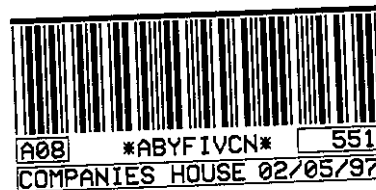


HOWES BROOKES AND ASSOCIATES LTD.
Company No. 3079414

**ABBREVIATED
ACCOUNTS
For The Period Ended
31 December 1996**



N.T. O'REILLY & PARTNERS
Chartered Accountants
Carlisle and Penrith

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF

HOWES BROOKES AND ASSOCIATES LTD.

The following reproduces the text of the report prepared for the purposes of section 249A(2) Companies Act 1985 in respect of the Company's annual accounts from which the abbreviated accounts (set out on pages 2 to 4) have been prepared.

We report on the accounts for the period ended 31 December 1996 set out on pages 3 to 7.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS

As described on page 2a the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and they consider that the company is exempt from an audit. It is our responsibility to carry out procedures designed to enable us to report our opinion.


BASIS OF OPINION

Our work was conducted in accordance with the Statement of Standards for Reporting Accountants, and so our procedures consisted of comparing the accounts with the accounting records kept by the company, and making such limited enquiries of the officers of the company as we considered necessary for the purposes of this report. These procedures provide only the assurance expressed in our opinion.

OPINION

In our opinion:

- a) The accounts are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the company under section 221 of the Companies Act 1985;
- b) Having regard only to, and on the basis of, the information contained in those accounting records:
 - i. The accounts have been drawn up in a manner consistent with the accounting requirements specified in section 249C(6) of the Act; and
 - ii. The company satisfied the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts for the period specified in section 249A(4) of the Act and did not at any time within that period, fall within any of the categories of companies not entitled to the exemption specified in section 249B(1).


N.T. O'REILLY & PARTNERS,
Reporting Accountants,
Chartered Accountants,
6, Brunswick Street,
Carlisle.
CA1 1PN

29 April 1997

Date

HOWES BROOKES AND ASSOCIATES LTD.

ABBREVIATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1996

		£	£	£	£
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	2		3,290		
 CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors		28,927			
Cash at Bank and in Hand		850			

		29,777			
 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		26,342			

NET CURRENT ASSETS			3,435		

TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			6,725		
 CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year					
Hire Purchase Obligation			689		

NET ASSETS			6,036		
			=====		
 CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called Up Share Capital	3		100		
Profit and Loss Account			5,936		

			6,036		
			=====		

HOWES BROOKES AND ASSOCIATES LTD.

**ABBREVIATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1996
(Continued)**

The Directors have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by Section 249A(2) not to have these accounts audited and confirm that no notice has been deposited under Section 249B(2) of the Companies Act 1985.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring that:-

- i) The company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Companies Act 1985; and
- ii) The accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 December 1996 and of its profit for the period then ended in accordance with the requirements of section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

Advantage is taken of the exemptions conferred by Section A of Part III of Schedule 8 of the Companies Act 1985 with respect to the delivery of individual Accounts. In the opinion of the Directors, the Company is entitled to those exemptions on the grounds that it has met the qualifications for a small company specified in Sections 246 and 247.

These financial statements were approved by the
Board of Directors on 18/04/1997



.....
DIRECTOR

HOWES BROOKES AND ASSOCIATES LTD.

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1996

1. 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.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historic cost accounting rules.

FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is provided by the Company to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:-

Office Equipment	-	3 Years
Office Fixtures	-	3 Years
Software	-	1 Year

TAXATION

The charge for taxation is based on the profit for the period.

TURNOVER

Turnover represents the amounts, excluding value added tax, derived from the provision of services to customers in the period. An analysis between different classes of business and areas has not been disclosed as this would prejudice the Company's interests.

HIRE PURCHASE

The assets under hire purchase agreements are recorded in the Balance Sheet as tangible fixed assets, future instalments under such agreements are included within creditors, net of finance charges. Instalments paid are apportioned under the sum of digits method between the finance element which is charged to the profit and loss account and the capital element which reduces the outstanding amount for future obligations.

HOWES BROOKES AND ASSOCIATES LTD.

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	OFFICE FIXTURES	SOFTWARE	TOTAL
COST				
Additions	5,414	485	947	6,846
Disposals	(915)	(51)	-	(966)
As at 31.12.96	4,499	434	947	5,880
DEPRECIATION				
Charge for period	1,499	144	947	2,590
As at 31.12.96	1,499	144	947	2,590
NET BOOK VALUE				
As at 31.12.96	3,000	290	-	3,290

Included in the net book value of office equipment is £1,279 in respect of assets held under hire purchase agreement.

7. CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL

AUTHORISED	
Ordinary Shares of £1 each	100
	<u> </u>
ALLOTTED called up and fully paid	
Ordinary Shares of £1 each	100
	<u> </u>