## Meridian International VAT Consulting Limited

Directors' report and financial statements
Registered number 2835964
31 December 2017

\*J7FNZ7S1\*
JNI 01/10/2018 #13
COMPANIES HOUSE

COMPANIES HOUSE BELIFAST & 1 OCT 2018 RECEPTION DESK

## **Contents**

Directors' report	1
Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the Directors' Report and the financial statements	2
Independent auditors' report to the members of Meridian International VAT Consulting Limited	. 3
Statement of income and retained earnings	e
Balance sheet	7
Statement of cash flows	8
Notes	ç

## Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017.

#### Principal activities

The company provides professional services in connection with international Value Added Taxation matters.

#### Business review and future developments in the business

The profit on ordinary activities after taxation was £1,422,457 (2016: £780,348).

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2016:Nil).

The directors will continue to develop the activities of the company over the next year and will invest in strategic areas of the business.

#### Directors, secretary and their interests

The directors and secretary who held office at the end of the financial year had no disclosable interest in the shares of the company.

According to the register of directors' interests no rights to subscribe for shares in the company were granted to the directors or their immediate families, or exercised by them, during the financial year.

#### Post balance sheet events

There are no material post balance sheet events apart from that disclosed in note 20.

#### **Auditors**

In accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution for the re-appointment of BDO, Statutory Audit Firm, as auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

#### **Small Company Exemptions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

By order of the board

M O'Riordan

Director

Part 8<sup>th</sup> Floor East Westworld West Gate London W51DT

27 September 2018

# Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the Directors' Report and the financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

UK 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 Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.'

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;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have a general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the board

M O'Riordan
Director

Date: 27 September 2018

Laki Rixdo



Audit - Tax - Advisory Tel: +353 1 470 0000 Fax: +353 1 477 0000 E-mail: info@bdo.ie www.bdo.ie Beaux Lane House Mercer Street Lower Dublin 2 Ireland

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS OF MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL VAT CONSULTING LIMITED

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Meridian International VAT Consulting Limited ("the Company") for the financial year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Income statement and Retained Earnings, Balance sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its profit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including 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 related to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material
  uncertainties that may cast doubt about the Company's ability to continue to adopt the
  going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date
  when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other Offices:

Four Michael Street Limerick Michael Costello (Managing Partner) Andrew Bourg Katharine Byrne Maurice Carr Kevin Doyle John Gilmor Gavin Jim Hamilton Sinead Heaney Diarmuid Hendrick Derek Henry Liam Hession Gerard Holliday

Brian Hughes Ken Kilmartin Teresa Morahan Paul Nestor John O'Callaghan Con Quigley Gavin Smyth Peter Carroll Eddie Doyle Stewart Dunne Ivor Feerick Brian Gartlan David Giles Derry Gray Denis Herlihy Carol Lynch David McCormick Brian McEnery Aidan McHugh Ciarán Medlar David O'Connor David N O'Connor Patrick Sheehan Noel Taylor



#### Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

## Opinion 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 Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

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 material misstatement in the Strategic report and Director's report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion;

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or



## **Responsibilities of Directors**

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determines 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 intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

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.

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 at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at:

https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Teresa Morahan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

**BDO** Dublin

Statutory Audit Firm

Al223876

## Statement of income and retained earnings

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
<b>Turnover</b> Operating expenses	4	8,967,207 (7,544,750)	7,936,200 (7,155,852)
Operating profit Interest payable	5 6	1,422,457	780,348
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation Tax on profit on ordinary activities	9 .	1,422,457	780,348
Profit for the year		1,422,457	780,348
		2017 £	2016 £
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		(2,887,394)	(3,667,742)
Profit for the year		1,422,457	780,348
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year		(1,464,937)	(2,887,394)

There are no recognised gains or losses in either the current or prior year other than as stated in the Statement of income and retained earnings. Accordingly a statement of recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All the activities of the company in the current and prior year are of a continuing nature.

There is no material difference between the results as disclosed by the Statement of income and retained earnings and the result as given by an unmodified historical cost basis for the current year.

The notes on pages 9 - 19 form part of these financial statements

## **Balance** sheet

at 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Tangible fixed assets	10	1,028	625
Current assets Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	11	1,862,406 180,754	1,570,891 335,205
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	2,043,160 (3,509,123)	1,906,096 (4,794,113)
Net current liabilities		(1,465,963)	(2,888,017)
Total assets less current liabilities		(1,464,935)	(2,887,392)
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	13	2	2
Profit and loss account	14	(1,464,937)	(2,887,394)
Shareholders' deficit		(1,464,935)	(2,887,392)

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 27 September 2018 and were signed on its behalf by:

M O'Riordan
Director

The notes on pages 9 - 19 form part of these financial statements

Marks Riordan

## Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	<b>2017 £</b>	2016 £
Cash flows from operating activities Profit for the financial year		1,422,457	780,348
Adjustments for: Depreciation of fixed assets Interest payable	10	900 -	1,031
Increase in trade debtors Decrease in trade and other creditors		(291,515) (1,284,990)	(355,841) (371,577)
Cash from operations Interest paid		(153,148)	53,961
Net cash generated from operating activities		(153,148)	53,961
Cash flows from investing activities Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,303)	-
Net cash from investing activities		(1,303)	-
Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		(154,451) 335,205	53,961 281,244
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		180,754	335,205

The notes on pages 9 - 19 form part of these financial statements

#### **Notes**

(forming part of the financial statements)

#### 1 General information

Meridian International VAT Consulting Limited is a company incorporated in England & Wales under the Companies Act 2006. The registered office is Part 8<sup>th</sup> Floor East, Westworld, Westgate W5 1DT. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the directors' report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

#### Statement of compliance

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the company's accounting policies.

#### Currency

The financial statements have been presented in Pound Sterling (£) which is also the functional currency of the company.

#### 2 Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements, except as noted below.

The company has acknowledged the guidance set out in FRS 102 for its accounting policies.

## Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historical cost accounting rules.

As at 31 December 2017 the company had a net deficit of £1,464,935 (2016: £2,887,392). Its immediate parent Meridian Global VAT Services Limited, an Irish registered company, has agreed to provide the appropriate support and resources to the company in order to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

#### Fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided by the company to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of fixed assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures and fittings

25% per annum

Computers

25% per annum

#### Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated using the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date and the gains or losses on translation are included in the Statement of income and retained earnings.

### 2 Accounting policies (continued)

#### Pension costs

The company makes defined contributions to personal pension schemes for employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the company in independently administered funds. The amount charged against profits represents the contributions payable to the scheme, in respect of the accounting period.

### Deferred taxation

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in future or a right to pay less tax in future have occurred at the balance sheet date. A net deferred tax asset is regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

#### Turnover

Turnover represents fees charged for professional services, net of value added tax.

## Financial instruments

The company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in non-puttable ordinary shares.

Debt instruments (other than those wholly repayable or receivable within one year), including loans and other accounts receivable and payable, are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortise cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade payables or receivables, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received. However if the arrangement of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate or in case of an out-right short-term loan not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially, at the present value of the future cash flow discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost.

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and in non-puttable ordinary and preference shares are measured:

- at fair value with changes recognised in the Statement of income and retained earnings if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably;
- at cost less impairment for all other investments.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of income and retained earnings.

#### 2 Accounting policies (continued)

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current interest rate determined under the contract.

For financial assets measured at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and best estimate of the recoverable amount, which is an approximation of the amount that the Company would receive for the asset if it were to be sold at the balance sheet date.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Balance Sheet when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derivatives, including interest rate swaps and forward foreign exchange contracts, are no basic financial instruments. Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognised in profit or loss in finance costs or income as appropriate. The company does not currently apply hedge accounting for interest rate and foreign exchange derivatives.

#### Going Concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. This assumes the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future having adequate resources (including financial resources) to meet its obligations when they fall due. The validity of the going concern basis is primarily dependent upon the financial support by the parent company Meridian Global VAT Services Limited.

The parent company has confirmed it will not request payment of the intercompany debt due from the company in the short to medium term. In light of this, and having considered the matters noted above, the directors believe it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared under the going concern basis.

## 3 Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements, the directors have made the following judgements:

Tangible fixed assets (see note 10)

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation, product life cycles and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

Impairment of trade debtors (see note 11)

The company provides services to a large and varied number of customers on credit terms. Some debts due will not be paid through the default of a small number of customers. The company uses estimates based on historical experience and current information in determining the level of debts for which an impairment charge is required. The level of impairment required is reviewed on an ongoing basis. The total amount of trade debtors is £1,862,406 (2016: £1,570,891)

#### 4 Turnover

The analyses of turnover by activity and geographical area is as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Activity:		
Fees earned from VAT compliance and consultancy services		
on behalf of clients	8,967,207	7,936,200
Geographical area:		
Europe	7,805,300	7,010,799
Asia	80,888	73,236
North America	1,021,841	800,587
Rest of World	59,178	51,578
	8,967,207	7,936,200
		<del></del>

5	Statutory and other information		
		2017 £	2016 £
	Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging	~	~
	Auditors' remuneration: Audit	_	_
	Depreciation	900	1,031
	The audit fee has been paid by another group company.		
6	Interest payable and similar charges		
		2017 £	2016 £
	Interest payable	-	-
7	Remuneration of the director		
		2017 £	2016 £
	Director's emoluments  Company contributions to money purchase pension schemes	135,953 9,840	131,196 9,377
		145,793	140,573
			r of directors
	Retirement benefits are accruing to the following number of directors under:	2017	2016
	Money purchase schemes	1	1

9

## 8 Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the company (including executive directors) during the year, was as follows:

	Number of employe	
	2017	2016
Operational staff	17	18
The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:		
26 - 6 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	2017	2016
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,198,724	1,169,451
Social security costs	146,971	136,786
Other pension costs	57,943	49,234
	1,403,638	1,355,471
Taxation		
	2017	2016
	£	£
UK corporation tax (see below)	-	-
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	-	-
m . I		
Total current tax	-	-
Deferred tax – timing differences	-	-
Tax (credit) / charge		-

## 9 Taxation (continued)

Factors affecting the current tax charge for the year:

The current year tax charge is lower (2016:lower) than the rate of corporation tax in the UK. The differences are explained below:

	2017 £	2016 £
Current tax reconciliation	-	
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	1,422,457	780,348
Tax charge at 19% (2016: 20%)	270,267	156,070
Effects of:		
Losses carried forward	(322,760)	(156,516)
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	52,570	240
Effect of timing differences between capital allowances and depreciation	(77)	206
	<del></del>	
Total current tax charge (see above)	-	-

## 10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At beginning of year	4,358	18,828	23,186
Additions	-	1,303	1,303
	<del></del>		
At end of year	4,358	20,131	24,489
Depreciation			
At beginning of year	4,358	18,203	22,561
Charge for year	-	900	900
At end of year	4,358	19,103	23,461
Net book value			
At 31 December 2017	-	1,028	1,028
•			
At 31 December 2016	•	625	625
			<del></del>

## 11 Debtors

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade debtors	1,862,406	1,570,891
	1,862,406	1,570,891

All trade debtors are due within the company's normal terms, which is thirty days. Trade debtors are shown net of impairment in respect of doubtful debts.

## 12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017 £	2016 £
Other creditors including taxation and social security:		
Corporation tax		_
Other taxes and social security	19,318	20,787
Trade creditors	299,514	309,868
Amounts owed to group undertakings (see note 17)	2,451,074	4,149,145
Accruals and deferred income	739,217	314,313
•	3,509,123	4,794,113

The repayment terms of trade creditors vary between on demand and ninety days. No interest is payable on trade creditors.

Taxes and social insurance are subject to the terms of the relevant legislation. Interest accrues on late payment at the rate of 2.75%. No interest was due at the financial year end date.

The terms of the accruals are based on the underlying contracts.

Other amounts included within creditors not covered by specific note disclosures are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand

## 13 Called up share capital

	2017	2016
	£	£
Authorised		
1,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	1,000	1,000
Allotted, called up and paid		
2 ordinary shares of £1 each	2	2

Each share is entitled to one vote in any circumstances

#### 14 Reserves

Profit and loss reserve

The profit and loss account represents cumulative gains and losses recognised in the profit and loss account, net of transfers to/from other reserves and dividends paid.

#### 15 Financial instruments

The company's financial instruments may be analysed as follows:

	2017 £	2016 £
Financial assets Financial assets measured at amortised cost	2,043,160	1,906,096
Financial liabilities Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	(2,794,467)	(4,459,013)

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise cash and trade debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other creditors and amounts owed to group undertakings.

#### 16 Pension scheme

The company makes defined contributions to personal pension schemes for eligible employees. The pension charges for the year represent contributions payable by the company and amounted to £57,943 (2016: £49,234). There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or end of the financial year.

## 17 Related party disclosures

Under FRS102 the company is exempt from the requirement to disclose transactions with entities that are part of the same group as all of the company's voting rights are controlled within that group. There are no material transactions with any other related parties.

## 18 Immediate parent undertaking

The immediate parent undertaking which heads the smallest group in which the results of the company are consolidated is Meridian Global VAT Services Limited, incorporated in the Republic of Ireland.

## 19 Ultimate parent undertaking

As at 31 December 2017, Zaniah Limited is the company's ultimate parent undertaking and heads the largest group in which the company's results are consolidated.

#### 20 Post balance sheet events

The company has been notified by the German Tax Office of a legislative change or a change in interpretation of existing legislation, which could significantly impact the company in relation to its activities in Germany. The company is currently obtaining advice and considering the impact of this. Due to the uncertainty of the outcome and it's unquantifiable nature, in the directors opinion based on the current available information and the significant level of uncertainty, it is not possible to determine whether it is probable that a claim will actually occur or to estimate any such claim at this point.

## 21 Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved and authorised these financial statements for issue on 27 September 2018.