
Publicis Media Limited

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Registered Number: 04244479

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Directors and Other Information

Directors

D Ikiler
S Frogley
S King

Secretary

P Muwanga

Registered office

1st Floor
2 Television Centre
101 Wood Lane
London
W12 7FR

Auditor

Mazars LLP
30 Old Bailey
London
EC4M 7AU

Strategic Report

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Principal activity and review of the business

The principal activity of Publicis Media Limited ("the Company") continues to act as the global head office for the media brands of Publicis Groupe. The Company's subsidiary companies carry on the business of media planning and buying in the advertising industry. The Company also provides its own media services through the sale of media books and franchise fees.

The Company's key financial and other performance indicators during the year were as follows:

	2022 £'000	Restated 2021 £'000	Change %
Operating (loss) / profit	(3,360)	480	(800%)
Profit after tax	10,246	8,316	25%

Profit after tax has improved by 25% due to a significant increase in income received from group undertakings which offset the increase in the cost base of the business as the Groupe's brands continue to grow through client wins and increased business from existing clients.

The services offered by the Company have minimal environmental impact. However, the board believes that good environmental practices support the board's strategy by enhancing the reputation of the firm.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Company are broadly grouped as competitive and financial instrument risk.

Competitive risks

The Company operates in a highly competitive marketplace where margins are continually under pressure. However, the Company is well positioned to maintain its market share.

Financial instrument risks

The Company has established a risk and financial management framework whose primary objectives are to protect the Company from events that hinder the achievement of the Company's performance objectives.

The objectives aim to limit undue counterparty exposure, ensure sufficient working capital exists and monitor the management of risk at a business unit level.

- *Exposure to liquidity, cash flow and credit risk*

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. We aim to mitigate liquidity risk by managing cash generation by our operations and applying cash collection targets.

Cash flow risk is the risk that inflows and outflows of cash and cash equivalents will not be sufficient to finance the day-to-day operations. We manage cash flow risk by careful negotiation of terms with customers and suppliers.

Strategic Report (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

Financial instrument risks (continued)

- *Exposure to liquidity, cash flow and credit risk (continued)*

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for that other party by failing to discharge an obligation. Our policies are aimed at minimising such losses and require that deferred terms are only granted to customers who demonstrate an appropriate payment history and satisfy credit worthiness procedures.

- *Exposure to foreign exchange risk*

Foreign exchange risk is the risk arising from purchases and sales of goods or services denominated in foreign currencies. Our commercial dealings including intercompany activity are transacted in multiple foreign currencies and therefore expose the Company to a significant level of foreign exchange risk.

The Company manages this risk through the use of derivatives, namely currency forward contracts and currency swaps, with the overall aim being to minimise the foreign exchange charge or gain.

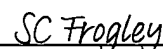
As regards intercompany loans/borrowings, these are subject to appropriate hedges if they present significant net exposures to exchange rate risk.

Impairment of investments risk

An asset is impaired if the recoverable amount is less than the carrying value. There is a risk that a directly held entity or its subsidiary generates lower than forecasted revenue or profits, leading to an impairment of the investment to the recoverable amount.

We monitor the performance of all subsidiaries held and perform a detailed review of future cash flows to ensure any risk of impairment is identified and recorded in the financial statements.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf by:



SC Frogley (Sep 27, 2023 13:44 GMT+1)

S Frogley
Director

27 September 2023

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2022

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements of Publicis Media Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Results and dividends

The Company recorded a profit after tax for the year of £10,436,000 (2021 (restated): £8,316,000). No dividends were declared nor paid during the year (2021: £Nil).

As permitted by Paragraph 1A of Schedule 7 to the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 certain matters which are required to be disclosed in the Directors' report have been omitted as they are included in the Strategic report on pages 2 to 3. These matters relate to the principal activity and financial risks.

Future developments

The directors do not foresee any material changes to the nature of the business in the foreseeable future.

Directors

The directors of the Company who served during the year and up to the date of signing the financial statements were:

A King	(resigned 5 April 2023)
D Ikiler	(appointed 11 April 2023)
S Frogley	
S King	

Directors' indemnity

The directors confirm that no qualifying third party indemnity provision in favour of any directors of the Company, as defined by Section 236 of the Companies Act 2006, either by the Company or by any other party, was in force at the time of the signing of the report, and that no such provision had been in force at any time in the year.

Post balance sheet events

On 27 June 2023, Meridian Outdoor Advertising Limited, a 50% owned investment of the Company, was dissolved via voluntary strike-off.

Disabled employees

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes and abilities of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment with the Company continues and that appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the Company that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

Employees' engagement

The Company places considerable value on its engagement with employees and has continued its previous practice of keeping them informed on matters affecting them as employees and in various factors

Directors' Report (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2022

Employees' engagement (continued)

affecting the performance of the Company through electronic communication. Employees are consulted regularly on a wide range of matters affecting their current and future interests.

Going concern

At 31 December 2022, the Company has net current liabilities of £41,323,000 (2021: (restated): £52,052,000) and has received written confirmation in the form of a letter of support from its immediate parent company, MMS UK Holdings Limited that it will provide the necessary funds to enable the Company to meet its liabilities as they fall due, for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The directors have prepared detailed budgets and financial forecasts taking into account expected future trading performance and the support level received. Having assessed the position of the immediate parent company, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has reasonable resources and support to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least twelve months from the approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements.

Disclosure of information to the 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 he/she ought to have taken as a director to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

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

This report was approved by the board of directors and signed on its behalf by:


SC Frogley (Sep 27, 2023 13:44 GMT+1)

S Frogley
Director

27 September 2023

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

for the year ended 31 December 2022

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. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 101 'Reduced Disclosure Framework'. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 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 Publicis Media Limited

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Publicis Media Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the 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 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (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 2022 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Publicis Media Limited (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Other information (continued)

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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 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 Statement of Directors' Responsibilities 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 Publicis Media Limited (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2022

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 the financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the Company and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements; UK tax legislation, employment regulation, health and safety regulation and anti-money laundering regulation.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether the Company is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the Company which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as tax legislation, pension legislation and the Companies Act 2006.

In addition, we evaluated the directors' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to revenue recognition and impairment of investments.

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Publicis Media Limited (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the directors and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at 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.

Sanjay Ranchhoojee
Sanjay Ranchhoojee (Sep 29, 2023 09:15 GMT+1)

Sanjay Ranchhoojee (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mazars LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
30 Old Bailey
London
EC4M 7AU

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £'000	Restated 2021 £'000
Administrative expenses		(3,360)	-
Other operating income		-	480
Operating (loss) / profit	3	(3,360)	480
Income from shares in group undertakings		13,132	6,758
Interest receivable and similar income	6	12	-
Interest payable and similar charges	7	(10)	(31)
Profit before taxation		9,774	7,207
Taxation	8	662	1,109
Profit after taxation		10,436	8,316
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		10,436	8,316

The Company's operating (loss) / profit all relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 14 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

At 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £'000	Restated 2021 £'000
Non-current assets			
Deferred tax	8	3,259	3,162
Property, plant and equipment	9		
Investments	10	50,323	50,323
		<u>53,582</u>	<u>53,485</u>
Current assets			
Work in progress			250
Trade and other receivables	11	3,340	16,147
		<u>3,340</u>	<u>16,397</u>
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	12	(44,662)	(68,430)
Derivative liabilities	16	(1)	(19)
		<u>(44,663)</u>	<u>(68,449)</u>
Net current liabilities		<u>(41,323)</u>	<u>(52,052)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>12,259</u>	<u>1,433</u>
Net assets		<u>12,259</u>	<u>1,433</u>
Capital and reserves			
Share capital	13	9	9
Capital redemption reserve	14	(1)	(1)
Retained earnings	14	12,251	1,425
Total equity		<u>12,259</u>	<u>1,433</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf by.

SC Frogley
SC Frogley (Sep 27, 2023 13:44 GMT+1)

S Frogley
Director

27 September 2023

The notes on pages 14 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Share capital £'000	Capital redemption reserve £'000	Retained earnings £'000	Total equity £'000
At 1 January 2021	9	(1)	(11,314)	(11,306)
Prior year adjustment	-	-	3,500	3,500
At 1 January 2021 (restated)	9	(1)	(7,814)	(7,806)
Profit for the year (restated)	-	-	8,316	8,316
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year (restated)	-	-	8,316	8,316
Share-based payments (see Note 15)	-	-	923	923
At 31 December 2021 (restated)	9	(1)	1,425	1,433
Profit for the year	-	-	10,436	10,436
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	10,436	10,436
Share-based payments (see Note 15)	-	-	390	390
At 31 December 2022	9	(1)	12,251	12,259

The notes on pages 14 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

Publicis Media Limited ("the Company") is a private company limited by shares incorporated and domiciled in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 1st Floor, 2 Television Centre, 101 Wood Lane, London W12 7FR. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" ("FRS 101") and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for certain financial instruments which are measured at fair value. The Company's functional and presentational currency is Pound Sterling.

Consolidated financial statements

The Company is exempt from the requirement to prepare consolidated financial statements under Section 400 of the Companies Act 2006. Consolidated financial statements are prepared by Publicis Groupe S.A., the ultimate parent undertaking, incorporated in France and are available from the address set out in Note 19. These financial statements therefore present information about the Company as an individual undertaking and not about its group.

Going concern

At 31 December 2022, the Company has net current liabilities of £41,323,000 (2021 (restated): £52,052,000) and has received written confirmation in the form of a letter of support from its immediate parent company, MMS UK Holdings Limited that it will provide the necessary funds to enable the Company to meet its liabilities as they fall due, for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The directors have prepared detailed budgets and financial forecasts taking into account expected future trading performance and the support level received. Having assessed the position of the immediate parent company, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has reasonable resources and support to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least twelve months from the approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.1. Basis of preparation (continued)

Disclosure exemptions applied

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

- (i) The requirements of IFRS 2 'Share-based Payment' paragraphs 45(b) and 46 to 52 relating to certain disclosure requirements on share-based payments;
- (ii) The requirement of IFRS 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures' relating to the disclosure of financial instruments and the nature and extent of risks arising from such instruments;
- (iii) The applicable requirements of IAS 1 'Presentation of Financial Statements' relating to the disclosure of comparative information in respect of the number of shares outstanding at the beginning and end of the year (IAS 1.79(a)(iv)), the reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment (IAS 16.73(e)) and the reconciliation of the carrying amount of intangible assets (IAS 38(118)(e));
- (iv) The requirements of IAS 1 'Presentation of Financial Statements' paragraph 16, the requirement to make an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with IFRS;
- (v) The requirements of IAS 1 'Presentation of Financial Statements' paragraphs 38A to 40D relating to disclosures of comparative information;
- (vi) The requirement of IAS 1 'Presentation of Financial Statements' paragraphs 134 to 136 relating to the disclosure of capital management policies and objectives;
- (vii) The requirements of IAS 7 'Statement of Cash Flows' and IAS 1 'Presentation of Financial Statements' paragraph 10(d) and 111 relating to the presentation of a Cash Flow Statement;
- (viii) The requirements of IAS 8 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors' paragraphs 30 and 31 relating to the disclosure of standards, amendments and interpretations in issue but not yet effective;
- (ix) The requirements of IAS 24 'Related Party Disclosures' paragraph 17 and 18(a) relating to the disclosure of key management personnel compensation and relating to the disclosure of related party transactions entered into between the Company and other wholly-owned subsidiaries of the group; and
- (x) The requirements of IAS 36 'Impairment of Assets' paragraphs 130(f)(ii), 130(f)(iii), 134(d) to 134(f) and 135(c) to 135(e) relating to certain disclosure requirements of impairment testing.

For the disclosure exemptions listed in points (i) to (ii) and (ix), the equivalent disclosures are included in the consolidated financial statements of the group, Publicis Groupe S.A. which the Company is consolidated into.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.1. Basis of preparation (continued)

Changes in accounting policies

New and amended standards and interpretations adopted

The following standards and interpretations have been adopted by the Company as they are mandatory for the year ended 31 December 2022:

	UK effective date Periods beginning on or after
Amendments to IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before intended use (Issued May 2020)	1 January 2022
Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018–2020	1 January 2022

The adoption of the standards and interpretations above has not had a material impact on the Company's financial statements.

1.2. Accounting principles

Foreign currency transactions

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the actual exchange rates at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate applicable at the reporting date. All differences arising are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Any gain or loss arising from a change in exchange rates subsequent to the date of the transaction is reported as an exchange gain or loss in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Pensions

The Company operates a defined contribution scheme for its employees. Contributions to the defined contribution scheme are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period in which they become payable.

Income from shares in group undertakings

Income from shares in group undertakings represents dividend income and is recognised when the Company's right to receive payment is established.

Interest income and expense

Interest income arises from balances with group undertakings. Interest expense arises from financing activities. Interest income and expense are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income using the effective interest method.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.2. Accounting principles (continued)

Income tax

The tax expense for the period comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except to an item of income or expense recognised as other comprehensive income or to an item directly recognised in equity is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

Current tax is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the Balance Sheet date in the countries where the Company operates and generates income.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all temporary differences that have originated but not reversed at the Balance Sheet date except that:

- the recognition of deferred tax assets is limited to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits; and
- any deferred tax balances are reversed if and when all conditions for retaining associated tax allowances have been met.

Deferred tax is determined using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the Balance Sheet date.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any provision for impairment. Cost comprises the purchase price and any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management and the estimated present value future costs of dismantling and removing the items.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of assets on a straight-line basis over its estimated useful life, as follows:

Computer equipment	- 4 years
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Gains or losses arising on the disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Investments

Investments are stated at cost less provision for impairment. At each reporting date, the Company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined which is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. Any impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.2. Accounting principles (continued)

Work in progress

Unbilled work in progress represents the third party costs rechargeable to other group companies not billed at the year end. It is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised at the initial amount of the invoice, except for longer-term debtors explained below. Trade receivables presenting a risk of non-recovery are subject to impairment. Such allowances are determined, on a case-by-case basis, using various criteria such as difficulties in recovering the receivables, the existence of any disputes and claims, or the financial position of the debtor. Due to the nature of the Company's activities, trade receivables are of a short-term nature and are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Nevertheless, any trade and other receivables of a longer-term nature will be recognised at their discounted value.

Trade and other payables

This line item includes all operating payables (including notes payable and accrued supplier invoices) related to the purchase of goods and services. These payables are generally due within less than one year. Financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities carried at fair value

Derivative financial instruments, including hedge accounting

The Company holds derivative financial instruments to hedge its foreign exchange risk exposures.

On initial designation of the hedge, the Company formally documents the relationship between the hedging instrument and hedged item, including the risk management objectives and strategy in undertaking the hedge transaction, together with the methods that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the hedging relationship. The Company makes an assessment, both at the inception of the hedge relationship as well as on an ongoing basis, whether the hedging instruments are expected to be "highly effective" in offsetting the changes in the cash flows of the respective hedged items during the period for which the hedge is designated, and whether the actual results of each hedge are within a range of 80-125 percent.

Derivatives are recognised initially at fair value determined either by reference to observable market prices at the reporting date or by the use of valuation models based on market parameters at the reporting date. Attributable transaction costs are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as incurred. Subsequently, derivatives are measured at fair value with any gain or loss resulting from changes in their value being recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.2. Accounting principles (continued)

Share-based payments

The Publicis Group operates various share plans whereby certain employees are awarded equity-settled shares by the ultimate parent company Publicis Groupe S.A. for services to the Company. The Company has no obligation to settle the awards.

The fair value of the equity-settled share-based payments at the date of grant is expensed to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the vesting period with a corresponding entry in retained earnings. Fair value on grant date is determined by an independent expert and is either equal to the market price on the grant date adjusted to reflect the expected loss of dividend(s) during the vesting period or through the use of the Black Scholes model. Non-market vesting conditions are taken into account by adjusting the number of equity instruments expected to vest at each reporting date so that, ultimately, the cumulative amount recognised over the vesting period is based on the number of shares that will eventually vest. Non-vesting and market vesting conditions are factored into the fair value of the options granted. The cumulative expense is not adjusted for failure to achieve a market vesting condition.

Where the terms and conditions of options are modified before they vest, the increase in the fair value of the options, measured immediately before and after the modification, is also expensed to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the remaining vesting period.

2. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting judgements and estimates regarding the future. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The judgements and estimates that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

Critical accounting judgement

Impairment of investments

An assessment is performed for any indication that the carrying value of investments in subsidiaries has suffered an impairment loss by comparing this carrying value to the expected value in use of the underlying investment. The value in use calculation takes into account estimated future cash flows which are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate considering 5-year forecasts into perpetuity. During the year, an impairment charge of £Nil (2021: £396,000) has been recognised and at 31 December 2022 the carrying value of investments in subsidiaries is £50,323,000 (2021: £50,323,000).

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Share-based payments

In determining the fair value of equity-settled share-based awards and the related expense to the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Company makes assumptions about future events and market

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

2. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

Key sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

Share-based payments (continued)

conditions. In particular, the Company has to assess the likely number of shares that will vest, and the fair value of each award granted. The fair value is determined by an independent expert using a valuation model which is dependent on a number of assumptions, including the ultimate parent company's future dividend policy and the future volatility in the share price of the ultimate parent company's shares. These assumptions are inherently uncertain and could result in a material difference to the reported value of share-based payment expense. The total expense recognised for share-based payments in respect of employee services received during the year to 31 December 2022 is £390,000 (2021: £923,000).

3. Operating (loss) / profit

The operating (loss) / profit is stated after charging:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Loss on transactions denominated in foreign currency	33	15
Impairment of investments (see Note 10)	-	396
Auditor's remuneration	9	9

4. Employees

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Wages and salaries	12,839	14,010
Social security costs	2,012	1,202
Pension costs	257	246
	<u>15,108</u>	<u>15,458</u>

Included in total staff costs is a total expense for share-based payments of £390,000 (2021: £923,000) arising from transactions accounted for as equity-settled share-based payment transactions (see Note 15).

The average monthly number of persons employed by the Company during the year was:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Senior management	<u>75</u>	<u>65</u>

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

5. Directors' remuneration

The directors of the Company are also directors of a number of subsidiaries of the ultimate parent undertaking. The directors do not believe that it is practicable to apportion the remuneration between remuneration as directors of the Company and their remuneration as directors of the fellow subsidiary companies. The directors' remuneration is therefore disclosed in the financial statements of the fellow subsidiaries that make the remuneration payments.

6. Interest receivable and similar income

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Intercompany interest receivable	12	-

7. Interest payable and similar charges

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Intercompany interest payable	10	31

8. Taxation

(a) Analysis of credit for the year

	2022 £'000	Restated 2021 £'000
Current tax		
Corporation tax	(565)	(175)
Total current tax	(565)	(175)
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	(74)	(175)
Change in tax rate	(23)	(759)
Total deferred tax (see Note 8(c))	(97)	(934)
Tax on profit on ordinary activities (see Note 8(b))	(662)	(1,109)

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

8. Taxation (continued)

(b) Factors affecting tax credit for the year

The tax assessed on the profit on ordinary activities for the year differs from the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.00% (2021: 19.00%). The differences are reconciled below:

	2022 £'000	Restated 2021 £'000
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	9,774	7,207
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2021: 19%)	1,857	1,369
Share-based payments		(390)
Income not taxable for tax purposes	(2,496)	(1,293)
Investment impairment	(23)	(36)
Remeasurement of deferred tax for changes in tax rates	-	(759)
Total tax credit (see Note 8(a))	(662)	(1,109)

(c) Deferred taxation

	Other temporary differences £'000	Total £'000
At 1 January 2021	2,228	2,228
Credit to profit and loss	175	175
Changes in tax rates	759	759
At 31 December 2021	3,162	3,162
Credit to profit and loss	74	74
Changes in tax rates	23	23
At 31 December 2022	3,259	3,259

Analysis of deferred tax balance for financial reporting purposes:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Deferred tax assets	3,259	3,162

(d) Factors that may affect future tax charges

The UK Government announced plans to increase the standard rate of corporation tax from 19% to 25% from 1 April 2023. This change was substantively enacted by the year end and therefore has been reflected in the calculation of deferred tax above.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

9. Property, plant and equipment

	Computer equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost		
At 1 January and 31 December 2022	85	85
Depreciation		
At 1 January and 31 December 2022	85	85
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	-	-
At 31 December 2021	-	-

10. Investments

	Subsidiaries £'000
Cost	
At 1 January and 31 December 2022	97,183
Provision for impairment	
At 1 January and 31 December 2022	46,860
Net book value	
At 31 December 2022	50,323
At 31 December 2021	50,323

The Company has investments in the following subsidiary undertakings at the year-end:

Name	Direct %	Indirect %	Country of Incorporation	Activities	Registered office
Meridian Outdoor Advertising Limited	50		England & Wales	Media planning and buying	1
Publicis Media UK Limited		100	England & Wales	Media planning and buying	1
Zenith (Media) International Limited	100		England & Wales	Media planning and buying	1
Zenith Services (Media) Limited	100		England & Wales	Media planning and buying	1
Zenith UK (Media) Limited	100		England & Wales	Media planning and buying	1

- 1st Floor, 2 Television Centre, 101 Wood Lane, London W12 7FR, United Kingdom

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

11. Trade and other receivables

	2022 £'000	Restated 2021 £'000
Amounts owed by group undertakings	3,340	16,096
Prepayments	-	36
Other receivables	-	15
	<u>3,340</u>	<u>16,147</u>

12. Trade and other payables

	2022 £'000	Restated 2021 £'000
Trade payables	45	49
Amounts owed to group undertakings	41,645	63,459
Other taxation and social security costs	595	783
Accruals	2,155	2,900
Other payables	222	1,239
	<u>44,662</u>	<u>68,430</u>

13. Share capital

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
<i>Allotted, called up and fully paid</i>		
2,500 (2021: 2,500) 'A' ordinary shares of 50p each	1	1
7,500 (2021: 7,500) 'B' ordinary shares of £1 each	8	8
	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

14. Reserves

Capital redemption reserve

This reserve relates to amounts transferred into a non-distributable reserve following the Company buying back its own shares.

Retained earnings

This reserve represents the cumulative profits and losses of the Company less amounts distributed to shareholders.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

15. Share-based payments

The total expense recognised for share-based payments in respect of employee services received during the year to 31 December 2022 is £390,000 (2021: £923,000). The total expense arose from equity-settled share-based payment transactions.

Free share plans (senior employees)

Free shares are granted to senior employees of the Company at the discretion of the Management Board of the ultimate parent company Publicis Groupe S.A.. The free share plans outstanding at 31 December 2022 have the following characteristics:

Long Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) 2021

Under this plan, a certain number of Group managers were awarded free shares, subject to three conditions:

- a continued presence condition, during the three-year vesting period;
- conditions for achieving the Group's revenue growth and profitability targets for the year 2021; and
- conditions based on progress made on the CSR (corporate social responsibility) policy, in the area of both Diversity, Equality and Inclusion and in the area of combating climate change, for which indicative interim points have been set. At the end of 2021, the percentage of women in key management positions as well as the percentage of change of integration of renewable energies in the Groupe will be assessed against targets set.

The shares ultimately awarded in accordance with the level of attainment of these performance targets will be deliverable at the end of a three-year period, i.e. in March 2024.

Long Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) 2022

Under this plan, a certain number of Group managers were awarded free shares, subject to three conditions:

- a continued presence condition, during the three-year vesting period;
- conditions for achieving the Group's revenue growth and profitability targets for the year 2022, compared to a reference group including the other three main global communications groups (Omnicom, WPP and IPG); and
- conditions based on progress made on the CSR (corporate social responsibility) policy, in the area of both Diversity, Equality and Inclusion and in the area of combating climate change, for which indicative interim points have been set. At the end of 2022, the percentage of women in key management positions as well as the percentage of change of integration of renewable energies in the Groupe will be assessed against targets set.

The shares ultimately awarded in accordance with the level of attainment of these performance targets will be deliverable at the end of a three-year period, i.e. in March 2025.

Share option plans

Share Options are granted to senior employees of the Company at the discretion of the Management Board of the ultimate parent company Publicis Groupe S.A.. The stock option plans outstanding at 31 December 2022 have the following characteristics:

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

15. Share-based payments (continued)

Share option plans (continued)

LionLead II 2013 (option)

Under this plan, the ultimate parent company, Publicis Groupe S.A. has awarded one free share and 7.03 stock options for each Publicis share purchased on their behalf by LionLead, a specific structure dedicated to this operation. These options, which were granted in April 2013, have completed their vesting period but the exercise of options remains subject to a continued presence condition until the date of exercise of the options exercisable in April 2023.

The expected life of the options is based on historical data and is not necessarily indicative of exercise patterns that may occur.

No other features of options grant were incorporated into the measurement of fair value.

The fair value of equity-settled share options granted is estimated as at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes model, taking into account the terms and conditions upon which the options were granted.

16. Financial instruments

The derivatives, which have a three month life, are valued based on a discounted cash flow, using quoted forward rates (an observable input) and discounted at a rate that takes into account credit risk.

Categories of financial instruments held at fair value

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss		
Derivative instruments – Assets		
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss		
Derivative instruments – Liabilities	1	19

Fair value hierarchy

The table below breaks down financial instruments recognised at fair value according to the measurement method used. The different levels of fair value have been defined as follows:

- Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2: Observable data other than quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Level 3: Unobservable data.

Derivative financial instruments valued using level 2 valuation techniques.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

16. Financial instruments (continued)

Changes in the value of financial instruments at fair value

Profit for the year has been arrived after charging:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss		
Derivative instruments – Assets	1	-
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss		
Derivative instruments – Liabilities	-	-

17. Related party transactions

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption under FRS 101 not to disclose transactions with Group undertakings as it is a subsidiary undertaking which is 100% controlled by the ultimate parent undertaking.

For the year ended 31 December 2022 the Company had the following transactions with other subsidiaries of Publicis Groupe S.A. that are not 100% owned.

	Payables		Receivables		Services	
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Publicis Communications Norway AS	-	-	-	-	186	-
Publicis Conseil S.A.	(16)	(17)	-	-	185	-
Publicis Média Denmark A/S	-	-	-	22	-	-
S&S (Vietnam) J.V. Co. Ltd	-	-	-	261	-	-

18. Prior year restatement

A prior year restatement of the financial statements has been recognised due to:

- In 2018, a subsidiary undertaking declared a final dividend due to the Company of £3,500,000. This dividend receipt was incorrectly excluded from the Company's financial statements. As a result, adjustments have been processed to correctly recognise the dividend income from the date the dividend became legally payable to the Company;
- A number of differences have been noted on historical intercompany balances with a fellow group undertaking which were incorrectly excluded from the Company's financial statements. Therefore, adjustments have been processed to correctly present the Amounts owed by group undertakings and Amounts owed to group undertakings as at 31 December 2021; and
- A number of reclassification adjustments have been recognised in respect to Other taxation and social security costs and Accruals as at 31 December 2021 and Corporation tax and Amounts owed to group undertakings at 31 December 2021. These reclassifications aid comparability for readers of the financial statements and there is no impact on the reported profit after tax or net assets in the prior year.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

18. Prior year restatement (continued)

The impact of the above restatements on the financial statements have been summarised below:

	Previously reported £'000	Adjustment £'000	After restatement £'000
Balance Sheet at 1 January 2021			
Amounts owed by group undertakings	29,654	3,500	33,154
Retained earnings	(11,314)	3,500	(7,814)
Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2021			
Administrative expenses	(103)	103	-
Other operating income	-	480	480
Profit before taxation	6,624	583	7,207
Taxation	(1,477)	2,586	1,109
Profit after taxation	5,147	3,169	8,316
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021			
Amounts owed by group undertakings	12,768	3,328	16,096
Corporation tax	(5,149)	5,149	-
Amounts owed to group undertakings	(61,651)	(1,808)	(63,459)
Other taxation and social security	(832)	49	(783)
Accruals	(2,851)	(49)	(2,900)
Retained earnings	(5,244)	6,669	1,425

19. Ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party

The immediate parent undertaking is MMS UK Holdings Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales. The ultimate parent undertaking, controlling party and the parent undertaking of the largest and smallest group to include the Company in its group financial statements is Publicis Groupe S.A., incorporated in France. Copies of its consolidated financial statements are available from 133 Avenue des Champs Elysees, 75008 Paris, France.

20. Post balance sheet events

On 27 June 2023, Meridian Outdoor Advertising Limited, a 50% owned investment of the Company, was dissolved via voluntary strike-off.