

Tamaris Healthcare (England) Limited

Annual report and financial statements

Registered number 03328661

31 December 2021

WEDNESDAY



ABDIVH57

A35

28/09/2022

#18

COMPANIES HOUSE

Contents

Strategic report	1
Directors' report	5
Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the strategic report, directors' report and the financial statements	6
Independent auditor's report to the members of Tamaris Healthcare (England) Limited	7
Profit and loss account and other comprehensive income	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of changes in equity	13
Notes	14

Strategic report

Background and ownership structure

Tamaris Healthcare (England) Limited is a care home operator within the Mericourt Limited group of companies. The Mericourt Limited group of companies operates healthcare facilities under the Four Seasons and brighterkind brands.

As at 31 December 2021, the directors regard Boron Holdings (Guernsey) Limited, a company registered in Guernsey, as the ultimate parent entity.

Financial results

The Company made a profit before taxation of £837,000 (2020: loss of £871,000).

Principal activity

The principal activity of the Company is the operation of care homes.

Business review and KPIs

The results of the Company are consolidated in the group headed by Mericourt Limited, the consolidated financial statements of which contain a detailed business review and KPIs relating to the group. Copies of these financial statements can be obtained from Companies House.

On an individual company basis, the main financial and operational KPIs were as follows:

	2021	2020
Turnover	£40,651,000	£37,723,000
Operating profit/(loss)	£837,000	(£2,919,000)
Average occupancy in the year	87.8%	84.7%

Principal risk and uncertainties

The Mericourt Limited group's management structures, coupled with its policies and procedures, are designed to enable the achievement of business objectives while controlling the risks associated with the environment in which it operates. The group has risk management processes in place which are designed to identify, manage and mitigate business risk. The Company operates within this group structure.

The principal risks and uncertainties affecting the Company and other group companies and the means by which they are managed are shown below.

Strategic report (continued)

Principal risk and uncertainties (continued)

Financial risks

- *Liquidity and capital resources*

Mitigation: Liquidity and financing arrangements are managed centrally within the group. Further details in respect of the liquidity and capital resources risks that affect the Company are included in the Going Concern section of note 1.

- *Reduction in demand for our services*

Mitigation: The Company and other group companies continue to focus on their strong partnering relations with Local Authorities and care commissioners to ensure that placements are made within our facilities. In addition, we regularly assess the services we provide to ensure they represent value for money and where necessary reposition services to align with demand.

- *Payroll pressures: increased reliance on agency staff and inflationary pressures on own staff costs*

Mitigation: The Company and other group companies actively monitor agency usage, particularly in light of staffing pressures exacerbated a result of Brexit and Covid-19. Alternative sources of nurses are continually investigated both within the UK and internationally, together with the training and development of care assistants to take on some of the tasks of nurses. The Group budgets carefully for National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage increases and the impact on its cash flow and profitability.

- *Seasonal death rate*

Mitigation: The Company and other group companies aim to deliver very good care everywhere which should serve to minimise the impact on occupancy during a normal period of higher winter deaths. In addition, wherever possible, the Company works with local NHS hospitals to provide care home beds for patients who are able to leave hospital at a time when the NHS is under seasonal pressure.

- *Covid-19 - impact upon patients, employees and supply chain for goods and services*

Mitigation: The group closely monitors the on-going impact of Covid-19 and continues to take steps to mitigate potential effects on its operations. Robust action plans, addressing areas such as infection control, resident and staff access to testing and vaccination programmes, employee welfare and access to personal protective equipment and other critical supplies, have been put in place to seek to reduce the risk that Covid-19 poses. The welfare and safety of the group's residents, patients and employees is always the top priority. The group will continue to monitor all official guidance and, where appropriate, update its approach in accordance with the latest recommendations.

- *Inflationary pressures and economic environment*

Mitigation: The Group has developed strong partnerships with suppliers and continues to carefully monitor material supply contracts including identification of any supplies for which the availability or pricing of is sensitive to changes in wider economic conditions or the current inflationary environment.

Operational risks

- *Regulatory and reputational risk*

Mitigation: The Company and other group companies devote a considerable amount of time to the management of regulatory and reputational matters. Compliance with the on-going requirements of registration and changes arising from the evolving regulatory environment mean that significant attention by the wider group's senior management has been, and will continue to be, dedicated to regulatory compliance and assurance. The wider group has implemented rigorous clinical governance and risk assurance systems, carries out substantial employee training, employee inductions and employee reference procedures, including a criminal background check for all frontline staff.

- *Shortage of qualified workforce*

Mitigation: Alternative sources of nurses are continually investigated both within the UK and internationally, together with the training and development of care assistants to take on some of the tasks of nurses.

Strategic report *(continued)*

Section 172(1) Statement

The following disclosures describe how the directors have had regard to the matters set out in section 172(1)(a) to (f), relating to the directors' duty to promote the success of company for the benefits of its members as a whole, and forms the directors' statement required under section 414CZA(1) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Group's key stakeholders are its workforce, suppliers, the local communities and wider health and social care market, regulators and the residents and patients it serves.

Consideration of the consequences of any decisions in the long term

The Board of Mericourt Limited, the parent company, has developed management and corporate governance structures, policies and procedures, which are designed to ensure that both day-to-day operations and key policy and strategic decision are made appropriately and with full regard to the consideration of the consequences of any decisions in the long-term. The director of Tamaris Healthcare (England) Limited place reliance on the Mericourt Board to ensure all necessary duties are adhered to. The Mericourt Board understands the market it operates in and the likely impact of its operations and decision-making across various stakeholder interests.

The interests of the company's employees

The Mericourt board of directors recognise that its employees are its most important asset and the success of the group is reliant upon attracting, retaining and motivating its workforce. Appropriate formal and informal channels have been developed to assist in workforce engagement and to ensure that the interests of employees are identified and taken into account where appropriate and practicable. Additionally, the Mericourt group considers employee communication, training and wider culture to be paramount.

The need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others

The group has long standing and collaborative relationship with its supplier base, public sector customers and other stakeholders, and regulators and recognises the importance of these stakeholders in delivering its objectives.

The impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment

As a care provider responsible for the care of over 7,500 older and vulnerable adults the group is aware of the critical role it plays in the health and social care sector both at a local community level and a national level, and constantly strives to deliver the highest quality of care across all of its services.

The desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct

The Mericourt Group's Code of Conduct applies to all employees, officers and directors equally in order to uphold the reputation and standards of the business. Additionally, the Mericourt group has implemented rigorous clinical governance and risk assurance systems, employee selection, training and induction process and whistleblowing procedures. The group's own standards of business conduct extend to its stakeholders.

The need to act fairly as between members of the Company

The director is aware of their duty to take into account the interests and rights of stakeholders equally when making decisions that impact members.

Strategic report (continued)

Future developments

The company is part of a collection of entities formerly known as the Elli Investments Limited group (the EIL Group). EIL and an indirect subsidiary of EIL, Elli Finance (UK) Plc (EFUK) have unpaid debts and were put into administration on 30 April 2019. Following the administration, the EIL group is being restructured and a broker has been retained in relation to a sales process for the EIL Group's remaining freehold/long leasehold properties. Preparatory work for the sale has commenced with an anticipated completion date of 2023. The format of a sale is currently unknown and until the completion of any sales process the Joint Administrators of EIL and EFUK continue to consider all possible options for the EIL Group's organisational and capital structure.

This includes potential sales of all or parts of the EIL group, internal reorganisation, the on-going leasehold estate restructuring, refinancing of the unpaid debt of EIL and EFUK (which may or may not include a debt for equity swap) and/or a combination of these. Given the range of possible options, and that the format of any sales or restructuring process is unknown, the impact on the group and the company is currently unknown. See note 1 for further details.

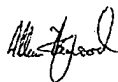
Employment policies

The Company and other group companies aim to provide equal opportunities regardless of sex, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability or ethnic origin, recognising that the continued success of the group depends upon its ability to attract, motivate and retain people of the highest calibre.

Environmental policy

The Mericourt Limited group has an environmental commitment which includes compliance with existing environmental regulations, minimising the consumption of resources, a policy of "reduce, reuse and recycle" and providing awareness amongst staff of the environmental impact of travel.

On behalf of the Board



A J Hayward
Director

Norcliffe House
Station Road
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 1BU

21 September 2022

Directors' report

The directors present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2021. The Company has chosen in accordance with Companies Act 2006, s.414C(11) to set out in the Strategic Report information required by Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, Sch.7 to be contained in the Directors' report. It has done so in respect of principal risks and uncertainties and future developments.

Results and dividends

The results for the year are shown in the profit and loss account on page 11. The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2020: £nil).

Directors

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signing of the financial statements were as follows:

A J Hayward

Going concern and liquidity management

At the time of approving the financial statements, the ability of the EIL group to address unpaid debts, the form and successful implementation of any sale/restructuring plan (including the funding thereof), as well as the substantial achievement of forecast cash flows and covenant compliance, which, together with the potential impact of Covid-19 and the other circumstances outlined in note 1 could result in the company ceasing to trade or being placed into administration. As detailed in note 1 to the financial statements, these factors indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. However, the directors consider there are realistic outcomes which would see the company continue to trade. With this in mind, the directors have formally considered and concluded that the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis is appropriate. Further details are shown in the "Going concern" section of note 1 to the financial statements.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Further details in respect of Post Balance Sheet Events that affect the company and the wider group are included in note 21.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The directors who held office at the date of approval of this directors' report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware; and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

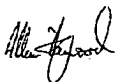
Third party indemnity provision for directors

Qualifying third party indemnity provision is in place for the benefit of all directors of the Company.

Auditor

Pursuant to Section 487 of the Companies Act 2006 the auditor will be deemed to be reappointed and RSM UK Audit LLP will therefore continue in office.

On behalf of the Board



A J Hayward
Director

Norcliffe House
Station Road
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 1BU
21 September 2022

Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the 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 they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

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 those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- a. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b. make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- c.
- d. 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 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. 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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Tamaris Healthcare (England) Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Tamaris Healthcare (England) Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the profit and loss account and other comprehensive income, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity 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 FRS 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 2021 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- 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 that are 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.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to note 1 in the financial statements, which indicates that there are uncertainties over the ability of the EIL group to address unpaid debts and obtain sufficient and timely funding for the EIL group restructuring plan, its form and successful implementation, as well as the ability to substantially achieve cash flows and covenant compliance, which, together with the impact of COVID-19 on future trading could result in the company ceasing to trade or being placed in administration. As stated in note 1, these events or conditions along with the other matters as set forth in note 1, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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

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

Independent auditor's report to the members of Tamaris Healthcare (England) 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 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.

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

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 misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' 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.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, 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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Tamaris Healthcare (England) Limited

(Continued)

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.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the industry and sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the company operates in and how the company is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, the Companies Act 2006 and tax compliance regulations. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing financial statement disclosures, inspecting correspondence with local tax authorities and evaluating advice received from internal and external tax advisors.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to Care Quality Commission (CQC) and other regulator's registration and health and safety legislation. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the company is in compliance with these law and regulations and inspected correspondence with the relevant regulators as well as reviewing latest registration status on the CQC or other regulator's website and any entries on the Health and Safety Executive website.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Tamaris Healthcare (England) Limited

(Continued)

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

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls and the cut off risk in revenue recognition as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business. Audit procedures performed in relation to the cut off of revenue recognition included testing of transactions around the year end to assess the inclusion in the correct period.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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.

Rachel Fleming

Rachel Fleming (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

1 St James Gate
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 4AD

22 September 2022

Profit and loss account and other comprehensive income
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	<i>Note</i>	2021 £000	2020 £000
Turnover	2	40,651	37,723
Cost of sales		(42,960)	(41,018)
Gross loss		(2,309)	(3,295)
Exceptional items #	4	473	(2,913)
Other operating income	5	2,673	3,289
Operating profit/(loss)		837	(2,919)
Interest receivable and similar income	8	-	2,048
Profit/(loss) before taxation		837	(871)
Tax on profit/(loss)	9	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the financial year		837	(871)
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	14	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the financial year		837	(871)

The Company has no recognised gains or losses in the current or prior year other than those reported above.

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

The financial statements include the notes on pages 14 to 32.

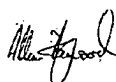
Exceptional items includes a £442,000 decrease (2020: £3,002,000 increase) in a non-cash provision against amounts due from group undertakings

Balance sheet
at 31 December 2021

		2021		2020	
	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	10	<u>3,636</u>		<u>3,346</u>	
			3,636		3,346
Current assets					
Debtors	11	2,519		2,467	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>8</u>		<u>28</u>	
		2,527		2,495	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	12	<u>(4,806)</u>		<u>(5,321)</u>	
Net current liabilities			(2,279)		(2,826)
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,357</u>		<u>520</u>
Net assets			<u>1,357</u>		<u>520</u>
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	14	-		-	
Profit and loss account		1,357		520	
Shareholder's funds		<u>1,357</u>		<u>520</u>	

The financial statements include the notes on pages 14 to 32.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 21 September 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



A J Hayward
Director

Statement of changes in equity

	Profit & Loss account £000	Called up share capital £000	Total equity £000
Balance at 1 January 2020	1,391	-	1,391
Total comprehensive income for the period			
Loss for the year	(871)	-	(871)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the period	(871)	-	(871)
Balance at 31 December 2020	520	-	520
	Profit & Loss account £000	Called up share capital £000	Total equity £000
Balance at 1 January 2021	520	-	520
Total comprehensive income for the period			
Profit for the year	837	-	837
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period	837	-	837
Balance at 31 December 2021	1,357	-	1,357

The financial statements include the notes on pages 14 to 32.

Notes (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies

Tamaris Healthcare (England) Limited (the "Company") is a private company limited by shares and incorporated, domiciled, and registered in England in the United Kingdom.

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"). The presentation currency of these financial statements is sterling. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.

The Company's intermediate parent undertaking, Mericourt Limited, includes the Company in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements of Mericourt Limited are prepared in accordance with FRS 102 and are available to the public and may be obtained from Norcliffe House, Station Road, Wilmslow, SK9 1BU.

In these financial statements the Company is considered to be a qualifying entity (for the purpose of this FRS) and has applied the exemptions available under FRS 102 in respect of the following disclosures:

- Reconciliation of the number of shares outstanding from the beginning to the end of the period;
- Cash Flow Statement and related notes; and
- Key Management Personnel compensation.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

Judgements made by the directors, in the application of these accounting policies that have significant effect on the financial statements and estimates with a significant risk of material adjustment in the next year are discussed in note 20.

Measurement convention

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis.

The accounting reference date for the Company is 31 December 2021 (2020: 31 December 2020). The Company has opted to adopt the "seven day rule". The seven-day rule provides that a particular financial year need not end on the accounting reference date itself but on a date within not more than seven days of the date as the directors may determine. On this basis, the accounting period is for the 52 weeks ended 26 December 2021, with the comparative period being the 52 weeks ended 27 December 2020.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern

In considering whether it is appropriate to prepare these financial statements on a going concern basis the Directors have considered the requirements of FRS 102, which states that an entity is a going concern unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease trading, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The matters that the Directors considered relevant in making this assessment are set out below.

The company is part of a group of companies headed by Mericourt Limited. Mericourt Limited and its subsidiaries are part of a collection of entities formerly known as the Elli Investments Limited group (the EIL group). EIL and an indirect subsidiary of EIL, Elli Finance (UK) Plc (EFUK) have unpaid debts and were put into administration on 30 April 2019. Following the administration of EIL and EFUK, Mericourt Limited and its subsidiaries continue to be legally owned by EIL but are no longer controlled by EIL. Furthermore, following the appointment of administrators, delegated authority for the EIL group's day to day operations has been transferred to Mericourt Limited.

The company and certain subsidiaries of the Mericourt Limited group have provided cross guarantees in respect of the debt of EIL and EFUK which is in default. Additionally, some of Mericourt Limited group's freehold operations are leased from a related group, Rhyme (Jersey) Limited, the subsidiaries of which have also provided guarantees for the EIL and EFUK debt, some of which is in default. Subsequent to the year-end, on 27 December 2021, Rhyme (Jersey) Limited and its subsidiaries were acquired by Mericourt Limited.

In light of these cross guarantees, the operational and financial support provided by other entities within the EIL group, and the inclusion of covenants following the amendment and restatement of the EFUK term loan, the going concern assessment of the company requires consideration of the EIL group as a whole.

Following the administration of EIL, the EIL group has undertaken various restructuring actions and disposal transactions and recently a broker has been retained in relation to a sales process for the EIL Group's remaining freehold/long leasehold properties. Preparatory work for the sale has commenced with an expected completion date during the second half of 2023. Discussions are on-going regarding the form, timing and cost of the sale/restructuring, however the EIL group's cash flow forecasts indicate that the level of cash generated from operating the Group's care homes is not sufficient to cover its cost base or fund the additional costs to progress and complete the EIL group sale/restructuring. Therefore, the Group may require an injection of further funding within 12 months of the signing of these financial statements based on planned restructuring activities. The EIL group continues to closely monitor liquidity and would seek to address any funding requirement once the timing and the amount became more certain. However if further funding is required but cannot be obtained, then this entity, or other entities within the remaining EIL group, could cease to trade or be placed into administration. Additionally, under certain sale/restructuring options that are possible, the format of the sale/restructuring may also result in the company, and one or more of its subsidiaries, ceasing to trade. Further details on the group sale/restructuring and cash flow forecasts for the EIL group are set out below.

Capital structure and debt guarantees

At the year ended, 31 December 2021 the debt of EIL and EFUK included (i) £525m of high yield bonds (due for repayment in 2019 and 2020) (ii) £71.3m term loan facility (currently due for repayment in 2022) and (iii) accrued interest thereon of c£317m. The term loan was amended and restated on 15 November 2021 to provide a waiver of all material existing defaults and events of default and inclusion of additional covenants. The terms of this amendment allow for the borrower to request an extension of the maturity date to 31 December 2023 and this extension is assumed in the Group's cash flow forecast, although the extension would require lender approval. Subsequent to the year-end c£47m of the £71.3m term loan facility has now been re-paid from disposal proceeds. The high yield bond debt remains in default and, as indicated in note 16, the company has provided cross guarantees for this debt which may be called as a consequence of the debt default and subsequent appointment of administrators over EIL and EFUK.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern (continued)

Developments post Administration:

Following the administration of EIL and EFUK on 30 April 2019, advisors and the Joint Administrators of EIL and EFUK have continued to review the group's financing arrangements and leasehold estate and to advise in respect of the EIL group's restructuring, which includes those companies that have provided cross guarantees for unpaid EIL and EFUK debts, specifically:

- *Disposals Processes and Leasehold Estate Restructuring:*

On 30 September 2019 EIL and EFUK announced that they intended to engage with the EIL group's landlords with a view to negotiating long-term sustainable market terms for the EIL group's leasehold estate (the "Leasehold Estate Restructuring" or "LER"). As part of the LER, the EIL group migrated a number of operating care homes to alternative operators, with 44 operating care homes (as well as 13 closed homes) migrated in December 2019, 58 operating care homes and specialist units (as well as 10 closed sites) migrated on 11 March 2020 and 12 March 2020, and an additional six care homes on 24 March 2020. In order to achieve these migrations in an orderly manner, administrators were appointed over certain subsidiary companies which either operated those portfolios or acted as guarantors to the leases. Since October 2019 further care homes have left the group through processes which did not involve the appointment of administrators.

The sale of the business and assets of 10 freehold/long leasehold sites and one leasehold site within a division of the EIL group, trading as The Huntercombe Group for an aggregate value of £35m completed on 5 March 2021. Net proceeds from the transaction were paid to the securities agent of the EIL and EFUK debt so were not available for use by the remaining EIL group.

A sale process of 14 freehold/long leasehold homes in Northern Ireland completed on 26 July 2021 for an aggregate value of £16m, with net proceeds from the transaction also being paid to the securities agent of the EIL and EFUK debt.

A sale process of the Group's remaining 29 freehold/long leasehold homes in Northern Ireland completed on 18 July 2022 for an aggregate value of £36m. Net proceeds from the transaction have been paid to the securities agent of the EIL and EFUK debt.

A broker has been retained in relation to a sales process for the EIL Group's remaining freehold/long leasehold properties. Preparatory work for the sale has commenced with an anticipated completion date during the second half of 2023. The format of the sale(s) process is currently unknown.

- *Liquidity and funding*

Liquidity, expenditure and covenant compliance has been carefully managed, particularly in light of the on-going restructuring and Covid-19. Since April 2020 the Group has benefitted financially from Covid-19 support from central and local Government and from commissioners of the Group's services however, the main mechanisms by which Covid-19 support was provided have been discontinued post April 2022 in England where the majority of the Group's care homes are located and therefore further funding support is not guaranteed despite the Group and wider sector's full recovery from Covid-19 expecting to require the duration of 2022 and 2023.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern (continued)

Current status and anticipated developments:

At the date of approving these financial statements, the Joint Administrators, the EIL group and the majority lender remain in constructive discussions with a view to implementing a consensual restructuring of the EIL Group and maintaining continuity of care throughout such process, specifically:

- As a consequence of the on-going LER the group anticipates that further migrations of care homes to alternative operators may be agreed in due course, or other arrangements may be agreed with landlords so that the leases that might be retained are on long-term sustainable market terms. For the remaining leasehold companies, the EIL group continues to consider all options.
- A broker has been retained in relation to a sales process for the EIL Group's remaining freehold/long leasehold properties however no final decision has been taken in respect of this sales process and as such the Joint Administrators continue to consider all possible options for the EIL group's organisational and capital structure including potential sales of parts of the EIL group, internal reorganisation, refinancing of the unpaid debt of EIL & EFUK (which may or may not include a debt for equity swap) and/or a combination of these.
- The EIL group continues to assess its cash flow forecast and covenant compliance in light of the on-going restructuring, as well as the risk of downturn in trading as a result of Covid-19 and/or the challenges of the current operating and economic environment.

Material risks and uncertainties – form of the restructuring

The directors understand that a number of potential options exist under the EIL group sale/restructuring as a result of the administration of EIL and EFUK, as detailed above, and the group's remaining freehold trade and assets are impacted by ongoing sales processes and the format of the sales processes is currently unknown and therefore no final decision has been made as to what action will be taken in respect of the company. Certain scenarios could result in the company ceasing to trade as the trade and assets of the company may transfer to an alternative entity (either by disposal or administration). However, there are a range of sale/restructuring options, some of which would result in the company continuing to trade. As such, the directors believe that the going concern basis of preparation is appropriate for the company.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern (continued)

Material risks and uncertainties – restructuring

Whilst the directors expect that a successful EIL group restructuring will be implemented, to the extent it is not, the directors believe that the most likely alternative will be to place one or more of the EIL group companies into administration, which may or may not include the company. The principal uncertainties around a successful implementation of a EIL group restructuring include the following:

- Further Funding – discussions are on-going regarding the form, timing and cost of the EIL group sale/restructuring and whether any funding requirements, or changes to current financing arrangements, are required to complete the sale/restructuring. If funding, or a change to existing financing arrangements, is required in order to complete the sale/restructuring which cannot be obtained, then this entity or entities within the remaining EIL group, could cease to trade or be placed into administration.
- Execution – it is likely that the implementation of a successful EIL group restructuring will require the agreement of various stakeholders of the EIL group. This agreement cannot be guaranteed.

Material risks and uncertainties – liquidity and covenant compliance

The EIL group's latest cash flow forecasts indicate that the level of cash generated from operating the Group's care homes is not sufficient to cover its cost base, or fund the additional costs to progress and complete the EIL group sale/restructuring. Therefore, the Group may require an injection of further funding within 12 months of the signing of these financial statements based on planned restructuring activities. Discussions are on-going regarding the form, timing and cost of the sale/restructuring and the EIL group continues to closely monitor liquidity and would seek to address any funding requirement once the timing and the amount became more certain.

This cash flow forecasts take into account the current operating environment and material risks and uncertainties to trading (outlined below) and assume (i) no payment of the outstanding EIL and EFUK high yield bond debt, or related interest noted above (ii) non payment of certain accrued and on-going rents (iii) the impact of Covid-19 based on current KPIs and their expected recovery (as set out below) (iv) and the maturity date of the term loan, which is currently 31 December 2022, can be extended to 31 December 2023.

The EIL group's latest forecasts indicate expected covenant compliance. However, a failure to achieve covenants could result in the Group's cash becoming restricted and term loan debt accelerated should a waiver not be granted.

To the extent there is a deterioration in cash generation compared to the EIL group's latest cash flow forecasts or there is a restriction on cash balances as a result of a covenant breach then further funding may be required.

Material risks and uncertainties - Covid 19 and future trading

The adverse impact of Covid-19 globally, nationally and across the healthcare sector has been unprecedented and the consequences of Covid-19 are expected to continue to impact the EIL Group's business into 2022 and 2023. As a result of the significant uncertainty around the rate of recovery from the virus, particularly around occupancy recovery, there is a wide range of potential outcomes for the EIL group's cash flows and covenant compliance from the impact from Covid-19. The directors have considered the group's current key performance indicators and their expected development to identify and quantify the potential impact of recovery from Covid-19 on the group's cash flows (as set out below), although the actual impact could be materially different. Additionally, even without the impact of Covid-19, the operating and economic environment presents a number of challenges which could contribute to the EIL group failing to achieve its operational cash flow forecasts.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern (continued)

Material risks and uncertainties - Covid 19 and future trading (continued)

- Occupancy decline – by way of illustration, the cash flow impact of a one-percentage point reduction in occupancy within the care home business, based on the fee and cost structures assumed in the forecasts, is up to £3m per annum. Average occupancy had declined from a high point of 88% at the end of March 2020 to 79% during May 2020, predominantly as a result of the death rate within the care home business increasing to approximately twice the seasonal average during the first wave of Covid-19. Improvements in occupancy were made during 2021 with an increase of c2 percentage points during the year as a result of death rate which was consistently below historical levels since June 2020 and admissions which had recovered to pre Covid-19 levels by Q2 2021. However, infection numbers rose sharply in both residents and team members from December 2021 and into January and February 2022 mirroring the wave of Omicron infections in the general population. Whilst these infections have not (in the vast majority of cases) led to death or serious illness, positive cases have adversely impacted the Group's ability to admit new residents. Recent admission and death rates have begun to revert back to pre Covid-19 levels and occupancy levels have been in the range of 81% to 83%.
- Staffing – payroll costs, including agency staff, represent the group's largest cost, with payroll costs representing approximately two thirds of income. Appropriate staffing levels are required to ensure that the correct level of care is provided and that full advantage can be taken of demand for admissions and the shortage of qualified nursing staff has resulted in staffing pressures across the sector. Staffing pressures were further exacerbated by Covid-19 as shielding and self-isolation pushed staff absenteeism up to c11%, although this had reduced by September 2020 and has remained well controlled since. Agency usage had been well controlled during the first half of 2021, however restrictions on staff movements as well as loss of care and support staff to the re-opening of sectors of the economy that compete for casual labour has meant that agency cost has increased to c20% of total payroll costs during Q4 2021 and 2022 to date. Trading remains sensitive to higher levels of agency usage and as a result, the group's own staff costs may be higher than forecast or the group may require higher than forecast levels of agency staff. By way of illustration, the cash flow impact of a 0.5 percentage point increase in the group's agency usage as a percentage of total payroll is approximately £1m per annum.
- Inflationary pressures and economic environment – home level non-payroll costs, including energy costs, represent approximately 15% of income. Whilst the Group has identified mitigating actions to reduce cost pressures where possible, by their nature these costs are typically on short-term spot purchase arrangements and are therefore sensitive to inflationary pressures and adverse impacts in the economic environment. For the twelve months ending March 2022 CPI was reported at 7.0% and is expected to rise to 10%, and wholesale energy prices have risen substantially since 2021 and remain volatile. By way of illustration, the cash flow impact of each 1% increase in home level non-payroll costs is c£0.5m per annum.

Conclusion

The directors have considered the requirements of FRS 102 which states that an entity is a going concern unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. After making enquiries and considering the group sale/restructuring plan and the uncertainties described above, the directors consider there are realistic outcomes which would see the group and company continue to trade. The directors therefore believe that it is appropriate to prepare these financial statements on a going concern basis.

However, the directors have concluded that the uncertainties over the ability of the EIL group to address unpaid debts, the form and successful implementation of any restructuring plan (including the funding thereof), as well as the substantial achievement of forecast cash flows and covenant compliance, together with the potential, together with the potential impact of Covid-19 and the other circumstances outlined above, give rise to a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern and therefore it may be unable to continue to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. Whilst the directors expect that a restructuring option will be identified that will result in the company continuing to trade and that its implementation will be successful, in the event that such a restructuring does not occur, it is likely that the company may cease to trade or be placed into administration. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would be necessary were the going concern assumption deemed to be inappropriate.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Basic financial instruments

Trade and other debtors/creditors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price less attributable transaction costs. Trade and other creditors are recognised initially at transaction price plus attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses in the case of trade debtors. If the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, for example if payment is deferred beyond normal business terms, then it is measured at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate for a similar debt instrument.

Interest bearing borrowings classified as basic financial instruments

Interest-bearing borrowings are recognised initially at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Subsequent to initial recognition, interest-bearing borrowings are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Where parts of an item of tangible fixed assets have different useful lives, they are accounted for as a separate item of tangible fixed assets, for example land is treated separately from buildings.

Leases in which the entity assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the leased asset are classified as finance leases. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

The Company assesses at each reporting date whether tangible fixed assets are impaired.

Depreciation is charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of tangible fixed assets. Leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Land is not depreciated. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Equipment and fixtures - 3 to 5 years
- Freehold buildings - 45 years
- Motor vehicles - 4 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed if there is an indication of a significant change since the last annual reporting date in the pattern by which the Company expects to consume an asset's future economic benefits.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Impairment excluding investment properties and deferred tax assets

Financial assets (including trade and other debtors)

A financial asset not carried at fair value through profit or loss is assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is objective evidence that it is impaired. A financial asset is impaired if objective evidence indicates that a loss event has occurred after the initial recognition of the asset, and that the loss event had a negative effect on the estimated future cash flows of that asset that can be estimated reliably.

An impairment loss in respect of a financial asset measured at amortised cost is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. For financial instruments measured at cost less impairment an impairment is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount and the best estimate of the amount that the company would receive for the asset if it were to be sold at the reporting date. Interest on the impaired asset continues to be recognised through the unwinding of the discount. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. When a subsequent event causes the amount of impairment loss to decrease, the decrease in impairment loss is reversed through profit or loss.

Non-financial assets

The carrying amounts of the Company's non-financial assets, other than investment property and deferred tax assets, are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the assets' recoverable amount is estimated. The recoverable amount of an asset or cash-generating unit is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. For the purpose of impairment testing, assets that cannot be tested individually are grouped together into the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets or groups of assets (the "cash-generating unit"). Where relevant, the goodwill acquired in a business combination, for the purpose of impairment testing is allocated to cash-generating units, or ("CGU") that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination. For the purpose of goodwill impairment testing, if goodwill cannot be allocated to individual CGUs or groups of CGUs on a non-arbitrary basis, the impairment of goodwill is determined using the recoverable amount of the acquired entity in its entirety, or if it has been integrated then the entire group of entities into which it has been integrated.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset or its CGU exceeds its estimated recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. Impairment losses recognised in respect of CGUs are allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to the units, and then to reduce the carrying amounts of the other assets in the units on a pro rata basis.

An impairment loss is reversed if and only if the reasons for the impairment have ceased to apply.

Impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Employee benefits

Defined contribution plans

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which the Company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution pension plans are recognised as an expense in the profit and loss account in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

A provision is recognised in the balance sheet when the entity has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, that can be reliably measured and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are recognised at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Where the Company enters into financial guarantee contracts to guarantee the indebtedness of other companies within its group, the Company treats the guarantee contract as a contingent liability in its individual financial statements until such time as it becomes probable that the Company will be required to make a payment under the guarantee. Further details are shown in note 20 - Accounting Estimates and Judgements, the "Going concern" section of note 1 to these financial statements, and note 16 - Contingent Liabilities.

Expenses

Operating leases

Payments (excluding costs for services and insurance) made under operating leases are recognised in the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease unless the payments to the lessor are structured to increase in line with expected general inflation; in which case the payments related to the structured increases are recognised as incurred. Lease incentives received are recognised in profit and loss over the term of the lease as an integral part of the total lease expense.

Interest payable and interest receivable

Interest income and interest payable are recognised in profit or loss as they accrue, using the effective interest method. Dividend income is recognised in the profit and loss account on the date the Company's right to receive payments is established. Foreign currency gains and losses are reported on a net basis.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Taxation

Tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity or other comprehensive income, in which case it is recognised directly in equity or other comprehensive income.

Current tax is the expected tax payable or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred tax is provided on timing differences which arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements. The following timing differences are not provided for: differences between accumulated depreciation and tax allowances for the cost of a fixed asset if and when all conditions for retaining the tax allowances have been met; and differences relating to investments in subsidiaries, to the extent that it is not probable that they will reverse in the foreseeable future and the Company is able to control the reversal of the timing difference. Deferred tax is not recognised on permanent differences arising because certain types of income or expense are non-taxable or are disallowable for tax or because certain tax charges or allowances are greater or smaller than the corresponding income or expense.

Deferred tax is provided in respect of the additional tax that will be paid or avoided on differences between the amount at which an asset (other than goodwill) or liability is recognised in a business combination and the corresponding amount that can be deducted or assessed for tax. Goodwill is adjusted by the amount of such deferred tax.

Deferred tax is measured at the tax rate that is expected to apply to the reversal of the related difference, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date. For non-depreciable assets that are measured using the revaluation model, or investment property that is measured at fair value, deferred tax is provided at the rates and allowances applicable to the sale of the asset/property. Deferred tax balances are not discounted.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Exceptional items

Items that are material in size and non-recurring in nature are presented as exceptional items in the profit and loss account. The directors are of the opinion that the separate recording of exceptional items provides helpful information about the Company's underlying business performance. Events which may give rise to the classification of items as exceptional include restructuring of businesses, changes to business processes, gain or losses on the disposal or impairment of assets and other significant non-recurring gains or losses.

Covid support income / Government Grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

2 Turnover

Turnover represents the amounts derived from the provision of goods and services which fall within the Company's ordinary activities, stated net of value added tax.

All turnover arises from operations in the United Kingdom and is attributable to the company's principal activity.

3 Expenses and auditor's remuneration

The auditor's remuneration of £5,300 (2020: £5,300) for audit services was borne by another group undertaking.

No additional services, other than the audit of the Company's financial statements, have been provided by the Company's auditor during the current or preceeding year.

4 Exceptional items

Exceptional items in the current year predominantly relate to the movement in a non-cash provision against amounts due from connected undertakings.

Exceptional items in the prior year relate to the movement of a non-cash provision against amounts due from connected undertakings of £3,002,000, net of the write off of historical balances of £89,000.

5 Other operating income

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Covid support income	2,624	3,139
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	49	150
	<u>2,673</u>	<u>3,289</u>

6 Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the Company (including directors), during the year, including both full and part time staff, analysed by category, was as follows:

	Number of employees	
	2021	2020
Administration	43	79
Healthcare facilities	1,293	1,260
	<u>1,336</u>	<u>1,339</u>

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Wages and salaries	22,657	20,341
Social security costs	1,538	1,351
Pension costs	468	421
	<u>24,663</u>	<u>22,113</u>

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

7 Directors' remuneration

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Directors' remuneration	2	11
Compensation for loss of office	-	9
Pension costs	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>20</u>

The remuneration above relates to each director's qualifying services to the Company and any subsidiaries, and was paid by another group undertaking during the current and prior year.

The total remuneration, including bonus payments and compensation for loss of office, in respect of the company and any subsidiaries of the highest paid director was £2,000 (2020: £9,000) and includes pension contributions of £nil (2020: £nil).

Pension contributions arise in respect of no (2020: one) directors. There were no pension contributions outstanding at the year end (2020: £nil).

8 Net interest and similar charges/income

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
<i>Interest receivable and similar income:</i>		
Interest income from group undertakings or connected entities	-	2,048
Total interest receivable and similar income	<u>-</u>	<u>2,048</u>

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

9 Taxation

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Total tax expense recognised in the profit and loss account, other comprehensive income and equity		
<i>UK corporation tax</i>		
Current tax on loss for period	-	-
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	-	-
Total current tax	-	-
<i>Deferred tax charge</i>		
Total deferred tax	-	-
Total tax	-	-
<i>Reconciliation of effective tax rate</i>		
Profit/(loss) for period	837	(871)
Total tax expense	-	-
Profit/(loss) excluding taxation	837	(871)
Tax using the UK corporation tax rate of 19.0% (2020: 19.00%)	159	(166)
<i>Effects of:</i>		
Expenses not deductible/(credits) not taxable for tax purposes	(60)	597
Group relief for nil consideration	(338)	(488)
Current year movement in unrecognised deferred tax assets	239	57
Total tax expense included in profit and loss	-	-

Factors that may affect future, current and total tax (credit)/charge:

In the budget on 3 March 2021, the UK Government announced an increase in the main UK corporation tax rate from 19% to 25% with effect from 1 April 2023. The change in rate was substantively enacted on 24 March 2021. The rate applicable from 1 April 2020 remained at 19%, however this will increase to 25% with effect from 1 April 2023. Deferred tax has been calculated at 25%, although the Company does not recognise deferred tax assets.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment & fixtures £000
<i>Cost</i>	
Balance at 1 January 2021	17,774
Additions	1,675
Balance at 31 December 2021	<u>19,449</u>
<i>Depreciation</i>	
Balance at 1 January 2021	14,428
Depreciation charge for the year	1,385
Balance at 31 December 2021	<u>15,813</u>
<i>Net book value:</i>	
At 1 January 2021	<u>3,346</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>3,636</u>

Security

The trade and assets of the company are security for debt facilities of related entities. See note 1 and note 16 for further details.

11 Debtors

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Trade debtors	2,176	2,272
Amounts due from group undertakings	3,683	4,125
Non-cash provision against amounts due from group / related undertakings	(3,683)	(4,125)
Other debtors	28	43
Prepayments	<u>315</u>	<u>152</u>
	<u>2,519</u>	<u>2,467</u>

The amounts due from group / related undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand. Where applicable, interest is charged at between 7.5% and 11.46%.

12 Creditors: amounts due within one year

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Trade creditors	860	425
Other taxation and social security	265	690
Accruals	412	835
Other creditors	<u>3,269</u>	<u>3,371</u>
	<u>4,806</u>	<u>5,321</u>

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

13 Employee benefits

The Company operates a number of pension schemes for its employees. All pension schemes are defined contribution schemes. The assets of all schemes are held in separate funds administered by the Trustees and are independent of the Company's finances.

The total cost charged to the profit and loss account during the year was £468,000 (2020: £421,000). At the year end £nil (2020: £nil) of pension contributions were outstanding.

14 Share capital, reserves and other comprehensive income

	2021	2021	2020	2020
	No. of shares	£000	No. of shares	£000
<i>Allotted, called up and fully paid:</i>				
Ordinary shares of £1 each	2	-	2	-
Total		-		-
Shares classified as liabilities	-	-	-	-
Shares classified as equity	2	-	2	-
Total		-		-

The holders of ordinary shares are entitled to receive dividends as declared from time to time and are entitled to one vote per share at meetings of the Company.

Other comprehensive income

The company has no recognised gains or losses in the current or prior year other than those reported in the profit or loss account.

15 Operating leases

Leases as lessee

Non cancellable operating lease rentals are payable as follows:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Less than one year	4,582	6,535
Between one and five years	18,329	26,140
More than five years	54,608	77,691
	<u>77,519</u>	<u>110,366</u>

During the year £4,094,000 was recognised as a charge in the profit and loss account in respect of operating leases (2020: £6,124,000 charge).

The Company sold the trade and assets of one leasehold property on 26 October 2015.

On the same day the Company and the purchaser entered into a back to back agreement equivalent to those properties' lease liabilities. The Company's lease commitments have been disclosed gross of the related income.

Notes (Continued) *(forming part of the financial statements)*

16 Contingent liabilities and group financing arrangements

The Company, together with other group and connected companies, is party to a number of financing arrangements. Under the terms of those financing arrangements, the trade and assets of the Company are security for debt facilities of connected entities. Certain of the debt is in default and those entities were placed into Administration on 30 April 2019. At the date of approval of these financial statements no claims have been made in respect of this guarantee. At 31 December 2021 the directors considered it possible, but not yet probable, that claims will be made. Therefore a provision in respect of the financial guarantee contracts was not recognised at 31 December 2021. See note 1 and note 20 for further details of the impact of these guarantees on the company's ability to continue as a going concern and key estimates and judgements made in assessing the probability of claims under the guarantees.

17 Commitments

The Company's contractual commitments to purchase tangible fixed assets at the year-end were £348,000 (2020: £662,000).

18 Related parties

The directors have taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 Section 33.1A and, as the Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mericourt Limited, have not disclosed related party transactions with the Company's parent and fellow subsidiary undertakings.

As detailed in note 1, from 30 April 2019 the Mericourt Group, which was previously part of the Group headed by Elli Investments Limited (EIL), ceased to be controlled by EIL. Group entities continue to have transactions with the Group headed by Rhyme (Jersey) Limited, which was also controlled by EIL until 30 April 2019. Transactions between the Mericourt Group and Rhyme (Jersey) Group during the years ended 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2020 include rental of property from Rhyme (Jersey) Group, the recharging of central operational costs to Rhyme (Jersey) Group, and interest on loan balances due to / from Rhyme (Jersey) Group. The exemption in FRS 102 Chapter 33.1 A applies to these transactions up to 30 April 2019. Due to the cessation of control by EIL, Mericourt Group and Rhyme (Jersey) Group ceased to be 'related parties' from 30 April 2019.

Where balances remain outstanding between the Mericourt Group and Rhyme (Jersey) Group at 31 December 2021 or 31 December 2020, these have been disclosed within the debtors and creditors notes as amounts due to / from connected parties along with any provisions against debtor balances.

19 Ultimate parent

As at the reporting date, the Company's immediate parent company is Four Seasons Group Holdings Limited, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom. Its registered address is Norcliffe House, Station Road, Wilmslow, SK9 1BU.

As at the reporting date, the ultimate parent undertaking is Boron Holdings (Guernsey) Limited, an entity incorporated in Guernsey.

The smallest and largest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated into the group headed by Mericourt Limited, the financial statements of which will be available to the public and may be obtained from its registered address: Norcliffe House, Station Road, Wilmslow, SK9 1BU.

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

20 Accounting estimates and judgements

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires the directors to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that may affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The key areas requiring the use of estimates and judgements which may significantly affect the financial statements are considered to be:

Going concern basis of preparation

The directors have considered the basis of preparation of these financial statements and whether it is appropriate to prepare them on a going concern basis. In making this assessment they took account of the current progress to address the EIL group's capital structure and considered possible restructuring mechanisms available to the EIL group, including progression of disposal processes of the group, as well as the progress of the ongoing LER. They also considered the current cash flow forecasts for the EIL group and the sensitivities of these to changes in trading performance, likely costs and working capital movements. These assessments are detailed in note 1.

Contingent liabilities and provisions

In determining whether a contingent liability disclosure or provision is required in respect of financial guarantee contracts, which the Company is party to in respect of guaranteeing the unpaid debts of EIL and EFUK, the Directors have to assess the likelihood that the Company will be required to make payments to settle their obligations in respect of this arrangement. When assessing the probability of payment, management have considered the circumstances around the EIL Group restructure (see note 1). The outcome of this assessment at 31 December 2021 was that it was not considered probable that the Company would be required to make a payment under this guarantee given the range of possible options available to the EIL Group including disposal of shares in investments with funds paid directly to the securities agent and possible refinancing options. The Directors acknowledge that given the financial position of the Group and the fact that the Debt Holders are in administration, the likelihood of a payment being made has increased during the current financial year. The Directors recognise that this is a subjective assessment given the final format and outcome of restructuring is uncertain. It is possible that payments will be made by the entity in respect of these guarantees under certain options which are currently being considered.

Recoverability of trade debtors

The Company makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. When assessing impairment of trade and other debtors, management considers factors including post year-end recovery, the ageing profile of debtors, the value of security held over the debtor, the reason for the ageing and historical experience.

Recoverability of amounts owed by related undertakings

An estimate is made in respect of the recoverability of amounts owed by group undertakings. In making this assessment, the directors have considered the ability of the relevant group undertakings to pay the amount owed. Due to the complex group structure this requires consideration of the way in which all intercompany balances would be settled and the asset value available to settle those balances, both of which are impacted by the circumstances around the EIL Group restructure (see note 1).

Notes (Continued) (forming part of the financial statements)

20 Accounting estimates and judgements (continued)

Impairment of tangible fixed assets

As at 31 December 2021 the directors have reviewed the carrying value of the Company's tangible fixed assets and assessed whether there is any indication that assets may be impaired in line with the requirements of FRS 102 Section 27 Impairment of Assets. There are a number of key judgements in determining the appropriate method to identify assets to be considered for impairment and to estimate the value of the impairment.

Freehold assets

Freehold assets include land and buildings and their associated fixtures and equipment. Equipment and fixtures utilised by freehold sites are considered for impairment in conjunction with the freehold land and buildings in which they are utilised.

The directors believe that the inherent difficulties in reliably calculating a value in use for each property asset given the level of volatility that can occur in individual home performance mean that the fair value less cost to sell approach outlined below is a more appropriate approach. They have therefore assumed, in accordance with paragraph 27.13 of FRS 102, that for freehold and long leasehold properties that there is no reason to believe that an asset's value in use materially exceeds its fair value less cost to sell and have therefore used the fair value less costs to sell as its recoverable amount.

In calculating the fair value less costs to sell for each property the directors have been guided by recent valuations carried out by an independent valuer in accordance with RICS, as well as recent disposal programmes. The fair value less costs to sell has been calculated on a property-by-property basis based on the estimated cash flows/profits that could be achieved by a reasonably efficient operator from each asset, with particular focus on occupancy levels, fee rates and payroll costs, referred to as the "fair maintainable trade". The fair maintainable trade is then multiplied by an appropriate property specific multiple which takes account each asset's circumstances including its quality, location and market factors.

The Directors have made an adjustment to the third party valuation to allow for a reasonable level of central cost overheads that would be required to operate the assets. This is on the assumption that the most likely disposal of the assets would be in groups rather than individually and therefore a level of central cost overhead should be factored into the valuation when based on a fair value less costs to sell methodology.

If the adjusted fair maintainable trade valuation is lower than the valuer's assessment of the vacant possession value for the property, the vacant possession value is used as the fair value in the impairment assessment.

The Directors have further considered:

- Whether there is any indication of significant movements in the asset values between the date of the independent valuation and year-end. Given that market conditions were stable during the period since the last valuation, the Directors have not considered it necessary to adjust the fair maintainable trade or multiples used in the third party valuation. However, the directors also identified and considered assets with significant movements in actual or expected performance with regard to whether these assets were experiencing structural issues which would suggest a permanent change to the independent valuation.
- The impact of Covid-19 on carrying values. The directors have considered the potential outcomes and timeframes of recovery from Covid-19 and whether under various scenarios these could be expected to have a material impact upon investors' long term view of property values. It was concluded that under a reasonable yet prudent scenario of recovery that there would not be expected to be a material decline in sector property value.
- Any impact on property valuation as a result of the Health and Social Care Levy announced on 7 September 2021.

Closed or held for disposal

For properties which are held for disposal, the carrying value of equipment and fixtures is generally written down to nil.

Treatment of items as exceptional

The Company has presented items as exceptional within the profit and loss account and other comprehensive income. These are items of income and expense which the directors believe are material in size and non-recurring in nature, and this disclosure helps to provide clarity over the business' underlying performance. These items may include the profit or loss on disposal of properties, fixed asset impairments and reversal of impairments, movements on onerous lease provisions, costs relating to the balance sheet restructuring exercise, credits on disposal of negative goodwill and certain project costs. Judgement is required in ensuring that only items that meet the definition in the accounting policy are separately presented as exceptional items. See note 4 for details of the exceptional items.

Notes (Continued) *(forming part of the financial statements)*

21 Post balance sheet events

Group Restructuring

During 2021 and up to the date of approval of these financial statements, a number of activities have been ongoing as part of the EIL Group Restructuring. These have included the continuation of the leasehold estate review, the sale of the business and assets of certain sites within a division of the EIL group, trading as The Huntercombe Group, which completed on 5 March 2021, and the sales process in respect of 14 freehold/long leasehold Care Home sites in Northern Ireland which completed on 26 July 2021. Subsequent to the year end, sales processes in respect of 7 freehold/long leasehold sites (of which 5 were operational) in England and Scotland have completed and a sale process of the Group's remaining 29 freehold/long leasehold homes in Northern Ireland completed on 18 July 2022 for an aggregate value of £36m. Additionally, a broker has been retained in relation to a sales process for the EIL Group's remaining freehold/long leasehold properties.

Whilst the LER does not have a direct impact on the Company, the Company is impacted by the disposal processes which also impact other Group companies as well as being relevant to the overall financial position of the EIL Group which indirectly impacts the Company as cash is managed on a central basis. See note 1 for further details.