Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

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Company Information

Directors

P Adcóck R A Bowler

M Alibhai R Lamerton

Company secretary

L Edwards

Company number

2116519

Registered office

Admiral Way

Doxford International Business Park

Sunderland Tyne and Wear SR3 3XP

Independent auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Central Square South Orchard Street Newcastle upon Tyne

NE1 3AZ

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Strategic report for the year ended 31 December 2014

The directors present their Strategic report for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company continues to be the operation of bus and coach services.

Business review

The company has traded successfully during the year increasing the profit on ordinary activities before taxation by £2.15m to £4.75m (2013 £2.60m). The improvement arises from improved trading and also by avoiding the high legal costs incurred in 2013.

The company did not pay any dividends in the year and therefore the shareholders' funds have increased to £17.4m as a result of the profit for the year transferred to reserves.

During the year the company repaid part of the group intercompany indebtedness.

The directors consider the state of the company's affairs to be satisfactory and the company retains sufficient liquidity to fulfil capital expenditure and trading requirements for 2015.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The management of the business and the execution of the company's strategy are subject to a number of risks. The key business risks and uncertainties affecting the company are considered to relate to local and national competition and factors which would cause a decline in the market. Further discussion of these risks and uncertainties in the context of the group as a whole, is provided in the annual report of the UK intermediate parent company, Arriva Plc, which does not form part of this report.

Future developments

The directors remain confident that the company will continue to operate in line with expectations.

Key performance indicators

The directors of Deutsche Bahn AG manage the group's operations on a divisional basis. For this reason, the company's directors believe that analysis using key performance indicators for the company is not necessary or appropriate for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business of Arriva The Shires Limited. The development performance and position of the group, including this company, is discussed in the group's annual report which does not form part of this report.

This report was approved by the board on 7 September 2015 and signed on its behalf.

L Edwards

Company secretary

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2014

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Results and dividends

The profit for the financial year amounted to £3,495,000 (2013 - £1,654,000).

The company did not pay a dividend during the year (2013: £Nil).

Director

The director who served during the year, and up to the date of signing the financial statements, was:

P Adcock

B Barraclough (resigned 27 February 2015)

R A Bowler

K P Hawkins (resigned 31 March 2015)

H Williams (resigned 31 March 2015)

M D J Yexley (resigned 31 March 2015)

M Alibhai (appointed 8 July 2014)

N C Mellor (appointed 29 August 2013, resigned 30 May 2014)

R Lamerton (appointed 23 March 2015)

Financial risk management objectives and policies

Details of financial risk management objectives and policies are shown in the annual report of Arriva Plc which does not form part of this report.

Employee involvement

The company recognises that its employees are key to its success and is committed to creating a working environment where everyone has the opportunity to learn, develop and contribute to the success of the company, working within a common set of values.

The company continues to aim to be an employer of choice and to employ a diverse workforce with the skills, abilities and attitudes to meet business objectives and needs. The company's aim is to provide appropriate remuneration, benefits and conditions of employment which will serve to attract, retain, motivate and reward such employees.

The company has, subject to the restraints of commercial confidentiality, continued its policy of employee involvement, by making information available to employees on a regular basis regarding recent and probable future developments and business activities.

Disabled employees

The company continues to give full and fair consideration to applications for employment by disabled persons, having regard to their respective aptitudes and abilities. The company's policy includes, where applicable, the continued employment of those who may become disabled during their employment.

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2014

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic report, 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 prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). 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 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 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.

Disclosure of information to auditors

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

- so far as that director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware,
- that 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 auditors are aware of that information.

Going concern

The directors believe that preparing the financial statements on the going concern basis is appropriate due to the continued financial support of the intermediate parent company DB Mobility Logistics AG, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Bahn AG.

This report was approved by the board on 7 September 2015 and signed on its behalf.

L Edwards

Company secretary

Independent auditors' report to the members of Arriva The Shires Limited

Report on the financial statements

Our opinion

In our opinion, Arriva The Shires Limited's financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2014 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
 and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

What we have audited

Arriva The Shires Limited's financial statements comprise:

- the balance sheet as at 31 December 2014;
- the profit and loss account for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In applying the financial reporting framework, the directors have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Other matters on which we are required to report by exception Adequacy of accounting records and information and explanations received

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Directors' remuneration

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Independent auditors' report to the members of Arriva The Shires Limited

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit Our responsibilities and those of the directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out 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.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) ("ISAs (UK & Ireland)"). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

What an audit of financial statements involves

We conducted our audit in accordance with ISAs (UK & Ireland). An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of:

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently
 applied and adequately disclosed;
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We primarily focus our work in these areas by assessing the directors' judgements against available evidence, forming our own judgements, and evaluating the disclosures in the financial statements.

We test and examine information, using sampling and other auditing techniques, to the extent we consider necessary to provide a reasonable basis for us to draw conclusions. We obtain audit evidence through testing the effectiveness of controls, substantive procedures or a combination of both.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report and Financial Statements to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Michael Jeffrey (Senior Statutory Auditor)

Midrall Telliner

for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP:

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Newcastle upon Tyne

7 September 2015

Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 December 2014

		2014	. 2013
	Note	£000	£000
TURNOVER	1,2	90,877	88,742
Cost of sales		(74,128)	(73,376)
GROSS PROFIT		16,749	15,366
Administrative expenses	•	(11,550)	(12,707)
Other operating income		36	5
OPERATING PROFIT	3 .	5,235	2,664
Interest receivable and similar income	7	8	43
Interest payable and similar charges	8	(492)	(103)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		4,751	2,604
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	9	(1,256)	(950)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	19	3,495	1,654

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2014 or 2013 other than those included in the profit and loss account. Therefore, no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

There are no material differences between the profit on ordinary activities before taxation and the profit for the financial year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The notes on pages 8 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

ARRIVA THE SHIRES LIMITED Registered number: 2116519

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2014

		 -		_
Note	£000	2014 £000	£000	2013 £000
			,	
10		1,259		1,642
11		32,045		35,634
12		6,840		6,840
	-	40,144	•	44,116
13	627		735	
14	40,015		47,312	
	350		1,234	
-	40,992	•	49,281	
15	(56,302)		(65,837)	
_		(15,310)		(16,556)
TIES	•	24,834	-	27,560
16		(6,109)		(12,213)
17		(1,280)		(1,397)
	_	17,445	_	13,950
	-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-	
18		728		728
19		16,717		13,222
20	-	17,445		13,950
	10 11 12 13 14 15 TIES 16 17	10 11 12 13 627 14 40,015 350 40,992 15 (56,302) TIES 16 17	Note £000 £000 10	Note £000 £000 £000 10

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 7 September 2015.

R A Bowler Director

The notes on pages 8 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies reporting under UK GAAP, and applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom. The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently throughout the year, are set out below.

The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Deutsche Bahn AG and is included in the consolidated financial statements of Deutsche Bahn AG which are publicly available. Consequently, the company has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing consolidated financial statements under the terms of section 400 of the Companies Act 2006. These financial statements, therefore, present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group.

1.2 Cash flow statement

The company, being a subsidiary undertaking where 90% or more of the voting rights are controlled within the group whose consolidated financial statements are publicly available, is exempt from the requirement to draw up a cash flow statement in accordance with FRS 1.

1.3 Turnover

Turnover consists of the gross revenue for road passenger transport together with the aggregate amounts receivable for other goods and services supplied in the ordinary course of the business, excluding value added tax. Income is accrued where it is earned in an earlier period to that in which it is billed or received in cash. Income is deferred where it is received in an earlier period than that to which it relates.

1.4 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Goodwill is the difference between amounts paid on the acquisition of a business and the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities. It is amortised to the Profit and loss account over its estimated economic life.

Other intangible fixed assets, which relate to licences for the use of the Arriva brand name, are being amortised through the profit and loss account over the licence period of 15 years.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold property

straight line over the life of the lease

Plant, machinery, fixtures and motor

10% to 48% straight line

vehicles

Public service vehicles

straight line over periods up to 15 years

1.6 Investments

Investments are included at cost less provision for impairment. Impairment reviews are carried out on an annual basis. Profits or losses arising from disposals of investments are treated as part of the result from ordinary activities.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 Leasing and hire purchase

Where assets are financed by leasing agreements ('finance leases') the assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less depreciation in accordance with the company's normal accounting policies. The present value of future rentals is shown as a liability. The interest element of rental obligations is charged to the profit and loss account over the period of the lease in proportion to the balance of capital repayments outstanding. Assets under finance leases are depreciated over their estimated useful life or the term of the lease, whichever is the shorter

Where assets are leased out under a finance lease arrangement any amounts due from the lessee are recorded in the balance sheet as a debtor at the amount of the net investment in the lease. Finance lease income under the finance lease is allocated to accounting periods so as to give a constant periodic rate of return on the net cash investment in the lease, over the lease term.

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 Deferred taxation

Full provision is made for deferred tax assets and liabilities arising from all timing differences between the recognition of gains and losses in the financial statements and recognition in the tax computation.

A net deferred tax asset is recognised only if it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are calculated at the tax rates expected to be effective at the time the timing differences are expected to reverse.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

1.11 Pensions

During the year the company operated a contract based pension scheme, which covered employees of the company.

Arriva plc also operates a defined benefit pension scheme. The assets of the defined benefit scheme are held separately from those of the company in independently administered funds. As the company is unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the group scheme, it accounts for contributions as if they were to a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable by the company are charged to the profit and loss account in the period in which they fall due. Contributions payable under the contract based scheme are charged to the profit and loss account as they arise.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.12 Going concern

The directors believe that preparing the financial statements on the going concern basis is appropriate due to the continued financial support of the intermediate parent company DB Mobility Logistics AG, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Bahn AG.

1.13 Dividends

Dividend distributions to the company's shareholders are recognised in the company's financial statements in the period in which the dividends are paid.

2. TURNOVER

The whole of the turnover is attributable to the company's principal activity.

All turnover arose within the United Kingdom.

3. OPERATING PROFIT

The operating profit is stated after charging:

•	2014	2013
	£000	£000
Amortisation - intangible assets	383	383
Depreciation of tangible assets:	•	•
- owned by the company	6,081	1,813
- held under hire purchase and finance lease agreements	71	221
Operating lease rentals:		
- plant and machinery	1,337	5,316
- land and buildings	698	290

During the year the company made a loss on disposal of fixed assets of £28,000 (2013 - profit of £18,000).

4. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2014 £000	2013 £000
Fees payable to the company's auditors for the audit of the company's annual financial statements	26	26

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

5.	STAFF COSTS		•
	Staff costs, including directors' remuneration, were as follows:		•
		2014 £000	2013 £000
	Wages and salaries	43,480	42,307
	Social security costs Other pension costs (note 21)	3,969 - 1,468	3,861 1,524
	outer pension costs (note 21)		1,024
•	=	48,917	47,692
	The average monthly number of employees, including the directors, during the	year was as follows:	
		2014	2013
,		No.	No.
	Drivers	1,271	. 1,294
	Engineering Administrative	137 183	118 169
	- -	1,591	1,581
6.	DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS		
		2014	2013
		£000	£000
	Remuneration	267	297
	Employers pension contributions	· 22	22
	During the year retirement benefits were accruing to 3 directors (2013 - 2) is schemes.	n respect of defined	benefit pension
	The highest paid director received remuneration of £119,000 (2013 - £135,000 related to employers contributions to a defined benefit pension scheme.) of which £10,000 (2	2013 - £21,000)
	routed to employers continuations to a defined content pension scheme.		-
7.	INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME		
•	A AND A AND A TABLE IN THE SAIVE DESIGNATION OF THE SAIVE DESIGNATION O	2014	2013
		2014 £000	£000
	Interest receivable from group undertakings	8	43
•	=	· .	

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

8.	INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES		
		2014 £000	2013 £000
	Interest payable to group undertakings On finance leases and hire purchase contracts	487 . 5	103 -
	·	492	103
		=	
9.	TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
		2014 £000	2013 £000
	Analysis of tax charge in the year		
	Current tax (see note below)		
	UK corporation tax charge on profit for the year Adjustments in respect of prior years	1,229 _. 144	157 (56)
	Total current tax	1,373	101
	Deferred tax		
•	Origination and reversal of timing differences Adjustments in respect of prior years	(121) 4	889 (40)
	Total deferred tax (see note 17)	(117)	849
	Tax on profit on ordinary activities	1,256	950
	Factors affecting tax charge for the year		_
	The tax assessed for the year is higher than (2013 - lower than) the stand 21.50% (2013 - 23.25%). The differences are explained below:	ard rate of corporation tax	in the UK of
		2014 £000	2013 £000
	Profit on ordinary activities before tax	4,751	2,604
	Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 21.50% (2013 - 23.25%)	1,021	605
	Effects of:		
	Non-tax deductible amortisation of intangible fixed assets	60	89
	Expenses not deductible for tax purposes Capital allowances for year less than/(in excess of) depreciation	18 130	18 (555)
	Adjustments in respect of prior years	144	(56)
	Current tax charge for the year (see note above)	1,373	101
	•		

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

9. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES (continued)

Factors that may affect future tax charges

During 2012 the Chancellor announced that the UK Corporation Tax rate applicable from 1 April 2013 would be 23%, and that the UK Corporation Tax rate applicable from 1 April 2014 would be 21%.

On 20 March 2013 the Chancellor made a further announcement that the UK Corporation Tax rate applicable from 1 April 2015 would be 20%.

10. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Licences £000	Goodwill £000	Total £000
Cost			
At 1 January 2014 and 31			
December 2014	2,840	2,508	5,348
Accumulated amortisation			
At 1.January 2014	1,770	1,936	3,706
Charge for the year	213	170	383
At 31 December 2014	1,983	2,106	4,089
Net book value			
At 31 December 2014	85 7	402	1,259
At 31 December 2013	1,070	572	1,642

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

11. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Leasehold property £000	Plant, machinery, fixtures and motor vehicles £000	Public service vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost				
At 1 January 2014 Additions Disposals	1,161 38 -	6,462 315 (27)	40,551 3,219 (1,009)	48,174 3,572 (1,036)
At 31 December 2014	1,199	6,750	42,761	50,710
Accumulated depreciation				•
At 1 January 2014 Charge for the year Disposals	532 79	4,603 408 (27)	7,405 5,665 -	12,540 6,152 (27)
At 31 December 2014	611	4,984	13,070	18,665
Net book value	•			
At 31 December 2014	588	1,766	29,691	32,045
At 31 December 2013	629	1,859	33,146	35,634
At 31 December 2013	629	1,859	33,146	35,634

The net book value of assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts, included above, are as follows:

	2014	2013
	€000	£000
Public service vehicles	-	1,748

The depreciation charged to the financial statements in the year in respect of such assets amounted to £71,000 (2013: £221,000).

The net book value of long leasehold property is £480,000 (2013: £501,000) and the net book value of short leasehold property is £108,000 (2013: £128,000).

12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Shares in group undertakings £000

Cost and net book value

At 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014

6,840

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (continued)

Subsidiary undertakings

The following are subsidiary undertakings of the company:

Name of company	Class of shares	Holding
Premier Buses Limited	Ordinary	100 %
M K Metro Limited	Ordinary	·100 %

Name of company	Nature of business	Country of incorporation and operation
Premier Buses Limited M K Metro Limited	Holding company Dormant	United Kingdom United Kingdom

The directors believe that the carrying value of the investments is supported by their underlying value.

The investment in M K Metro Limited is held indirectly.

13. STOCKS

	•	2014 £000	£000
	Raw materials and consumables	627	735
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
14.	DEBTORS		
		2014	2013
		£000	£000
	Trade debtors	996	1,332
	Amounts owed by group undertakings	36,613	43,965
	Other debtors	921	379
	Prepayments and accrued income	1,485	1,636
		40,015	47,312
	•		

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

15.	CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year		•
	Amounts faming due within one year		
		2014	2013
		£000	£000
	Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts		293 58,785
	Amounts owed to group undertakings Corporation tax	48,362 1,229	157
	Other taxation and social security	1,227	1,163
	Other creditors	1,306	820
	Accruals and deferred income	4,178	4,619
		56,302	65,837
16.	CREDITORS:		
	Amounts falling due after more than one year		
		2014 £000	2013 £000
	Amounts owed to group undertakings Accruals and deferred income	6,000 109	12,000 213
		6,109	12,213
17.	DEFERRED TAX		
	The deferred tax included in the balance sheet is as follows:		
		2014	2013
		£000	£000
	At 1 January	1,397	548
	Movement in the profit and loss account during the year (note 9)	(117)	849
	At 31 December	1,280	1,397
	The provision for deferred taxation is made up as follows:	• .	
		2014 ·	2013
		£000	£000
	Accelerated capital allowances	1,353	1,472
	Other short term timing differences	(73)	(75)
		1,280	1,397

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

18.	CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL		
		2014 £	2013 £
	Authorised		
•	10,000,000 Ordinary shares of £0.10 each (2013: 10,000,000)	1,000,000	1,000,000
	Allotted and fully paid		. •
	7,283,079 Ordinary shares of £0.10 each (2013: 7,283,079)	728,308	728,308
19.	RESERVES	·	
			Profit and loss account £000
	At 1 January 2014 Profit for the financial year		13,222 3,495
	At 31 December 2014		16,717
20.	RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
		2014 £000	2013 £000
	Opening shareholders' funds	13,950	12,296
	Profit for the financial year	3,495	1,654
	Closing shareholders' funds	17,445	13,950

21. PENSION COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2014 the UK intermediate parent company, Arriva plc, operated a contract based retirement benefit scheme providing benefits to certain employees within Arriva The Shires Limited. The scheme is financed through separate Trustee administered funds managed by independent professional fund managers on behalf of the Trustees.

Contributions to the defined benefit scheme, the Arriva Passenger Services Pension Plan, are based upon actuarial advice following the most recent actuarial valuation of the funds. The latest actuarial valuations were performed as at 5th April 2011, using the Projected Unit Method. The principal actuarial assumptions were that:

- (i) the annual rate of return on investment would be 7.0 per cent higher than the annual increase in total pensionable remuneration of nil per cent (frozen for 4 years from 1 December 2009, capped at 1% thereafter); and
- (ii) there would be no variation from the scheme's rules to pensions in payment.

On the basis of these assumptions the actuarial value of the funds at 5th April 2011 was sufficient to cover 94.6 per cent of the benefits then accrued to members. The market value of the Scheme's assets at 5th April 2011 was £369.1 million.

The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the company to both schemes and amounted to £1,468,000 (2013: £1,524,000).

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

21. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

FRS 17 'Retirement benefits'

The company makes contributions to the aforementioned schemes which are operated by the UK intermediate parent company, Arriva plc. Other companies within the Arriva group make contributions to the Arriva Passenger Services Pension Plan, therefore it is not possible for the company to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2014. As the company is unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the group scheme, it accounts for contributions as if they were to a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable by the company are charged to the profit and loss account in the period in which they fall due.

22. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 December the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

•	Land and buildings			Other
	2014	2013	2014	- 2013
	£000 _.	£000	£000	£000
Expiry date:	•			
Within 1 year	-	303	633	290
Between 2 and 5 years	. 134	133	-	-
After more than 5 years	593	289		-

23. ULTIMATE PARENT UNDERTAKING AND CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate parent company and ultimate controlling party is Deutsche Bahn AG, a company registered in Germany, which has prepared group financial statements incorporating the results of Arriva The Shires Limited. Copies of these financial statements can be obtained from Potsdamer Platz 2, 10785 Berlin.

Deutsche Bahn AG is the largest group to consolidate the financial statements of Arriva The Shires Limited and DB Mobility Logistics AG is the smallest.

Information on Arriva The Shires Limited can be obtained from their registered address Admiral Way, Doxford International Business Park, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR3 3XP.

Transactions with other companies in the Deutsche Bahn Group are not specifically disclosed as the company has taken advantage of the exemption available under FRS 8 'Related party disclosures' for wholly-owned subsidiaries.