Company Registration No. OC330252

Ashurst LLP

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 April 2016

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Annual report and financial statements 2016

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Members' report

The Board presents its annual report and financial statements of Ashurst LLP for the year ended 30 April 2016.

Principal activity

The principal activity of the group is the provision of legal and tax advice in Asia, Australia, Continental Europe, the Middle East, North America and the United Kingdom.

Group structure

The group comprises Ashurst LLP and other partnerships, corporations and other undertakings, forming an international legal practice known as Ashurst.

Business review

The result for the year and financial position at the end of the year are included on pages 5 and 7. The members consider the results and financial position to be satisfactory and anticipate continued profitable trading for the foreseeable future.

Designated members

The designated members during the year and up to the date of signing the financial statements are set out below:

B J Tidswell C Calvo A M Pearson

M H Vickers
P A Jenkins (appointed 1 May 2016)
J H Collis (resigned 30 April 2016)

J H Collis (resigned 30 April 2016) R W Eyring (resigned 31 October 2015) R E Ogilvy Watson (resigned 31 October 2015)

Members' capital, profit share and drawings

In these consolidated financial statements, references to members include all members of the Ashurst limited liability partnership and all partners of one or more operating entity in the Ashurst group. Members' interests therefore reflect the interests of the members in their capacity as members or partners.

Remuneration of those partners who, for regulatory or fiscal reasons, are engaged by Ashurst as employees or consultants is charged as an expense in the profit and loss account.

Members provide the capital of Ashurst LLP. The level of capital is determined from time to time with reference to the financing requirements of the business. Capital can be withdrawn on retirement of a member.

The Board determines the total level of profit to be divided after the year end. These distributable profits are then allocated among the members in accordance with agreed profit sharing arrangements.

Members usually draw a proportion of their profit share in 12 monthly instalments during the year in which the profit is made, with the balance of their profits, net of a tax retention where appropriate, paid in instalments after the year end. All payments are subject to the cash requirements of the business.

Tax retentions are paid to the tax authorities on behalf of members, with any excess released to members as appropriate.

Going Concern

The Board has considered the going concern assumption as set out in note 1 to the financial statements and has a reasonable expectation that the group will operate within its facilities for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the members continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Members' report (continued)

Statement on disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as the members are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor of Ashurst LLP is unaware; and
- the members have taken all necessary steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

Deloitte LLP were re-appointed as independent auditor of Ashurst LLP on 29 September 2016.

Registered Office

The registered office, which is based in the United Kingdom, is:

Broadwalk House 5 Appold Street London EC2A 2HA

Approved by the members on 6 October 2016 and signed on their behalf by

B J Tidswell Chairman

Members' responsibilities statement

The members are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts and Audit) (Application of Companies Act 2006) Regulations 2008 require the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the members have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Under Company law as applied to limited liability partnerships, the members 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 group and limited liability partnership and of the profit or loss of the group for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the members 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 LLP will continue in business.

The members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the limited liability partnership and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, as applicable to limited liability partnerships and in accordance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting by limited liability partnership (issued July 2014). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the limited liability partnerships and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The responsibilities are exercised by the Board on behalf of the members.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Ashurst LLP

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Ashurst LLP for the year ended 30 April 2016 which comprise the consolidated profit and loss account, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated balance sheet, the limited liability partnership balance sheet, the consolidated of changes in members' interests, the consolidated cash flow statement and the related notes 1 to 23. 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 FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

This report is made solely to the LLP's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, as applied to limited liability partnerships by the Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts and Audit) (Application of Companies Act 2006) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the LLP'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 LLP and the LLP's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of members and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of members' responsibilities, the members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement. whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the group's and the parent LLP's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the designated members; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent LLP's affairs as at 30 April 2016 and of the group's 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, as applied to limited liability partnerships.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006, as applied to limited liability partnerships 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 parent LLP financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Peter Saunders (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Deloitte LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

London, United Kingdom

6 October 2016

Consolidated profit and loss account Year ended 30 April 2016

	Note	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Income			
Turnover Other operating income		504,374 867	558,605 2,264
		505,241	560,869
Operating costs			
Staff costs Depreciation Other operating charges	4	216,638 12,329 124,207	220,130 11,262 136,332
•		353,174	367,724
Operating profit		152,067	193,145
Bank interest receivable Finance costs	5 .	40 (3,113)	(2,213)
Profit before taxation	3	148,994	190,940
Taxation	. 6	(4,222)	(4,357)
Profit before members' remuneration and profit shares		144,772	186,583
Members' remuneration charged as an expense		(571)	(581)
Profit for the financial year available for division among the members	15	144,201	186,002

All activities in the current and preceding financial years are derived from continuing operations.

Consolidated statement of comprehensive income Year ended 30 April 2016

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Profit for the financial year available for division among members	144,201	186,002
Foreign currency translation differences arising on consolidation	8,960	(3,892)
Total comprehensive income available for discretionary division among members	153,161	182,110

Consolidated balance sheet as at 30 April 2016

	Note	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets Investments	8 9	69,899 139	34,552 133
·		70,038	34,685
Current assets	·		
Debtors	10	207,765	210,908
Amounts due from members	15	68,591	76,408
Cash at bank and in hand		15,786	28,711
		292,142	316,027
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	.11	(93,538)	(95,037)
Net current assets		198,604	220,990
Total assets less current liabilities		268,642	255,675
Creditors: amounts falling due			
after more than one year	12	(41,453)	(2,430)
Provisions for liabilities	14	(7,792)	(8,681)
Net assets attributable to members		219,397	244,564
Represented by:			
Loans and other debts due to members within one year Members' capital classified as a liability	15	63,555	57,050
Members' other interests			
Members' capital classed as equity	15	65	65
Other reserves classed as equity	15	155,777	187,449
		155,842	187,514
		219,397	244,564
Total mambaus/ interests			
Total members' interests Amounts due from members		(68,591)	(76,408)
Loans and other debts due to members		63,555	57,050
Members' other interests		155,842	187,514
	15	150,806	168,156
			

The financial statements of Ashurst LLP registered number OC330252 were approved by the members and authorised for issue on 6 October 2016 and signed on their behalf by

B J Tidswell Chairman

Limited liability partnership balance sheet as at 30 April 2016

	Note	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	25,795	15,567
Investments	9	103	96
		25,898	15,663
Current assets			
Debtors	10	152,611	161,179
Amounts due from members	15	33,133	21,388
Cash at bank and in hand		3,330	21,813
		189,074	204,380
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(62,596)	(60,497)
Net current assets		126,478	143,883
Total assets less current liabilities		152,376	159,546
Creditors: amounts falling due			
after more than one year	12	(8,800)	(37)
Provisions for liabilities	14	(1,998)	(1,482)
Net assets attributable to members		141,578	158,027
Represented by:			
Loans and other debts due to members within one year Members' capital classified as a liability		35,474	35,107
Members' other interests			
Members' capital classified as equity	15	65	65
Other reserves classified as equity	15	106,039	122,855
		106,104	122,920
		141,578	158,027
Total members' interests	•		
Amounts due from members		(33,133)	(21,388)
Loans and other debts due to members		35,474	35,107
Members' other interests		106,104	122,920
	15	108,445	136,639

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B J Tidswell Chairman

Ashurst LLP

Consolidated statement of changes in members' interests Year ended 30 April 2016

	2016 £′000	Group 2015 £'000	Limited li partner 2016 £'000	-
Members' interests at 1 May	168,156	176,077	136,639	136,334
Changes on transition to FRS 102		497		331
Members' interests brought forward as restated	168,156	176,574	136,639	136,665
Profit for the financial year available for division among members	144,201	186,002	93,328	112,869
Members' interests after profit for the year	312,357	362,576	229,967	249,534
Unrealised exchange difference arising in the year	8,960	(3,892)	349	115
Drawings and distributions	(174,794)	(183,701)	(114,946)	(101,333)
Capital introduced	11,574	203	1,523	51
Capital repaid	(6,407)	(5,253)	(2,578)	(1,570)
Transfers to former member accounts	(884)	(1,777)	(5,870)	(10,372)
Members' interests at 30 April	150,806	168,156	108,445	136,639

A full reconciliation of members' interests is set out in note 15.

Consolidated cash flow statement Year ended 30 April 2016

	Note	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	17	198,269	221,471
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	18	(3,073)	(2,205)
Taxation	18.	(1,411)	(3,484)
Capital expenditure	18	(36,584)	(15,950)
Transactions with members and former members	18	(169,627)	(192,512)
Management of liquid resources and financing	18	(499)	(9,012)
Decrease in cash	19	(12,925)	(1,692)
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		•	
Decrease in cash in the year	19	(12,925)	(1,692)
Cash outflow from movement in debt and lease financing		499	9,076
Change in net debt resulting from cash flows		(12,426)	7,384
New finance lease and other facilities		(12,726)	585
		(25,152)	7,969
Net funds at the start of the year	19	11,168	3,199
Net (debt)/funds at the end of the year	19	(13,984)	11,168

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below. Accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the current and preceding financial years.

General information and basis of accounting

Ashurst LLP is incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2000. The address of the registered office and the nature of the group's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Members' report.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting by Limited Liability Partnerships (issued July 2014).

The prior year comparatives have been restated for material adjustments on adoption of FRS 102 in the current year. Further details are set out in note 23.

The functional currency of Ashurst LLP is considered to be pounds sterling as that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the firm operates. The consolidated financial statements are also presented in pounds sterling. Foreign operations are included in accordance with the policies set out below.

Ashurst LLP meets the definition of a qualifying entity under FRS 102 and has therefore taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions available to it in respect of its separate financial statements, which are presented alongside the consolidated financial statements. Exemptions have been taken in relation to financial instruments, presentation of a cash flow statement, intragroup transactions and remuneration of key management personnel.

Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results and financial position of Ashurst LLP and its subsidiary undertakings drawn up to 30 April each year.

As permitted under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, no separate profit and loss account is presented for Ashurst LLP. The results for Ashurst LLP are disclosed in note 15.

Going concern

The group prepares regular business forecasts and monitors its cash flow position against available facilities. Forecasts are adjusted for sensitivities that address the principal risks to which Ashurst LLP and the group are exposed (such as a deterioration in activity levels) and consideration is given to the potential actions available to management to mitigate the impact of one or more of the sensitivities. This analysis has included consideration of the impact of a potential reduction in revenue following the British exit from the European Union and is reviewed by the Board.

The group has various committed and uncommitted financing facilities. The committed facilities are expected to remain in place until at least October 2018.

Despite the uncertainty in the economy and its inherent risk and impact on the business, the Board has concluded that Ashurst LLP and the group should be able to operate within its current facilities for the foreseeable future, being a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements, and have therefore adopted the going concern basis of preparation for the annual report and financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold improvements

The shorter of the period of the lease, the expected use of the

property and eight years

Furniture
Computer equipment
Office equipment

Four years Three years Four years

Office equipment Four years
Motor vehicles Three years

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the group after deducting all of its liabilities.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the balance sheet when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the group intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the group transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the group, despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party and the other party has the practical ability to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party and is able to exercise that ability unilaterally and without needing to impose additional restrictions on the transfer.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Impairment of assets

Assets, other than those measured at fair value, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each balance sheet date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss as described below.

Financial assets

For financial assets carried at amortised cost, the amount of an impairment is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate, where this effect is deemed material.

For financial assets carried at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the best estimate of the amount that would be received for the asset if it were to be sold at the reporting date.

Where indicators exist for a decrease in impairment loss, and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the prior impairment loss is tested to determine reversal. An impairment loss is reversed on an individual impaired financial asset to the extent that the revised recoverable value does not lead to a revised carrying amount higher than the carrying value had no impairment been recognised.

Taxation

The taxation payable on the profits of a limited liability partnership is usually the personal liability of the members. A retention from profit distributions is made to fund the taxation payments, due worldwide, on behalf of members. These retentions are included within members' interests.

The tax expense represents the sum of the current tax relating to the corporate subsidiaries and tax which is the liability of the group.

The tax charge also takes into consideration taxation payable or recoverable but deferred due to timing differences between the assessment of profit for taxation and the profit shown in the financial statements.

Members' interests

Members' capital includes both capital that can be withdrawn on retirement and capital that is repayable only in the event of a winding up. The former is treated as a liability and the latter is classified as equity.

Members' other interests classified as equity rank after unsecured creditors and Amounts due to members classified as a liability rank alongside unsecured creditors in the event of a winding up. The rights of members in respect of Members' capital classified as a liability are subordinated to the claims of the bank in respect of an advance facility and an overdraft facility.

Divisible profits and members' remuneration

The LLP SORP recognises that the basis of calculating profits for allocation may differ from the profits reflected through the financial statements prepared in accordance with recommended practice.

There is no automatic allocation of profits among members and no current year profits were allocated during the year. Accordingly, at 30 April 2016, the profit for the financial year is included in 'Other reserves' classified as equity. The entire profit for the current financial year was allocated to members subsequent to the balance sheet date.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Turnover

Turnover represents the fair value of services provided during the period, excluding reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses and sales tax. Turnover is only recognised where the group has a right to receive consideration for work done.

Services provided during the period which, at the balance sheet date have not been invoiced to clients, are included within turnover in accordance with Section 23 Revenue of Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Unbilled fee income is included as accrued income within debtors and is stated at fair value where the right to consideration has been obtained. A provision is made against unbilled amounts on those engagements where the right to receive payments is contingent on factors outside the control of the group. Contingent fee income (over and above any agreed minimum fee which is recognised as above) is recognised in the period when the contingent event occurs.

Employee benefits

The group operates a number of defined contribution pension schemes. The amount charged to the profit and loss account in respect of pension costs and other post-retirement benefits is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Foreign currency translation

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the applicable monthly rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rate of exchange prevailing at that date.

Certain inter office transactions represent profit clearing and funding transactions between offices and are therefore considered neither an equity investment nor a loan. There is no obligation to settle these transactions, and therefore these transactions are treated as non-monetary items.

The results of international operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of opening net assets and results of international operations are taken directly to reserves. All other exchange differences are included in the profit and loss account.

Leases

Assets held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts are capitalised as tangible fixed assets at fair value on the inception of the lease and depreciated over their estimated useful lives. The capital elements of future lease obligations are recorded as liabilities, while the interest elements are charged to the profit and loss account over the period of the lease.

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term, even if the payments are not made on such a basis. Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are similarly spread on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

In accordance with the transitional provisions of FRS 102, lease incentives on leases which were in existence prior to the date of the transition have been spread over the shorter of the lease and the period to the first review date on which the rent is first expected to be adjusted to the prevailing market rate.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Provisions

Provision is made for dilapidations in respect of property leases which contain requirements for the premises to be returned to their original state prior to the conclusion of the lease term.

Where required by regulation, the firm provides for long service leave, based on the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made resulting from employee services provided up to each balancing date, and having regard to the probability that employees as a group will remain in the firm's employ for the period of time necessary to qualify for long service leave.

Segmental reporting

No segmental analysis is presented. The Board considers such disclosure to be seriously prejudicial to the business.

2. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the LLP's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the members are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements in applying the group's accounting policies

The following are the critical judgements which involve estimates that the members have made in the process of applying the group's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

(a) Revenue recognition - accrued income

The value of accrued revenue is derived on the basis of estimations and assumptions regarding the fair value of unbilled time at the year end, have regard to the group's accounting policy for revenue recognition.

(b) Impairment of debtors

The group makes an estimate of the recoverable value of debtors. When assessing impairment of debtors, management considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile and historic experience. The net carrying amount of the group's debtors is set out in note 10.

(c) Measurement of provisions

The group's provisions, as set out in note 14 to the financial statements are based on management's best estimate of future cash flows.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

3. Profit before taxation

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Profit before taxation is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned assets Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - held under finance leases Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets Operating lease payments - land and buildings Foreign exchange loss /(gain)	12,294 35 1,465 35,319 410	11,227 35 40 39,803 (332)
Analysis of auditor's remuneration: Fees payable to the auditor of Ashurst LLP for the audit of its annual accounts	226	226
Fees payable to the auditor of Ashurst LLP and their associates for other services to the group - Audit of Ashurst LLP's subsidiary undertakings pursuant to legislation	35	. 34
Total audit fees		260
Tax advisory servicesOther services	388 67	409 109
Total non-audit fees	455	518
Total auditor's remuneration	716	778

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

4. Staff costs

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Staff costs during the period in respect of employees		
Salaries Social security costs	189,086 15,468	191,771 15,465
Pension costs Other costs	5,681 6,403	6,026 6,868
	216,638	220,130
Average number of people employed during the period (exclude	ling members)	
	2016 No.	2015 No.
Average number of persons employed		
Fee earning staff Other staff	1,368 1,354	1,399 1,252

The pension costs relate to defined contribution pension schemes. The contributions outstanding at the year end amounted to £613,000 (2015: £605,000).

2,722

2,651

The total remuneration of key management personnel in the year was £9,422,000 (2015: £10,341,000).

5. Finance costs

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Bank interest Other interest	1,182 1,931	871 1,342
•	3,113	2,213

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

6. Taxation

	2016 £′000	2015 £'000
Current tax	4,222	4,357
Profit before taxation Less: Amounts subject to personal tax	148,994 (131,736)	190,940 (174,440)
Profits subject to taxation	17,258	16,500
UK corporation tax at the blended rate of 20.0% (2015: 20.9%) Tax effect of:	3,452	3,451
- Prior year adjustments	(291)	(315)
 Timing differences Losses not recognised for deferred tax 	(309) 368	(108) 295
- Different tax rates and bases in other jurisdictions	1,002	1,034
Tax charge for the period	4,222	4,357
7. Members' remuneration		
	2016 No.	2015 No.
Average number of members	344	349

Profits are allocated on a gross basis before income tax charges.

Where a member receives remuneration as a director of a company within the group, employee or consultant, this is shown as Members' remuneration charged as an expense in the consolidated profit and loss account.

The profit share attributable to the member with the highest entitlement to profit for the year was £1,089,799 (2015: £1,012,000).

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

8. Tangible fixed assets

3.2.2						•	
Group	Leasehold improve- ments £'000	Furniture £′000	Computer equipment £'000	Office equipment £'000	Asset in construction £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost							
At 1 May 2015 Exchange	46,359	28,940	41,211	6,539	4,447	649	128,145
differences	910	477	358	136	_	(21)	1,860
Additions	34,977	400	4,902	408	8,563	` ģ	49,259
Disposals	(1,712)	(8,744)	(565)	(432)	-	(203)	(11,656)
At 30 April 2016	80,534	21,073	45,906	6,651	13,010	434	167,608
Accumulated							
depreciation At 1 May 2015 Exchange	32,504	22,940	31,863	5,859	· · · -	427	93,593
differences	816	599	439	139	-	(15)	1,978
Charge for the year	2,520	3,445	5,957	354		53	12,329
Disposals	(784)	(8,422)	(444)	. (384)	-	(157)	(10,191)
•					<u>-</u>		
At 30 April 2016	35,056	18,562	37,815	5,968		308	97,709
Net book value	,						
At 30 April 2016	45,478	2,511	8,091	683	13,010	126	69,899
At 30 April 2015	13,855	6,000	9,348	680	4,447	222	34,552
Tangible fixed a	ssets which	are held u	nder finance	leases include	ed above are	: :	
At 30 April 2016	12,675	7,819 ———	_	_	<u>-</u>	113	20,607
At 30 April 2015	-	14,897	-	-	-	294	15,191
							•
Net book value							
At 30 April 2016	12,088	1,912	-	_	-	57	14,057
F: :: = 5 = 4			·				
At 30 April 2015	-	2,652	-	-	-	125	2,777

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

8. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Leasehold improve- ments	Furniture	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Asset in construction	Motor vehicles	Total	
Limited liability partnership	£'000	£′000	£′000	£′000	£′000	£'000	£′000	
Cost At 1 May 2015 Exchange	32,755	8,674	21,235	3,567	4,447	350	71,028	
differences Additions Disposals	629 2,327 (302)	315 255 (186)	225 4,386 (421)	97 289 (214)	8,563 -	1 (182)	1,267 15,820 (1,305)	
At 30 April 2016	35,409	9,058	25,425	3,739	13,010	169	86,810	
Accumulated depreciation			,					
At 1 May 2015 Exchange	28,891	8,094	14,948	3,346	-	182	55,461	
differences Charge for the	617	268	160	90	-	2	1,137	
year Disposals	1,465 (302)	314 (186)	3,733 (421)	131 (214)	-	33 (136)	5,676 (1,259)	
At 30 April 2016	30,671	8,490	18,420	3,353	-	81	61,015	
Net book value At 30 April 2016	4,738	568	7,005	386	13,010	88	25,795	
At 30 April 2015	3,864	580 	6,287	221	4,447	168	15,567	
Tangible fixed assets which are held under finance leases included above are:								
Cost At 30 April 2016	-		-	-	<u>-</u>	113	113	
At 30 April 2015				-	-	294	294	
Net book value At 30 April 2016		·. -		-	-	57	<u>57</u>	
At 30 April 2015	-	-		<u>-</u>	_	125	125	

The group has leases mainly for office fit-outs which are considered to meet the definition of finance leases and are accounted for accordingly. Under the terms of the relevant lease agreements, the lessor owns the leased assets to which it has a right of re-possession in the event of specific default by the lessee, unless that default is otherwise remedied.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

9. Investments held as fixed assets

	Group Other investments £'000	Limited liability partnership Other investments £'000
Cost and net book value At 1 May 2015 Exchange differences	133 6	96 7
At 30 April 2016	139	103

All investments are unlisted.

The group has principal investments in the entities listed below.

Entity	Country of incorporation	Interest held	Activity
Ashurst Business Services Limited Classplot Limited Ashurst Group Limited Ashurst Holdings AB Ashurst Advokatbyrå AB Ashurst Commercial Services Limited Ashurst (Hong Kong) Services Limited ACN 061 008 259 Pty Limited (formerly Governance Risk and	England and Wales England and Wales England and Wales Sweden Sweden England and Wales Hong Kong Australia	100% 100% 100% 100% 100% 100% 100%	Service company Service company Holding company Holding company Provision of legal services Service company Service company Dormant company
Compliance Solutions Pty Limited) Ashurst Australia Nominees Pty Limited Ashurst Australia Services Pty Limited Blake and Riggall Pty Limited Roville Pty Limited Travinto Nominees (ACT) Pty Limited Travinto Nominees Pty Limited Travinto Premises Pty Limited	Australia Australia Australia Australia Australia Australia Australia Australia	100% 100% 100% 100% 100% 100%	Nominee company Service company Nominee company Service company Nominee company Nominee company Dormant company

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

9. Investments held as fixed assets (continued)

The group also has the power to exercise, or actually exercises, dominant influence over the entities listed below.

Entity	Country of formation	Principal place of business	Activity
Ashurst Horitsu Jimusho Gaikokuho Kyodo Jigyo	Japan	Shiroyama Trust Tower, 30th Floor 4-3-1 Toranomon Minato-ku Tokyo 105-6030	Provision of legal services
Studio Legale Associato ad Ashurst LLP	Italy	Via Sant'Orsola, 3 20123 Milan	Provision of legal services
Ashurst Hong Kong	England and Wales	11/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place Central, Hong Kong	Provision of legal services
Ashurst PNG	Papua New Guinea	Mogoru Moto Building, Champion Parade Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea	Provision of legal services
Office Services Limited	Papua New Guinea	Mogoru Moto Building, Champion Parade Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea	Service company
Corporate Services Limited	Papua New Guinea	Mogoru Moto Building, Champion Parade Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea	Service company
Blake Dawson Asia	Singapore	12 Marina Boulevard, 24-01 Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 3, Singapore	Service entity
Oentoeng, Suria and Partners	Indonesia	Level 37, Equity Tower, Sudirman Central Business District, Indonesia	Provision of legal services
PT Roville	Indonesia	Level 37, Equity Tower, Sudirman Central Business District, Indonesia	Service company

10. Debtors

•	1	Group	Limited I partne	_
	2016 £'000	2015 £'000	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Trade debtors Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings Other debtors Prepayments Accrued income	8,183 12,346 47,976	6,310 11,980 47,346	82,072 27,472 4,786 3,356 34,925	83,004 33,946 3,449 3,136 37,644
	207,765	210,908	152,611	161,179

Other debtors for the group include amounts due after more than one year of £2,336,000 (2015: £2,223,000), and for Ashurst LLP of £1,315,000 (2015: £1,156,000).

The amounts due from subsidiary undertakings are non-interest bearing and are repayable on demand.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

(Group	Limited li partner	•
2016 £'000	2015 £'000	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
6,714	14,210	1,219	18
2,092	903	38	69
-	-	19,160	23,618
15,115	20,219	10,688	10,559
8,924	10,416	4,182	3,397
32,045	27,409	14,888	10,119
28,649	21,880	12,421	12,717
93,538	95,037	62,596	60,497
	2016 £'000 6,714 2,092 - 15,115 8,924 32,045 28,649	£'000 £'000 6,714 14,210 2,092 903 15,115 20,219 8,924 10,416 32,045 27,409 28,649 21,880	Group partner 2016 2015 2016 £'000 £'000 £'000 6,714 14,210 1,219 2,092 903 38 19,160 15,115 20,219 10,688 8,924 10,416 4,182 32,045 27,409 14,888 28,649 21,880 12,421

The amounts due to subsidiary undertakings are non-interest bearing and are repayable on demand.

12. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

		Limited liability Froup partnership		
	2016 £'000	2015 £'000	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Bank loans (note 13) Obligations under finance leases (note 13) Accruals and deferred income	8,800 12,164 20,489	2,430 -	8,800 - -	- 37 -
	41,453	2,430	8,800	37

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

13. Bank loans and finance leases

Borrowings are repayable as follows:

		Croup	Limited li partnei	
	2016 £'000	Group 2015 £'000	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year	· ·			
Bank loans Finance leases	6,714 2,092	14,210 903	1,219 38	18 69
	8,806	15,113	1,257	87
Amounts falling due between one and two years				
Bank loans	1,200	-	1,200	-
Finance leases	2,168	829	· -	37
	3,368	829	1,200	37
Amounts falling due between two and five years				
Bank loans	7,600	-	7,600	-
Finance leases	9,996	1,601	· <u>·</u>	
	17,596	1,601	7,600	
Total			•	
Bank loans	15,514	14,210	10,019	18
Finance leases	14,256	3,333	38	106
	29,770	17,543	10,057	124

The terms of the bank loans restrict the group from making significant disposals of assets without the consent of the lender. Interest is payable on a 5 year bank loan at a variable rate of LIBOR plus 1.2% on the principal amount.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

14. Provisions for liabilities

Group	Property £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000
At 1 May 2015	2,513	6,168	8,681
Charged to profit and loss account	294	306	600
Released unused	(916)	(200)	(1,116)
Utilisation of provision	(284)	(52)	(336)
Exchange difference	(83)	46	(37)
At 30 April 2016	1,524	6,268	7,792
Limited liability partnership	Property £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000
At 1 May 2015	150	1,332	1,482
Charged to profit and loss account	225	301	526
Released unused	-	(39)	(39)
Utilisation of provision	-	-	-
Exchange difference		29	29
At 30 April 2016	375	1,623	1,998

The provision for property is in respect of dilapidations. Other amounts include provisions for end of service benefits, social security and client rebates.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

15. Members' interests Group

		Loans and other debts due to/(from) members	M	lembers' othe	r interests	
	Amounts due from members £'000	Members' capital classified as a liability £'000	Members' capital classified as equity £'000	Other reserves £'000	Total £'000	Total members' interests £'000
Members' interests at 1 May 2015	(76,408)	57,050	65	187,449	187,514	168,156
Profit for the financial year available for division among members	-	<u>.</u>		144,201	144,201	144,201
Members' interests after profit for the year	(76,408)	57,050	65	. 331,650	331,715	312,357
Allocated profit	185,848	153		(186,001)	(186,001)	-
Unrealised exchange difference arising in the year		-	-	8,960	8,960	8,960
Drawings and				.,		.,
distributions	(174,794)	-	-	-		(174,794)
Capital introduced	(3,280)	14,854	-	-	-	11,574
Capital repaid	-	(6,407)	-	-	-	(6,407)
Transfers to former member accounts	43	(2,095)	-	1,168	1,168	(884)
Members' interests at 30 April 2016	(68,591)	63,555	65	155,777	155,842	150,806

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

15. Members' interests (continued)

Group

·		Loans and other debts due to/(from) members	M	embers' othe	r interests	
	Amounts due from members £'000	Members' capital classified as a liability £'000	Members' capital classified as equity £'000	Other reserves £'000	Total £'000	Total members' interests £'000
Members' interests at 1 May 2014	(87,557)	55,479	65	208,090	208,155	176,077
Changes on transition to FRS 102 (note 23)				497	497	497
Members' interests at 1 May 2014 as restated Profit for the financial year available for	(87,557)	55,479	65	208,587	208,652	176,574
division among members		· <u>-</u>	_	186,002	186,002	186,002
Members' interests after profit for the year	(87,557)	55,479	65	394,589	394,654	362,576
Allocated profit	203,058	· 190	-	(203,248)	(203,248)	-
Unrealised exchange difference arising in the year	-		-	(3,892)	(3,892)	(3,892)
Drawings and						
distributions	(183,701)	-	-	,-		(183,701)
Capital introduced	(6,577)	6,780	-	-	-	203
Capital repaid	-	(5,253)	-	-	-	(5,253)
Transfers to former member accounts	(1,631)	(146)	-	-	-	(1,777)
Members' interests at 30 April 2015	(76,408)	57,050	65	187,449	187,514	168,156

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

15. Members' interests (continued)Limited liability partnership

		other debts due to/(from) members	М	embers' othe	r interests	
	Amounts due from members £'000	Members' capital classified as a liability £'000	Members' capital classified as equity £'000	Other reserves £'000	Total £'000	Total members' interests £'000
Members' interests at 1 May 2015	(21,388)	35,107	65	¹ 122,855	122,920	136,639
Profit for the financial year available for division among members			. ·	93,328	93,328	93,328
Members' interests after profit for the year	(21,388)	35,107	65	216,183	216,248	229,967
Allocated profit	112,869	, -	-	(112,869)	(112,869)	-
Unrealised exchange difference arising in the year	5	-		344	344	349
Drawings and distributions	(114,946)	-	-	-	`-	(114,946)
Capital introduced	(3,280)	4,803	-	-	-	1,523
Capital repaid	-	(2,578)	-	-	-	(2,578)
Transfers to former member accounts	(6,393)	(1,858)	-	2,381	2,381	(5,870)
Members' interests at 30 April 2016	(33,133)	35,474	65	106,039	106,104	108,445

Loans and

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

15. Members' interests (continued) Limited liability partnership

	Amounts due from members £'000			м	embers' othe	er interests	
		Members' capital classified as a liability £'000	Members' capital classified as equity £'000	Other reserves £'000	Total £'000	Total members' interests £'000	
Members' interests at 1 May 2014	(30,642)	38,910	65	128,001	128,066	136,334	
Changes on transition to FRS 102 (note 23)			_	331	331	331	
Members' interests at 1 May 2014 as restated Profit for the financial year available for	(30,642)	38,910	65	128,332	128,397	136,665	
division among members		· <u>-</u>		112,869	112,869	112,869	
Members' interests after profit for the year	(30,642)	38,910	65	241,201	241,266	249,534	
Allocated profit	118,486	189	-	(118,675)	(118,675)	-	
Unrealised exchange difference arising in the year	-	-	· <u>-</u>	329	329	329	
Drawings and distributions	(101,333)	-	-	-	-	(101,333)	
Capital introduced	(6,487)	6,538	-		-	51	
Capital repaid	-	(1,570)		-	-	(1,570)	
Transfers to former member accounts	(1,412)	(8,960)	-	-	-	(10,372)	
Members' interests at 30 April 2015	(21,388)	35,107	65	122,855	122,920	136,639	

Loans and

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

16. Financial instruments

The carrying values of the group's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

Financial coasts	2016 £′000	Group 2015 £'000
Financial assets Instruments measured at amortised cost: Trade and other debtors (note 10)	147,443	151,582
Financial liabilities	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Measured at amortised cost: Loans payable (note 13) Obligations under finance leases (note 13)	15,514 14,255	14,210 3,333
Measured at undiscounted amount payable: Trade and other creditors (note 11)	47,160	47,628
	76,929	65,171

The group's income, expense, gains and losses in respect of financial instruments are summarised as follows:

	Group	
	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Interest expense Total interest expense for financial liabilities at amortised cost	3,113	2,213

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

17. Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash inflow from operating activities

		2016 £'000	2015 £'000
	Operating profit Adjustment for:	152,067	193,145
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	12,329 1,465	11,262 40
	Operating cash flow before movement in working capital	165,861	204,447
	Decrease in debtors Increase/(decrease) in creditors (Decrease)/increase in provisions	3,143 21,011 (889)	22,214 (1,173) 228
	Exchange differences on working capital balances	9,143	(4,245)
	Net cash inflow from operating activities	198,269	221,471
18.	Analysis of consolidated cash flow statement		
		2016 £′000	2015 £'000
	Returns on investments and servicing of finance		
	Interest received Interest paid	40 (3,113)	8 (2,213)
	Net cash outflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance	(3,073)	(2,205)
	Taxation Tax paid by group undertakings	(1,411)	(3,484)
	Net cash outflow from taxation	(1,411)	(3,484)
	Capital expenditure Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(36,584)	(15,950)
	Net cash outflow from capital expenditure	(36,584)	(15,950)
	Transactions with members and former members		
	Capital contributions from members	11,574	203
	Capital repaid on behalf of members	(6,407)	(5,253)
	Payments to and on behalf of members Payments to former members	(170,495) (4,299)	(183,701) (3,761)
	Net cash outflow from transactions with members and former members	(169,627)	(192,512)
	Management of liquid resources and financing		
	Proceeds from sale of investments	<u>-</u>	64
	Loan advances	10,018	2,450
	Repayment of loans Repayment of finance leases	(8,752) (1,765)	(9,508) (2,018)
	Net cash outflow from management of liquid resources and		
	financing	(499)	(9,012)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

19. Analysis of changes in net funds

	2015 £'000	Cash flows £'000	Other changes £'000	2016 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	28,711	(12,925)	-	15,786
Loans due within one year Finance leases due within one year Loans due after more than one year Finance leases due after more than one year	(14,210) (903) - (2,430)	(1,266) 1,765 -	8,762 (2,954) (8,800) (9,734)	(6,714) (2,092) (8,800) (12,164)
	11,168	(12,426)	(12,726)	(13,984)

During the year, the group entered into finance leases and other financing transactions in respect of assets with a total value at inception of £12,726,000 (2015: £3,284,000).

20. Financial commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect of land and buildings are as follows:

2016 £'000	2015 £'000
34,847	34,578
98,133	108,734
34,499	38,762
167,479	182,074
2016 £'000	2015 £'000
18,411.	17,789
45,266	56,623
2,852	4,205
66,529	78,617
	2016 £'000 34,847 98,133 34,499 167,479 2016 £'000 18,411 45,266 2,852

There were no operating lease commitments other than for land and buildings.

21. Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities.

22. Related party disclosures

As permitted by Financial FRS 102 - 33.1A, Related party disclosures, no disclosures have been made of transactions with wholly owned entities included in these consolidated financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 April 2016

23. Transition to FRS 102

This is the first year that Ashurst LLP has presented its financial statements under Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council. The last financial statements under previous UK GAAP were for the year ended 30 April 2015 and the date of transition to FRS 102 was therefore 1 May 2014. As a consequence of adopting FRS 102, a number of accounting policies have changed to comply with that standard.

Revaluation of trading balances

Under FRS 102, the group revalues the trading balances within intercompany balances at the closing rate with the resulting translation differences being recognised in the profit and loss account.

This is a change to the previous accounting policy. The impact of restating prior year figures is shown in note 15.