

Hera Finance Limited

Report and Accounts

29 January 2000

Registration number 2518727



Hera Finance Limited
Report and accounts
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Hera Finance Limited
Directors and officers

DIRECTORS

H.M. Jones
P.E. Rowley

SECRETARY

N. J. M. Davies (resigned 19 August 1999)
M.H. Stokes (appointed 19 August 1999)

REGISTERED OFFICE

North West House
119 Marylebone Road
London NW1 5PX

AUDITORS

PricewaterhouseCoopers
1 Embankment Place
London WC2N 6NN

Hera Finance Limited

Directors' report

The directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 29 January 2000.

Principal activities and review of the business

The Company operates as an investment company within Kingfisher plc and intends to continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Results and dividends

The profit for the year, after taxation, amounted to £5.9m (1999:£9.5m). The directors propose a final ordinary dividend of £5.9m (1999:£13.4m). All profits will be distributed, so there will not be a transfer to reserves (1999:£3.9m).

Elective Resolution

On 15 March 1993 the Company passed an elective resolution whereby it would dispense with the holding of an annual general meeting until the election was revoked. Further elective resolutions were passed at the same time that the Company would dispense with :

- a) the laying of the annual report and financial statements before the company in general meeting and
- b) the requirement to reappoint annually the auditors of the Company in general meeting.

Directors and directors' interests

The directors of the Company, who served during the financial year, are:

P.E Rowley
H.M. Jones

None of the directors has any beneficial interest in the shares of the Company. The interests of P.E Rowley in the share capital of the ultimate holding company, Kingfisher plc, at the end of the year are shown in the financial statements of that company.

The other director had the following interest in 12.5p Ordinary shares of Kingfisher plc:

	As at 30 Jan 1999	As at 29 Jan 2000
H.M. Jones	3,322	12,907

Options for 12.5p Ordinary shares in Kingfisher plc :

	As at 30 Jan 1999	Options Granted	Options Exercised	As at 29 Jan 2000
H.M. Jones	101,893	14,724	(58,686)	57,931

Hera Finance Limited
Directors' report

The market price of Kingfisher plc shares at 29 January 2000 was 477.0p and the range during the year was 477p to 930p. The options were exercised on 29 July 1999 at an exercise price of 251.1p. The market price of the shares on this date was 706.5p.

GOING CONCERN

The directors confirm that, after making enquiries, they have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these accounts.

EURO

A project team, responsible to the Kingfisher plc Board of Directors, has been established and commenced preparations for the introduction of the Euro. The project team is reviewing the practical implications and strategic opportunities or threats of the Euro, refining the implementation plans, updating the project critical path and raising awareness of the issues within the Kingfisher Group. Progress continues within the timescales set by the Board of Directors.

YEAR 2000

The Company successfully prepared for the potential year 2000 problems.

The costs of rendering existing software year 2000 compliant are borne by the ultimate parent company, Kingfisher plc.



M.H. Stokes
Secretary

Date: 10 August 2000

Hera Finance Limited
Statement of directors' responsibilities

The following statement is made with a view to distinguishing for shareholders the respective responsibilities of the directors and the auditors in relation to the financial statements.

The directors are required by Company law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of the profit for the year to that date. In preparing the financial statements the directors are required:

To ensure that the Company keeps accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985.

To take such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

To apply suitable accounting policies in a consistent manner and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates where necessary.

To comply with all applicable accounting standards (except where any departures from this requirement are explained in the notes to the financial statements).

To prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

Hera Finance Limited

Auditors' report to the members of Hera Finance Limited

We have audited the accounts on pages 6 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report. As described on page 4, this includes responsibility for preparing financial statements, in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in the United Kingdom by statute, the Auditing Practices Board and 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 United Kingdom Companies Act. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the director's 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 is not disclosed.

We read the information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

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 accounts 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 29 January 2000 and of its result for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.



PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and
Registered Auditors

London

10 August 2000

Hera Finance Limited
Profit and Loss Account
for the year ended 29 January 2000

	Notes	2000 £000	1999 £000
Loss on sale of investment		-	(4)
Income from investments	5	5,930	9,455
Unrealised foreign exchange loss		-	-
Profit on ordinary activities before interest		5,930	9,451
Interest receivable	6	-	1
Interest payable		-	-
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	4	5,930	9,452
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	7	-	1
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		5,930	9,453
Dividends paid	8	(5,930)	(13,390)
Retained loss for the year	13	-	(3,937)

The result for the year arises solely from continuing operations.

A statement of total recognised gains and losses appears on page 8. A reconciliation of historical profits and losses is not shown as there is no difference between the loss reported and that calculated under the historical cost convention.

There were no discontinued operations in the period.

Hera Finance Limited
Balance Sheet
as at 29 January 2000

	Notes	2000 £000	1999 £000
Fixed assets			
Investments	9	193,052	220,559
Current assets			
Debtors	10	220,505	233,895
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(193,015)</u>	<u>(233,912)</u>
Net current assets/(liabilities)		27,490	(17)
Net Assets		<u>220,542</u>	<u>220,542</u>
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	12	248,300	248,300
Profit and loss account	13	(27,758)	(27,758)
Equity Shareholders' funds:	14	<u>220,542</u>	<u>220,542</u>

The financial statements on pages 6 to 13 were approved by the Board of Directors on 10 August 2000 and were signed on its behalf by:-



P.E. Rowley
 Director
 10 August 2000

Hera Finance Limited
Statement of total recognised gains and losses
for the year ended 29 January 2000

	2000	1999
	£000	£000
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	5,930	9,453
Unrealised foreign exchange movements	-	9,752
Total recognised gains and losses related to the year	<u>5,930</u>	<u>19,205</u>
Prior year adjustment		(39,219)
Total gains and losses since last annual report	<u><u>5,930</u></u>	<u><u>(20,014)</u></u>

Hera Finance Limited
Notes to the Accounts
at 29 January 2000

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The financial statements are made up to the nearest Saturday to 31 January, so as to coincide with its ultimate holding company.

The Company's ultimate holding company is Kingfisher plc and the cashflows of the Company are shown in the consolidated Group Cashflow Statement of Kingfisher plc, which is publicly available. Consequently the Company is exempt under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard No.1 from publishing a cashflow statement.

The financial statements contain information about Hera Finance Limited as an individual company and do not contain consolidated financial information as the parent of a group.

The Company is exempt under Section 228 of the Companies Act 1985 from publishing consolidated financial statements as it and its subsidiary are included by full consolidation in the consolidated financial statements of its ultimate parent, Kingfisher plc which is registered in England and Wales.

The Company is also exempt under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 8 from disclosing related party transactions with entities that are part of the Kingfisher plc group.

Interest receivable is accrued on a daily basis. Dividend income is recognised when declared.

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at contracted rates or where no contract exists, at average monthly rates.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies which are held at the balance sheet date are converted into sterling at the year end exchange rates.

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost except when there has been a permanent diminution in their value when they are stated at net realisable value.

Investments in overseas subsidiary undertakings are translated into sterling at the year end exchange rates. The accounts have been prepared using the "offset" procedure in line with SSAP20 with the exchange differences on borrowings used to finance, or provide a hedge against, foreign equity investments are recorded as movements on reserves.

Hera Finance Limited
Notes to the Accounts
at 29 January 2000

2 Employees

The Company had no employees during the financial year, (1999:nil).

3 Directors' remuneration

None of the directors of the Company received any remuneration from the Company or from its subsidiary in respect of the financial year ended 29 January 2000 (1999:nil).

4 Profit on ordinary activities before taxation

Auditors' remuneration is borne by the parent company.

5 Income from investments	2000	1999
	£000	£000
Declared dividend from subsidiary undertaking	5,929	9,454
Dividends received from listed investments	1	1
	<u>5,930</u>	<u>9,455</u>

6 Interest receivable and similar income	2000	1999
	£000	£000
Interest receivable - Exchequer stock	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

7 Tax on profit on ordinary activities	2000	1999
	£000	£000
United Kingdom corporation tax at 30.16% (1999:31.00%)	(1,788)	(2,930)
Less double taxation relief	1,788	2,931
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

8 Equity dividends	2000	1999
	£000	£000
Equity dividends on ordinary shares - final paid	5,930	13,390
	<u>5,930</u>	<u>13,390</u>

Hera Finance Limited
Notes to the Accounts
at 29 January 2000

9 Investments

	Investments in subsidiary undertakings £000	Other investments £000	Total £000
Cost			
At 30 January 1999	220,533	26	220,559
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Unrealised foreign exchange movements	(27,507)	-	(27,507)
At 29 January 2000	<u>193,026</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>193,052</u>
Other investments		2000 £000	1999 £000
Listed investments		26	26
Unlisted investments		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>
Valuation:			
Listed investments - market value		<u>17</u>	<u>20</u>

Investments are stated at cost rather than market value as the diminution is not deemed to be permanent.

The investment in subsidiary undertakings at 29 January 2000 has been restated to show the effect of unrealised exchange losses.

Interests in Group Undertakings

The following company is the subsidiary undertaking of the Company at 29 January 2000.

	<u>Country of Incorporation</u>	<u>Class of Share</u>	<u>% owned</u>	<u>Main Activity</u>
Financiere Kingfisher S.A.	France	Ordinary	100	Financing

In the opinion of the directors the value of the investment in its subsidiary is not less than the amount stated in the Company's balance sheet.

10 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	2000 £000	1999 £000
Amounts due from group undertakings	<u>220,505</u>	<u>233,895</u>

Hera Finance Limited
Notes to the Accounts
at 29 January 2000

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2000	1999
	£000	£000
Amounts owed to group undertakings	193,015	233,912
	<u>193,015</u>	<u>233,912</u>
 12 Share capital	 2000	 1999
	£000	£000
Authorised:		
750,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	750,000	750,000
	<u>750,000</u>	<u>750,000</u>
Allotted and fully paid:		
248,300,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	248,300	248,300
	<u>248,300</u>	<u>248,300</u>
 13 Profit and loss account	 2000	 1999
	£000	£000
At beginning of year as previously stated	(27,758)	5,646
Prior year adjustment	-	(39,219)
At beginning of year as restated	<u>(27,758)</u>	<u>(33,573)</u>
Retained profit for the financial year	-	(3,937)
Unrealised exchange movements	-	9,752
At end of year	<u>(27,758)</u>	<u>(27,758)</u>
 14 Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds	 2000	 1999
	£000	£000
Profit for the financial year	5,930	9,453
Dividends	(5,930)	(13,390)
Unrealised foreign exchange movements	-	9,752
Net addition to shareholders' funds	<u>-</u>	<u>5,815</u>
Opening shareholders' funds	220,542	214,727
Closing shareholders' funds	<u>220,542</u>	<u>220,542</u>

Hera Finance Limited
Notes to the Accounts
at 29 January 2000

15 Ultimate holding company

The immediate parent company is Kingfisher International France Limited (formerly Kingfisher Electrical Retailing Limited) which is registered in England and Wales and operates in France and the UK.

The ultimate parent company is Kingfisher plc, which is registered in England and Wales. Copies of the annual report and financial statements of Kingfisher plc can be obtained from The Secretary, Kingfisher plc, North West House, 119 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PX.