

**THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED**

**STRATEGIC REPORT, DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

**Registered number: 02642807**



## THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED

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## **THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED**

### **Strategic report for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

The directors present their Strategic report on the company for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.

#### Principal activities and business review

The principal activity of the company is the publication and supply of business information. At the end of the year, the company had net assets of £69,791,903 (2020: £69,824,849).

#### Going concern

The directors have prepared these financial statements on the going concern basis, and in doing so have considered the matters set out in the paragraphs below.

The Company is a subsidiary of The Economist Newspaper Limited which operates a centralised treasury function to manage the liquidity needs of The Economist Newspaper Limited and all its subsidiaries (together "the Group"). All subsidiaries participate in the Group's treasury operations either by contributing funding to or drawing funding from fellow subsidiaries. The continued availability of the Group's borrowing facilities depends on the Group's overall performance, and therefore the context of the whole Group is relevant when considering the going concern basis of accounting.

The covid-19 pandemic and global lockdown have not impacted the markets for the Group's products and its supply chain as severely as initially anticipated. The directors continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic on demand for the Group's products and services as well as the financial viability of the Group's clients and key suppliers. Financial projections including profit, cash, debt and balance-sheet commitments are prepared regularly covering short, medium and longer-term periods and are stress-tested to ensure the Group has sufficient liquidity and available financing facilities in place for the foreseeable future.

These measures taken together with future actions that could be taken mean that based on the Group's cashflow forecasts and projections reviewed by the board of The Economist Newspaper Limited in November 2021, the Group will continue to have sufficient liquidity headroom in its existing facilities and measurement headroom against the RCF financial covenants and will be able to operate within the level of its bank facilities for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going-concern basis has been adopted in preparing these financial statements.

#### Future developments

The directors expect that the present level of activity will be sustained for the foreseeable future.

#### Results and dividends

The results for the company show a loss for the financial year of £32,946 (2020: £524,778 profit) and turnover of £11,708,855 (2020: £18,370,534). No interim dividend (2020: £nil) was paid during the year. The directors do not propose that a final dividend be paid (2020: £nil).

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Economist Group's annual review of risk highlighted the following principal areas relevant to the company: changes to its markets (including the commoditisation of, and pricing pressures on, information products); the quality of the Company's products keeping up with customers' expectations; its systems and infrastructure; business continuity; the challenges in retaining customers; employing and retaining talent; the impact of cybercrime attacks; regulatory risk, such as changes to privacy laws; and the financial operations of the company.

**THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED**

**Strategic report for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (continued)**

**Key performance indicators**

The key performance indicator for the company, which enters into global contracts with customers of The Economist Group, is the number and value of customer contracts entered into. The revenue was £11,708,855 (2020: £18,370,534).

The Strategic report has been approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



**O K M Grut**  
**Company secretary**

December 14th 2021

**Registered office**

The Adelphi  
1-11 John Adam Street  
London  
WC2N 6HT

## THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED

### Directors' report for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021

The directors present their Directors' report and audited financial statements of the company for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.

#### Future developments, results and dividends

The future developments, results and dividends of the company have been discussed within the Strategic report on page 2.

#### Financial risk management

The company's operations expose it to movements in foreign exchange and other financial risks. These risks and the financial risk management policies are discussed in The Economist Group Annual report 2021 under the heading 'Treasury and foreign exchange', in the financial review on pages 38-41, within the Monitoring and managing our risk on pages 42-43 and in the notes to the accounts under the heading 'Financial risk management' on pages 114-118.

The Company is a member of The Economist Newspaper Limited group of companies. The group operates a centralised treasury function and advances funds through intercompany loans to group companies to meet their financing needs as required.

#### Directors

The directors who served during the financial year and up to the date of signing the financial statements are set out below:

O K M Grut  
S P Naughton (resigned March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021)  
M Roy (appointed April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021)  
L Salame Boro

#### Director's indemnities

The Economist Group provides, to the extent permitted by law, an indemnity to all directors and officers of the company and its subsidiaries in respect of claims against them arising in respect of the conduct of the business of the Group. The Economist Group has also purchased directors' and officers' insurance cover against certain legal liabilities and costs for claims in connection with any act or omission by such directors and officers in the execution of their duties.

#### Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and 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 the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including 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 period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 101, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgments and accounting 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.

## THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED

### Directors' report for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (continued)

#### Directors' responsibilities statement (continued)

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.

The directors 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.

#### Disclosure of information to the auditor

Each of the persons who is a director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware; and
- the director has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Reappointment of auditor

Deloitte have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors and appropriate arrangements have been put in place for them to be deemed reappointed as auditors in the absence of an Annual General Meeting.

The Director's report has been approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



O K M Grut  
Company secretary

December 14th 2021

#### Registered office

The Adelphi  
1-11 John Adam Street  
London  
WC2N 6HT

## **THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED**

### **Independent auditor's report to the members of The Economist Group Limited**

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

##### **Opinion.**

In our opinion the financial statements of The Economist Group Limited (the 'company'):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework"; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- the statement of comprehensive income;
- the balance sheet;
- the statement of changes in equity; and
- the related notes 1 to 12.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework"; (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

##### **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 the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (the '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.

##### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## **THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED**

### **Independent auditor's report to the members of The Economist Group Limited (continued)**

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit; or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for 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 the directors 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 further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

We considered the nature of the company's industry and its control environment, and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.



## **THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED**

### **Independent auditor's report to the members of The Economist Group Limited (continued)**

#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)**

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the company operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements such as the UK Companies Act and tax legislation; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty (such as the General Data Protection Regulations).

We discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists such as tax, pensions and IT, regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

As a result of performing the above, we identified the greatest potential for fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations in the following areas, and our specific procedures performed to address it are described below:

We identified a risk of misstatement due to fraud in projects that are ongoing at year end due to the variable length of projects and the judgement required to determine the stage of completion. In addressing this risk, we tested the design and implementation of the key controls in the cycle; we performed detailed testing of projects that were ongoing at year end and assessed whether revenue had been recognised in the appropriate period.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management, internal audit and in-house legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal audit reports.

#### **Report on other legal and regulatory requirements**

##### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED**

### **Independent auditor's report to the members of The Economist Group Limited (continued)**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

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

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report in respect of the following matters 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.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

### **Use of our report**

This 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.

*William Touche*

**William Touche (Senior statutory auditor)**  
**For and on behalf of Deloitte LLP**  
Statutory Auditor  
London, United Kingdom

December 14th 2021

**THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED****Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Revenue	2	11,708,855	18,370,534
Cost of sales	3	(5,265,686)	(9,598,228)
<b>Gross profit</b>		<u>6,443,169</u>	<u>8,772,306</u>
Distribution costs	3	(48,804)	(48,141)
Administrative expenses	3	(5,812,813)	(7,876,928)
<b>Operating profit</b>		<u>581,552</u>	<u>847,237</u>
Interest receivable and similar income	4	3,890	3,832
<b>Profit before taxation</b>		<u>585,442</u>	<u>851,069</u>
Tax on profit	5	(618,388)	(326,291)
<b>Total comprehensive (expense)/income for the financial year</b>		<u><u>(32,946)</u></u>	<u><u>524,778</u></u>

The results reported above relate solely to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 are an integral part of these financial statements.

**THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED****Balance sheet as at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £ Restated*
Investments	6	1,036	1,036
Trade and other receivables	8	79,949,089	84,762,821
Deferred tax assets	7	35,566	56,655
<b>Non-current assets</b>		<b>79,985,691</b>	<b>84,820,512</b>
Trade and other receivables	8	12,447,574	9,238,085
Cash and cash equivalents		1,981,118	1,088,352
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>14,428,692</b>	<b>10,326,437</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>94,414,383</b>	<b>95,146,949</b>
Trade and other liabilities	9	(24,597,323)	(25,310,699)
Current tax liabilities		(25,157)	(11,401)
<b>Current liabilities</b>		<b>(24,622,480)</b>	<b>(25,322,100)</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>(24,622,480)</b>	<b>(25,322,100)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>69,791,903</b>	<b>69,824,849</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Called up share capital	10	67,479	67,479
Share premium account	11	67,746,908	67,746,908
Retained earnings		1,977,516	2,010,462
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>69,791,903</b>	<b>69,824,849</b>

\* see note 8.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements of The Economist Group Limited (registered number 02642807) were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on December 14th 2021. They were signed on its behalf by:



**M Roy**  
**Director**

**THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED****Statement of changes in equity for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

<b>Year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021</b>	<b>Called up share capital £</b>	<b>Share premium account £</b>	<b>Retained earnings £</b>	<b>Total equity £</b>
<b>At April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020</b>	67,479	67,746,908	2,010,462	69,824,849
<b>Comprehensive expense for the year</b>				
Loss for the financial year	-	-	(32,946)	(32,946)
<b>Total comprehensive expense</b>	-	-	(32,946)	(32,946)
<b>At March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021</b>	<u>67,479</u>	<u>67,746,908</u>	<u>1,977,516</u>	<u>69,791,903</u>

<b>Year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020</b>	<b>Called up share capital £</b>	<b>Share premium account £</b>	<b>Retained earnings £</b>	<b>Total equity £</b>
<b>At April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019</b>	67,479	67,746,908	1,485,684	69,300,071
<b>Comprehensive income for the year</b>				
Profit for the financial year	-	-	524,778	524,778
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	-	-	524,778	524,778
<b>At March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020</b>	<u>67,479</u>	<u>67,746,908</u>	<u>2,010,462</u>	<u>69,824,849</u>

The notes on pages 13 to 21 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021

#### 1. Accounting policies

The company is a private company limited by shares incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 and is registered in England and Wales. The address of its registered office is The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HT.

The principal activity of the company is disclosed in the Strategic report.

The accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements have been consistently applied to the periods presented unless otherwise stated. The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

##### a) **Basis of preparation**

These financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention, in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101, "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (FRS 101) as issued by the Financial Reporting Council and with those parts of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies reporting under FRS 101. All accounting policies have been applied consistently. Refer to the going-concern disclosure within the strategic report for further information.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRS 101 requires the use of certain critical accounting assumptions. It also requires management to exercise its judgment in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies. There are no areas requiring a higher degree of judgment or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements.

##### **New standards adopted in the year**

The following standards interpretations and amendments adopted in the year were adopted in 2021:

- Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards;
- Amendments to IFRS 3 *Business Combinations*;
- Amendments to IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*; and
- Amendments to IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments*, IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* and IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*.

There has been no impact of the adoption of these standards.

##### b) **FRS 101 reduced disclosure**

The company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 101:

- the requirements of IFRS 7 and IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures and Financial Instruments*;
- the requirements of paragraphs 91 to 99 of IFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement*;
- the requirements of IAS 7 *Statement of Cash Flows*;
- the requirements of paragraphs 17 and 18A of IAS 24 *Related Party Disclosures*;
- the requirements of IAS 24 *Related Party Disclosures* to disclose related party transactions entered into between two or more members of a group;
- disclosures in respect of capital management;
- the effects of new but not yet effective IFRSs; and

## THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (continued)

#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### b) FRS 101 reduced disclosure (continued)

- disclosures in respect of revenue being the second sentence of paragraph 110 and paragraphs 113(a), 114, 115, 118, 119 (a) to (c), 120 to 127 and 129 of IFRS 15 Revenue from contracts with customers.

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of The Economist Newspaper Limited as at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (see note 12).

##### c) Foreign currency translation

The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the company's functional and presentation currency. Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign-exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income.

##### d) Revenue

The company's significant revenue streams include marketing services which includes sponsorship, and consulting services.

Revenue is recognised in order to depict the transfer of control of promised goods and services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which we expect to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. This process begins with the identification of our contract with a customer, which is generally through a master services agreement, acceptance of terms and conditions, customer purchase order, or a combination thereof. Within each contract, judgment is applied to determine the extent to which activities within the contract represent distinct performance obligations to be delivered and the total amount of transaction price to which we expect to be entitled.

The transaction price determined is net of sales taxes, rebates and discounts, and after eliminating sales within the company. Where a contract contains multiple performance obligations such as the provision of more than one product or service, revenue is allocated on the basis of relative standalone selling prices.

Revenue is recognised on contracts with customers when or as performance obligations are satisfied which is the period or the point in time where control of goods or services transfer to the customer. Judgement is applied to determine first whether control passes over time and if not, then the point in time at which control passes. Where revenue is recognised over time judgement is used to determine the method which best depicts the transfer of control. Where an input method is used significant estimation is required to determine the progress towards delivering the performance obligation.

The company may enter into contracts with another party in addition to our customers. In making the determination as to whether revenue should be recognised on a gross or net basis, the contract with the customer is analysed to understand which party controls the relevant good or service prior to transferring to the customer. This judgement is informed by facts and circumstances of the contract in determining whether the company has promised to provide the specified good or service or whether the company is arranging for the transfer of the specified good or service, including which party is responsible for fulfilment, has discretion to set the price to the customer and is responsible for inventory risk. On certain contracts, where the company acts as an agent, only commissions and fees receivable for services rendered are recognised as revenue. Any third party costs incurred on behalf of the principal that are rechargeable under the contractual arrangement are not included in revenue.

Additional details on the company's revenue streams are also included in note 2.

## THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (continued)

#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand.

The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Economist Newspaper Limited and the cash flows of the company are included in the consolidated cash flow statement of The Economist Newspaper Limited. Consequently, the company is exempt under the terms of FRS 101 from publishing a cash flow statement.

##### f) Share capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity.

##### g) Taxation

Current tax is recognised on the amounts expected to be paid or recovered under the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance-sheet date.

Deferred income tax is provided, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance-sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available, against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Current and deferred tax are recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income, except when the tax relates to items charged or credited directly to equity or other comprehensive income, in which case the tax is also recognised in equity or other comprehensive income.

Current and deferred tax are recognised in the same component of total comprehensive income or equity as the transaction or other event that resulted in the tax expense.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities require management judgment in determining the amounts to be recognised. In particular, significant judgment is used when assessing the extent to which deferred tax assets should be recognised with consideration given to the timing and level of future taxable income together with any future tax-planning strategies.

##### h) Investments

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment.

##### i) Related party transactions

As the company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Economist Newspaper Limited, the company has taken advantage of the exemption contained in FRS 101 and therefore has not disclosed transactions or balances which form part of the Group. There were no other related party transactions in the year.



## THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (continued)

#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### j) Trade and other receivables

Intercompany receivables are stated net of provision for expected bad and doubtful debts. The Group reviews its expected credit loss provisions at least twice a year following a detailed review of receivable balances and historical payment profiles. Management believes all the remaining receivable balances are fully recoverable.

Accrued income primarily relates to the Company's right to consideration for work completed but not billed at the reporting date.

##### k) Trade and other payables and provisions

Trade payables are recognised at the value of the invoice received from a supplier. The carrying value of trade payables is considered to approximate fair value.

Deferred income primarily relates to consideration received from customers in advance for transferring a good or service.

A provision is recognised in the balance sheet when the Company has a present or legal or constructive obligation arising from past events, it is probable that cash will be paid to settle it and the amount can be estimated reliably. Provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a financing cost in the income statement. The valuation of the provision is determined based on assumptions and estimates in relation to the amount and timing of actual cash flows which are dependent on future events.

#### 2. Revenue

All revenue originated in the United Kingdom.

Analysis by destination:	2021 £	2020 £
United Kingdom	6,222,191	4,369,415
North America	774,453	-
Rest of Europe	3,060,752	4,330,573
Asia	567,078	6,718,831
Other	1,084,381	2,951,715
	<u>11,708,855</u>	<u>18,370,534</u>

##### Revenue from contracts with customers

The following table analyses the company's revenue streams:

	2021 £	2020 £
Marketing Services	6,491,929	8,629,029
Consulting Services	<u>5,216,926</u>	<u>9,741,505</u>
	<u>11,708,855</u>	<u>18,370,534</u>

##### Nature of goods and services

The following is a description of the nature of the company's performance obligations within contracts with customers broken down by revenue stream, along with significant judgments and estimates made within each of those revenue streams.

## THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (continued)

#### 2. Revenue (continued)

##### *Marketing Services*

Marketing Services includes revenue derived from thought leadership and content solutions sales and events. Revenue is recognised for marketing services over the period the services are provided, as performance occurs. The performance obligations are distinct, being deliverables issued or events held. Transaction prices for performance obligations are fixed within contracts and recognised in line with the performance obligations. Marketing services sold as part of a bundled arrangement along with the company's other product offerings are considered to be distinct performance obligations. The transaction price is allocated between distinct performance obligations on the basis of their relative standalone selling prices. Customer payments are generally defined in the contract as occurring shortly after invoicing.

Sponsorship revenues relate to the sponsorship of events. Sponsorship revenue is recognised at a point in time when the event has taken place or when the film has been broadcast. Sponsorship sold as part of a bundled arrangement along with the company's other product offerings are considered to be distinct performance obligations. The transaction price is allocated between distinct performance obligations on the basis of their relative standalone selling prices. Customer payments are generally defined in the contract as occurring shortly after invoicing and are often invoiced in advance of delivery in the case of events.

Sponsorship revenues also relate to the sponsorship of the EIU's corporate network and Executive Briefings and is recognised at a point in time when a meeting has taken place. Customer payments are generally defined in the contract as occurring shortly after invoicing. Revenue generated from memberships relate to fees charged to members of the Economist Corporate Network and membership fees are recognised over time in accordance with the membership period set out in the contract. Revenue generated from the sale of second rights to EIU content is generally recognised over time as contracts permit customers to access content throughout the contract period.

Revenue generated from delegates relate to fees charged for attendance at the company's events and are recognised at a point in time when the event has taken place. Customer payments are generally received prior to the event taking place. Revenue generated from licensing the company's content and sale of second rights contracts are generally recognised over time as contracts permit customers to access our content throughout the contract period.

##### *Consulting services*

Consulting revenues relate to the sale of economic, industry and management consulting services for clients operating in the Public Policy and Healthcare. Revenue is recognised for consulting services over the period of the contract, as performance occurs. The performance obligations are distinct, being deliverables issued or events held. Transaction prices for performance obligations are fixed within contracts and recognised in line with the performance obligations. Consulting services sold as part of a bundled arrangement along with the Group's other product offerings are considered to be distinct performance obligations. The transaction price is allocated between distinct performance obligations on the basis of their relative standalone selling prices. Customer payments are generally defined in the contract as occurring shortly after invoicing with invoicing scheduled around the timing of delivery of milestones.

##### **Contract balances**

Transactions within Marketing Services, Sponsorship and Consulting Services revenue streams generally entail contractually agreed billing schedules sometimes based on progress towards milestones. As the performance obligations within these arrangements are delivered at a point in time, the extent of accrued income or deferred income will depend upon the difference between revenue recognised and billings to date. Refer to note 8 for opening and closing balances of accrued income. Refer to note 9 for opening and closing balances of deferred income.

**THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED****Notes to the financial statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (continued)****3. Expenses by function**

	2021 £	2020 £
Other general and administrative costs	9,991,582	17,517,727
Bank charges	4,874	7,741
Foreign exchange losses/(gains)	1,170,081	(257,175)
Other net (gains)/losses	(39,234)	255,004
	<u>11,127,303</u>	<u>17,523,297</u>

None of the directors received any emoluments in respect of their services to the company during the year (2020: £nil). The company had no employees during the year (2020: none).

The audit fee is borne by the ultimate parent company, The Economist Newspaper Limited. The audit fee for the audit of the company's financial statements was £23,880 (2020: £23,180). There were no fees incurred from the company's auditor in respect of non-audit services during the year (2020: £nil).

**4. Interest receivable and similar income**

	2021 £	2020 £
Interest receivable on amount owed by ultimate parent company	<u>3,890</u>	<u>3,832</u>

**5. Tax on loss**

The taxation charge is based on the profit before taxation and comprises:

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Current tax charge</b>		
UK corporation tax charge	594,502	317,403
Adjustments in respect of prior years	2,797	47,409
	<u>597,299</u>	<u>364,812</u>
<b>Deferred tax charge/(credit)</b>		
Current year	21,089	(38,521)
	<u>21,089</u>	<u>(38,521)</u>
<b>Total tax expense for the year</b>	<u>618,388</u>	<u>326,291</u>
<b>Effective tax rate</b>	<b>106%</b>	<b>40%</b>

**THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED****Notes to the financial statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (continued)****5. Tax on profit (continued)**

The UK corporation tax rate for the year is 19% (2020: 19%). The tax on the profit before tax differs from the theoretical amount that would arise using the UK tax rate for the reasons set out in the following reconciliation:

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Profit before taxation</b>	585,442	851,069
Tax calculated at UK rate of 19% (2020: 19%)	111,234	153,239
<b>Factors affecting the tax charge</b>		
Transfer pricing deemed interest on UK inter-company loans	528,274	607,642
Group relief claimed for no payment	(23,917)	(479,866)
Adjustments in respect of prior years	2,797	47,409
Effect of change in tax rates on deferred tax	-	(2,133)
<b>Total tax expense for the year</b>	<u>618,388</u>	<u>326,291</u>

**6. Investments**

Cost:	£
At April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2020 and March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2021	<u>1,036</u>

The company owns 1% of the ordinary share capital in The Economist Group do Brasil Serviços de informação sobre Negócios Ltda, a company providing business information, incorporated in Brazil. Its registered office is Rua Joaquim Floriano 1052: cj. 81, CEP 04534-004, São Paulo, -SP, Brazil.

The company performs an annual review of the recoverable amounts of subsidiary investments. Following this review, the directors are of the opinion that the value of the investments are not impaired.

**7. Deferred tax assets**

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred tax assets	<u>35,566</u>	<u>56,655</u>

Substantially all of the deferred tax assets are expected to be recovered after more than one year.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities may be offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets against current tax liabilities and when the deferred taxes relate to the same fiscal authority. At March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 the company has unrecognized deferred tax assets of £nil (2020: £nil).

## THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 (continued)

#### 7. Deferred tax assets (continued)

The recognition of the deferred tax assets is supported by management's forecasts of the future profitability of the business. The movement on the deferred tax account is as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
At April 1 <sup>st</sup>	56,655	18,134
(Charge)/credit to the Statement of comprehensive income	(21,089)	36,388
Effect of change in tax rates	-	2,133
At March 31 <sup>st</sup>	<u>35,566</u>	<u>56,655</u>

Deferred tax assets include temporary differences on other provisions.

Finance (No.2) Bill 2019-21, which was published on March 11th 2021, introduces legislation to set the UK main corporation tax rate at 19% for the financial year beginning April 1st 2022 increasing to 25% for the financial year beginning April 1st 2023. The Finance (No.2) Bill 2019-21 has not been substantively enacted at the balance-sheet date. The relevant UK deferred tax balances have been measured at the rate which is expected to apply to the period when the assets are realised and the liabilities are settled, based on the tax rates substantively enacted by the balance-sheet date.

#### 8. Trade and other receivables

	2021 £	2020 £
Analysed as non-current:		
Amounts due from ultimate parent company	67,814,385	78,832,563
Amounts due from group undertakings	<u>12,134,704</u>	<u>5,930,258</u>
	<u>79,949,089</u>	<u>84,762,821</u>

Amounts due from the ultimate parent company of £78,832,253 and amounts due from group undertakings of £5,930,258 were previously within current assets in 2020. These items have now been presented within non-current assets as they are not expected to be settled within 12 months or the normal operating cycle.

	2021 £	2020 £
Analysed as current:		
Trade receivables	9,421,460	7,645,059
Prepayments and accrued income	3,000,744	1,564,201
Withholding tax recoverable	<u>25,370</u>	<u>28,825</u>
	<u>12,447,574</u>	<u>9,238,085</u>

There are two amounts due from the ultimate parent company, The Economist Newspaper Limited: an amount of £67,814,385 (2020: £78,577,084) that is non-interest bearing and an amount of £259,311 (2020: £255,479) that bears interest at 1% above the UK base rate. The loans are repayable on demand and unsecured. The amounts owed by group undertakings are unsecured and non-interest bearing and repayable on demand.

Accrued income amounted to £3,000,744 (2020: £1,564,201).

**THE ECONOMIST GROUP LIMITED****Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)****9. Trade and other liabilities**

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade payables	538,912	735,667
Social security and other taxes	569,587	499,751
Amounts owed to ultimate parent company	7,529,661	-
Amounts owed to group undertakings	3,709,135	15,918,293
Deferred income	12,250,028	8,156,988
	<u>24,597,323</u>	<u>25,310,699</u>

The amounts owed to group undertakings are unsecured, non-interest bearing and repayable on demand.

**10. Called up share capital**

	2021 £	2020 £
Allotted, authorised and fully paid: 67,479 (2020: 67,479) ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>67,479</u>	<u>67,479</u>

**11. Share premium**

	2021 £	2020 £
Share premium	<u>67,746,908</u>	<u>67,746,908</u>

**12. Ultimate parent company and controlling party**

The immediate parent company is Ryder Street Properties Limited, registered in England and Wales. The ultimate parent company and ultimate controlling party is The Economist Newspaper Limited, registered in England and Wales. This is the only company that consolidates these financial statements. The Economist Group Annual report 2021 can be obtained from The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HT or viewed at [www.economistgroup.com](http://www.economistgroup.com). This is the registered office of the immediate and ultimate parent companies. The Economist Group consists of The Economist Newspaper Limited and its subsidiary undertakings.