

Shire Publications Limited

**DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Year ended
29 February 2020



Company Registration Number: 00868867

Shire Publications Limited

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2020

The directors present their annual report and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2020.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Company's principal activity is publishing.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND CONTROLS

A full review of the Bloomsbury Publishing Plc Group's ("Group") risk register setting out the risks facing the business and the controls in place for all companies within the Group was conducted by the Group Audit Committee during 2020. Details of this review can be found in the Annual Report of the Group which can be obtained from www.bloomsbury-ir.co.uk or from the Company Secretary at the address in note 15.

RESULTS

The Company's profit after tax for the year was £29,653 (2019: profit after tax of £55,339).

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Company is continuing to seek expansion of its publishing interests both in fields where it is already strong and in areas where logical growth can be seen.

DIRECTORS

The directors who held office during the year and to the date of this report were:

N Newton
P Scott-Bayfield

Directors are granted an indemnity from the Company to the extent permitted by law in respect of liabilities incurred as a result of their office.

AUDIT EXEMPTION

For the year ended 29 February 2020 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary companies. The members of the Company have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2020 in accordance with section 476.

The directors have taken the exemption provided under section 414B of the Companies Act 2006 from presenting a strategic report.

On behalf of the board

M. Abu-Deeb

M Abu-Deeb
Company Secretary

5 February 2021

REGISTERED OFFICE
50 Bedford Square
London
WC1B 3DP

Shire Publications Limited

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK accounting standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 101 *Reduced Disclosure Framework*.

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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 responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Shire Publications Limited
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the year ended 29 February 2020

	<i>Note</i>	Year ended 29 February 2020 £	Year ended 28 February 2019 £
REVENUE	2	443,939	450,156
Cost of sales		(266,116)	(233,222)
GROSS PROFIT		<u>177,823</u>	<u>216,934</u>
Marketing and distribution costs		(53,365)	(40,054)
Administrative expenses		(94,733)	(121,389)
OPERATING PROFIT	2	<u>29,725</u>	<u>55,491</u>
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION		<u>29,725</u>	<u>55,491</u>
Taxation	4	(72)	(152)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>29,653</u>	<u>55,339</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>29,653</u>	<u>55,339</u>

The above statement of comprehensive income represents activities from the Company's continuing operations.

The notes on pages 6 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Shire Publications Limited
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 29 February 2020

Company Registration Number: 00868867

	<i>Note</i>	29 February 2020 £	28 February 2019 £
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Intangible assets	5	633	848
Deferred tax assets	9	266	338
		<u>899</u>	<u>1,186</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Inventories	6	126,293	135,822
Trade and other receivables	7	458,974	425,698
		<u>585,267</u>	<u>561,520</u>
Trade and other payables	8	(67,218)	(74,411)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>518,049</u>	<u>487,109</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>518,948</u>	<u>488,295</u>
Provisions	10	(1,000)	-
NET ASSETS		<u>517,948</u>	<u>488,295</u>
EQUITY			
Share capital	11	1,000	1,000
Retained earnings	12	516,948	487,295
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>517,948</u>	<u>488,295</u>

The notes on pages 6 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

For the year ending 29 February 2020 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 479A of the Companies Act 2006. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts.

These financial statements on pages 3 to 13 were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 5 February 2021 and are signed on their behalf by

P. Scott-Bayfield

P Scott-Bayfield

Director

Shire Publications Limited
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
As at 29 February 2020

	Share capital	Retained earnings	Total
	£	£	£
Balance at 28 February 2018	1,000	431,956	432,956
Profit for the year	-	55,339	55,339
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	55,339	55,399
Capital contribution from ultimate parent company	-	2,618	2,618
Recharge of share based payment charge from the ultimate parent company	-	(2,618)	(2,618)
Balance at 28 February 2019	1,000	487,295	487,295
Profit for the year	-	29,653	29,653
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	29,653	29,653
Capital contribution from ultimate parent company	-	3,410	3,410
Recharge of share based payment charge from the ultimate parent company	-	(3,410)	(3,410)
Balance at 29 February 2020	1,000	516,948	517,948

Shire Publications Limited

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 29 February 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) *Basis of accounting*

Shire Publications Limited (the “Company”) is a company limited by shares and incorporated and domiciled in the United Kingdom. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom and under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework (“FRS 101”). In preparing these financial statements, the Company applies the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU (“Adopted IFRSs”), but makes amendments where necessary in order to comply with Companies Act 2006 and has set out below where advantage of the FRS 101 disclosure exemptions has been taken. The presentation currency of these financial statements is sterling. The registered address of the Company is 50 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP.

The Company’s ultimate parent undertaking, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, includes the Company in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU and are available to the public and may be obtained from the Company Secretary, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP. In these financial statements, the company is considered to be a qualifying entity (for the purposes of this FRS) and has applied the exemptions available under FRS 101 in respect of the following disclosures:

- Comparative period reconciliations for shares capital and intangible assets;
- Statement of cash flows and related notes;
- Disclosures in respect of capital management;
- The effects of new but not yet effective IFRSs;
- Disclosures in respect of key management personnel; and
- Disclosures in respect of transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries.

As the consolidated financial statements of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc include the equivalent disclosures, the Company has also taken the exemption under FRS 101 available in respect of the following disclosures:

- IFRS 2 share based payments in respect of instruments of the ultimate parent company;
- Certain disclosures required by IFRS 7 Financial Instruments; and
- Certain disclosures required by IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

The Company proposes to continue to adopt the reduced disclosure framework of FRS 101 in its next financial statements.

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

(b) *Going concern*

The Company participates in the ultimate parent, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc’s, centralised treasury arrangement and so shares banking arrangements with the parent and fellow subsidiaries. The Bloomsbury Group meets its day to day working capital requirements through a £6m uncommitted term loan facility and a five year revolving credit facility of between £8m and £12m depending on the timing of the year (to reflect the Group’s cash flow cycle).

Shire Publications Limited
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 29 February 2020

The directors, having assessed the responses of the directors of the parent Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, to their enquiries, has no reason to believe a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt over the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. The factors taken into account in developing this expectation include the level of cash within the business, the Group's bank facilities and continuing sources of revenue.

On the basis of the assessment of the Company's financial position and of the enquiries made of the directors of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, the Company's directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

(c) *Revenue*

Revenue represents the amount derived from the provision of goods, services and rights falling within the Company's ordinary activities, after deduction of trade discounts, value added tax and anticipated returns.

- Revenue from the sale of printed books is recognised at the point in time when control passes. This is generally at the point of shipment when title passes to the customer, when the Company has a present right to payment and has satisfied the relevant performance obligations under the contract.
- Revenue from the license of publishing and distribution rights, including film, paperback, electronic, overseas publishing rights, and sponsorship, is recognised when the Company has provided the associated material and collectability is probable.
- Revenue from e-book sales is recognised when content is delivered i.e. access has been given to the customer.

(d) *Intangible assets*

Intangible assets are measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is provided on intangible assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Product development	-	33% straight line basis
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Amortisation is pro-rated in the years of acquisition and disposal of an asset. Amortisation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted prospectively if appropriate.

(e) *Inventories*

The cost of work in progress and finished goods represents the amounts invoiced to the Company for origination, paper, printing and binding. Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined using the weighted average cost method. Net realisable value represents the estimated selling price for inventories less all estimated costs of completion and costs necessary to make the sale. Provisions are made for slow-moving and obsolete stock.

(f) *Taxation*

The tax expense represents the sum of the tax currently payable and deferred tax.

i) *Current tax*

The tax currently payable is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from net profit as reported in the statement of comprehensive income because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The Company's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Shire Publications Limited
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 29 February 2020

ii) Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognised on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit. Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are generally recognised for all deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which those deductible temporary differences can be utilised. Such deferred tax assets and liabilities are not recognised if the temporary difference arises from goodwill or from the initial recognition (other than in a business combination) of other assets and liabilities in a transaction that affects neither the taxable profit nor the accounting profit.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for taxable temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries, except where the Company is able to control the reversal of the temporary difference and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future. The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each reporting date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profits will be generated to allow all or part of the asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled based upon tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period.

iii) Current and deferred tax for the year

Current and deferred tax is charged or credited in the statement of comprehensive income, except when it relates to items credited or charged directly to other comprehensive income or equity.

Current tax assets and liabilities are offset only when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and the Company intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

(g) *Foreign currencies*

Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency are recorded in the functional currency at the rates of exchange prevailing on the dates of the transactions. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at closing rates of exchange at the date of the statement of financial position.

Exchange differences are charged or credited to the statement of comprehensive income within administrative expenses.

(h) *Trade receivables*

Trade receivables and other receivables are measured on initial recognition at fair value, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less any impairment.

(i) *Trade payables*

Trade payables are not interest bearing and are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(j) *Financial instruments*

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 entity after deducting for all of its financial liabilities.

Dividends and distributions relating to equity instruments are debited direct to equity.

Shire Publications Limited
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 29 February 2020

(k) *Impairment of non-financial assets*

The carrying amounts of the Company's non-financial assets are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or cash-generating unit is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. For the purpose of impairment testing, assets that cannot be tested individually are grouped together into the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets or groups of assets (the "cash-generating unit").

(l) *Critical accounting estimates and judgements*

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including reasonable expectations of future events. The resultant estimates will, by definition, not necessarily equal the related actual results and may require adjustment in subsequent accounting years. The estimates and judgements that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the next financial year are:

Revenue recognition

This is a judgment because management is required to decide whether the revenue recognition criteria has been met for a contract. Certain contracts entered into by the Company may include: the licensing or outright sale of the Company's intellectual property; the provision of ongoing consultancy services; or a bundled combination of both.

The Company considers contractual terms and makes judgements in assessing when the triggers for revenue recognition have been met, particularly that the Company has sufficiently fulfilled its obligations under the contract to allow revenue to be recognised and the allocation of revenue between multiple deliverables.

Book returns

This is an estimate as it requires management to estimate the level of expected future returns. As books are returnable by customers, the Company makes a provision against books sold in the accounting period which is then carried forward and offset against trade receivables in the statement of financial position in anticipation of book returns received subsequent to the reporting period end. The provision is calculated by reference to historical returns rates and expected future returns.

Author advances

This is an estimate as it requires management to estimate the future sales of a title. A provision is made by the Company against advances on published titles which may not be covered by royalties on anticipated future title sales or subsidiary rights receivable. At the end of each financial year a review is carried out on all published title advances. If it is unlikely that royalties from future title sales or subsidiary rights will fully earn down the advance, a provision is made in the statement of comprehensive income for the difference between the carrying value and the anticipated recoverable amount from future earnings.

Inventories

This is an estimate as it requires management to estimate the net realisable value for inventory. At the end of each reporting period a review is carried out on all published titles where inventory is held. A provision is made by the Company against unsold inventory on a title by title basis, with regard to historical net sales and expected future net sales, to value the inventories at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Shire Publications Limited
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 29 February 2020

(m) *New standards, amendments and IFRIC interpretations*

No new accounting standards, or amendments to accounting standards, or IFRIC interpretations that are effective for the year ended 29 February 2020, have had a material impact on the company.

2	REVENUE AND OPERATING PROFIT	Year ended 29 February 2020 £	Year ended 28 February 2019 £
	Revenue by destination:		
	United Kingdom	401,487	394,491
	Other	42,452	55,665
		<u>443,939</u>	<u>450,156</u>
	Operating profit is stated after charging:		
	Amortisation (note 5)	429	-
	Staff costs (note 3)	33,946	31,295
		<u>33,946</u>	<u>31,295</u>

3 STAFF COSTS AND DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

Staff costs of £33,946 were recharged in the year from Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (2019: £31,925).

All employees are employed by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, the ultimate parent company. Employees provide services on a group basis and all employee costs are incurred by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. A recharge of staff costs, including directors' emoluments, is made to the Company in respect of services provided to the Company.

The directors waive all entitlements to remuneration and receive no remuneration in respect of their appointment as directors of the Company.

4 TAXATION

(a)	Analysis of tax charge in the year	Year ended 29 February 2020 £	Year ended 28 February 2019 £
	UK corporation tax:		
	Current tax on profit for the year	-	-
	Adjustments in respect of prior years	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	Deferred tax (note 9)		
	Current year charge	72	152
	Tax on profit	<u>72</u>	<u>152</u>

Shire Publications Limited
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 29 February 2020

(b) Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The current tax charge for the year is lower (2019: lower) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.00% (2019: 19.00%). The differences are explained below:

	Year ended 29 February 2020 £	Year ended 28 February 2019 £
Profit before taxation	29,725	55,491
Profit multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.00% (2019: 19.00%)	5,648	10,543
Effects of:		
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	728	498
Movement in deferred tax rate	(8)	(18)
Group relief surrender	(6,225)	(10,871)
Movement in unprovided provisions	(71)	-
Total tax charge	72	152

5 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Product development £
Cost	
At 1 March 2019	1,222
Additions	214
At 29 February 2020	1,436
Amortisation	
At 1 March 2019	374
Charge for the year	429
At 29 February 2020	803
Net book value	
At 29 February 2020	633
At 28 February 2019	848

6 INVENTORIES

	29 February 2020 £	28 February 2019 £
Work in progress	22,324	29,771
Finished goods	103,969	106,051
	126,293	135,822

Shire Publications Limited
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 29 February 2020

7 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	29 February 2020	28 February 2019
	£	£
Amounts owed by Group undertakings	458,974	425,698
	<u>458,974</u>	<u>425,698</u>

Amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

8 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Amounts falling due within one year:	29 February 2020	28 February 2019
	£	£
Trade payables	26,010	39,662
Other payables	19,011	16,447
Accruals and deferred income	14,452	18,302
Amounts due to Group undertakings	1,028	-
Sales returns liability	6,717	-
	<u>67,218</u>	<u>74,411</u>

Amounts due to Group undertakings are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

9 DEFERRED TAX

Fixed asset timing
differences
£

The deferred tax asset comprises the following:

At 1 March 2018	490
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	(152)
At 28 February 2019	<u>338</u>
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	(72)
At 29 February 2020	<u>266</u>

The deferred tax asset is included in the financial statements at a tax rate of 17%.

10 PROVISIONS

Author advances
£

At 1 March 2019	-
Created during the year	<u>1,000</u>
At 29 February 2020	<u>1,000</u>

The author advance provision relates a provision against future cash outflows on published titles where the Group does not expect to fully recover the advance.

Shire Publications Limited
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
For the year ended 29 February 2020

11 SHARE CAPITAL

	29 February 2020 £	28 February 2019 £
Allotted, called up and fully paid 1,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	1,000	1,000

12 RESERVES

Retained earnings

The retained earnings reserve comprises the profit for the year and other items recognised directly through equity as presented on the statement of changes in equity.

13 SHARE BASED PAYMENTS

Share options in the ultimate parent company, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, are awarded to employees of the Group in relation to their services to the Group's companies. The expense of all share options awarded is incurred by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, and a recharge to the Company is made in respect of the value of services provided in each period to the Company.

14 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Company, along with other group subsidiaries, has guarantees in place relating to the Group's borrowing facilities with Lloyds Bank Plc. At 29 February 2020, the Group had no draw down (2019: £nil) of this facility with £8.0 million of undrawn borrowing facilities (2019: £12.0 million) available.

The facility comprises a committed revolving loan facility of £8 million in the first half and an additional £4 million in the second half, totalling £12 million, to match Bloomsbury's cash flow cycle, and an uncommitted incremental term loan facility of up to £6 million. The facilities are subject to two covenants, being a maximum net debt to EBITDA ratio of 2.5x and a minimum interest cover covenant of 4x. Subsequent to the year-end, the maturity of the facility was extended to May 2022.

15 ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY

The immediate parent company is Osprey Publishing Limited, a company incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales.

The ultimate parent company is Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, a company incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales. Copies of the consolidated financial statements of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc may be obtained from the Company Secretary, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP.