

# TLS Plc

## *Directors' report and financial statements*

For the year ended 31 December 1999

Registered Number: 2131552



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# TLS Plc

## Directors' report and financial statements

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# TLS Plc

## Directors' report

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1999.

### Principal activities

The principal activities of the company are the provision of vehicle contract hire (and similar arrangements). The company also sources new vehicles for customers whose vehicles the company manages.

### Business review

During the year ended 31 December 1999 the company made a loss before tax of £5,602,000 (1998: *profit before tax of £8,199,000*) on turnover of £216,559,000 (1998: *£196,874,000*).

### Dividend and transfer to reserves

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (1998: *£nil*).

The retained loss for the year of £10,162,000 was transferred from reserves (1998: *profit of £5,286,000 transferred to reserves*).

### Year 2000

The company recognised the importance of the Year 2000 issue, completed a full assessment of its impact and committed resources to its resolution. To date, the company's results and operations have not been adversely affected either by internal Year 2000 compliance failures or the inability of any third parties to manage the issue. The directors recognise the need to continue to monitor the Year 2000 issue and are confident that the steps being undertaken will continue to avoid disruption.

### Directors and directors' interests

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

PA Roberts	(resigned 11 February 2000)
CJ Miller	
MO Evans	(appointed 11 February 2000)
RF Millay	
HA Riedijk	(resigned 2 July 1999)
TW Minett	(appointed 11 February 2000)
G Steed	(appointed 11 February 2000)

Since the company meets the definition in S736 (2) (3) of the Companies Act 1985 of a wholly owned subsidiary of a body corporate incorporated outside Great Britain, the company has taken advantage of regulation 3 (1) (a) of Statutory Instrument 1985/802 exempting the company from the requirement to disclose directors' share interests and options in group companies.

### Employment of disabled persons

The company's policy is to give full and fair consideration to applications for employment made by disabled persons and to recruit solely on the basis of the applicant's ability to perform in the appropriate role. When an employee becomes disabled during their employment, the company will make every effort to continue such employment by arranging for appropriate training or redeployment to a more suitable position.

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## Directors' report *(continued)*

### Employee involvement

The company encourages the involvement of its employees in matters that concern them. Such involvement is illustrated by activities such as regular briefing notes which are distributed on a number of topics including half-year and full-year results, new appointments and acquisitions. Regular briefing sessions on a local management basis are also actively encouraged. During 1996 the company also embarked on its first employee survey which produced a number of action points which were implemented effectively and a further survey has already been distributed in February 1997 to gauge progress.

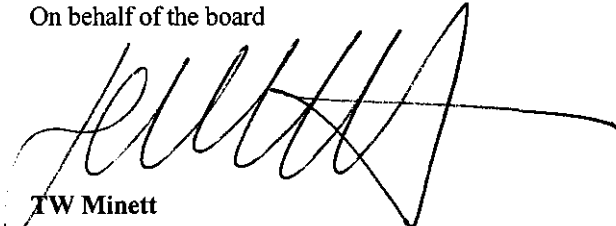
### Payment of creditors

It is company policy to settle all debts with its creditors on a timely basis, taking account of the credit period given by each supplier. The number of days billings from suppliers outstanding at the end of the financial year was 60 (1998: 46).

### Auditors

In accordance with Section 385 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution proposing that KPMG Audit Plc be re-appointed as auditor of the Company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the board



TW Minett  
Director

Armstrong House  
Houston Park  
Montford Street  
Salford  
M5 2RP

26th July 2000

# TLS Plc

## Statement of directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss for that period. In preparing those 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 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 proper accounting records which 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 1985. They 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.

Report of the auditor, KPMG Audit Plc,  
to the members of TLS Plc

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 18.

*Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors*

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and, as described on page 3, the financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in the United Kingdom by statute, the Auditing Practices Board and by our profession's ethical guidance.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

*Basis of audit opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

*Opinion*

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 1999 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

*KPMG Audit Plc*

**KPMG Audit Plc**  
Chartered Accountants  
Registered Auditor

St. James' Square  
Manchester  
M2 6DS

*27 July* 2000

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## Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 December 1999

	<i>Note</i>	<b>1999 £000</b>	<b>1998 £000</b>
Turnover	<i>1(n)</i>	<b>216,559</b>	196,874
Cost of sales		<b>(110,694)</b>	(100,687)
<b>Gross profit</b>		<b>105,865</b>	96,187
Administrative expenses		<b>(87,463)</b>	(70,503)
Other operating income		<b>11</b>	6
<b>Operating profit</b>	<i>4</i>	<b>18,413</b>	25,690
(Loss)/profit on sale of tangible assets		<b>(2,207)</b>	3,957
Interest receivable	<i>2</i>	<b>125</b>	306
Interest payable and similar charges	<i>3</i>	<b>(21,933)</b>	(21,754)
<b>(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation</b>		<b>(5,602)</b>	8,199
Tax on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities	<i>7</i>	<b>(4,560)</b>	(2,913)
<b>Retained (loss)/profit for the financial year</b>	<i>17</i>	<b>(10,162)</b>	5,286

The movement in reserves is shown in note 17 to these financial statements.

The company had no recognised gains or losses in the current or preceding financial year other than those dealt with in the profit and loss account above.

The results in the above profit and loss account relate entirely to continuing operations.

The profit for both the current year and preceding year calculated on an unmodified historical cost basis is not materially different to the profit disclosed above. Accordingly a note of historical cost profits and losses as required by paragraph 26 of FRS 3 has not been presented.

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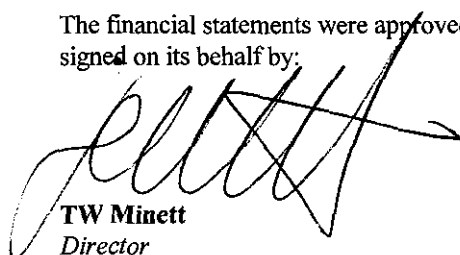
## Balance sheet

at 31 December 1999

	Note	1999 £000	1998 £000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Intangible assets	8	45,287	45,448
Tangible assets	9	297,058	239,071
Investments	10	16,312	17,992
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		358,657	302,511
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	11	2,102	2,203
Debtors	12	84,451	67,891
Cash at bank and in hand		-	856
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		86,553	70,950
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(372,260)	(298,798)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		(285,707)	(227,848)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		72,950	74,663
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	14	(178)	(251)
<b>Provisions for liabilities and charges</b>	15	(15,475)	(6,953)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net assets</b>		57,297	67,459
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>			
Called up share capital	16	2,972	2,972
Share premium account	17	51,047	51,047
Revaluation reserve	17	10	10
Other reserves	17	4,242	4,242
Profit and loss account	17	(974)	9,188
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Equity shareholders' funds</b>	17	57,297	67,459
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The notes on pages 7 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on signed on its behalf by:

  
**TW Minett**  
 Director

26<sup>th</sup> July

2000 and



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## Notes

*(forming part of the financial statements)*

### 1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

#### *(a) Basis of preparation*

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historical cost accounting rules, modified to include the revaluation of land and buildings.

During the year the directors have reconsidered the amounts recorded as cost of investment in subsidiary undertakings. The original cost of the company's investments in subsidiary undertakings reflected the underlying fair value of their individual net assets and goodwill at the time of acquisition. Following the transfer of the trade and assets of the subsidiaries to the company on 1 January 1997 for an amount equal to the book value of the net assets (which was less than the fair value of the trade and net assets together), the directors consider that the element of the cost of investment which represented goodwill should have been reclassified as such. This accounting treatment is appropriate for the following reason. As a result of the transfer, the value of the company's investment in its subsidiary undertakings fell below the amount at which they were stated in the company's accounting records. Schedule 4 to the Companies Act 1985 requires that the investment be written down accordingly and that the amount be charged as a loss in the company's profit and loss account. However, the directors consider that, as there has been no overall loss to the company, it would fail to give a true and fair view to charge that diminution to the company's profit and loss account and it should instead be reallocated to goodwill, so as to recognise in the company's individual balance sheet the effective cost to the company of the goodwill. The effect of this departure is to increase the amount of goodwill included within intangible assets in the company's balance sheet and reduce the value of investments (shares in subsidiary undertakings) by £1,680,103.

#### *(b) Intangible fixed assets*

Goodwill arising on the purchase of a business is capitalised and amortised over its estimated useful economic life. This is a varying period of not more than 20 years.

#### *(c) Assets for lease*

Assets acquired for leasing under operating leases are shown as fixed assets and are depreciated on a straight line basis over the life of the lease to their estimated residual value. Rental income is credited to the profit and loss account on an accruals basis. A provision is made over the life of the lease for maintenance on contract hire vehicles.

#### *(d) Vehicle rebates*

Vehicle rebates are credited to the profit and loss account over a period ranging from the life of the supplier agreement to the expected life of the assets.

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## Notes

(continued)

### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

#### (e) Depreciation

Property and equipment used by the company:

Depreciation is provided on a systematic basis so as to write off the relevant asset's remaining useful economic lives:

Freehold and long leasehold property	-	50 years
Short leasehold property	-	Over the remaining period of the lease
Plant, machinery, fixtures, fittings and computer equipment	-	3-10 years

Land is not depreciated.

Assets leased to customers:

The vehicle fleet provision policy is to write down each vehicle to its estimated or guaranteed residual value at the anticipated date of sale. This policy results in provision rates of between 20 and 60 percent per annum on a straight line basis.

#### (f) Leases

Where the company enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a 'finance lease'. The asset is recorded in the balance sheet as a tangible fixed asset and is depreciated as set out above. Future instalments under such leases, net of finance charges, are included with creditors. Rentals payable are apportioned between the finance element, which is charged to the profit and loss account and the capital element which reduces the outstanding obligation for future installments.

All other leases are accounted for as 'operating leases' and the rental charges are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

#### (g) Hire purchase and finance lease interest

Interest on borrowings arranged at variable rates is charged to the profit and loss account in accordance with the amounts notified by the respective lenders. Interest on borrowings arranged on fixed interest terms is charged to the profit and loss account on a basis designed to give a reasonable approximation to a constant periodic rate of return.

#### (h) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

#### (i) Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the profit for the year and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes. Provision is made only to the extent that it is probable that an actual liability will crystallise.

#### (j) Pension and other post-retirement benefits

The company participates in group funded defined benefit pension schemes providing benefits for employees based on final pensionable pay. Pension costs are charged against profits on a systematic basis: any surplus or deficits arising are allocated over the remaining service lives of the current employees of the group.

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## Notes

*(continued)*

### 1. Accounting policies *(continued)*

#### *(k) Cash flow statement*

Under FRS1 (Revised 1996) the company is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement. Exemption is on the grounds that it is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking and its cash flows appear in a consolidated cash flow statement in the financial statements of the ultimate parent company which are available to the public.

#### *(l) Transactions with related parties*

The company, as a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of General Electric Company, has taken advantage of an exemption contained in FRS 8, "Related Party Disclosures", in preparing its accounts. This exemption allows the company not to disclose details of transactions with other group companies or investees of the group qualifying as related parties, as the consolidated accounts of General Electric Company in which the company is included are available to the public.

#### *(m) Requirement to prepare consolidated financial statements*

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of GE Capital Corporation Limited, a company incorporated and registered in England and Wales. Under the provisions of Section 228 of the Companies Act 1985 (as amended), the company is exempt from preparing consolidated statements.

#### *(n) Turnover*

Turnover principally represents income from the short term and contract hire of vehicles and vehicle rebates and is stated net of value added tax. All turnover arose in the United Kingdom.

### 2. Interest receivable and similar income

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Bank interest	125	306

### 3. Interest payable and similar charges

	1999 £000	1998 £000
On group loans	21,699	19,713
On bank loans and overdrafts	33	96
Finance charges in respect of hire purchase agreements	169	1,858
Other	32	87
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21,933	21,754

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## Notes

(continued)

### 4. Operating profit

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting) the following:

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	74,273	65,680
Depreciation of assets held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	465	1,362
Amortisation of intangible assets	2,929	3,455
Auditors' remuneration - for audit	49	51
Operating leases - hire of plant and machinery	42,391	33,031
- other	1,457	1,822
	<u>74,273</u>	<u>65,680</u>

### 5. Directors' remuneration

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Emoluments	584	442
Pension contributions	44	35
Compensation for loss of office	83	-
	<u>711</u>	<u>477</u>

The number of directors to whom retirement benefits are accruing is:

	Number of directors	
	1999	1998
Under defined benefit schemes	4	3

The total emoluments excluding pension contributions of the highest paid director were £185,000 (1998: £197,000).  
The accrued pension from a defined benefit pension scheme of the highest paid director at the end of the year was  
£nil (1998: £nil)

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## Notes

(continued)

### 6. Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year (including directors) analysed by category was:

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Operations	633	765
Management/administration	344	185
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	977	950
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Wages and salaries	19,567	16,153
Social security costs	1,874	1,517
Other pension costs	409	259
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21,850	17,929
	<hr/>	<hr/>

### 7. Tax on profit on ordinary activities

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Taxation based on the (loss)/profit for the year:		
UK corporation tax at 30.25% (1998: 31%)	-	3,040
Deferred taxation	8,339	(127)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,339	2,913
(Over)/under provision in respect of prior years:		
UK corporation tax	(3,962)	-
Deferred taxation	183	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,560	2,913
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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## Notes

(continued)

### 8. Intangible fixed assets

	<b>Goodwill £000</b>
<i>Cost</i>	
At beginning of year (restated – see note 1a)	50,583
Additions	1,088
	<hr/>
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>51,671</b>
	<hr/>
<i>Amortisation</i>	
At beginning of year	3,455
Charge for the year	2,929
	<hr/>
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>6,384</b>
	<hr/>
<i>Net book value</i>	
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>45,287</b>
	<hr/>
At beginning of year	45,448
	<hr/>

Included in additions is £920,000 relating to further consideration paid in respect of Commercial Recovery and Repairs Limited.

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## Notes

(continued)

### 9. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £000	Plant, machinery fixtures, fittings, motor vehicles and computer equipment £000	Assets for lease £000	Total £000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At beginning of year	3,157	5,959	329,817	338,933
Additions	1,219	1,428	192,467	195,114
Disposals	(55)	-	(127,707)	(127,762)
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>4,321</b>	<b>7,387</b>	<b>394,577</b>	<b>406,285</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At beginning of year	288	2,924	96,650	99,862
Charge for the year	335	1,110	73,293	74,738
Disposals	(9)	-	(65,364)	(65,373)
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>4,034</b>	<b>104,579</b>	<b>109,227</b>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 December 1999	3,707	3,353	289,998	297,058
At 31 December 1998	2,869	3,035	233,167	239,071

Included in the total net book value of fixed assets leased to customers by the company is £607,698 (1998: £6,809,000) in respect of assets held under finance leases and similar hire purchase contracts. Depreciation charged for the year on these assets was £121,540 (1998: £1,362,000).

The historical cost of freehold land and buildings included in the financial statements at valuation is:

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Cost	1,269	1,269
Accumulated depreciation	(337)	(312)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>957</b>

A valuation of certain of the company's properties as at 31 December 1988 was carried out by the property consultants on the basis of open market value for existing use. The properties are included above at a valuation of £487,000 (1998: £487,000)

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## Notes

(continued)

### 10. Investments (held as fixed assets)

	Shares in Subsidiary Undertakings £000
At beginning of year (restated – see note 1a)	16,312
At end of year	16,312

The company owns the following subsidiary undertakings all of which are registered in England and Wales, and operate principally in the United Kingdom:

Subsidiary undertaking	Principal activities	Proportion of issued share capital held by the company %	Class of shares
Auto-Rentals (Nationwide) Limited	Non-trading	100	Preference
Blocklane Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Carline (Car & Van Rental) Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Carlisle Projects Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Cavland Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Countcashe Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Rallyworld Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Range Self Drive Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Sailintap Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
TLS Range Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Transport Leasing Services Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Commercial Recovery & Repairs Limited	Non-trading	100	Ordinary
Smith Self Drive Group Limited	Vehicle hire	100	Ordinary

### 11. Stocks

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Finished goods	2,102	2,203

### 12. Debtors

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Rentals receivable under operating leases	53,307	50,473
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-
Taxation recoverable	2,209	238
Other debtors	19,390	9,620
Prepayments and accrued income	9,545	7,560
	84,451	67,891



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## Notes (continued)

### 13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Bank overdrafts	2,477	-
Obligations under finance leases and similar hire purchase contracts	360	5,775
Trade creditors	9,500	6,825
Amounts owed to group undertakings	335,066	263,128
Other creditors including taxation and social security	1,743	3,632
Accruals and deferred income	21,886	19,438
Other creditors	1,228	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	372,260	298,798
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other creditors including taxation and social security comprise:		
Corporation tax	290	2,280
Other taxes and social security	1,453	1,352
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,743	3,632
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Obligations under finance leases and similar hire purchase contracts are secured on the assets to which those borrowings relate.

### 14. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Obligations under finance leases and similar hire purchase contracts	178	251
	<hr/>	<hr/>

All of the above amounts are wholly repayable within one to two years.

Obligations under finance leases and similar hire purchase contracts are secured on the assets to which those borrowings relate.

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## Notes

(continued)

### 15. Provisions for liabilities and charges

	Deferred taxation £000
At beginning of year	6,953
Charge for the year in the profit and loss account	8,522
	<hr/>
Provision at end of year	<b>15,475</b>
	<hr/>

Provision has been made for deferred taxation as follows:

	Provided		Unprovided	
	1999 £000	1998 £000	1999 £000	1998 £000
Accelerated capital allowances	15,722	7,469	-	8,080
Other timing differences	(247)	(516)	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>15,475</b>	<b>6,953</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,080</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

### 16. Called up share capital

	1999 £000	1998 £000
<i>Authorised:</i>		
60,000,000 ordinary shares of 5p each	3,000	3,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Allotted, called up and fully paid:</i>		
59,433,350 ordinary shares of 5p each	2,972	2,972
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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## Notes

(continued)

### 17. Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds

	Called up share capital £000	Share premium £000	Revaluation reserve £000	Second reserve £000	Profit and loss account £000	1999 Share- holders' funds £000	1998 Share- holders' funds £000
At beginning of year	2,972	51,047	10	4,242	9,188	67,459	62,173
Retained (loss)/profit for the financial year	-	-	-	-	(10,162)	(10,162)	5,286
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>2,972</b>	<b>51,047</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4,242</b>	<b>(974)</b>	<b>57,297</b>	<b>67,459</b>

The second reserve was created by an order of the High Court in December 1996 and is available for distribution by way of dividend in certain special circumstances but in all other respects is equivalent of the share premium account.

The cumulative amount of goodwill resulting from acquisitions, net of disposals, eliminated to date amounted to £5,973,000 (1998: £5,973,000).

### 18. Capital commitments

Commitments for capital expenditure not provided in the financial statements were as follows:

	1999 £000	1998 £000
Contracted for but not provided in the financial statements:		
Assets leased to customers	38,434	20,951

### 19. Operating lease commitments

Annual commitments under non-cancelable operating leases were as follows:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	1999 £000	1998 £000	1999 £000	1998 £000
Expiring within one year	150	142	11,742	8,172
Expiring within two to five years	521	504	17,020	17,560
Expiring after five years	825	701	850	30
	<b>1,496</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>29,612</b>	<b>25,762</b>

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## Notes

*(continued)*

### 20. Pension scheme

#### *Defined contribution scheme*

The company is a member of three defined contribution pension schemes.

The pension charge for the year represents contributions payable by the company to the schemes and amounted to £281,000 (1998: £324,000). Contributions amounting to £nil (1998: £19,000) were payable to the schemes at the end of the year and are included in accruals.

#### *Defined benefit schemes*

The company also participates in the GE Capital Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme operated by GE Capital Bank Limited. Contributions to this pension scheme, which is fully funded, are charged so as to spread the cost of pensions over the employees' working lives with the group. Employer contribution rates are determined by a qualified actuary for the contributing companies as a whole.

The latest formal actuarial valuation of the GE Capital Pension Scheme was at 5 April 1997. Particulars of the actuarial valuation are contained in the financial statements of GE Capital Bank Limited, a fellow subsidiary of the ultimate parent company.

The pension charge for the year represents contributions payable by the company to the scheme and amounted to £128,000 (1998: £nil). There were no contributions payable to the scheme at the end of the year (1998: £nil)

### 21. Parent undertakings

The company's immediate parent undertaking is GE Capital Corporation Limited, a company registered in England and Wales.

The smallest group in which the results of the company are consolidated is that headed by IGE USA Investments, a company registered in England and Wales. The consolidated financial statements of this company are available to the public and may be obtained from 3rd Floor, 1 Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 6HP.

The largest group in which the results of the company are consolidated is that headed by its ultimate parent undertaking, General Electric Company, a company incorporated in the United States of America. The consolidated financial statements of this company are available to the public and may be obtained from 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, Connecticut 06431, USA.