

Registration number: 00679215

News Group Newspapers Limited

Report and financial statements

for the year ended 27 June 2021



News Group Newspapers Limited

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News Group Newspapers Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 27 June 2021

The directors present their strategic report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 27 June 2021.

Principal activities and business review

News Group Newspapers Limited forms part of News Corporation which is a global diversified media and information services company focused on creating and distributing authoritative and engaging content and other products and services to consumers and businesses throughout the world. News Corporation comprises businesses across a range of media, including: digital real estate services, subscription video services in Australia, news and information services and book publishing, that are distributed under some of the world's most recognizable and respected brands, including The Wall Street Journal, Barron's, Dow Jones, The Australian, Herald Sun, The Sun, The Times, HarperCollins Publishers, Foxtel, FOX SPORTS Australia, realestate.com.au, realtor.com®, talkSPORT and many others.

The company's principal activities are the publishing of The Sun and The Sun on Sunday ("The Sun") and the distribution of content through its digital platforms, including thesun.co.uk and other websites and apps ("The Sun Online"). Alongside print, these brands now reach more people than ever before via mobile, web, apps, social channels and podcasts. Based on PAMCo 1 2021 data (Publishers Audience Measurement Company), The Sun has retained its position as the number one newsbrand in the UK for a fourth consecutive year, growing its combined reach to a monthly print and digital audience of 38.2m UK adults (2020 - 36.5m). The Sun has a clear mission to build on its success as Britain's most popular newspaper, engage with its customers across print and digital and secure a sustainable future for its journalism.

The continued growth in The Sun's brand reach is underpinned by our ongoing focus on producing best in class content across our core pillars (News, Football, Family Value and TV & Showbiz), as The Sun remained committed to keeping the nation informed, entertained, healthy and working during uncertain times and a turbulent political landscape. Our exclusive story exposing the Health Secretary's affair set the news agenda for days, providing a significant uplift in audience engagement and was the most viewed video in The Sun's history. Our brand reach is also driven by synergies across News UK with Wireless and talkSPORT in particular assisting in the development of The Sun brand and vice versa, through sharing content and talent and driving audiences between brands.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create a challenging environment. During lockdown periods, the temporary closure of non-essential retailers reduced demand for print advertising, and reduced commuter levels impacted newsstand sales across the industry, with reader's consumption habits shifting online at an accelerated rate since the pandemic started. This has driven increased adoption of our digital products with digital advertising performing strongly. Despite the challenges faced during these unprecedented times, the company has remained agile, reflecting the resilience of our staff and their dedication to keeping the nation informed.

The company generated turnover for the year of £318,628,000 (2020 - £324,010,000). The decrease in turnover was primarily due to adverse print market conditions exacerbated by the pandemic, particularly in Monday-Friday sales, though performance has continued to improve since the first lockdown and throughout the financial year. There were declines in both newspaper circulation and print advertising revenues owing to an industry-wide acceleration in the shift in spends towards online. Growth in our digital advertising revenues and other customer revenues including Betting & Gaming were able to partly offset the losses in print.

In digital form, The Sun Online remained the number one digital newsbrand in the UK, continuing to outperform the Mail Online in terms of monthly audience in June 2021 (Ipsos data) with an online UK audience of 24.1m. UKOM (UK Online Measurement), which sets the U.K. industry standard for online audience measurement, appointed Ipsos as the provider of online audience measurement from January 2021. Over the period we saw greater engagement from our existing users, who viewed more articles on average than ever before. Globally, our digital offering reached approximately 124m unique users (Google Analytics) on a monthly basis in June 2021. Our dedicated US website (www.the-sun.com) continued to go from strength to strength with smart ad tech releases driving growth in impressions (internal data) and, ultimately, advertising yields.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

Principal activities and business review (continued)

In our Betting & Gaming business there were product enhancements and targeted marketing which has driven increases in wagering and monthly active users across our Bingo & Vegas proposition. We also continue to expand our affiliate network and generate further synergies across the News UK Group by creating sporting content shared across The Sun and talkSPORT that drives audiences to our affiliate partners.

In a show of support for the UK's COVID-19 vaccination rollout, we launched our 'Jabs Army' campaign in January 2021, calling for 50,000 volunteers. Within two weeks, we reached our target with our stewards forming a key part of the COVID-19 vaccination team. Our efforts were recognised with three national awards including Editorial Campaign of the Year at the Campaign Publishing Awards. Other successful campaigns launched during the year included our 'Books for Kids' campaign to bring the joy of reading to more families during lockdown and 'Mask Force' encouraging our readers to start recycling their single-use masks. We continue to support people from all backgrounds; internally focused on diversity, we announced a number of new placements as part of the government's 'Kickstart' scheme to help young people break into the media. Each placement earns a Certificate of Foundation Journalism (NCTJ) qualification, on-the-job experience and training across News UK's editorial and broadcast brands.

There was an adjusted operating loss of £44,389,000 (2020 - £197,064,000) and an operating loss of £49,887,000 (2020 - £199,218,000). Excluding the impact of restructuring costs and one-off operating charges, EBITDA is £12,911,000 (2020 - £2,274,000). The company's EBITDA increased compared to the prior year as targeted cost savings across editorial, marketing, commercial and corporate functions and lower print production costs owing to the declines in print circulation more than offset the decrease in turnover, as previously discussed.

Key performance indicators

	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Turnover	318,628	324,010
EBITDA	(41,591)	(79,975)
EBITDA excluding restructuring expense and one-off operating charges	12,911	2,274

EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation charges.

PAMCo 1 2021 Total Brand Reach (monthly) (source: Publishers Audience Measurement Company - Apr'19 to Mar'20 print data fused with Nov'20 Comscore data, measuring combined print and digital reach):

	2021	2020
Sun (The Sun, The Sun on Sunday and The Sun Online)	38,189,000	36,502,000

*Print data not updated since the PAMCo 2, 2020 data release as due to COVID-19 face to face interviewing was suspended.

Future Developments

Our priority is to sustain our market leading position as the number one newsbrand in the UK by ensuring the proposition maintains its relevance for readers. The Sun will continue to invest and focus on investigative journalism and delivering the big stories which showcase its quality. In addition, we constantly evaluate and improve our offering in order to continue growing our audience and engagement across existing and new channels and maximise commercial opportunities.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

Future Developments (continued)

As the industry moves towards a cookie-less world, our digital growth strategies are focused on growing our known audiences by redeveloping our apps and websites to increase on-platform engagement, including initiatives to convert print and international audiences to app users. The Sun Online remains a key area of digital growth, supported by The Fifth, Studio Pi, project Ozone and the News IQ platform. We will also see a future benefit from landmark news payment agreements reached between News Corporation and major tech platforms. These deals, while confidential, will provide new sources of annual revenue and are a profoundly positive sign of the ongoing transformation of the news landscape.

In July 2021, alongside other News UK companies, we announced the launch of Nucleus, our new first-party data platform. Nucleus will enable advertisers to reach News UK's digital readers, listeners and viewers using rich data and contextual insight across its brands' audiences. The platform enables brands to target their advertising based on traditional user metrics as well as innovative insight such as preference, opinion and emotions. Nucleus will also be leveraged internally to help drive personalised reader offers, better understand reader engagement with editorial content and develop new advertising products.

Our Betting and Gaming business continues to be an important area of focus with emphasis on current product enhancements and new products which would strengthen our portfolio. The next financial year will mark an evolution in the relationship with our Betting & Gaming partner (Playtech), as we commence a new joint venture relating to our Sun Bingo and Sun Vegas offerings. Brand revenue remains a key focus area and The Sun's aim is to deliver a best-in-class, profitable business that creates seamless opportunities for our readers to read, listen, play, watch and experience. While we will also keep exploring new partnership opportunities with the brands we work with.

As containment measures have become increasingly more relaxed, we have seen the rate and magnitude of COVID-19 impacts slow. On 19th July 2021, most remaining COVID-19 legal restrictions were removed in England. While we expect the removal of restrictions to be permanent and trends to continue, the pandemic has been unpredictable and its long term impacts remain uncertain. Where necessary, the company may continue to take various steps intended to offset the impact of COVID-19.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The company's advertising volume, circulation and the price of paper are the key variables whose fluctuations can have a material effect on its operating results and cash flows. The company has to anticipate the level of advertising volume, circulation and paper prices in managing its business to maximise operating profit during expanding and contracting economic cycles. The company continues to be exposed to risks associated with paper used for printing. Paper is a basic commodity and its price is sensitive to the balance of supply and demand. The company's expenses are affected by the cyclical increases and decreases in the price of paper. The company's products compete for readership and advertising amongst its competitors and also compete with other media alternatives in their respective markets. Competition for circulation and subscriptions is based on the content of the products provided, pricing and, from time to time, various promotions. The success of these products also depends on advertisers' judgements as to the most effective use of their advertising budgets. Competition for advertising is based upon the reach of products, advertising rates and advertiser results. Such judgements are based on factors such as cost, availability of alternative media, distribution and quality of readership demographics.

Like other newspaper groups, the company faces challenges to its traditional print business model from new media formats and shifting consumer preferences. The company is also exposed to the impact of long term structural movements in advertising spending, in particular, the move in advertising from print to digital. These new media formats could impact the company and its overall performance, positively or negatively.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

As a multi-platform news provider, the company recognises the importance of maximising revenues from new media, both in terms of paid for content and in new advertising models, and continues to invest in its digital products. The development of technologies such as smartphones, tablets and similar devices and their related application provides continued opportunities for the company to make its journalism available to a new audience of readers, introduce new or different pricing schemes, develop its products to continue to attract advertisers and/or affect the relationship between publisher and consumer. The company continues to develop and implement strategies to exploit its content in new media channels.

A Cyber-crime attack on systems and data could disrupt the digital service and thus damage advertising revenue. Response plans are in place with security policies, standards and procedures being well established.

A combination of vision, leadership and innovation is essential for senior roles in the managerial team and failure to secure and retain the right people for senior and business critical roles, or plan for the natural succession for these positions, could lead to untimely loss of critical knowledge, experience and competitive advantage. The appeal of our editorial talent supported by skilled and creative staff is a fundamental component of our business and failure to secure and retain talented people for these roles could impact the ability to maintain circulation volume, performance and deliver growth. The company remains committed to the recruitment, engagement, retention and reward of experienced and quality management.

The company has no third party trade debtors. The only debtors are with other companies within the News UK group collecting advertising and circulation revenue on behalf of the company. Bad debts associated with advertising and circulation revenue are recharged to the company.

Credit checks are performed for all new advertising customers requesting credit in excess of £1,500. Advance payment is requested when credit ratings are not sufficient. Formal processes are in place to ensure overdue accounts are followed up on a timely basis, with accounts being blocked for further advertisements when overdue.

Risk to bad debt from circulation customers is limited due to the majority of customers paying by direct debit and any overdue accounts being blocked for further supply until full settlement is received.

The majority of the company's transactions are in sterling, exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates is therefore limited. Foreign currency is managed centrally by the News UK group, which takes into account the foreign currency transactions of the company.

The company is exposed to libel claims in the ordinary course of business and vigorously defends against claims received. The Group makes provision for the estimated costs to defend such claims when incurred and provides for any settlement costs when such an outcome is judged probable.

Following the allegations of voicemail interception and inappropriate payments to public officials there have been a number of civil cases brought against the company, most of which have been settled, or are in the process of being settled. A provision has been made at the balance sheet date in respect of all claims that have been filed up until the date of finalisation of the financial statements. In 2011 the company established a compensation scheme which was closed to new entrants in April 2013. A provision has been made at the balance sheet date for all applicants accepted to participate in this scheme. No provision has been made for letters of claim which have been received but where no formal court proceedings have been issued, or for individuals who have not contacted the company. It is not possible to estimate the liability for such additional claims given the information that is currently available to the company. If more claims are filed and additional information becomes available in the civil cases, the company will update the liability provision for such matters. A charge of £14,485,000 (2020 - £52,314,000) in respect of claimants legal fees and damages has been made in respect of this litigation, based on available information at the date of signing the financial statements. The final cost may or may not be significantly higher than the amounts recognised. This has been reported as a one off charge due to its size and incidence.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

Report on compliance with section 172 of Companies Act 2006

Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 requires company directors to act in a way which promotes the long term success of the company and in doing so to consider the interests of the company stakeholders.

The News Corp UK & Ireland Limited Board ("the Board") has oversight of the following News UK group companies: News Group Newspapers Limited; Times Newspapers Limited; News UK & Ireland Limited; talkSPORT Limited; Newsprinters Limited; and Newsprinters (Broxbourne) Limited ("the News UK Group").

During Financial Year 2021, the Board undertook a variety of activities to engage with stakeholders on behalf of the News UK Group and ensured that their status was recognised in the Boardroom.

This section of the report describes the impact of this engagement for the News UK Group and confirms that the Board has at all times during the year under review (and at all other times) acted in the way that they considered, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the News UK Group for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in doing so had regard (amongst other matters) to:

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term;
- the interests of employees;
- the need to foster business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- the impact of operations on the community and the environment;
- the desirability of maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- the need to act fairly as between members.

Engagement with and interests of employees

The Board promotes colleagues' voices to be heard in the Boardroom through a variety of different channels.

Engaging employees

In December 2020, News UK & Ireland Limited ran an employee engagement survey to the News UK Group to enable it to better understand its colleagues' views on what it's like to work for the company. The results were shared with the Board and resulted in a series of departmental plans being drawn up with the objective of continuing to improve engagement across the business.

In addition, News UK & Ireland Limited also encourages potential, current and outgoing employees of the News UK Group to complete experience surveys to ensure that colleague's opinions are shared throughout their lifecycle with the business. These take the form of recruitment surveys at the point of interview (whether successful or not), on-boarding surveys, and 360 degree and team effectiveness surveys.

Inclusion

The Board is proud to be building an inclusive business which is a great place for all colleagues to work. In view of this, News UK & Ireland Limited surveyed employees of the News UK Group to better understand diversity across the business and this data is being used to inform a diversity strategy which is shared with the Board.

Health and Wellbeing

A number of wellness initiatives have been successfully introduced since January 2020, such as "Wellness Wednesdays" which aim to cover a range of physical, mental, social and financial wellbeing issues. During the COVID-19 period, a Ways of Working survey was also launched and a mental health check-in to ensure voices were heard and issues were identified. New initiatives were launched to connect people within the business, including a daily 'News United' email, sharing inspirational stories and new digital training, on building resilience and dealing with change.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

Report on compliance with section 172 of Companies Act 2006 (continued)

Engagement with and interests of employees (continued)

Board Communication

The Board is active in communicating its messages to its employees. In particular, during the COVID-19 period, the Board sent regular emails to all News UK Group employees updating them on business objectives, well-being, support and charitable initiatives.

Colleagues continue to be able to report any concerns relating to wrongdoing or misconduct via Alertline, News Corporation's whistleblowing service.

Fostering relationships with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the company

Suppliers

All material suppliers have a contractual relationship with News UK & Ireland Limited for the benefit of the News UK Group.

The Board recognises the integral role our suppliers play in ensuring the News UK Group delivers a reliable service. In recognition of this News UK & Ireland Limited has a Supplier and Contributor Policy and Procurement Guidelines which govern the News UK Group's engagement with third parties and are reviewed by the Board periodically. The purpose of these policies is to ensure that the News UK Group only engages with third parties that comply with all applicable laws and regulations, and meet News UK & Ireland Limited's standards for ethical conduct. It also ensures that the News UK Group's third party database is proportionate to its size and product portfolio.

All third parties must be onboarded via the News UK Group's third party risk management tool. This tool enables the News UK Group to better assess the risks of engaging with third parties and exists as part of the News UK Group's wider commitment to complete proportionate and risk-based due diligence on all third parties it engages with. The tool also governs the ongoing management of such third party engagements.

Moreover, certain members of the Board are also engaged each month in a procurement meeting to review relevant activity with third parties for that period. This review provides oversight on contractual relationships, tender activity, projects and financial status. All material approvals for commitments or transactions with third parties must comply with News UK & Ireland Limited's Approval Policy which sets out thresholds for the levels of approvals required.

Customers

Customers are at the heart of everything that the News UK Group does. During the year, the Board has received updates on consumer Key Performance Indicators (including, but not limited to print sales, listeners, digital traffic and digital subscriptions) and the business' engagement with customers, content themes and improvements to overall customer experience. The Board has also received progress reports on customer service performance updates and how any issues with customers are resolved and has had the opportunity to review results and provide feedback on customer insights, analytics and other related data.

Community and Environment

The News UK Group is committed to managing the wider, social, environmental and economic impacts of its operations which includes the way it deals with its customers and manages sustainability issues in its supply chain. Refer to [news.co.uk](https://www.news.co.uk) for further information on News Corp Group's Modern Slavery Statement and Standards of Business Conduct.

Shareholders

The Board provides regular updates to its parent company, News Corporation. The financial results of the News UK Group are reported to News Corporation on a quarterly basis.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

Report on compliance with section 172 of Companies Act 2006 (continued)

Fostering relationships with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the company (continued)

For example, a CEO report is prepared for News Corporation each quarter, which provides information on each News UK Group entity, including updates on: revenues and KPIs; COVID-19; subscriptions; changes in senior resource; audience engagement; advertising; sales performance; projects; key legal and HR issues; and technology.

Other examples of communications shared with News Corporation throughout the year include litigation reports and corporate audit updates.

Principal decisions of the Board

COVID-19

The Coronavirus pandemic had a significant impact on the business operations of the News UK Group since February 2020.

In response to this, an initial working group was established by the Board in early February 2020 with the aim of monitoring developments and initiating planning. The working group considered risk under 4 key categories including: operational business risk; risk to people; risk to facilities; and communications risks. This working group was made up of Board members; HR; Safety; Occupational, Health; Business Resilience; Security; Facilitations Management; Communications; and Legal.

As the pandemic developed, the News UK Group Crisis Management Plan was updated to detail the composition and structure of the various crisis committees. This provided a strong framework and broadened the scope of the original committees in place to include representation from all parts of the business (previous crises were geographically or functionally limited and did not require such comprehensive coordination).

As members of the committees, the Board has overseen and approved all decisions relating to employees' access to the offices and print sites. The Board has also worked closely with the business to develop policies, communications and staff support mechanisms to protect the health and safety of all staff across the News UK Group on an ongoing basis.

In addition, the Board has received regular updates on the impact on revenue and relationships with customers and suppliers and overseen all efforts to mitigate the impacts of the crisis. In doing this, the Board has considered the continuity of business to support long term relationships and has considered payment terms to balance the need of the News UK Group business and the needs of customers and suppliers equally.

Importance of newspapers during COVID-19

During the COVID-19 period, the Board highlighted to its employees the importance of the News UK Group newspapers to the public and was in regular dialogue with the government to ensure key worker status for its staff.

The Board highlighted to staff that many of its readers or their extended families would be struggling during the COVID-19 period and that the News UK Group newspapers had a strong responsibility to stand up for their readers' interests and hold those in power to account.

For the benefit of customers and shareholder value, the Board asked its employees to do everything they could to ensure that customers understood the value of buying a newspaper, encouraging staff to use the hashtag #buyapaper on their social media. The Board wanted customers to be reminded that, in an age of fake news, the News UK Group newspapers continued to provide a lifeline of trusted information to millions and that the information provided really could mean the difference between life and death in the pandemic.

Distribution of newspapers

COVID-19 also impacted the way in which newspapers could be accessed by customers.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Strategic Report for the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

Report on compliance with section 172 of Companies Act 2006 (continued)

Principal decisions of the Board (continued)

As such, the Board has overseen the promotion of Home News Delivery, which offers customers the opportunity to receive a print copy of the newspaper each day without having to leave their homes.

In addition, customers could still access the titles digitally through the web or mobile devices in a way that suited them, as well as through the availability of digital subscriptions where applicable. This ensured that customers could remain connected with the titles and was also key in maintaining shareholder value.

Engagement with Regulators

The Board receives regular updates on the status of any regulatory issues relating to the News UK Group. These updates are provided by the News UK General Counsel and the Managing Editors and are discussed at Board meetings. In doing this, the Board monitors News UK Group's compliance with regulatory issues and the actions taken to maintain this such as the implementation of internal training and updates to policies and procedures.

In addition, the News UK Group's Legal team provides regular updates to News Corporation on regulatory and reputational issues and contributes to a Compliance Steering Committee meeting held by News Corporation each quarter.

Approved by the Board on 15 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



C.C.S. Longcroft
Director

News Group Newspapers Limited

Directors' Report For the year ended 27 June 2021

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 27 June 2021.

Results and dividends

The loss for the year, after taxation, amounted to £51,829,000 (2020 - £201,738,000).

The directors do not recommend a dividend (2020 - £Nil).

Directors

The directors who held office during the year were as follows:

R.M. Brooks

D.W. Dinsmore

C.C.S. Longcroft

All directors served throughout the year and are still directors at the date of this report.

The Articles of Association do not require directors to retire either by rotation or in the year of appointment.

Directors' indemnity provision

News Corporation has indemnified all directors of the company against liability in respect of proceedings brought by third parties, except that, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, no indemnity is provided against: any liability incurred by the director in defending civil proceedings brought by the company, or an associated company, in which the final judgement is given against the director; and liability of the director to pay a fine imposed by criminal proceedings; any liability incurred by the director in defending criminal proceedings in which the director is convicted; any liability of the director to pay a penalty sum to a regulatory authority in respect of non compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature, howsoever arising; or any liability of the director in connection with an application for relief in which the court refuses to grant him relief. Such qualifying third party indemnity provision was in force during the year and is in force as at the date of approving the Directors' report.

Employment of disabled persons

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the respective 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 the 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 with that of other employees.

Employees consultation

It is the policy of the company to develop employee involvement throughout the organisation and to ensure that they are aware of the financial and economic factors affecting the company and the News UK group of which it is a member.

Communication meetings between management and employees are held both formally and informally, where matters of specific interest are discussed. Consultation with all employees occurs on a regular basis covering pensions and health and safety and their views are taken into consideration when making decisions. A range of training programmes are held for employees.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Directors' Report (continued) For the year ended 27 June 2021

Going concern

The ultimate parent undertaking, News Corporation (the "Parent Company") has agreed to provide continuing financial support to enable the company to meet its obligations as and when they fall due until at least 31 December 2022.

The Parent Company has considered the impacts to the business of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. The Parent Company will continue to review its liquidity needs in light of the business and economic impacts of COVID-19; however it expects that its current cash balances will enable it to meet its liquidity needs until 31 December 2022, including repayment of debt. The Parent Company also has available borrowing capacity under its undrawn \$750 million revolving credit facility and expects to have access to the worldwide credit and capital markets, subject to market conditions, in order to issue additional debt if needed or desired. Please refer to the latest financial statements of News Corp found at: <https://investors.newscorp.com/>

Based on this information and on enquiries, the directors believe that News Corporation has the ability to provide financial support to the company for the foreseeable future.

Taking into account the position of the ultimate parent, the directors are of the view, to the best of their current knowledge, that COVID-19 will not have a material adverse impact on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Streamlined energy and carbon report

A detailed report has been included within the financial statements of the company's immediate parent entity News Corp UK & Ireland Limited. The results cover the UK operations of the News UK group and cannot be allocated to individual companies.

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for preparing the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. Under Company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; 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 disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Directors' Report (continued) For the year ended 27 June 2021

Disclosure of information to the auditor

Each director has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information. The directors confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

Auditor

The directors have passed a resolution to dispense with the requirement to reappoint auditors annually. Ernst & Young LLP are deemed to be reappointed as auditor in the absence of a notice that the appointment is to be terminated.

Approved by the Board on 15 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



C.C.S. Longcroft
Director

1 London Bridge Street
London
SE1 9GF

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of News Group Newspapers Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of News Group Newspapers Limited for the year ended 27 June 2021 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity, and related notes 1 to 23 including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the company's affairs as at 27 June 2021 and of its loss 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 below. 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.

Emphasis of matter significant uncertainty over provisions and contingencies related to voicemail interception cases after allegations of voicemail interception and inappropriate payments to public officials and other related matters

We draw attention to the disclosures made in note 20 of the financial statements, concerning future expenditures for which reliable estimates cannot be made and other contingencies related to voicemail interception cases after allegations of voicemail interception and inappropriate payments to public officials and other related matters. The ultimate exposure of News Group Newspapers Limited in relation to these matters is subject to significant uncertainty, and the total amounts that will ultimately be determined to be payable by the company will be dependent on many factors, including the number of individuals making a claim against the company and any findings as to the extent of their loss, as well as the potential size of any civil or administrative fines or penalties. Consequently the actual cost may or may not be significantly higher than the amounts recognised in the financial statements and disclosed in note 19. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

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 to 31 December 2022.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other information

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

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of News Group Newspapers Limited (continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the 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 Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

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

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

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 10, 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.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of News Group Newspapers Limited (continued)

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the company and determined that the most significant are those that relate to the reporting framework (UK GAAP), the Companies Act 2006 and the relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK.
- We understood how the company is complying with those frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance. We corroborated these enquiries through our review of board meeting minutes. We reviewed management's entity level controls to understand the company culture of honest and ethical behaviour, including the emphasis on fraud prevention.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur through our discussions with management to understand where there is susceptibility for fraud. We also considered management performance targets and how these could influence any attempts to manage earnings. We also gained an understanding and tested internal controls designed by the group to prevent, deter and detect fraud.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify noncompliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved testing journal entries, with an emphasis placed on manual journal entries recorded to revenue and any other large or unusual transactions to gain reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud and error. Furthermore, we performed procedures to conclude on the compliance of disclosures made in the annual report and accounts with all applicable requirements.

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



Richard Addison (Senior statutory auditor)
For and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Statutory Auditor, London
Date: 19 November 2021

News Group Newspapers Limited

Profit and Loss Account For the year ended 27 June 2021

	Note	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Turnover	3	318,628	324,010
Cost of sales		<u>(219,088)</u>	<u>(231,764)</u>
Gross profit		99,540	92,246
Sales and marketing costs		(36,498)	(39,534)
Administrative expenses		(58,427)	(85,681)
Operating one-off charges	4	<u>(49,004)</u>	<u>(164,095)</u>
Adjusted operating loss	6	(44,389)	(197,064)
Restructuring expense	5	<u>(5,498)</u>	<u>(2,154)</u>
Operating loss	6	(49,887)	(199,218)
Interest payable	7	<u>(1,244)</u>	<u>(2,262)</u>
Loss before tax		(51,131)	(201,480)
Taxation	12	<u>(698)</u>	<u>(258)</u>
Loss for the financial year		<u><u>(51,829)</u></u>	<u><u>(201,738)</u></u>

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

Adjusted operating loss is defined as total operating profit before restructuring costs.

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 27 June 2021

	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Financial loss for the financial year	<u>(51,829)</u>	<u>(201,738)</u>
Total comprehensive loss for the financial year	<u><u>(51,829)</u></u>	<u><u>(201,738)</u></u>

The notes on pages 18 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

News Group Newspapers Limited
Registered number: 00679215

Balance Sheet
As at 27 June 2021

	Note	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	13	16,953	15,660
Heritage assets	14	107	107
		<u>17,060</u>	<u>15,767</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	6,042	7,976
Debtors	16	524,108	660,127
Cash at bank and in hand	17	27	24
		<u>530,177</u>	<u>668,127</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(290,284)</u>	<u>(362,058)</u>
Net current assets		<u>239,893</u>	<u>306,069</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		256,953	321,836
Provisions for liabilities	19	<u>(29,539)</u>	<u>(42,593)</u>
Net assets		<u>227,414</u>	<u>279,243</u>
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	20	2,625	2,625
Share premium reserve		653,308	653,308
Profit and loss account		<u>(428,519)</u>	<u>(376,690)</u>
Shareholder's funds		<u>227,414</u>	<u>279,243</u>

Approved and authorised by the Board on 15 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Christopher Longcroft

C.C.S. Longcroft
 Director

The notes on pages 18 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Statement of Changes in Equity For the year ended 27 June 2021

	Share capital £ 000	Share premium £ 000	Profit and loss account £ 000	Total £ 000
At 29 June 2020	2,625	653,308	(376,690)	279,243
Loss for the financial year	-	-	(51,829)	(51,829)
Total comprehensive loss for the financial year	-	-	(51,829)	(51,829)
At 27 June 2021	2,625	653,308	(428,519)	227,414

Statement of Changes in Equity For the year ended 28 June 2020

	Note	Share capital £ 000	Share premium £ 000	Other reserves £ 000	Profit and loss account £ 000	Total £ 000
At 1 July 2019		2,625	653,308	111,074	(286,026)	480,981
Loss for the financial year		-	-	-	(201,738)	(201,738)
Total comprehensive loss for the financial year		-	-	-	(201,738)	(201,738)
Transfer in relation to intangible assets	21	-	-	(111,074)	111,074	-
At 28 June 2020		2,625	653,308	-	(376,690)	279,243

The notes on pages 18 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021

1 General information

The company is a private company limited by share capital incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act.

The address of its registered office is:
1 London Bridge Street
London
SE1 9GF

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 15 November 2021.

The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Strategic Report on page 1.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of News Group Newspapers Limited have been prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the company accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are disclosed below.

The financial statements are made up to the Sunday closest to the 30 June each year. Consequently, the financial statements for the current period cover 52 weeks ended 27 June 2021 (52 weeks ended 28 June 2020). The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling which is the functional currency of the company, and rounded to the nearest £'000.

Consolidated financial statements

Under Section 401 of the Companies Act 2006 the company is exempt from the requirement to prepare and deliver group financial statements since it is a wholly owned subsidiary of News Corporation which is incorporated in the United States of America and prepares consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements are available to the public and may be obtained from 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. Accordingly, these financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Summary of disclosure exemptions

FRS 102 paragraph 1.12 allows a qualifying entity certain disclosure exemptions, subject to certain conditions which have been complied with, including notification of and no objection to the use of exemptions by the company's shareholders. The equivalent disclosures are included in the consolidated financial statements of News Corporation, the ultimate parent undertaking.

The company has taken advantage of the following exemptions:

- (a) From preparing a statement of cash flows and related notes as required by Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows and Section 3 Financial Statement Presentation paragraph 3.17(d);
- (b) From the financial instruments disclosures as required by FRS 102 paragraph 11.42 to 11.48A and paragraphs 12.26 to 12.27, 12.29 (a) & (b) and 12.29A, including:
 - categories of financial instruments;
 - items of income, expenses, gains or losses relating to financial instruments; and
 - exposure to and management of financial risks.
- (c) From disclosing the company key management personnel compensation, as required by FRS 102 paragraph 33.7.

Going concern

The ultimate parent undertaking, News Corporation (the "Parent Company") has agreed to provide continuing financial support to enable the company to meet its obligations as and when they fall due until at least 31 December 2022.

The Parent Company has considered the impacts to the business of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. The Parent Company will continue to review its liquidity needs in light of the business and economic impacts of COVID-19; however it expects that its current cash balances will enable it to meet its liquidity needs until 31 December 2022, including repayment of debt. The Parent Company also has available borrowing capacity under its undrawn \$750 million revolving credit facility and expects to have access to the worldwide credit and capital markets, subject to market conditions, in order to issue additional debt if needed or desired. Please refer to the latest financial statements of News Corp found at: <https://investors.newscorp.com/>

Based on this information and on enquiries, the directors believe that News Corporation has the ability to provide financial support to the Company for the foreseeable future.

Taking into account the position of the ultimate parent, the directors are of the view, to the best of their current knowledge, that COVID-19 will not have a material adverse impact on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Turnover

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, and represents the amount receivable for goods supplied or services rendered, net of returns, discounts and rebates allowed by the company, and value added taxes.

The company recognises turnover when (a) the significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer; (b) the company retains no continuing involvement or control over the goods; (c) the amount of revenue can be measured reliably and (d) the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably and (e) it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity. Specific revenue recognition criteria also apply depending on the revenue stream, as described below:

- Print advertising revenue is recognised on issue of publication net of any agency rebate.
- Digital advertising revenue is recognised on a straight line basis over the period of the online campaign.
- Circulation revenue is recognised at the point of sale. A deduction is made from circulation revenue for expected returns and is updated for actual returns as known.
- Subscriptions revenue is recognised on a straight line basis over the period of the subscription.
- Other revenue is recognised at the time of sale or over the duration of the provision of service as appropriate.

Related party transactions

As a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of News Corporation whose financial statements are publicly available, the company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 Section 33 'Related Party Disclosures' not to disclose transactions with other wholly owned members of the group headed by News Corporation.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis to the profit and loss account over the lease term. Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are similarly spread on a straight line basis over the lease term.

One off operating charges and restructuring

One-off operating charges and restructuring expenses are transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the company but are presented separately due to their size or incidence. See notes 4 and 5 for more detail.

Pension

The employees of the company participate in a defined contribution pension scheme; the amount charged to the profit and loss account in respect of pension costs 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 in foreign currencies are initially recorded at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the profit and loss account.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Taxation

Taxation expense for the reporting period comprises current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

Current tax, including UK corporation tax and foreign tax, is the amount payable in respect of the taxable profit for the year or prior years. Tax is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date, where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax assets are considered as recoverable and therefore recognised only when, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits in the foreseeable future against which to recover carried forward tax losses and from which the future reversal of underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred tax is measured on an undiscounted basis at the average tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

All intangible assets are considered to have a finite useful life.

The estimated useful lives range as follows:

Internal use software - 3 years

Publishing rights and titles

Publishing rights and titles are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is calculated using the straight line method over their estimated useful life of 20 years. Provision is made for any impairment.

Heritage Assets

The company holds a collection of manuscripts, newspapers and other artefacts within its archives. The collection is one of the most significant within the British newspaper industry and is available for both internal and external research purposes. This collection had previously been reported on the balance sheet at valuation following an independent valuation of the collection by Sotheby's in November 2003. Subsequent acquisitions, which have been purchased after this valuation, have been recorded at cost. No depreciation has been charged on these assets.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, being the estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs incurred in bringing each product to its present location and condition. Raw materials, consumables and goods for resale are held at purchase cost on a first in first out basis.

Provision is made for obsolete, slow moving or defective items where appropriate.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Creditors

Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are held at fair value. Changes in fair value are included in the income statement. Financial assets and liabilities are derecognised on expiry or when all contractual rights and obligations are transferred.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a present obligation, legal or constructive, as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle that obligation. Provisions are measured at the directors' best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the balance sheet date, and are discounted to present value where the effect is material.

Critical judgements in applying the company's accounting policies

Management are required to make judgements in the process of applying the company's accounting policies. The judgements that have the most significant effect on the amounts are recognised in the financial statements are discussed below.

a. Operating one-off costs and restructuring expense

The company has made a judgement to present some operating items separately on the face of the profit and loss account as operating one-off costs or restructuring expenses. These operating items include significant transactions such as legal fees relating to on-going legal issues, costs in relation to early termination of contract agreements and costs relating to the restructuring of the business. In making this judgement the company considers whether such items are material to the profit and loss account and if their separate disclosure is necessary for an appropriate understanding of the company's financial performance. These items have been presented on a separate line in the company's profit and loss account, above operating profit/(loss), and are further explained in notes 4 and 5.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

a. Contract discount and rebate provisions

The company enters into agreements with advertising agencies and certain clients, which are subject to a minimum spend and typically include a commitment to deliver rebates to the agency or client based on the level of their spend over the contract period. These rebates can take the form of free advertising space, cash payments or both. The rebate provision is calculated using the forecast spend over the contract period and rebate entitlement set out in the trading agreement. Calculating the required provision therefore requires an estimate of future period spend in determining what tier of spend the agencies may reach over the agreement.

b. Provisions for on-going legal issues

There is uncertainty as to liabilities arising from the outcome or resolution of on going legal claims. Following the allegations of voicemail interception and inappropriate payments to public officials there have been a number of civil cases brought against the company, most of which have been settled or are in the process of being settled. A provision has been made at the balance sheet date in respect of all claims that have been filed up until the date of finalisation of the financial statements. In 2011 the company established a compensation scheme which was closed to new entrants in April 2013. A provision has been made at the balance sheet date for all applicants accepted to participate in this scheme. No provision has been made for letters of claim which have been received but where no formal court proceedings have been issued, or for individuals who have not contacted the company. It is not possible to estimate the liability for such additional claims given the information that is currently available to the company. Further details are given in note 19.

c. Provision for libel claims

The company is exposed to libel claims in the ordinary course of business and vigorously defends against claims received. The company makes provision for the estimated costs to defend such claims when incurred and provides for any settlement costs when such an outcome is judged probable. The libel provision at 27 June 2021 was £2,771,000 (28 June 2020 - £4,297,000) and is included in Creditors: amount falling due within one year.

d. Recoverability of deferred tax assets

The company makes estimates regarding the recoverability of deferred tax assets relating to losses based on forecasts of future taxable profits which are, by their nature, uncertain. The deferred tax asset recognised at 27 June 2021 was £Nil (2020 - £Nil).

3 Turnover

Substantially all the company's turnover and profit, in both the current and prior year, are derived, both by origin and destination, from printing and publishing activities in the United Kingdom.

During the current year £9,977,000 (2020 - £4,154,000) of turnover related to advertising barter transactions.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

4 Operating one-off charges

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Claimants' legal fees and damages (see note 19)	14,485	52,314
Costs in relation to UK newspaper matters	33,649	26,439
Costs in relation to the Management and Standards Committee	870	1,342
Impairment of Publishing Rights	-	84,000
	<u>49,004</u>	<u>164,095</u>

There are a number of on-going legal claims against the company as a result of voicemail interception allegations. A charge of £14,485,000 (2020 - £52,314,000) in respect of claimants' legal fees and damages has been made based on available information at the date of signing the financial statements.

The company has incurred £33,649,000 (2020 - £26,439,000) of one off costs in regards to UK Newspaper matters. These include £33,589,000 (2020 - £26,189,000) of legal fees, and £60,200 (2020 - £250,000) of other UK newspaper matter costs.

The News UK group has incurred costs of £870,000 (2020 - £1,342,000) which are primarily legal and professional fees relating to the Management and Standards Committee (MSC). The MSC is not a statutory entity; therefore whilst it has independence from the company, costs relating to the MSC must be recognised in the financial statements of a statutory entity. As the costs relate exclusively to investigations in The News of the World, these costs have been borne by News Group Newspapers Limited.

5 Restructuring expense

	2021	2020
	£ 000	£ 000
Restructuring expenses	<u>5,498</u>	<u>2,154</u>

During the year the company restructured its editorial workforce to match the requirements of the business. Total costs incurred in the period were £5,498,000 (2020 - £2,154,000).

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

6 Operating loss

The operating loss is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£ 000	£ 000
Amortisation of intangible assets (see note 13)	8,296	35,243
Operating lease rentals - plant and machinery	268	309
Foreign exchange (gains)/losses	(109)	105

The operating lease costs relate to commitments held by News UK & Ireland Limited, another subsidiary company within the News UK group.

7 Interest payable

	2021	2020
	£ 000	£ 000
Unwind of discount on demand notes (see note 22)	1,244	2,262

8 Auditor's remuneration

	2021	2020
	£ 000	£ 000
Audit of financial statements	310	293

9 Staff costs

	2021	2020
	£ 000	£ 000
Wages and salaries	35,759	37,243
Social security costs	3,969	4,308
Pension costs	2,822	2,829
	42,550	44,380

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Editorial	543	546

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

10 Directors' remuneration

The directors' remuneration for the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	£ 000	£ 000
Remuneration	<u>6,690</u>	<u>4,566</u>

No directors accrued benefits under company pension schemes (2020 - none).

The highest paid director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £3,609,000 (2020 - £2,442,000).

The number of directors who through participating in News Corporation's long term incentive plan were remunerated in News Corporation Common A stock were as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Received or were entitled to receive shares under long term incentive plans	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

The directors of the company are also directors of the holding company or fellow UK subsidiaries. The directors received total remuneration for the year as shown above, all of which was paid by a fellow group company. The directors do not believe that it is practicable to apportion this amount between their services as directors of the company and their services as directors of the holding company or subsidiary companies.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

11 Pension and other schemes

The company participates in pension schemes operated by News Corp UK & Ireland Limited. The defined contribution scheme covers the majority of the executive, staff and works personnel. The remaining employees, mainly senior executives, are covered by defined benefit multi employer schemes and their share of the underlying assets and liabilities are not readily identifiable. The assets of the pension schemes are held in separate externally administered funds. The pension costs of the defined benefit schemes are in accordance with the advice of a qualified actuary using the projected unit method. The schemes are valued by an independent actuary on a triennial basis. During 2011, News Corp UK & Ireland Limited closed the main UK defined benefit pension plan to future accrual. The latest full actuarial valuation of the defined benefit schemes range from 30 September 2019 to 27 June 2021.

Following a group restructure on 4 July 2011, all pension expenses were transferred to News Corp UK & Ireland Limited, where the group's pension provision is held. A recharge is made to the company for the services of the personnel working for the company.

The total pension cost for the company was £2,822,000 (2020 - £2,829,000) all of which relates to the defined contribution scheme.

Retirement benefit obligation disclosures for the defined benefit schemes are not presented in these company accounts, as the defined benefit scheme is a group scheme, and there is no group policy in place for charging the net defined benefit cost to individual group companies. Under FRS 102, this means that the defined benefit scheme asset or deficit is recognised in the financial statements of the group company that is legally responsible for the plan, which is News Corp UK & Ireland Limited. The News Corp UK & Ireland Limited net pension plan's liability as at 27 June 2021 is £4,263,000 (2020 - net liability of £23,779,000). The fair value of the plan's assets amounts to £412,804,000 (2020 - £425,932,000) whilst the benefit obligations amounts to £417,067,000 (2020 - £449,711,000).

12 Taxation

Tax charged/(credited) in the profit and loss account

	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Current taxation		
UK corporation tax adjustment to prior periods	681	255
Foreign tax	17	3
Tax charge in the profit and loss account	<u>698</u>	<u>258</u>

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

12 Taxation (continued)

The tax on loss before tax for the year is higher than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK (2020 - higher than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK) of 19% (2020 - 19%).

The differences are reconciled below:

	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Loss before tax	(51,131)	(201,480)
Corporation tax at standard rate	(9,715)	(38,281)
Adjustments to brought forward values	-	-
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	64	35,524
Unrelieved foreign tax rates	17	3
Movement in deferred tax asset not recognised	(4,791)	(21,053)
Effects of prior year adjustments	681	255
Amortisation of publishing rights not deductible for tax purposes	-	5,320
Group relief and transfer pricing adjustments	14,442	18,490
Total tax charge	698	258

Factors that may affect future tax charges

The UK Corporation Tax Rate has remained at 19% for several years. It was announced in the March 2021 Budget that the main rate would increase to 25%, with effect from 1 April 2023. The rate increase was substantially enacted when it received Royal Assent on 10 June 2021. The rate will remain at 19% until 31 March 2023.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

13 Intangible assets

	Internally generated software development costs £ 000	Publishing rights and titles £ 000	Total £ 000
Cost			
At 29 June 2020	36,329	560,000	596,329
Additions	5,787	-	5,787
Transfer from group company	3,803	-	3,803
Disposals	(2,200)	-	(2,200)
At 27 June 2021	43,719	560,000	603,719
Amortisation			
At 29 June 2020	20,669	560,000	580,669
Amortisation charge	8,296	-	8,296
Disposals	(2,199)	-	(2,199)
At 27 June 2021	26,766	560,000	586,766
Net book value			
At 27 June 2021	16,953	-	16,953
At 28 June 2020	15,660	-	15,660

Publishing rights and titles are amortised over their estimated useful life of 20 years.

The company tests fixed assets annually for impairment or more frequently if there are indicators that fixed assets may be impaired. The recoverable amounts for the company's fixed assets are measured through review of the value in use calculation, which is compared to the fair value less cost to sell. Value in use is determined by discounting future expected cash flows, based on management approved budgets and long term projections. These reflect management's current experience and future expectations of the markets in which the company and its subsidiaries operate.

The pre-tax discount rate used by the company in its impairment test is 12.3% (2020 - 11.9%). The growth rate used in the projections that are extrapolated beyond the formally approved budgets and forecasts prepared by management is 0% (2020 - 1% growth). This has resulted in an impairment charge of £Nil (2020 - £84,000,000) in the company. There are no indicators of impairment for internal use software (2020 - £Nil).

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

14 Heritage Assets

	£ 000
Cost	
At 29 June 2020	107
At 27 June 2021	107
Net book value	
At 27 June 2021	107
At 28 June 2020	107

The collection of manuscripts, newspapers and other artefacts were independently valued at £107,000 in November 2003 by Sotheby's. The directors feel that this valuation is still appropriate. The company has applied the cost model, and has taken the deemed cost exemption under FRS 102 paragraph 35.10(d), as a result all heritage assets are carried at cost, from the date of transition.

Additions and disposals during the year

During the period there have been no additions or disposals to the collections of heritage assets.

Five year history

There have been no additions or disposals of heritage assets within the past five financial years.

15 Stocks

	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Raw materials and consumables	6,042	7,976

16 Debtors

	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Amounts owed by group undertakings	499,868	640,369
Corporation tax repayable	3,743	4,439
Other debtors	8,018	6,132
Prepayments and accrued income	12,479	9,187
	524,108	660,127

Included in amounts owed by group undertakings is £240 million of demand notes (see note 22). All other amounts owed by group undertakings relate to trading balances with no fixed repayment terms and no interest charged.

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

17 Cash

	Note	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Cash at bank		27	24
Bank overdrafts	18	(117,509)	(67,764)
		<u>(117,482)</u>	<u>(67,740)</u>

News Corp UK & Ireland operates a collective overdraft facility with its bankers, which allows individual companies in the News UK group to overdraw subject to an agreed limit of £20 million, not being exceeded in aggregate. The overdraft facility is also guaranteed by News Corporation.

18 Creditors

	Note	2021 £ 000	2020 £ 000
Due within one year			
Amounts owed to group undertakings		121,530	203,596
Other creditors		8,172	12,280
Accruals and deferred income		43,073	46,279
Bank overdrafts	17	117,509	67,764
Finance lease liabilities	22	-	32,139
		<u>290,284</u>	<u>362,058</u>

All amounts owed to group undertakings relate to trading balances with no fixed repayment terms and no interest charged.

19 Provisions for liabilities and charges

	Legal proceedings £ 000	Total £ 000
At 29 June 2020	42,593	42,593
Charge in year (see note 4)	14,485	14,485
Utilised	<u>(27,539)</u>	<u>(27,539)</u>
At 27 June 2021	<u>29,539</u>	<u>29,539</u>

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

19 Provisions for liabilities and charges (continued)

Provisions for legal claims

Following the allegations of voicemail interception and inappropriate payments to public officials there have been a number of civil cases brought against the company, most of which have been settled, or are in the process of being settled. A provision has been made at the balance sheet date in respect of all claims that have been filed up until the date of finalisation of the financial statements. In 2011 the company established a compensation scheme which was closed to new entrants in April 2013. A provision has been made at the balance sheet date for all applicants accepted to participate in this scheme. No provision has been made for letters of claim which have been received but where no formal court proceedings have been issued, or for individuals who have not contacted the company. It is not possible to estimate the liability for such additional claims given the information that is currently available to the company. If more claims are filed and additional information becomes available in the civil cases, the company will update the liability provision for such matters. A charge of £14,485,000 (2020 - £52,314,000) in respect of claimants' legal fees and damages has been made in respect of this litigation, based on available information at the date of signing the financial statements. The final cost may or may not be significantly higher than the amounts recognised. This has been reported as a one off charge due to its size and incidence. This provision has not been discounted due to the uncertainty over the timing of the settlement of these cases.

20 Share capital

Shares classified as equity

Authorised, allotted, called up and fully paid

	No.	2021 £000	No.	2020 £000
Ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>2,625,001</u>	<u>2,625</u>	<u>2,625,001</u>	<u>2,625</u>

21 Other reserves

The other reserves brought forward relate to the profit on disposal of publishing rights of The Sun on 20 June 2003 to News 2026 Limited, the company's subsidiary. The profits were regarded as unrealised since the consideration received was in the form of assets for which the directors could not assess the ultimate cash realisation with reasonable clarity.

22 Funding

In November 2016, News Group Newspapers Limited entered into an arrangement whereby it would receive £240 million from News Corp UK & Ireland Limited in exchange for the rights to a portion of its print advertising revenue from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021. At November 2016, £240 million represented the forecast discounted cash flow across the payment period, at a rate of 10.5%.

The carried forward financial liability in Note 18 represents the fair value of the remaining portion of print advertising revenue over the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021. Movements in the value of the financial liability are reflected in Interest payable (note 7).

News Group Newspapers Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 27 June 2021 (continued)

23 Parent and ultimate parent undertaking

The company's immediate parent company is News Corp UK & Ireland Limited, a company incorporated in England.

The ultimate parent company is News Corporation, a company incorporated in Delaware in the United States.

The smallest and largest group in which the results of the company are consolidated is that headed by News Corporation, whose principal place of business is at 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. The consolidated financial statements are available to the public and may be obtained from 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF.