# **ABS Europe Limited and its subsidiaries**

**Directors' Report and Financial Statements** for the year ended 31 December 2022



# **Company Information**

**Directors** 

**Dhaval Mehta** 

Philip Midgley-Carver

Company secretary

**Daniel Finn** 

Company number

02562251

Registered office

111 Old Broad Street

London EC2N 1AP

**Auditors** 

Bennett Brooks & Co Limited

**Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors** 

St George's Court Winnington Avenue Northwich

**CW8 4EE** 

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# **Strategic Report**

The Directors present their Strategic and Directors' reports and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. Together, they form the annual report and accounts.

#### **Principal activities**

The Group's principal activities in the year under review were the testing and surveying of vessels and other structures, together with industrial verification and consulting services, primarily for the benefit of the maritime industry within Europe and Africa.

#### **Business review**

The key financial and other performance indicators during the year were as follows

|                                  | 2022     | 2021     | Change |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|
|                                  | £000     | £000     | %      |
| Turnover                         | 57,248   | 55,316   | 4%     |
| Gross Profit                     | 9,740    | 8,683    | 12%    |
| Gross Profit %                   | 17%      | 16%      | 1%     |
| Operating Expenses               | (54,020) | (52,640) | -3%    |
| Operating Profit                 | 3,228    | 2,676    | 21%    |
| Other Financing Income/(Expense) | 901      | (2,664)  | -134%  |

The turnover generated by the Company's operations has remained stable during the year. An increase in Cost Plus revenue from the increased cost base has contributed to a revenue growth of £4.4 m. The continuing political uncertainty resulting from the Eastern European conflict did not have a major impact on the Company. During the year, ABS transferred the Inspection and Quality Services from ABS Group Ltd, the result of this change was a £3.2m decrease in turnover.

Other financing income for the year totals £901,000. This includes the effect of the impact in foreign exchange movement on the translation of balances and transactions, including intercompany balances, and the net interest income/ (expense) on defined benefit assets/ (liabilities). In common with previous periods, the Company settled a significant proportion of the intercompany balances that it had with its parent, American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) in order to mitigate ABS Europe Ltd's exposure to foreign exchange movements. Further details regarding the above are outlined in the Principal risks and uncertainties section below.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

For ABS Europe Ltd and its subsidiaries, namely: ABS Hellenic Single Member Ltd (Hellenic), ABS Italy Srl (Italy Srl) and ABS Europe (Ghana) Upstream Limited (ABSEGU Limited) operating profit margin risks, arising from a downturn in the shipbuilding business, have been to a great extent mitigated through the adoption of a cost plus pricing arrangement with the parent undertaking. However, in the event of a significant downturn in business, future profits could be impacted by a reduction in the cost base of these companies (and the resulting reduction in turnover).

With effect from year end ended 31 December 2016, The American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) and ABS Europe Limited (ABSEL) entered an agreement to settle outstanding USD denominated intercompany assets/ liabilities by assigning the USD balances a local currency equivalent value at the end of the year. In doing so, the foreign currency risk attached to those USD denominated intercompany assets/ liabilities held by ABSEL, is transferred to ABS. Any net residual balance is held by ABSEL in local currency. A similar process has been undertaken during 2022. The effect of this on the accounts of ABSEL is to eliminate large opposing intercompany balances denominated in US dollars and local currency and consequently reduce exposure to the inherent foreign exchange risk. In 2019 this agreement was extended to cover foreign exchange movements in ABSEL's branch in Angola.

# Strategic Report (continued)

In addition, ABSEL, Hellenic, Italy Srl and ABSEGU Limited are exposed to risks arising from the continued existence of its sole customer and parent, the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS). The Directors consider that the risk of reliance on one revenue provider is low with revenues guaranteed through its cost plus agreement and the strong liquidity position of its one client, ABS. The businesses have a very low credit and litigation risk profile as much of this exposure is with ABS. However, this profile could be indirectly affected by events that challenge ABS.

The effects of movement in exchange rates are mitigated by matching revenue and expense currencies whenever possible.

Whilst ABSEL will not be directly impacted significantly by climate change, it recognises that the shipbuilding business and shipping industry could be impacted, especially with the reduction in use of fossil fuels. ABS sees this as an opportunity to offer new services with its industry-leading suite of marine and offshore sustainability services.

ABSEL operates in certain regions where this is a risk arising from political uncertainty. This was considered when making the decision to close the Russian branch in 2023. The new situation of the conflict in Sudan is being closely monitored for escalation to the surrounding region, where ABSEL operates, to mitigate the risk.

#### Section 172(1) Companies Act 2006 statement

A director of a company must act in the way he or she considers, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in doing so have regard (amongst other matters) to:

- a) the likely consequences of any decision in the long-term;
- b) the interests of the company's employees;
- c) the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others:
- d) the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment;
- e) the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- f) the need to act fairly as between members of the company.

# Stakeholder Engagement

The Board has identified key stakeholders (as set out in this statement) and undertook a variety of activities to engage with stakeholders during 2022. Details are set out below, together with additional information on related engagement activities undertaken with ABS & affiliated companies (ABSAC) which impacted ABSEL.

# Customers/ Shareholders

The Company's parent company, ABS, is also our main customer. The Company recognises its contribution to the overall success of ABSAC. The ABSAC reporting structure means that The Board, regularly report into and have regular communication with senior management of ABSAC to achieve the defined goals of ABSAC.

### **Employees**

Employees are the biggest asset to the Company, without which, it would not be able to deliver its service to its customer. The Company uses technology to engage with its employees. The quarterly "Chairman's Message" continued to keep employees informed about what was happening within the Company, gave an overview of company performance, spotlighted operations around the company and also gave the opportunity for questions to be answered by the Senior Management. A survey found that employees were in favour of this type of regular communication continuing post-pandemic. Regular meetings between managers and their direct reports and the structured annual employee performance evaluation process

# **Strategic Report (continued)**

enable concerns from employees to be passed up to senior management. The digital newsletter (ABS Insider) ensures that staff remained informed and engaged about what is happening in ABSAC.

ABSAC employees have access to the LinkedIn Learning platform giving them a wide range of content with which to undertake professional development training. This is in addition to the Beacon career development program rolled out in 2019. This framework is designed to facilitate ongoing learning for all employees, enabling staff to build and manage their careers.

Within the Engineering and Finance functions there are Engagement Champions teams to facilitate engagement across ABSAC.

Safety and People are two of the ABSAC Values, so the safety of our people is paramount. With the input and the participation of our workers, we are committed to continually improving the effectiveness of our Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental (HSQE) performance and management system. This is achieved by identifying risks and opportunities that help to eliminate hazards and reduce risks and by providing safe and healthy working conditions for the prevention of work-related injury, ill health and pollution. Employee meetings are held in our offices on a regular basis with a safety topic being discussed at the beginning of any larger office group meetings. There is regular HSQE training delivered to all employees and employees are encouraged to report incidents on the internal online Health & Safety Incident Management System. Recognition awards are given to employees acting as leaders in the capacity of health and safety.

We strive to achieve zero lost time accidents annually. For 2022, ABSAC, globally achieved a Lost Time Incident (LTI) rate of 0.17 (2021: 0.37) (per million hours) and a Total Reportable Incident (TRI) Index of 0.44 (2021: 0.49)(per 200,000 hours). The TRI Index was worse than the target for the year of 0.3 and the LTI rate was better than the target of 0.20 for the year. In order to improve the safety performance, our annual Safety Day was held in October 2022 to remind and re-commit ourselves and as an organisation to safety. The meeting discussed recent top hazards encountered, how to prevent accidents or injuries, and the importance of being "safety present." Weekly Safety Messages, containing different safety topics each week, will continue to be shared in 2023.A Safety Culture Survey is being conducted at the beginning of 2023, any improvements and initiatives from this exercise will be implemented during the coming year. ABSAC holds the ISO 45001:2018 certificate which demonstrates compliance with the new global standard recognising the management system for a safe and healthy workplace.

#### Pension Schemes and Pensioners

The board takes direct responsibility for safeguarding the interests of employees, former employees, pensioners and the Company's obligations to its defined benefit pension schemes. This includes ensuring that Pension Trustees include employee representation.

### Suppliers

Procurement of goods and services is an important part of the Company's business operations and can deliver significant value through a consistent approach to planning and implementation of procurement best practices. The Company has a defined procurement policy and is dedicated to the highest standards of ethical conduct, which go beyond the written word. It is the Company's goal to remain in good standing with our suppliers. Our payment practice is to pay invoices once approved before due dates. Regular assessment of a supplier's performance during any contractual engagement ensures that the relationship remains not only competitive but mutually beneficial.

# Community and Environment

The mission of ABSAC is to serve the public interest as well as the needs of our members and clients by promoting the security of life and property and preserving the natural environment. As the global maritime industry continues to transform, digital technologies will be a key enabler in our quest to build a cleaner, better, and more safe and sustainable future. In this rapid evolution of technology, ABSAC is well-positioned as a technical and safety leader. The core engineering and technology competence of our people and the wealth of experience they bring to problem-solving is a key differentiator for us. That's why at ABSAC we

# **Strategic Report (continued)**

are focused on continuing to develop our employee base to be best in class through continuous learning, training and preparation to support our commitment to set standards of excellence as a leader in maritime safety — now and in the future.

ABSEL operates an Environmental Management System which complies with the requirements of ISO 14001:2015, with each office maintaining a local list of Environmental aspects that are managed and measured.

#### **Business Conduct**

One of our most important assets at ABSAC is our reputation for ethical and reliable service. It affects every aspect of our business and operations. Whether we are providing classification services, assisting clients with asset integrity and reliability, certifying systems or processes, or engaging in any number of other tasks, the industries we serve count on us to provide an independent and impartial view that can be trusted.

Our day-to-day business is guided by the relentless focus on Safety, People, Integrity, Reliability, Innovation, Teamwork and Quality. The Code of Ethics is applicable to all employees of ABSAC and its affiliates. The Code also applies to third parties who work on behalf of the Company, such as agents, independent contractors and other non-employee representatives.

# **Principal Decisions**

ABS Europe Ltd (ABSEL) recognises the importance of engaging with stakeholders to help inform strategy and Board decision making. Relevant stakeholder interests help inform strategy and Board decision making. Relevant stakeholder interests including those of employees, suppliers, customers and others are taken into account by the Board when it takes decisions.

ABSEL defines principal decisions as those that are material, or of strategic importance, to ABSEL, and also those that are significant to any of its key stakeholder groups. As a subsidiary company, principal decisions are delegated to senior management at parent company level and also within the Company. The Board consists of directors which form part of this senior management group and formally approves decisions affecting the Company where legally required.

# How stakeholder interests have influenced decision making

The company has operated a flexible remote working policy during the year. This continues to benefit the company and staff, with employees spending their working week split between home and the ABS offices which reopened during 2022.

The ABSEL board was engaged in the review of operations which concluded that the Technical Inspection and Verification service line, operated through its subsidiary ABS Group Ltd, is no longer core to the business. This service was transferred from ABS Group Ltd along with the Quality Evaluation business during 2022 to affiliated UK entities. The interests of the employees were considered when making the decision subsequently post-transfer of the business.

Philip Midgley-Carver

Director

Date: 25 May 2023

# **Directors' Report**

#### Research and development

The Group and the Company do not undertake research and development activity as any such activity is carried out by the parent organisation in the US.

#### Results and dividends

The profit for the year, after taxation, amounted to £5,006,000 (2021: loss of £2,017,000).

During the period, the Company paid no dividend (2021: nil) and the increase in retained earnings for the year of £5,006,000 (2021: decrease of £2,017,000) plus the other comprehensive income of £3,523,000 (2021: £2,557,000) have been taken to reserves.

#### **Future developments**

Although the market for classification services continued to be challenging in 2022, ABSEL's Operating Profit should be largely protected from the worst effects due to the presence of fixed profit margins and reduced risk of debtor default as it transacts with its parent company.

The main trading activity of ABS Europe Ltd is that of the provision of support services within the UK, EU and Africa to a customer based in the United States. These services are not subject to EU regulation or control and do not rely on barrier free access to the European Market by the UK or vice versa.

The parent company will support ABSEL through the expected difficult market conditions and political uncertainty resulting from the Eastern European conflict. In early 2023 ABS decided to close down the Russian Branch of ABSEL.

The revenue of ABS Marine Services Ltd increased by 138% in the year due the development of new services and markets. This growth combined with continued control over fixed costs delivered an 11% operating margin. ABS Group Ltd ceased trading in the UK when its service lines were transferred to other ABS entities during 2022 and it will become a dormant entity during 2023.

#### Provision 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 and the Group's auditors are unaware, and
- that director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware
  of any information needed by the Company and the Group's auditors in connection with preparing
  their report and to establish that the Company and the Group's auditors are aware of that
  information.

# **Employees**

Regular meetings are held with representatives of the UK employees.

All Company employees participate in a non-contractual bonus scheme, which is related to the performance of the Company.

Health and safety matters are given special attention by the Group and it is Board policy to ensure that continued employment is offered, wherever possible, to employees who become temporarily disabled and special arrangements are made for those permanently disabled, including training and career development.

ABS Europe Ltd is an equal opportunity employer providing every qualified applicant with consideration for job openings without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, national origin, age or marital status.

All Group companies require highly trained employees, and we have a range of benefits, including a final salary pension scheme, to attract and retain our employee base.

### **Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report (SECR)**

UK energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Current UK based annual energy usage and associated annual greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions are reported pursuant to the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Regulations") that came into force 1 April 2019.

### Organisational boundary

In accordance with the 2018 Regulations, the energy use and associated GHG emissions are for those assets owned or controlled within the UK only as defined using the operational control boundary. This includes the 4 offices in Aberdeen, London, Newcastle, and Warrington along with mandatory inclusion of scope 3 business travel in employee-owned or rental vehicles (grey fleet).

# Reporting period

The annual reporting period is 1 January to 31 December each year and the Group has taken the opportunity to voluntarily report on energy consumption and emissions back to 2015.

# Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2022 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting were used in emission calculations were used in emission calculations as there relate to the majority of the reporting period. This report has been reviewed independently by Briar (Briar Consulting Engineers Limited).

Electricity consumption was based on invoice records and meter reads and gas consumption was estimated using the TM46 benchmark, while mileage records were used to calculate energy and emissions from fleet vehicles and grey fleet. Gross calorific values were used except for mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The emissions are divided into mandatory and voluntary emissions according to the 2018 Regulations, then further divided into the direct combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased electricity (scope 2) and further indirect emissions that occur as a consequence of company activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation (scope 3).

# Base Year

The year ESOS Phase 1 year (2015) is chosen as the base year due to the completeness and accuracy of data reported in accordance with ESOS Phase 1. The base year will be retroactively recalculated in the event of significant changes to the company (5%), such as structural changes, changes in methodology or improvements in the accuracy of data.

Breakdown of energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh):

|                             | 2015      | 2021    | 2022    |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Natural gas                 | 574,345   | 190,524 | 207,996 |
| Electricity                 | 876,679   | 108,688 | 111,688 |
| Transport fuel              | 438,277   | 277,884 | 241,016 |
| Total gross energy consumed | 1,889,301 | 577,096 | 560,700 |

Breakdown of emissions associated with the reported energy use (tCO2e)

|  | 2015  | 2021  | 2022  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Scope 1                                    |       |       |       |
| Gas  | 106.2 | 34.9  | 38.0  |
| Company owned vehicles                     | 42.0  | 0.7   | 0.4   |
| Total Scope 1                              | 148.2 | 35.6  | 38.4  |
| Scope 2                                    |       |       |       |
| Purchased electricity (location based)     | 429.9 | 23.1  | 21.6  |
| Total Scope 2                              | 429.9 | 23.1  | 21.6  |
| Scope 3                                    |       |       |       |
| Category 6: Business travel (grey fleet)   | 63.0  | 68.6  | 57.3  |
| Total Scope 3                              | 63.0  | 68.6  | 57.3  |
| Total gross emissions                      | 641.1 | 127.3 | 117.3 |
| Intensity ratio (mandatory emissions only) |       |       |       |
| Tonnes of CO₂e per million-pound revenue   | 8.7   | 7.4   | 7.1   |

#### Intensity Ratio

The intensity ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e (mandatory emissions) per total million-pound (£m) revenue. The turnover relates to UK operations only to align with the energy and emission reporting boundary. This financial metric is considered the most relevant to the Group's energy consuming activities and provides a good comparison of performance over time and across different organisations and sectors.

Energy efficiency action during current financial year

The Group is committed to reducing emissions and this year has seen the implementation of the following energy efficiency measures:

- · The Newcastle office has had the replacement of old lights with LED lights over this reporting year.
- The London office have also switched all traditional lighting to LED lights.
- The Aberdeen office has installed a light switch so that automatic lights are not used as a smaller desk lamp is used usually and therefore this reduces energy consumption.

#### Going concern

ABSEL, Italy Srl, Hellenic and ABSEGU Limited have agreements in place with The American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) to provide services on a basis that should considerably reduce the Group's exposure to external economic risk. The arrangements provide for a stable margin with respect to operating costs of the business which flexes up or down in line with increases or decreases in the cost base. This is a low-risk cost provider model, with revenue determined by applying a margin to the cost base due from ABS, ensuring that an operating profit should be made going forward.

In considering whether it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis the directors have considered the expected future performance and cashflows of the business. The Maritime Industry will continue to be affected by the political uncertainty in Eastern Europe. On the basis that there is uncertainty within the markets where ABSEL operates, the Directors have requested, and received, a letter of support from ABS which confirms the willingness of the parent to provide the necessary financial support for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

In light of the continued negative economic impact of the Eastern European conflict, the directors have considered the financial strength of the parent company and have had specific regard to its current liquidity position and annual expenses, concluding that ABS has sufficient financial resources to meet the expenses of all of its companies, including ABSEL, for at least 12 months following the signing of these accounts.

#### **Directors**

The Directors shown below held office during the period from 1 January 2022 to the date of this report.

Karel van Campenhout (resigned 15 March 2022)

Philip Midgley-Carver

Arinjit Roy (appointed 15 March 2022 and resigned 11 August 2022)

Dhaval Mehta (appointed 11 August 2022)

#### Statement of directors' responsibilities

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, 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 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 the Group and of the profit or loss of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- · make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group 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 Group 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 the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **Auditors**

In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing that Bennett Brooks & Co Limited be re-appointed as auditor to the Company will be put at a General Meeting.

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

Philip Midgley-Carver

Director

Date: 25 May 2023

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABS EUROPE LIMITED

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of ABS Europe Limited (the "parent company") and its subsidiaries (the "group") for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Consolidated Income Statement, the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity, the Company Statement of Changes in Equity and the Notes to Financial Statements, 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 FRS 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 group's and of the parent company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of the group's 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.

#### **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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABS EUROPE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

#### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report, but does not include the financial statements and our Independent Auditors' Report thereon.

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

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

### Opinions 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 Strategic Report and the Directors' Report for the financial year for which
  the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Directors' Report have 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 group and the parent company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report or 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 parent company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- 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

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABS EUROPE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

## Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Statement of directors' responsibilities set out on page 9, 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 group's and the parent 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 parent company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

# Auditors' 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 Independent auditors' 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the group and parent company and industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to UK tax legislation and regulations which govern the preparation of financial statements, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to increase profits, through management bias in manipulation of accounting estimates or accounting for significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Audit procedures performed included:

- Enquiry of management around actual and potential litigation and claims and instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations;
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, through testing journal entries and other
  adjustments for appropriateness, testing accounting estimates (because of the risk of management
  bias), and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of
  business;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- · Review of board meeting minutes.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <a href="https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities">https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities</a>. This description forms part of our Independent auditors' report.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABS EUROPE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

# Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent company's members, as a body, 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 parent company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Independent auditors' 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 parent company and the parent company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jason Leach FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of Bennett Brooks & Co Limited, Statutory Auditor

St George's Court Winnington Avenue Northwich Cheshire CW8 4EE

25 May 2023

# Consolidated Income Statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

|   | Note | 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000 |
|---|------|--------------|--------------|
| Turnover                                      | 2    | 57,248       | 55,316       |
| Cost of sales                                 | 3    | (47,508)     | (46,633)     |
| Gross profit                                  | · ,  | 9,740        | 8,683        |
| Administrative expenses                       | 3    | (6,512)      | (6,007)      |
| Operating profit                              | 4    | 3,228        | 2,676        |
| Profit from disposal of operations            | 5    | 1,375        | _            |
| Income from other fixed asset investments     | 6    | -            | 251          |
| Other financing income/ (expense)             | 7    | 901          | (2,664)      |
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation | 2    | 5,504        | 263          |
| Tax on profit on ordinary activities          | 11   | (498)        | (2,280)      |
| Profit/ (loss) for the year                   |      | 5,006        | (2,017)      |
| Profit/ (loss) attributable to:               |      |              |              |
| - Owners of the parent                        |      | 5,000        | (2,022)      |
| - Non-controlling interests                   |      | 6            | 5            |
|   |      | 5,006        | (2,017)      |

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

# Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2022

|  | Note | 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000 |
|--|------|--------------|--------------|
| Profit/ (loss) for the year  |      | 5,006        | (2,017)      |
| Exchange differences on retranslation of branches held at local currency |      | (679)        | 753          |
| Remeasurement gain recognised on defined benefit pension schemes         | 22   | 6,064        | 3,871        |
| Movement on deferred tax relating to pension liability                   | 11   | (1,862)      | (2,067)      |
| Other comprehensive income   |      | 3,523        | 2,557        |
| Total comprehensive income for the year                                  |      | 8,529        | 540          |
| Total comprehensive income/ (expense) attributable to:                   |      |              |              |
| - Owners of the parent   |      | 8,530        | 535          |
| - Non-controlling interests  | 21   | <u>(1)</u>   | 5            |
|  |      | 8,529<br>    | 540          |

# Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

|  |          | 2022                      |              |                      | 2021         |  |
|--|----------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--|
|  | Note     | £000                      | £000         | £000                 | £000         |  |
| Fixed assets Tangible assets Investments   | 12<br>13 |                           | 1,190<br>11  |                      | 1,207<br>11  |  |
| Current assets Debtors Cash at bank and in hand  | 14       | 55,703<br>3,114<br>58,817 | 1,201        | 51,595<br>3,217<br>  | 1,218        |  |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year   | 15       | (16,210)                  |              | (17,753)             |              |  |
| Net current assets   |          |                           | 42,607       |                      | 37,059       |  |
| Total assets less current liabilities  |          |                           | 43,808       |                      | 38,277       |  |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year                                  | 16       |                           | (253)        |                      | (301)        |  |
| Provisions for liabilities Provisions  | 18       |                           | (7,711)      |                      | (7,139)      |  |
| Net assets excluding pension scheme assets/(liabilities)                                 |          |                           | 35,844       |                      | 30,837       |  |
| Defined benefit pension assets Defined benefit pension liabilities                       | 22<br>22 | 89,691<br>(82,131)        |              | 133,906<br>(129,868) |              |  |
|  |          |                           | 7,560        |                      | 4,038        |  |
| Net assets including pension scheme assets/(liabilities)                                 | 2        |                           | 43,404       |                      | 34,875       |  |
| Capital and reserves Called up share capital Profit and loss account attributable to the | 19       |                           | 3,534        |                      | 3,534        |  |
| owners of the parent   |          |                           | 39,849       |                      | 31,319       |  |
| Equity attributable to the owners of the parent Non-controlling interests                | 21       |                           | 43,383<br>21 |                      | 34,853<br>22 |  |
|  |          |                           | 43,404       |                      | 34,875       |  |

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

Philip Midgley-Carver

Director

Date: 25 May 2023

# Company Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

|  |          |                    | 2022            |                      | 2021            |
|--|----------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
|  | Note     | £000               | £000            | £000                 | £000            |
| Fixed assets Tangible assets Investments                             | 12<br>13 |                    | 905<br>383      | ·                    | 961<br>383      |
| Current assets   |          |                    | 1,288           |                      | 1,344           |
| Debtors<br>Cash at bank and in hand                                  | 14       | 46,674<br>1,909    |                 | 43,152<br>2,218      |                 |
|  |          | 48,583             |                 | 45,370               |                 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year                       | 15       | (7,540)            |                 | (7,090)              |                 |
| Net current assets   |          | -                  | 41,043          |                      | 38,280          |
| Total assets less current liabilities                                |          |                    | 42,331          |                      | 39,624          |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year              | 16       |                    | (90)            |                      | (84)            |
| Provisions for liabilities Provisions                                | 18       |                    | (4,239)         | •                    | (4,033)         |
| Net assets excluding pension scheme assets/(liabilities)             |          |                    | 38,002          |                      | 35,507          |
| Defined benefit pension assets Defined benefit pension liabilities   | 22<br>22 | 89,691<br>(82,131) |                 | 133,906<br>(129,868) |                 |
|  |          |                    | 7,560           |                      | 4,038           |
| Net assets including pension scheme assets/(liabilities)             |          |                    | 45,562          |                      | 39,545          |
| Capital and reserves Called up share capital Profit and loss account | 19       |                    | 3,534<br>42,028 |                      | 3,534<br>36,011 |
| Shareholders' funds  |          |                    | 45,562          |                      | 3,9,545         |

The company profit for the year was £2,177,000 and amounts credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income were £3,840,000.

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

Philip Midgley-Carver

Director

Date: 25 May 2023

# Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 December 2022

|  | Called-up<br>share<br>capital | Profit and<br>loss<br>account | Total equity attributable to the owners of the parent | Non-<br>controlling<br>interest | Total equity |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
|  | £000                          | £000                          | £000  | £000                            | £000         |
| At 1 January 2021                        | 3,534                         | 30,784                        | 34,318  | 17                              | 34,335       |
| (Loss)/ profit for the year              | -                             | (2,022)                       | (2,022)   | 5                               | (2,017)      |
| Other comprehensive income               | -                             | 2,557                         | 2,557   | -                               | 2,557        |
| Total comprehensive income for the year  | -                             | 535                           | 535   | 5                               | 540          |
| At 31 December 2021                      | 3,534                         | 31,319                        | 34,853  | 22                              | 34,875       |
| D. S.C. the con-                         | •                             |                               | 5 000   |                                 | 5.000        |
| Profit for the year                      | -                             | 5,000                         | 5,000   | 6                               | 5,006        |
| Other comprehensive income/<br>(expense) | -                             | 3,530                         | 3,530   | (7)                             | 3,523        |
| Total comprehensive income for the year  | -                             | 8,530                         | 8,530   | (1)                             | 8,529        |
| At 31 December 2022                      | 3,534                         | 39,849                        | 43,383  | 21                              | 43,404       |
|  |                               | *                             | ļ   |                                 |              |

# Company Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 December 2022

| •  | Called-up Profit and loss share capital account |         | Total Equity |
|--|---|---------|--------------|
|  | £000  | £000    | £000         |
| At 1 January 2021                        | 3,534   | 36,864  | 40,398       |
| Loss for the year                        | -   | (3,143) | (3,143)      |
| Other comprehensive income for the year  | -   | 2,290   | 2,290        |
| Total comprehensive expense for the year |   | (853)   | (853)        |
| At 31 December 2021                      | 3,534   | 36,011  | 39,545       |
| Profit for the year                      | -   | 2,177   | 2,177        |
| Other comprehensive income               | -   | 3,840   | 3,840        |
|  |   |         | <del></del>  |
| Total comprehensive income for the year  | -   | 6,017   | 6,017        |
| At 31 December 2022                      | 3,534   | 42,028  | 45,562       |

#### Notes to the financial statements

#### 1. Accounting policies

### Statement of compliance

ABS Europe Limited is a private company limited by shares and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 111 Old Broad Street, London, EC2N 1AP. The Group's financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland as it applies to the financial statements of the Group and Company for the year ended 31 December 2022.

# Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The presentational currency used when preparing these accounts is GBP.

The directors deem that it is appropriate to treat the non-UK entities as having local functional currencies and these are consolidated, in accordance with FRS102, into a UK sterling set of books for the purpose of reporting under UK law to the relevant UK authorities.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. As explained more fully in the Directors' Report on page 8, market conditions remain uncertain, hence a letter of support has been provided by the parent company. Having assessed the ability of the parent to provide the necessary support, including consideration of the continued negative impact of COVID-19 and the political uncertainty in Eastern Europe on its' available financial resources, the directors are satisfied that it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

As the Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), the Company has taken advantage of the exemption contained in FRS 102 Section 33 ("Related Party Disclosures") and has therefore not disclosed transactions with entities which form part of the ABS Group of companies (or investees of the ABS Group of companies qualifying as related parties). The consolidated financial statements of the American Bureau of Shipping, within which this Company is included, can be obtained from the address given in note 25.

Under FRS 102 Section 7 ("Statement of Cash Flows") the Company and the Group are exempt from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement per FRS 102 Paragraph 3.17 on the grounds that a parent undertaking includes the Company and Group in its own published consolidated financial statements.

#### **Basis of consolidation**

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertakings and are made up to 31 December each year. No Company profit and loss account is presented for ABS Europe Limited as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date of their acquisition, being the date on which the Group obtains control and continue to be consolidated until the date that such control ceases. Control comprises the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the investee so as to obtain benefit from its activities. All intra-group transactions, balances, income and expenditure are eliminated on consolidation.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at banks and in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity date of three months or less.

# Short-term debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the income statement in other operating expenses.

#### 1. Accounting policies (Continued)

#### Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price, costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use, and any dismantling and restoration costs.

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:

Fixtures and fittings 6-20% per annum
Plant & machinery 33% per annum
Motor vehicles 20% per annum
Furniture & equipment 10% per annum

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

#### Investments

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less provision for impairment. Dividend income is recognised in the income statement when the right to the income has been established.

#### **Provisions for liabilities**

A provision is recognised when the group has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. The effect of the time value of money is not material and therefore the provisions are not discounted.

# Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated using the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date and the gains or losses on translation are included in the profit and loss account. With effect from year end ended 31 December 2016, ABS and ABS Europe Limited (ABSEL) entered an agreement to settle outstanding USD intercompany assets/liabilities by assigning an equivalent value of local currency balances at the end of each year, with any net residual balance to be held in local currency. The effect of this on the accounts of ABSEL is to eliminate large opposing intercompany balances denominated in US dollars and local currency and consequently reduce the translation exchange gains and losses arising. A similar process has been undertaken during 2022. The effect of this on the accounts of ABSEL is to eliminate large opposing intercompany balances denominated in US dollars and local currency and consequently reduce exposure to the inherent foreign exchange risk. In 2019 this agreement was extended to cover foreign exchange movements in ABSEL's branch in Angola.

Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies, once translated and recorded in the balance sheet, are carried forward in local functional currency. No subsequent translations of these assets will normally need to be made.

The assets and liabilities of overseas subsidiary undertakings and branches are translated at the closing exchange rates. Exchange differences arising from the retranslation of the opening net assets of subsidiaries, branches and associates which have currencies of operation other than sterling and any related loans are taken to reserves together with the differences arising when the profit and loss accounts are translated at average rates and compared with rates ruling at the year end. All resulting exchange differences are recognised in other comprehensive income.

# 1. Accounting policies (Continued)

Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation. It establishes provisions where appropriate on the basis of amounts expected to be paid to the tax authorities. These provisions for current tax payable are based on the Directors' best estimate of likely tax liabilities that may arise based on interpretations of current and expected tax legislation. Where tax legislation is not clear or is ambiguous the Directors make estimates of potential tax exposures that are reviewed and revised as additional information becomes available. The provisions include an estimate of interest and penalties that may become due and are all presented within "Tax on profit on ordinary activities" in the income statement.

#### **Deferred taxation**

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences which are differences between taxable profits and total comprehensive income that arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements, except that:

- Provision is made for deferred tax that would arise on remittance of the retained earnings of overseas subsidiaries only to the extent that, at the balance sheet date, dividends have been accrued as receivable;
- Where there are differences between amounts that can be deducted for tax for assets (other than
  goodwill) and liabilities compared with the amounts that are recognised for those assets and liabilities
  in a business combination a deferred tax liability/(asset) shall be recognised; and
- Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that the
  directors consider that it probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax
  liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Deferred tax is measured on an undiscounted basis at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which timing differences reverse, based on tax rates substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

#### Revenue Recognition

There are two main revenue streams for ABS Europe Limited.

#### Revenue Stream One

Turnover represents the amounts from the provision of services to the American Bureau of Shipping. Revenue is accrued in line with service delivery and is recorded net of VAT and similar sales tax.

#### **Revenue Stream Two**

Turnover, which is stated net of value added tax, represents the value of services provided to clients during the year, after provision for contingencies and anticipated future losses on contracts, including amounts not invoiced. The turnover and pre-tax profit is attributable to the provision of marine third party inspection, verification, quality consulting and other technical services to a broad range of clients in the energy sector.

### Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The judgements discussed below would have the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

### 1. Accounting policies (Continued)

#### Impairment of non-financial assets

Where there are indicators of impairment of individual assets, the Group performs impairment tests based on fair value less costs to sell or a value in use calculation. The fair value less costs to sell calculation is based on available data from binding sales transactions in an arm's length transaction on similar assets or observable market prices less incremental costs for disposing of the asset. The value in use calculation is based on a discounted cash flow model. The cash flows are based on historical retained earnings and latest forecasts, they do not include restructuring activities that the Group is not yet committed to or significant future investments that will enhance the asset's performance of the cash generating unit being tested. The recoverable amount is most sensitive to the discount rate used for the discounted cash flow model.

#### Pensions

The group has obligations to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including: life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends. For details of assumptions adopted, see note 22.

#### **Taxation**

There are some areas of judgement in compiling current and deferred tax charges and these are referenced above in the Accounting Policies section; Taxation.

#### Significant estimates: uncertain tax position

The current tax liabilities directly relate to the expected tax payable on the Group's profits and is determined based on tax laws and regulations that differ across the numerous jurisdictions in which the Group operates. Assumptions and judgements are made in applying these laws to the taxable profits in any given period in order to calculate the tax charge for that period. An estimate is made where the tax liabilities remain to be agreed with the relevant tax authorities in each jurisdiction in which the Group operates, or when tax enquiries have been opened. Due to the uncertainty associated with such tax items there is a possibility that, on conclusion of open tax matters at a future date, the final outcome may differ significantly. Where the eventual tax paid or reclaimed is different to the amounts originally estimated, the difference will be charged or credited to the consolidated income statement in the period in which it is determined.

There is an open HMRC enquiry concerning the tax treatment of foreign exchange movements recorded in the 2016 financial statements. The directors believe that the Company's position on the tax treatment of these items is reasonable and they continue to vigorously defend any argument raised by HMRC to the contrary. However the directors recognise that the final outcome is uncertain and, in the circumstances, have concluded that it is not unreasonable to include an adjustment within current tax to cover any potential liability. The range of possible outcomes could be a liability between nil and £1.8m.

# 2. Analysis of turnover, net assets and profit on ordinary activities before tax

|          | 2022   |  |   | 2021  |  |
|----------|--|--|---|---|--|
| Turnover | Net profit/<br>(loss)<br>before tax                                  | Net<br>assets/<br>(liabilities)  | Tumover   | Net profit/<br>(loss) before<br>tax   | Net assets/<br>(liabilities)   |
| £000     | £000   | £000   | £000  | £000  | £000   |
|          |  |  |   |   |  |
| 54.832   | 4.085  | 44.094   | 50.390  | (20)  | 36,802   |
| •        | ·  | •  | ·   | ` '   | (1,811)  |
| 1,177    | 131  | 14   | 495   | 72  | (116)  |
| 57,248   | 5,504  | 43,404   | 55,316  | 263   | 34,875   |
|          | 2022   |  |   | 2021  |  |
| Turnover | Net profit/<br>(loss)<br>before tax                                  | Net<br>assets/<br>(liabilities)  | Turnover  | Net profit/<br>(loss) before<br>tax   | Net assets/<br>(liabilities)   |
| £000     | £000   | £000   | £000  | £000  | £000   |
|          |  |  |   |   |  |
| 16,514   | 1,587  | 14,890   | 17,230  | 76  | 12,174   |
| 38,121   | 3,881  | 30,877   | 35,271  | 33  | 24,718   |
| 2,613    | 36   | (2,363)  | 2,815   | 154   | (2,017)  |
| 57,248   | 5,504  | 43,404   | 55,316  | 263   | 34,875   |
|          | £000  54,832 1,239 1,177  57,248  Turnover £000  16,514 38,121 2,613 | Net profit/ (loss)  Turnover £000 £000  54,832 4,085 1,239 1,288 1,177 131  57,248 5,504  2022 Net profit/ (loss) before tax £000 £000  16,514 1,587 38,121 3,881 2,613 36 | Net profit/ (loss) before tax (liabilities)  £000 £000 £000  54,832 4,085 44,094 1,239 1,288 (704) 1,177 131 14  57,248 5,504 43,404  2022 Net profit/ (loss) assets/ before tax (liabilities)  £000 £000  16,514 1,587 14,890 38,121 3,881 30,877 2,613 36 (2,363) | Turnover before tax (liabilities) Turnover £000 £000 £000 £000  54,832 4,085 44,094 50,390 1,239 1,288 (704) 4,431 1,177 131 14 495  57,248 5,504 43,404 55,316  2022 Net profit/ (loss) assets/ before tax (liabilities) Turnover £000 £000 £000  16,514 1,587 14,890 17,230 38,121 3,881 30,877 35,271 2,613 36 (2,363) 2,815 | Turnover         Net profit/ (loss)         Net assets/ assets/ (liabilities)         Turnover tax tax           £000         £000         £000         £000         £000           54,832         4,085         44,094         50,390         (20)           1,239         1,288         (704)         4,431         211           1,177         131         14         495         72           57,248         5,504         43,404         55,316         263           Turnover         before tax (liabilities)         Turnover tax         Net profit/ (loss) before tax           £000         £000         £000         £000         £000         £000           16,514         1,587         14,890         17,230         76           38,121         3,881         30,877         35,271         33           2,613         36         (2,363)         2,815         154 |

Turnover by destination is not materially different from turnover by origin.

# 3. Cost of sales and administrative expenses

4.

Cost of sales of £47,508,000 (2021: £46,633,000) comprises salaries and related labour costs including contractors.

| Administrative expenses comprise:              |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
| ,  | 2022  | 2021  |
|  |       |       |
|  | £000  | £000  |
| Salaries and benefits                          | 117   | 274   |
| Office costs                                   | 2,639 | 2,400 |
| Systems & telecom                              | 608   | 399   |
| Intercompany recharges from other offices      | 166   | 649   |
| Outside Services                               | 1,433 | 1,073 |
| Travel   | 23    | 10    |
| Marketing and promotional                      | 421   | 116   |
| Insurance                                      | 189   | 216   |
| Depreciation                                   | 294   | 333   |
| Restructuring costs                            | -     | 57    |
| Dues and fees                                  | 123   | 76    |
| Other administrative expenses                  | 499   | 404   |
|  | 0.540 | C 007 |
|  | 6,512 | 6,007 |
|  |       |       |
| Operating Profit                               |       |       |
| The operating profit is stated after charging: |       |       |
|  | 2022  | 2021  |
|  | £000  | £000  |
|  | 2000  | 2000  |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:         |       |       |
| - Plant and Machinery                          | 101   | 120   |
| - Fixtures and fittings                        | 118   | 153   |
| - Motor Vehicles                               | 23    | 9     |
| - Fumiture and Equipment                       | 52    | 51    |
| Operating lease rentals:                       |       |       |
| - other operating leases                       | 1,562 | 1,404 |
|  |       |       |

2024

2021

2021

2022

2022

2022

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

# 5. Profit from disposal of operations

|                                    | 2022  | 2021        |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------------|
|                                    | £000  | £000        |
| Profit from disposal of operations | 1,375 | -           |
|                                    |       | <del></del> |

During the year there was a sale of the group's UK inspection and quality evaluation service lines to ABSG Technical Inspection & Verification (UK) Ltd and ABS QE Assurance Services (UK) Ltd, two affiliated entities located in the UK. The Group received consideration of £2,723,631. The net assets at the date of disposal were £1,348,749 and a profit on disposal of £1,374,882 was recognized in the consolidated income statement.

#### 6. Income from other fixed asset investments

|   | £000 | £000 |
|---|------|------|
| Dividend income from fixed asset investments held at cost less impairment (unlisted shares) | -    | 251  |

# 7. Other financing income/ (expense)

|  | £000  | £000    |
|--|-------|---------|
| Net interest on defined benefit pension schemes  | 157   | 126     |
| Bank interest receivable   | 3     | -       |
| Foreign exchange (losses)/ gains   | 741   | (2,790) |
| (Loss)/ gain on foreign exchange to 31 December 2022 for the settled intercompany balances | (192) | (989)   |
| Gain/ (loss) on intercompany settlement agreement  | 192   | 989     |
|  | 901   | (2,664) |

# 8. Auditors' Remuneration

|   | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|------|------|
|   | £000 | £000 |
| Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of ABSEL annual consolidated accounts (including the audit of subsidiary companies) | 61   | 59   |
|   |      |      |

These amounts are exclusive of VAT and out of pocket expenses.

#### 9. Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the Group and the parent Company (including directors) during the period, analysed by category, was as follows:

|                | Gro  | Group |  | any  |  |
|----------------|------|-------|--|------|--|
|                | 2022 | 2021  | 2022                                   | 2021 |  |
| Operational    | 207  | 206   | 150                                    | 152  |  |
| Technical      | 75   | 73    | 36                                     | 36   |  |
| Administration | 74   | 74    | 39                                     | 38   |  |
|                | 356  | 353   | 225                                    | 226  |  |
|                |      |       | ;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;; |      |  |

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

|                       | Group  |        | Company |        |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
|                       | 2022   | 2021   | 2022    | 2021   |
|                       | £000   | £000   | £000    | £000   |
| Wages and salaries    | 28,303 | 26,394 | 18,923  | 17,722 |
| Social security costs | 4,885  | 4,729  | 2,976   | 2,750  |
| Other pension costs   | 4,909  | 5,628  | 4,913   | 5,507  |
|                       | 38,097 | 36,751 | 26,812  | 25,979 |

#### 10. Directors' remuneration

| 2022             | 2021 |
|------------------|------|
| £000             | £000 |
| Remuneration 543 | 558  |

During the year retirement benefits were accruing to 2 directors (2021: 2) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes. The aggregate value of employer contributions paid into the scheme in the year was £95,000 (2021: £155,000).

No directors (2021: none) were members of defined contribution schemes.

The highest paid director received remuneration of £238,000 (2021: £332,000) and entity contributions paid into the defined benefit pension scheme of £62,000 (2021: £99,000).

# 11. Taxation

| Ana | lysis | of | the | tax | C | harge |
|-----|-------|----|-----|-----|---|-------|
|-----|-------|----|-----|-----|---|-------|

The tax charge on the profit on ordinary activities for the year was as follows:

| 2022<br>£000                           | 2021<br>£000                                  |
|--|---|
|  |   |
| 245                                    | 24  |
| -                                      | -   |
| 90                                     | 1,739   |
| 503                                    | 1,190   |
| (36)                                   | (350)   |
| 802                                    | 2,603   |
| ************************************** |   |
| (304)                                  | (323)   |
| -                                      | -   |
| (304)                                  | (323)   |
| 498                                    | 2,280   |
|  | £000  245 - 90 503 (36) - 802 - (304) - (304) |

# 11. Taxation (continued)

# Reconciliation of total tax charge included in profit and loss

The effective tax assessed for the year is lower (2021: higher) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2021: 19%). The differences are explained below:

|  | 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Profit on ordinary activities before tax   | 5,504        | 263          |
| Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2021 – 19%) | 1,046        | 50           |
| Effects of: Expenses not deductible for tax purposes   | (311)        | 534          |
| UK Tax provision in respect of prior periods   | 90           | 1,739        |
| Additional tax on overseas income  | 185          | 373          |
| Deferred tax rate change adjustments   | -            | (4.4.4)      |
| Movement in unrecognised deferred tax Other items, including non-corporate taxes                           | (145)        | (111)<br>45  |
| Adjustments in respect of prior periods  | (106)        | (350)        |
| Tax exempt gain on disposal of business operations   | (261)        | -            |
| Total tax charge for the year  | 498          | 2,280        |
| Deferred tax (charged)/ credited to other comprehensive income   | (1,862)      | (2,067)      |

# Factors that may affect future tax charges

The UK corporation tax rate for the period is 19%. On the 11th March 2021, the UK Government announced an increase of the corporate tax rate to 25% is to apply with effect from 1 April 2023. This rate change was substantively enacted on 24 May 2021 and has been reflected in these financial statements.

In the Autumn Statement in November 2022, the UK Government confirmed the increase to 25% from April 2023.

| 12. | Tangible assets                          | Fixtures &<br>Fittings | Plant & machinery | Motor<br>vehicles | Furniture & equipment | Total         |
|-----|--|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|     | Group                                    | £000                   | £000              | £000              | £000                  | £000          |
|     | Cost                                     |                        |                   |                   |                       |               |
|     | At 1 January 2022                        | 1,292                  | 1,125             | 125               | 977                   | 3,519         |
|     | Additions                                | -                      | 170               | 82                | 9                     | 261           |
|     | Disposals                                | -                      | (511)             | (21)              | (38)                  | (570)         |
|     | Exchange movements                       |                        | 31                |                   |                       | 119           |
|     | At 31 December 2022                      | 1,322                  | 815<br>————       | 206               | 986                   | 3,329         |
|     | Accumulated depreciation                 |                        |                   |                   |                       |               |
|     | At 1 January 2022                        | 537                    | 1,007             | 91                | 677                   | 2,312         |
|     | Charge for the year                      | 118                    | 101               | 23                | 52                    | 294           |
|     | On disposals                             | -                      | (508)             | (21)              | (31)                  | (560)         |
|     | Exchange movements                       | 19                     | 29                | 13                | 32                    | 93            |
|     | At 31 December 2022                      | 674                    | 629               | 106               | 730                   | 2,139         |
|     | Net book value                           |                        |                   |                   |                       |               |
|     | At 31 December 2022                      | 648                    | 186               | 100               | 256                   | 1,190         |
|     | At 31 December 2021                      | 755                    | 118               | 34                | 300                   | 1,207         |
|     |  | Fixtures &             | Plant &           | Motor             | Furniture &           |               |
|     | Company                                  | Fittings<br>£000       | machinery<br>£000 | vehicles<br>£000  | equipment<br>£000     | Total<br>£000 |
|     | Cost                                     |                        |                   |                   |                       |               |
|     | At 1 January 2022                        | 973                    | 856               | 99                | 585                   | 2,513         |
|     | Additions                                | -                      | 56                | 82                | 7                     | 145           |
|     | Disposals                                | -                      | (505)             | (21)              |                       | (557)         |
|     | Exchange movements                       | 13                     | 16                | 18                | 16<br>                | 63            |
|     | At 31 December 2022                      | 986                    | 423               | 178               | 577                   | 2,164         |
| •   |  |                        |                   |                   |                       |               |
|     | Accumulated depreciation                 | 250                    | 700               | 67                | 242                   | 4.550         |
|     | At 1 January 2022<br>Charge for the year | 350<br>88              | 792<br>59         | 67<br>23          | 343<br>40             | 1,552<br>210  |
|     | On disposals                             | -                      | (505)             | (21)              |                       | (553)         |
|     | Exchange movements                       | 10                     | 15                | 9                 | 16                    | 50            |
|     | At 31 December 2022                      | 448                    | 361               | 78                | 372                   | 1,259         |
|     | Net book value                           |                        |                   |                   |                       |               |
|     | At 31 December 2022                      | 538                    | 62                | 100               | 205                   | 905           |
|     |  |                        |                   |                   |                       |               |
|     | At 31 December 2021                      | 623                    | 64                | 32                | 242                   | 961           |

#### 13. Investments

| <i>,</i>  | Group<br>investments<br>£000            | Company<br>investments<br>£000 |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Cost  |   |                                |
| At 1 January 2022   | 11                                      | 3,949                          |
| Additions   | <u> </u>                                | -                              |
| At 31 December 2022   | 11                                      | 3,949                          |
| Accumulated Impairment At 1 January 2022 Movement in the period | -                                       | 3,566                          |
| At 31 December 2022   | -                                       | 3,566                          |
| Net book value  | *************************************** | =                              |
| At 31 December 2022   | 11                                      | 383                            |
| At 31 December 2021   | 11                                      | 383                            |

The Group and Company investments include an £11k investment representing a 12.5% interest in ABS Mideast Ltd and a 1% investment in ABS Mozambique Limited. The remaining Company investments are investments in subsidiaries.

Annually the directors undertake a review of the carrying value of the investments in subsidiaries. As a result of this review, the directors concluded that there had been no fundamental change in the expected long term prospects for the subsidiaries and therefore no change in the level of impairment provision recognised.

Details of the principal subsidiaries can be found under note 26.

#### 14. Debtors:

Amounts falling due within one year

|                                     | Group  |        | Company |            |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|------------|
|                                     | 2022   | 2021   | 2022    | 2021       |
|                                     | £000   | £000   | £000    | £000       |
| Trade debtors Amounts owed by Group | 5,418  | 5,144  | 2,056   | 1,266      |
| undertakings                        | 47,004 | 41,798 | 42,208  | 38,102     |
| Amounts recoverable on contracts    | 41     | 332    | •       | · <u>-</u> |
| Corporation tax recoverable         | 351    | 243    | 209     | 207        |
| Other debtors                       | 1,126  | 1,092  | 659     | 725        |
| Prepayments and accrued income      | 628    | 578    | 407     | 444        |
| Deferred tax asset (see note 17)    | 1,135  | 2,408  | 1,135   | 2,408      |
| •                                   | 55,703 | 51,595 | 46,674  | 43,152     |
|                                     |        |        | -       |            |

# 14. Debtors:

# Amounts falling due within one year (continued)

Amounts owed by group undertakings are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand. The deferred tax amounts are recoverable in greater than one year.

#### 15. Creditors:

Amounts falling due within one year

|                                    | Group  |        | Company     |             |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|-------------|
|                                    | 2022   | 2021   | 2022        | 2021        |
|                                    | £000   | £000   | £000        | £000        |
| Trade creditors                    | 482    | 187    | 167         | 68          |
| Amounts owed to Group undertakings | 5,539  | 7,898  | -           | -           |
| Corporation tax payable            | 2,600  | 2,404  | 2,298       | 2,349       |
| Other creditors                    | 2,143  | 2,049  | 1,342       | 1,234       |
| Accruals and deferred income       | 5,446  | 5,215  | 3,733       | 3,439       |
|                                    | 16,210 | 17,753 | 7,540       | 7,090       |
|                                    |        |        | <del></del> | <del></del> |

Amounts owed to group undertakings are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

#### 16. Creditors:

Amounts falling due after more than one year

|                       | Gro          | Group        |              | Company      |  |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|
|                       | 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000 | 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000 |  |
| Other pension schemes | 253          | 301          | 90           | 84           |  |
|                       | 253          | 301          | 90           | 84           |  |

The amount in other pension schemes refers to amounts that ABS Europe Limited has committed to pay in respect of certain pension scheme arrangements but has not, to date, done so and does not expect to have to settle in the next 12 months.

# 17. Deferred tax asset

| <del>-</del>  | Group        |              | Company      |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000 | 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000 |
| At beginning of year Amount debited/ (credited) to profit and | 2,408        | 3,561        | 2,408        | 3,561        |
| loss account in year Amount credited to other comprehensive   | 11           | (1)          | 11           | (1)          |
| income in the year  | (1,416)      | (940)        | (1,416)      | (940)        |
| Foreign exchange adjustments                                  | 132          | <u>(212)</u> | 132          | (212)        |
| At end of year  | 1,135        | 2,408        | 1,135        | 2,408        |

The deferred tax asset is made up as follows:

| Group        |                                 | Company                    |                                      |
|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000                    | 2022<br>£000               | 2021<br>£000                         |
| -            | <del>-</del>                    | -                          | -                                    |
| 1,134        | 2,325                           | 1,134                      | 2,325                                |
| 1            | 83                              | 1                          | 83                                   |
| -            | -                               | •                          | -                                    |
|              |                                 |                            |                                      |
| 1,135        | 2,408                           | 1,135                      | 2,408                                |
|              | 2022<br>£000<br>-<br>1,134<br>1 | 2022 2021<br>£000 £000<br> | 2022 2021 2022<br>£000 £000 £000<br> |

A deferred tax asset of £1,071,000 (2021: £1,116,000) has not been recognised in respect of unutilised net operating losses and other short term timing differences in the subsidiary companies. These will potentially be available to relieve against future profits of the companies in which they arise, but have not been recognised given this uncertainty.

# 17. Deferred tax asset (continued)

| Summary of DTA not recognised  | 2022<br>£000            | 2021<br>£000                 |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| ABS Group Limited ABS Marine Services Limited  | 742<br>308              | 775<br>341                   |
|  | 1,050                   | 1,116                        |
| Gross values of tax losses   | 2022<br>£000            | 2021<br>£000                 |
| ABS Europe Limited ABS Group Limited ABS Marine Services Limited   | 2,967<br>1,233<br>4,200 | 436<br>3,100<br>1,365<br>    |
| Expected DTA/DTL net reversal in next 12 months  Tax losses utilisation (United Kingdom)   | 2022<br>£000            | 2021<br>£000<br>83           |
| Deferred tax on UK defined benefit pension scheme asset  |                         | Group and<br>Company<br>£000 |
| Opening net deferred tax liability on pension surplus Amount credited to profit and loss account during the year Amounts debited to other comprehensive income during the year |                         | (3,984)<br>287<br>(388)      |
| Closing net deferred tax liability on pension surplus  |                         | (4,085)                      |

# 17. Deferred tax asset (continued)

# Deferred tax on timing differences

|   | Group and<br>Company<br>£000 |
|---|------------------------------|
| Opening net deferred tax liability on accelerated capital allowances Amount credited to profit and loss account in year | (49)<br>5                    |
| Closing net deferred tax liability on accelerated capital allowances  | (44)                         |

#### 18. Provisions

| Group   | Group<br>Severance<br>Provision<br>£000 | Provision (see note 17) £000 | Total<br>£000 |
|---|---|------------------------------|---------------|
| At 1 January 2022   | 3,106                                   | 4,033                        | 7,139         |
| Charged/ (credited) to the profit and loss account in year    | 394                                     | (292)                        | 102           |
| Amounts debited to other comprehensive income during the year | -                                       | 498                          | 498           |
| Payments  | (205)                                   | -                            | (205)         |
| Foreign exchange movements                                    | 177                                     | <u>-</u>                     | 177           |
| At 31 December 2022   | 3,472                                   | 4,239                        | 7,711         |

The severance provision relates to a statutory provision for retirement lump sum costs as required in certain countries where the Group has operations and employees.

| Company   | Deferred Tax<br>Provision<br>(see note 17)<br>£000            | Total<br>£000 |
|---|---|---------------|
| Company   | 2000  | 2000          |
| At 1 January 2022   | 4,033   | 4,033         |
| Credited to the profit and loss account in year               | (292)   | (292)         |
| Amounts debited to other comprehensive income during the year | 498   | 498           |
|   | <del>VALVE BESON AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN</del> | <del></del>   |
| At 31 December 2022   | 4,239   | 4,239         |
|   | <del></del>   |               |

### 19. Share capital

| Allotted, called up and fully paid   | 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 3,534,064 Ordinary shares of £1 each | 3,534        | 3,534        |

There is a single class of ordinary shares. There are no restrictions on the distribution of dividends and the repayment of capital.

### 20. Reserves

| Company  | Profit and<br>loss account<br>£000 |
|--|------------------------------------|
| At 1 January 2022<br>Profit for the year                     | 36,011<br>2,177                    |
| Other comprehensive expense Currency translation adjustments | 4,202<br>(362)                     |
| At 31 December 2022  | 42,028                             |

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption contained within section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to present its own Profit and loss Account.

The profit for the year dealt with in the accounts of the Company was £2,177,000 (2021: Loss £3,143,000).

## 21. Non-controlling interests

### Group

The movement in non-controlling interests was as follows:

| <b>3</b>   | 2022<br>£000 | 2021<br>£000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| At 1 January Total comprehensive (expense)/ income attributable to non-controlling interests | 22<br>(1)    | 17<br>5      |
| At 31 December   | 21           | 22           |

#### 22. Pension commitments

The Group operates several defined contributions pension schemes. The pension charge for the period represents contributions payable by the Company to the defined contribution schemes amounting to £0.2 million (2021: £0.2 million).

In addition the Group has a number of defined benefit pension schemes, the details of which are set out below.

#### UK

In the UK the Company operates a pension scheme providing both pensions in retirement and death benefits to members. Pension benefits are related to the members' final salary at retirement and their length of service.

A full actuarial valuation of the scheme using the projected unit credit method, was carried out as at 31 December 2019 and has been updated to 31 December 2022 by a qualified independent actuary. The next full valuation was carried out at 31 December 2022 and the full results are not yet available.

The most recent actuarial valuation showed that the market value of the scheme's assets was £75.5 million at 31 December 2022 (2021: £114.1 million) and that the actuarial value of the assets represented 128% (2021: 116%) of the benefits that had accrued to members, before allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

#### Germany

In Germany the Company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The pension is unfunded in accordance with German law. The latest actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 December 2022 by a qualified independent actuary.

The most recent actuarial valuation showed that the market value of the scheme's assets was £nil at 31 December 2022 (2021: £nil) and that the actuarial value of the assets represented nil% (2021: nil%) of the benefits that had accrued to members, before allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

### Netherlands

In the Netherlands the Company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The scheme is an insured pension scheme in accordance with Dutch law. The latest valuation was carried out at 31 December 2022 by a qualified independent actuary

The most recent actuarial valuation showed that the market value of the scheme's assets was £10.8 million at 31 December 2022 (2021: £14.5 million) and that the actuarial value of the assets represented 94% (2021: 94%) of the benefits that had accrued to members, before allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

#### Belgium

In Belgium the Company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The scheme is an insured pension scheme in accordance with Belgian law. The latest full valuation was carried out at 31 December 2022 by a qualified independent actuary.

The most recent actuarial valuation showed that the market value of the scheme's assets was £0.8 million at 31 December 2022 (2021: £1.8 million) and that the actuarial value of the assets represented 71% (2021: 73%) of the benefits that had accrued to members, before allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

### 22. Pension commitments (continued)

### **Spain**

In Spain the Company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The scheme is an insured pension scheme in accordance with Spanish law. The latest valuation was carried out at 31 December 2022 by a qualified independent actuary.

The most recent actuarial valuation showed that the market value of the scheme's assets was £2.6 million at 31 December 2022 (2021: £3.5 million) and that the actuarial value of the assets represented 100% (2021: 100%) of the benefits that had accrued to members, before allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

The major assumptions used in the valuations:

| Assumptions at 2022  | UK<br>%                           | Germany<br>%                      | Netherlands<br>%                       | Belgium<br>%                     | Spain<br>%           |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase in pensions payment and  | 2.95                              | 2.80                              | 2.30                                   | 3.20                             | 2.70                 |
| deferred pensions  | 2.90                              | 1.75                              | -                                      | -                                | _                    |
| Discount rate applied to scheme liabilities  | 4.70                              | 3.88                              | 3.77                                   | 3.78                             | 3.80                 |
| Inflation assumption Mortality assumptions: Longevity at age 65 for current pensioners   | 2.95                              | 2.20                              | 2.20                                   | 2.20                             | 2.20                 |
| - Male   | 22.8                              | 21.1                              | 21.4                                   | N/A                              | 25.0                 |
| - Female   | 24.9                              | 24.5                              | 24.4                                   | N/A                              | 29.2                 |
| Longevity at age 65 for future pensioners  |                                   | 24.0                              |  |                                  |                      |
| - Male   | 24.1                              | 23.9                              | 23.5                                   | N/A                              | 27.2                 |
| - Female   | 26.3                              | 26.8                              | 26.4                                   | N/A                              | 30.6                 |
|  |                                   |                                   |  |                                  |                      |
| Assumptions at 2021  | UK<br>%                           | Germany<br>%                      | Netherlands<br>%                       | Belgium<br>%                     | Spain<br>%           |
| Rate of increase in salaries   |                                   | •                                 |  | _                                | •                    |
| Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase in pensions payment and  | %<br>3.00                         | 2.80                              | %                                      | %                                | . %                  |
| Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase in pensions payment and deferred pensions  | %<br>3.00<br>3.00                 | %<br>2.80<br>1.75                 | %<br>1.90<br>-                         | %<br>2.75<br>-                   | 2.50                 |
| Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase in pensions payment and  | %<br>3.00                         | 2.80                              | %                                      | %<br>2.75                        | . %                  |
| Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase in pensions payment and deferred pensions Discount rate applied to scheme liabilities Inflation assumption Mortality assumptions:  | %<br>3.00<br>3.00                 | %<br>2.80<br>1.75                 | %<br>1.90<br>-                         | %<br>2.75<br>-                   | 2.50                 |
| Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase in pensions payment and deferred pensions Discount rate applied to scheme liabilities Inflation assumption   | 3.00<br>3.00<br>1.77              | %<br>2.80<br>1.75<br>1.27<br>1.75 | %<br>1.90<br>-<br>1.19                 | 2.75<br>-<br>1.05                | 2.50<br>1.40<br>1.75 |
| Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase in pensions payment and deferred pensions Discount rate applied to scheme liabilities Inflation assumption Mortality assumptions: Longevity at age 65 for current pensioners                 | %<br>3.00<br>3.00<br>1.77<br>3.10 | %<br>2.80<br>1.75<br>1.27<br>1.75 | %<br>1.90<br>-<br>1.19<br>1.75         | 2.75<br>1.05<br>1.75             | 2.50<br>1.40<br>1.75 |
| Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase in pensions payment and deferred pensions Discount rate applied to scheme liabilities Inflation assumption Mortality assumptions: Longevity at age 65 for current pensioners - Male - Female | %<br>3.00<br>3.00<br>1.77<br>3.10 | %<br>2.80<br>1.75<br>1.27<br>1.75 | %<br>1.90<br>-<br>1.19<br>1.75<br>21.5 | %<br>2.75<br>1.05<br>1.75<br>N/A | 2.50<br>1.40<br>1.75 |
| Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase in pensions payment and deferred pensions Discount rate applied to scheme liabilities Inflation assumption Mortality assumptions: Longevity at age 65 for current pensioners - Male          | %<br>3.00<br>3.00<br>1.77<br>3.10 | %<br>2.80<br>1.75<br>1.27<br>1.75 | %<br>1.90<br>-<br>1.19<br>1.75<br>21.5 | %<br>2.75<br>1.05<br>1.75<br>N/A | 2.50<br>1.40<br>1.75 |

The assumptions used by the actuary are chosen from a range of possible actuarial assumptions which, due to the timescale covered, may not necessarily be borne out in practice.

## 22. Pension commitments (continued)

ABS Europe expects to contribute the following during the next annual period ended 31 December 2023.

|                                     | <i>v</i>           |          |                     |                 | 2023<br>£000                          | 2022<br>£000  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| UK<br>Germany                       |                    |          |                     |                 | 2,355<br>115                          | 2,131<br>89   |
| Netherlands                         |                    |          |                     |                 | 588                                   | 461           |
| Belgium                             |                    |          |                     |                 | 138                                   | 132           |
| Spain                               |                    |          |                     |                 | 335                                   | 370<br>———    |
| 2022                                | UK.                | Comony   | Nothedondo          | Polaium.        | Spain                                 | Total         |
| Pension asset classes:              | £000               | £000     | Netherlands<br>£000 | Belgium<br>£000 | Spain<br>£000                         | Total<br>£000 |
| Equities                            | 16,436             | -        | -                   | -               | _                                     | 16,436        |
| Bonds                               | 16,470             | -        | -                   | -               | -                                     | 16,470        |
| Real Estate                         | 2,730              | -        |                     | -               |                                       | 2,730         |
| Other                               | 39,899             |          | 10,764              | 834             | 2,558                                 | 54,055        |
| Fair value of scheme assets         | 75,535             | -        | 10,764              | 834             | 2,558                                 | 89,691        |
| Present value of scheme             |                    |          |                     |                 |                                       |               |
| liabilities                         | (59,196)           | (7,704)  | (11,500)            | (1,173)         | (2,558)                               | (82,131)      |
| Gross pension                       |                    |          |                     |                 |                                       |               |
| surplus/(deficit)                   | 16,339             | (7,704)  | (736)               | (339)           | -                                     | 7,560<br>———  |
| 2021                                | UK                 | Germany  | Netherlands         | Belgium         | Spain                                 | Total         |
| Pension asset classes:              | £000               | £000     | 2000                | £000            | £000                                  | £000          |
| Equities                            | 29,481             | -        | -                   | -               | -                                     | 29,481        |
| Bonds                               | 22,820             | -        | _                   | _               | -                                     | 22,820        |
| Real Estate                         | 4,055              | -        | -                   | -               | -                                     | 4,055         |
| Other                               | 57,72 <del>9</del> | -        | 14,506              | 1,793           | 3,522                                 | 77,550        |
| Fair value of scheme assets         | 114,085            | -        | 14,506              | 1,793           | 3,522                                 | 133,906       |
| Present value of scheme liabilities | (98,149)           | (10,335) | (15,398)            | (2,464)         | (3,522)                               | (129,868)     |
|                                     | <del></del>        |          |                     |                 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | <del></del>   |
| Gross pension<br>surplus/(deficit)  | 15,936             | (10,335) | (892)               | (671)           |                                       | 4,038         |
|                                     |                    |          |                     |                 |                                       |               |

The Company establishes the long-term expected rate of return on plan assets by developing a forward-looking, long-term result assumption for each asset class, taking into account factors such as the market yield of bond investments of appropriate duration and the expected outperformance for other asset classes based on analysis of long-term historical trends. A single long-term rate assumption is then calculated as the weighted average of the long-term return assumption for each asset class, based on the target asset allocation.

The plan assets do not include any of the group's financial instruments nor is any real estate occupied by any group entity.

# 22. Pension commitments (continued)

The amounts recognised in the Consolidated Income Statement and in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year are analysed as follows:

2022 Recognised in the Consolidated Income Statement

|   | UK<br>£000  | Germany<br>£000         | Netherlands<br>£000                    | Belgium<br>£000                       | Spain<br>£000          | Total<br>£000                             |
|---|---|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Current service cost  | 3,667   | 559                     | 381                                    | 171                                   | 344                    | 5,122                                     |
| Past service cost   |   | _                       |  | _                                     |                        |   |
| Recognised in arriving at operating profit  | 3,667   | 559                     | 381                                    | 171                                   | 344                    | 5,122                                     |
| Net interest (income)/cost on net defined benefit liability   | (304)   | 134                     | 11                                     | 2                                     | _                      | (157)                                     |
| Total recognised in the profit and loss account   | 3,363   | 693                     | 392                                    | 173                                   | 344                    | 4,965                                     |
| Taken to other comprehensive in   | come  |                         |  |                                       |                        |   |
| Actual return on scheme assets Actuarial gains/ (losses)  | (41,330)  | -                       | (4,223)                                | 4                                     | (1,497)                | (47,046)                                  |
| on the liabilities  | 42,880  | 3,722                   | 4,605                                  | 386                                   | 1,517                  | 53,110                                    |
|   | 1,550   | 3,722                   | 382                                    | 390                                   | 20                     | 6,064                                     |
| 2021<br>Recognised in the Consolidated  | Income Stat   | tement                  |  | <del>\</del>                          | <del> </del>           |   |
|   |   |                         |  |                                       |                        |   |
|   | UK  | Germany                 | Netherlands                            | Belgium                               | Spain                  | Total                                     |
|   | £000  | Germany<br>£000         | Netherlands<br>£000                    | Belgium<br>£000                       | Spain<br>£000          | £000                                      |
| Current service cost  |   | •                       |  |                                       | •                      |   |
| Current service cost Past service cost  | £000  | £000                    | £000                                   | £000                                  | £000                   | £000                                      |
|   | £000  | £000                    | £000                                   | £000                                  | £000                   | £000                                      |
| Past service cost  Recognised in arriving at  | £000<br>3,854<br>                                     | £000<br>699<br>         | £000<br>482<br>-                       | £000<br>218<br>                       | £000<br>367<br>-       | £000<br>5,620                             |
| Past service cost  Recognised in arriving at operating profit  Net interest (income)/cost on  | £000<br>3,854<br>———————————————————————————————————— | £000<br>699<br>-<br>699 | £000<br>482<br>-<br>482                | £000<br>218<br>-<br>-<br>218          | £000<br>367<br><br>367 | £000<br>5,620<br>-<br>-<br>5,620          |
| Past service cost  Recognised in arriving at operating profit  Net interest (income)/cost on net defined benefit liability  Total recognised in the profit  | 3,854<br><br>3,854<br>(224)<br>3,630                  | £000<br>699<br><br>699  | 482<br>                                | 218<br>-<br>-<br>218<br>-<br>218      | 367<br>                | £000<br>5,620<br>-<br>5,620<br>(126)      |
| Past service cost  Recognised in arriving at operating profit  Net interest (income)/cost on net defined benefit liability  Total recognised in the profit and loss account   | 3,854<br><br>3,854<br>(224)<br>3,630                  | £000<br>699<br><br>699  | 482<br>                                | 218<br>-<br>-<br>218<br>3<br>-<br>221 | 367<br>                | 5,620<br>5,620<br>(126)<br>5,494          |
| Past service cost  Recognised in arriving at operating profit  Net interest (income)/cost on net defined benefit liability  Total recognised in the profit and loss account  Taken to other comprehensive in  | 224) 3,630 come 4,860                                 | 699<br>699<br>86<br>785 | 482<br><br>482<br>10<br>492<br>(1,462) | 218<br>                               | 367                    | 5,620<br>5,620<br>(126)<br>5,494<br>2,904 |
| Past service cost  Recognised in arriving at operating profit  Net interest (income)/cost on net defined benefit liability  Total recognised in the profit and loss account  Taken to other comprehensive in Actual return on scheme assets Actuarial losses on the | 2000<br>3,854<br><br>3,854<br>(224)<br>3,630<br>come  | £000<br>699<br><br>699  | 482<br>                                | 218<br>-<br>-<br>218<br>3<br>-<br>221 | 367<br>                | 5,620<br>5,620<br>(126)<br>5,494          |

# 22. Pension commitments (continued)

# Analysis of changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations:

|                                      | UK<br>2000 | Germany<br>£000 | Netherlands<br>£000 | Belgium<br>£000 | Spain<br>£000 | Total<br>£000 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| As at 31 December 2021               | 98,149     | 10,335          | 15,398              | 2,464           | 3,522         | 129,868       |
| Current service cost                 | 3,667      | 559             | 381                 | 171             | 344           | 5,122         |
| Past service cost                    | -          | -               | -                   | -               | -             | -             |
| Interest cost                        | 1,722      | 134             | 182                 | 21              | 52            | 2,111         |
| Benefits paid                        | (1,778)    | (72)            | (525)               | (36)            | -             | (2,411)       |
| Administrative expenses paid         | -          | -               | (30)                | -               | -             | (30)          |
| Contributions by scheme participants | 316        | -               | · -                 | 19              | -             | 335           |
| Actuarial (gains)/ losses            | (42,880)   | (3,722)         | (4,605)             | (386)           | (1,517)       | (53,110)      |
| Settlements                          | -          | -               | -                   | (1,170)         | •             | (1,170)       |
| Foreign currency differences         | -          | 470             | 699                 | 90              | 157           | 1,416         |
|                                      |            |                 | <del></del>         |                 |               | <del> </del>  |
| As at 31 December 2022               | 59,196     | 7,704           | 11,500              | 1,173           | 2,558         | 82,131        |
|                                      |            |                 | <del></del>         |                 | <del></del>   |               |

Of the defined benefit pension obligations above, £647,000 (2021: £818,000) relates to past directors

## Analysis of changes in the fair value of plan assets

|                                      | UK<br>£000  | Germany<br>£000 | Netherlands<br>£000 | Belgium<br>£000 | Spain<br>£000 | Total<br>£000 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| As at 31 December 2021               | 114,085     | _               | 14,506              | 1,793           | 3,522         | 133,906       |
| Actual return/ (loss) on plan assets | (41,330)    | -               | (4,223)             | 4               | (1,497)       | (47,046)      |
| Interest income                      | 2,026       | -               | 171                 | 19              | 52            | 2,268         |
| Employer contributions               | 2,216       | 72              | 215                 | 139             | 324           | 2,966         |
| Contribution by scheme participants  | 316         | -               | -                   | 19              | -             | 335           |
| Benefits paid                        | (1,778)     | (72)            | (525)               | (36)            | -             | (2,411)       |
| Administrative expenses paid         | <u> </u>    |                 | (30)                |                 |               | (30)          |
| Settlements                          | -           | -               | -                   | (1,170)         | -             | (1,170)       |
| Foreign currency differences         |             | -               | 650                 | 66              | 157           | 873           |
|                                      | <del></del> |                 | <u> </u>            | <del></del>     | <del></del>   |               |
| As at 31 December 2022               | 75,535      | -               | 10,764              | 834             | 2,558         | 89,691        |
|                                      |             |                 |                     | <del></del>     |               | <del></del>   |

# 22. Pension commitments (continued)

The return on plan assets was:

| 2022  | UK<br>£000 | Germany<br>£000 | Netherlands<br>£000 | Belgium<br>£000 | Spain<br>£000 | Total<br>£000 |
|---|------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Interest income<br>Return/ (loss) on plan<br>assets less interest | 2,026      | -               | 171                 | 19              | 52            | 2,268         |
| income  | (41,330)   |                 | (4,223)             | 4               | (1,497)       | (47,046)      |
| Total retum on plan assets  | (39,304)   | -               | (4,052)             | 23              | (1,445)       | (44,778)      |
| 2021  | UK<br>£000 | Germany<br>£000 | Netherlands<br>£000 | Belgium<br>£000 | Spain<br>£000 | Total<br>£000 |
| Interest income<br>Return/ (loss) on plan<br>assets less interest | 1,345      | -               | 87                  | 5               | 25            | 1,462         |
| income  | 4,860      | -               | (1,462)             | 56              | (550)         | 2,904         |
|   |            |                 |                     |                 |               |               |

### 22. Pension commitments (continued)

#### International Benefit Plan

Certain foreign employees of the Company are members of a funded defined benefit pension scheme of the American Bureau of Shipping, the details of which are disclosed in the consolidated accounts of the American Bureau of Shipping, an entity incorporated by special statute in the United States of America.

Because the Company is unable to identify its share of the scheme assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis the scheme will be accounted for by the Company as if the scheme was a defined contribution scheme.

The latest full actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 December 2022 using 1 January 2022 census data by a qualified actuary. The market value of the Group scheme's assets was \$90.8m (2021 \$126.2m) and the present value of the scheme's liabilities which are derived from cash flow projections over a long period and are thus inherently uncertain were \$66.4m (2021 \$102.9m) giving rise to a scheme surplus of \$24.4m (2021 \$23.3m) before taking account of any deferred tax asset.

The Company is one of a number of participating employers and the implications of any surplus or deficit are considered on a Group basis.

#### 23. Operating lease commitments

Minimum Lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

| Group  | 2022<br>£000      | 2021<br>£000   |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| Land & Buildings Within 1 year Between 2 and 5 years After more than 5 years | 1,146<br>199<br>- | 1,106<br>1,026 |
| Other Within 1 year Between 2 and 5 years After more than 5 years            | 55<br>50<br>      | 45<br>55       |

#### 24. Post balance sheet events

Since the 2022 year end ABS has decided to deregister the ABSEL Branch based in Russia. The cost of ceasing these operations are not material and have not been disclosed in these Financial Statements.

#### 25. Ultimate parent undertaking

The American Bureau of Shipping is the Company's ultimate controlling party by virtue of its direct holding of 100% of the Company's issued share capital.

The Company is a subsidiary undertaking of the American Bureau of Shipping, an entity incorporated by special statute in the United States of America.

The largest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that headed by The American Bureau of Shipping. The accounts are available from the following address:

1701 City Plaza Drive Spring Texas TX 77389 USA

# 26. Subsidiaries

ABS Europe Limited directly holds the percentage of ordinary shares and voting rights in the following subsidiaries:

| subsidiaries:  Company name            | Registered<br>Office   | Percentage<br>Shareholding | Description             |
|--|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Company name                           | Onice  | Ondienolanig               | Description             |
| ABS Marine Services Limited            | 111 Old Broad Street<br>London<br>EC2N 1AP   | 99                         | Marine Services         |
| ABS Group Limited                      | EQE House The Beacons Warrington Road Birchwood Warrington Cheshire WA3.6WJ        |                            | Industrial verification |
| ABS Quality Evaluations Limited        | EQE House The Beacons Warrington Road Birchwood Warrington Cheshire WA3.6WJ        | 99                         | Dormant                 |
| ABS Italy Srl                          | GENOVA (GE) VIA AL PORTO<br>ANTICO - EDIFICIO MILLO<br>CAP 16126<br>Italy          | 99                         | Classification services |
| ABS Hellas                             | PARADEISOU 10<br>MAROUSSI<br>ATHENS<br>Greece<br>15125                             | 99                         | Dormant .               |
| ABS Hellenic Single Member Ltd         | SACHTOURI -1 & NAVARINOU-1<br>KAAAIGEA<br>ATHENS<br>Greece<br>17674                | 100                        | Classification services |
| ABS Europe (Ghana) Limited             | Woolworth Building First Floor<br>60 Liberation Road,<br>Airport<br>Accra<br>Ghana | 100                        | Holding company         |
| ABS Europe (Ghana) Upstream<br>Limited | Woolworth Building First Floor<br>60 Liberation Road,<br>Airport<br>Accra<br>Ghana | 90±                        | Classification services |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>≜</sup>Indirect interest

All the entities above have been included in the Group consolidation and the subsidiary accounts are filed in the relevant countries.