scheme are charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the company. The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary, the most recent valuation being at 6 April 1996.

The pension charge for the year was £140,174 (1998 - £151,277).

The most recent actuarial valuation showed that, at 6 April 1996, the scheme had a past service shortfall of £56,000 which was cleared by a payment included in the pension charge for 1996. The market value of the scheme's assets at that date was £2,157,000. The actuarial valuation was carried out on the basis of the projected unit costing method and the assumptions used comprised an assumed rate of investment return of 9% per annum and a rate of increase of pensionable earnings of 7%.

23. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The company has taken advantage of the exemption under FRS 8 "Related Party Disclosures" not to disclose transactions with other wholly owned companies in the group.