Registered number: 00996488

# **VIEWGROVE INVESTMENTS LIMITED**

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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# **COMPANY INFORMATION**

**Directors** 

N Benning-Prince

R C Dowley E A Gretton Dr C M Wendt

Company secretary

W F Rogers

Registered number

00996488

Registered office

Hanson House 14 Castle Hill Maidenhead SL6 4JJ

Independent auditor

Ernst & Young LLP The Paragon Counterslip Bristol BS1 6BX

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# DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

The Directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019.

#### **Principal activity**

The Company is a group finance company. It did not have any transactions which affected the Statement of Comprehensive Income during the current or prior year and, therefore, the financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity and related notes only.

During the year the Company reduced its share premium from £6,390,651,000 to nil. Subsequently, a dividend in specie of £6,390,651,000 was declared, which was satisfied by the assignment of an intra-group receivable owed by Hanson Building Materials Limited.

#### Results and dividends

The result for the year, after taxation, amounted to £nil (2018 - £nil (unaudited)).

An interim dividend in specie of £6,390,651,000 (2018 - £nil (unaudited)) was paid during the year.

The Directors do not recommend payment of a final dividend (2018 - £nil (unaudited)).

#### **Future developments**

The Directors anticipate that the Company will continue as a group finance company for the forseeable future.

The impact of COVID-19 on UK businesses is changing on a daily basis and the measures being adopted by the UK Government could have a significant adverse impact on trade in the foreseeable future. The business is monitoring and managing the impact of this on a frequent basis.

#### Going concern

The Company has limited activity and has limited cash flows outside of the HeidelbergCement AG ("HCAG") group. The recoverability of its assets is dependent on the financial position of the HCAG group. The Directors believe the carrying value of assets are expected to be fully realised.

The impact of COVID-19 on global economic development is currently unpredictable, however HCAG has adopted COPE ('Covid-19 Contingency Plan Execution'), which is focussed on cost savings and has significant liquidity headroom as a result of actions already taken during its refinancing strategy. The Directors, having assessed the responses of the management of HCAG to their enquiries, have no reason to believe that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the HCAG group to continue as a going concern.

On the basis of their assessment of the Company's financial position and relevant enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company will be able to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

#### **Directors**

The Directors who served during the year were:

N Benning-Prince R C Dowley E A Gretton Dr C M Wendt · 1.

# **DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)** FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

# **Directors' indemnity**

A fellow group undertaking has indemnified, by means of directors' and officers' liability insurance, one or more Directors of the Company against liability in respect of proceedings brought by third parties, subject to the conditions set out in section 234 of the Companies Act. 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.

The articles of association also provide for the Directors to be indemnified by the Company subject to the provisions of the Companies Act.

#### Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the persons who are Directors at the time when this Directors' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware, and
- the Director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

#### **Auditor**

Ernst & Young LLP were appointed as auditors of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2019. Due to the introduction of EU Regulations regarding audit rotation, Ernst & Young LLP are not seeking re-appointment as auditors for the next reporting period.

## Small companies note

In preparing this report, the Directors have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the board on

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28 May 2020

and signed on its behalf.

W F Rogers Secretary

# DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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 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 for the Company's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments 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;
- 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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VIEWGROVE INVESTMENTS LIMITED

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Viewgrove Investments Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 December 2019, which comprise the Balance sheet, the Statement of changes in equity and the related notes 1 to 9, 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 Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its result for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 – Effects of COVID-19

We draw attention to Note 2.5 of the financial statements, which describes the economic and social consequences the company is facing as a result of COVID-19 which is impacting the entities ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter:

# Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may
  cast significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of
  accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are
  authorised for issue.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information.

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

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VIEWGROVE INVESTMENTS LIMITED (CONTINUED)

#### Other information (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 this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinion 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; or
- the Directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

# Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement on page 3, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VIEWGROVE INVESTMENTS LIMITED (CONTINUED)

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

## Use of our report

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This report is made solely to the Company's members 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 for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul Mapleston (Senior statutory auditor)

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for and on behalf of

**Ernst & Young LLP, Statutory Auditor** 

1st June 2020

The Paragon Counterslip Bristol BS1 6BX

Date:

# VIEWGROVE INVESTMENTS LIMITED REGISTERED NUMBER:00996488

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Note	2019 £000	Unaudited 2018 £000
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	7	-	6,390,651
Net assets	-	-	6,390,651
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	8	-	-
Share premium account		-	6,390,651
Shareholders' funds		_	6,390,651

The Company's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

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

28" May 2020

R-C Dowley

Director

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

·	Called up share capital £000	Share premium account £000	Profit and loss account £000	Total equity £000
At 1 January 2018 (unaudited)	-	6,390,651	-	6,390,651
At 1 January 2019 (unaudited)		6,390,651	-	6,390,651
Contributions by and distributions to owners				
Shares cancelled during the year	-	(6,390,651)	-	(6,390,651)
Transfer to profit and loss account	-	•	6,390,651	6,390,651
Dividends paid	-	-	(6,390,651)	(6,390,651)
Total transactions with owners	-	(6,390,651)	-	(6,390,651)
At 31 December 2019	_	<u>-</u>	- -	-

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

#### 1. General information

Viewgrove Investments Limited ("the Company") is a limited company incorporated and domiciled in the United Kingdom. The address of its registered office and principal place of business is disclosed in the Company Information.

# 2. Accounting policies

#### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company's financial statements are presented in Sterling, which is also the Company's functional currency, and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds (£'000) except when otherwise indicated.

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

### 2.2 Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The Company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by the FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland":

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirements of Section 3 Financial Statement Presentation paragraph 3.17(d);
- the requirements of Section 11 Financial Instruments paragraphs 11.42, 11.44 to 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b) and 11.48(c);
- the requirements of Section 12 Other Financial Instruments paragraphs 12.26 to 12.27, 12.29(a), 12.29(b) and 12.29A;
- the requirements of Section 33 Related Party Disclosures paragraph 33.7.

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of HeidelbergCement AG as at 31 December 2019 and these financial statements may be obtained from Berliner Strasse 6, D 69120 Heidelberg, Germany.

# 2.3 Financial instruments

The Company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in ordinary shares.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Balance Sheet when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

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#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

#### 2. Accounting policies (continued)

## 2.4 Classification of shares as debt or equity

An equity instrument is a contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all its liabilities. Accordingly, a financial instrument is treated as equity if:

- there is no contractual obligation to deliver cash or other financial assets or to exchange financial assets or liabilities on terms that may be unfavourable; and
- the instrument is a non-derivative that contains no contractual obligations to deliver a variable number of shares or is a derivative that will be settled only by the Company exchanging a fixed amount of cash or other assets for a fixed number of the Company's own equity instruments.

The proceeds of an issue are allocated to shareholders' equity, net of transaction costs. The carrying amount of equity is not re-measured in subsequent years.

When shares are issued that create a financial liability of the Company they are presented as a liability in the balance sheet; measured initially at fair value net of transaction costs and thereafter at amortised cost until extinguished on conversion or redemption. The corresponding dividends relating to the liability component are charged as interest expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

The Company's non-redeemable preferences shares have been accounted for as equity (see note 7).

#### 2.5 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Company's ultimate parent undertaking, which indirectly owns the Company's entire share capital, has committed to continue to support the Company for the foreseeable future, in order that it can meet its liabilities as they fall due. The Company has limited activity and has limited cash flows outside of the HeidelbergCement AG ("HCAG") group. The recoverability of its assets is dependent on the financial position of the HCAG group. The Directors believe the carrying value of assets are expected to be fully realised.

The impact of COVID-19 on global economic development is currently unpredictable, however HeidelbergCement AG has adopted COPE ('Covid-19 Contingency Plan Execution'), which is focussed on cost savings and has significant liquidity headroom as a result of actions already taken during its refinancing strategy. The Directors, having assessed the responses of the management of HCAG to their enquiries, have no reason to believe that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the HCAG group to continue as a going concern.

On the basis of their assessment of the Company's financial position and relevant enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company will be able to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

# 2.6 Dividends

Equity dividends are recognised when they become legally payable. Interim equity dividends are recognised when paid. Final equity dividends are recognised when approved by the shareholders at an annual general meeting.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

## 3. Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

## Recoverability of amounts owed by group undertakings

The Company reviews the recoverability of amounts owed by group undertakings by reviewing the net assets of the counterparty. If the counterparty has net liabilities a provision is made by management for the amount considered irrecoverable.

#### 4. Auditors' remuneration

Fees for audit and non-audit services have been borne by other group undertakings. It is not practicable to ascertain what proportion of such fees relate to the Company.

#### 5. Staff costs

The Directors of the Company are also directors of a number of the group's fellow subsidiaries. The Directors received total remuneration of £876,000 (2018 - £843,000 (unaudited)), which was paid by various fellow subsidiaries. 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 fellow subsidiary companies.

#### 6. Dividends

		Unaudited
	2019	2018
	£000	£000
Dividends paid	6,390,651	

During the year the Company paid a dividend in specie of £6,390,651,000, an inter-company receivable due to the Company following a reduction of the share premium account of the same amount. This is part of a wider plan to simplify the group structure in the UK.

#### 7. Debtors

	2019 £000	Unaudited 2018 £000
Due within one year		
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	6,390,651

Amounts owed by group undertakings are unsecured, interest free, have no fixed date of repayment and are repayable on demand.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

#### 8. Share capital

	2019 £	Unaudited 2018 £
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
3 (2018 - 3 (unaudited)) ordinary shares of £1 each	3	3
1 (2018 - 1 (unaudited)) non-redeemable preference share of £1	1	1

The Directors have considered the accounting treatment of the £1 non-redeemable preference shares in relation to FRS102 Section 22: Liabilities and Equity, and are of the opinion that these shares are in substance an equity instrument and are accordingly disclosed as equity in the balance sheet.

Dividends on the preference shares were not paid during the year (2018 - £nil (unaudited)).

# Rights attached to shares

The ordinary shares and non-redeemable preference shares rank pari passu in all respects except that the rights attaching to the preference shares are as follows:

#### **Dividends**

The right in priority to any other class of shares or stock to be paid a cumulative dividend of £3,000,000,000, payable in sterling at such rate as the Directors may resolve to pay from time to time, subject to the maximum amount permitted by law but, upon payment having been made of such cumulative dividend, no further right to participate in dividends declared by the Company.

#### **Voting**

The right to receive notice of and to attend but not to vote at any general meeting of the Company save that if:

- (a) the meeting is convened for the purpose of considering the purchase by the Company of any of its own shares or a reduction of the capital of, or the winding up of, the Company; or
- (b) the proposition to be submitted to the meeting abrogates or varies or otherwise directly affects the special rights and privileges attaching to the preference shares.

Then upon a show of hands every holder of preference shares present in person shall have one vote and upon a poll every such holder present in person or by proxy shall have one vote for every preference share held by him.

#### Return of capital

The right in priority to any payment in respect of the Company's ordinary share capital issued by the Company on a repayment of assets, whether on a winding up or reduction of capital or otherwise, to the payment of the nominal value of the preference shares but, upon such payment of the nominal value having been made, no further right to participate in the distribution of the Company's assets.

#### Special class rights

Except with the prior consent or sanction of the holders of the preference shares, no further shares ranking as to dividend or as to capital in priority to or pari passu with preference shares shall be created or issued so long as any preference shares remain in issue

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

# 9. Ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party

The Company's immediate parent undertaking is Hanson (FP) Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. The Company's ultimate parent undertaking is HeidelbergCement AG, a company registered in Germany. The largest and smallest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that headed by HeidelbergCement AG. Copies of the consolidated financial statements of HeidelbergCement AG may be obtained from Berliner Strasse 6, D 69120 Heidelberg, Germany.