

# The Box Plus Network Limited

Annual report and financial statements

Registered number 02643552

For the year ended 31 December 2020

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# **Strategic Report**

The directors present their Strategic Report for the year ended 31 December 2020.

#### **Business Overview**

The Box Plus Network Limited ("Box Plus" or "Company") has been a wholly owned subsidiary of Channel Four Television Corporation ("Channel 4") since 31 December 2018. The Company was integrated into Channel 4's operations during 2019. With effect from 1 January 2020, Channel 4 transferred the trade and assets of Box Plus into Channel 4. Six of the channels previously operated by Box Plus - '4Music', 'The Box', 'Box Hits', 'Kiss TV', 'Magic TV' and 'Kerrang! TV' – continued to broadcast throughout 2020 as part of Channel 4, with 'Box Upfront' ceasing broadcasting in January 2020. Operating as a closer part of the Channel 4 portfolio continues to drive growth with enhanced content sharing and cross-promotional opportunities across the Channel 4 portfolio.

### 2020 performance

As noted above, the Company did not trade during 2020, with all its operations now transferred to Channel 4.

#### Staff

All Box Plus staff became employees of Channel 4 as of 1st January 2020. Average headcount for the year was nil (2019: 37).

# Future outlook (including principal risks and uncertainties)

Following the transfer of trade and assets from Box Plus to Channel 4, management's intention is to distribute the Company's remaining reserves to Channel 4 (as the sole shareholder) and subsequently liquidate the Company. The Box Plus channels will continue to broadcast as part of Channel 4, with any principal risks and uncertainties for these operations aligned with those of the Channel 4 Group ("the Group").

By order of the Board

Jonathan Allan 8E234EF51A554D6

Jonathan Allan Director and Chairperson 20 September 2021

124 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2TX

# **Directors' Report**

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements of The Box Plus Network Limited for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The Company has chosen, in accordance with section 414C(11) of Companies Act 2006, to include such matters of strategic importance to the Company in the Strategic Report which otherwise would be required to be disclosed in the Directors' report. The disclosures that are required to be disclosed in the Directors' report which have been elevated to the strategic report include:

- Review of the Company's business
- · Business performance review
- · Indication of future developments
- Principal risks and uncertainties

#### Results and dividends

The Company did not trade during 2020 and generated a net profit after tax of £10k in 2020 (2019: loss after tax £2.8m).

No dividends were recommended for the current year and there were no dividend payments made to the shareholders during the year (2019: nil). Following the balance sheet date, an interim dividend of £0.9m was declared in July 2021.

#### **Directors**

The directors who held office during the period and to the date of this report were as follows:

Jonathan Allan	1
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Keith Underwood	(Resigned 31/01/2020)

The directors during 2020 were employees of Channel 4.

#### Going concern

As stated above, Channel 4 has transferred the trade and assets of the Company into the Channel Four Television Corporation legal entity with effect from 1 January 2020, with the intention to subsequently liquidate the Company. The Box Plus channels will continue to broadcast as part of Channel 4. As required by UK accounting standards, these financial statements have therefore been prepared on a basis other than that of the going concern basis. Adjustments were made to the value of the Group's fixed assets at 31 December 2019 to reflect their realisable value as part of this transfer. Given that the Box Plus channels will continue to operate, management believe that the book value of the Company's other assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2019 was reflective of their value to the Group, and they were transferred to Channel 4 at that value during 2020. Given this transfer took place prior to the balance sheet date, no other adjustments have been required in 2020 to reflect the basis on which the financial statements are prepared.

# Directors' report

(continued)

# **Exemption from audit**

For the year ending 31 December 2020 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 479a of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. A guarantee has been given by the Company's parent undertaking under section 479c of the Companies Act 2006.

By order of the Board

Docusigned by:

Jonathan Allan

BE234EF51A564D6

Jonathan Allan Director and Chairperson 20 September 2021

124 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2TX

# Statement of Directors' responsibilities in respect of the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the Financial Statements

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 they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements 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 company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

# **Profit and Loss Account and Other Comprehensive Income**

for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note		
		2020	2019
		£000s	£000s
Turnover	2	-	23,037
Cost of transmission and sales		•	(18,682)
Gross profit		•	4,355
Administrative expenses		5	(7,554)
Operating profit	3	5	(3,199)
Interest receivable	6	7	18
Profit before taxation		12	(3,181)
Tax on profit	7	(2)	366
Profit for the financial year		10	(2,815)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		10	(2,815)

The notes on pages 11 to 22 are an integral part of these financial statements.

# **Baiance Sheet**

as at 31 December 2020

	Note		
		2020	2019
		£000s	£000s
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	-	-
Intangible fixed assets	10	•	-
Current assets			
Stock	11	-	281
Debtors	12	863	8,015
Cash at bank and in hand		-	1,840
Total current assets		863	10,136
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(2)	(7,570)
Net current assets		861	2,566
Net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>861</u>	2,566 ————
Camital and sacrate			
Capital and reserves			
Called-up share capital	14	-	1
Share premium account		-	1,714
Profit and loss account		(192)	(202)
Other reserves		1,053	1,053
Shareholders' funds		861	2,566

For the year ending 31 December 2020 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 479a of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. A guarantee has been given by the Company's parent undertaking under section 479c of the Companies Act 2006. The notes on pages 11 to 22 are an integral part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of directors on 20 September 2021 and were signed on its behalf by: ——Docusigned by:

Jonathan Allam Jonathan Allam Director and chairperson

20 September 2021

The Box Plus Network Limited

Registered number 02643552

# **Cash flow Statement**

for the year ended 31 December 2020

or the year ended 31 December 2020			
	Note		
		2020	2019
		£000s	£000s
Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash-flow from op-	perating activities	5	
Profit for the year		10	(2,815)
Adjustments for:			
Current tax on income for the period	7	-	(366)
Interest	6	(7)	(18)
Depreciation charges, amortisation and impairment	9,10	-	828
Decrease in stock	11	281	377
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	12	7,152	(3,056)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	13	(7,568)	1,738
Net cash flows used in operating activities	***************************************	(132)	(3,312)
Cash flows from/(used in) investing activities			
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	6	7	18
Capital expenditure	9,10	-	(41)
Net cash flows used in investing activities		7	(23)
Cash flows used in financing activities  Funds paid to shareholder on capital reduction		(1,715)	-
Net cash flows used in financing activities		(1,715)	-
Decrease in cash in the period		(1,840)	(3,335)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		1,840	5,175
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		-	1,840

There were no movements in net funds in the period other than the decrease in cash stated above and consequently no reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds has been presented.

# **Statement of Changes in Equity**

	Called-up share capital	Share premium account	Profit and loss account	Other reserves	Shareholders funds
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
At 1 January 2019	1	1,714	2,613	1,053	5,381
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	_	(2,815)	-	(2,815)
Total Comprehensive Loss	•	-	(2,815)	-	(2,815)
At 31 December 2019	1	1,714	(202)	1,053	2,566
At 1 January 2020	1	1,714	(202)	1,053	2,566
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-	10	-	10
Total Comprehensive Income	•	-	10	•	10
Capital reduction	(1)	(1,714)	-	~	(1,715)
At 31 December 2020	•	•	(192)	1,053	861

Other reserves relates to a distributable cash contribution received from Bauer Consumer Media Limited, in order for the Company to achieve the target working capital value at the date the joint venture was formed on 21st March 2007.

A capital reduction was carried out in 2020 to convert the Company's share capital and share premium to distributable reserves, which were subsequently distributed to the Company's sole shareholder.

# **Notes to the financial statements**

# 1. Accounting policies

The Box Plus Network Limited is a private company limited by shares and incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The registered office is at 124 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2TX.

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102. The presentation currency of these financial statements is sterling. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.

The directors do not believe that there are any accounting estimates or significant uncertainties that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. The critical accounting judgements made by management in the application of IFRS that have a significant risk of material adjustment on the financial statements relates to the policy setting the transmission profile over which to amortise programme rights.

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

#### Measurement convention

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis.

#### Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a basis other than that of the going concern basis, owing to the transfer of the Company's trade and assets into the Channel 4 Television Corporation legal entity during 2020 and the intention to subsequently liquidate the Company during the twelve months from the date of signing. Adjustments were made to the value of the Group's fixed assets at 31 December 2019 to reflect their realisable value as part of this transfer. Given that the Box Plus channels will continue to operate, management believe that the book value of the Company's other assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2019 was reflective of their value to the Group and they were transferred to Channel 4 at that value. Given this transfer has taken place as at the balance sheet date, no other adjustments have been required in 2020 to reflect the basis on which the financial statements are prepared.

#### Revenue recognition

All revenues have been stated net of advertising agency commissions (where these are borne and paid by advertisers) and value added tax. Revenues are recognised when services have been performed, persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists and when collectability is reasonably assured. Revenue recognition follows these principals;

- Television advertising revenue: upon transmission of the advertisement,
- Programme sponsorship: upon transmission of the programme,
- Subscription fees: over the period of the subscription,
- Barter transactions (involving advertising): when the services exchanged are dissimilar and are measured with reference to the fair value of the advertising provided.

#### Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

The cost of tangible fixed assets net of any estimated residual value on disposal is written down evenly over their expected useful lives as follows:

Plant and equipment: **3-5 years** Fixtures and fittings: **4-7 years** 

Computer software costs which are considered an integral part of the related hardware have been classified as property, plant and equipment

#### Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

The cost of intangible fixed assets net of any estimated residual value on disposal is written down evenly over their expected useful lives as follows:

Software: 3-5 years

#### Notes to the financial statements

(continued)

#### Leases

Following the adoption of IFRS 16 Leases on 1 January 2019, where contracts are identified as leases under the definition given in the standard, these are accounted for as a right-of-use asset and a lease liability on the balance sheet at inception. The Company subsequently recognizes depreciation relating to the right-of-use asset, as well as interest accrued on the lease liability, in the profit and loss account.

#### Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the Company's functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are retranslated to the functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are stated at fair value are retranslated to the functional currency at foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates the fair value was determined. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the profit and loss account.

#### Defined contribution plans

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Employees of the Company are eligible to join the Channel 4 defined contribution pension plan. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution pension plans are recognised as an expense in the profit and loss account in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

#### Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Programme rights are stated at direct cost incurred up to the balance sheet date after making provision for programmes which are unlikely to be transmitted or sold. Direct cost is defined as payments made or due to programme suppliers, including Channel 4.

The costs of programme rights are wholly written off on first transmission of the programme.

## Interest receivable and Interest payable

Interest payable and similar charges include interest payable, finance charges on shares classified as liabilities and finance leases recognised in profit or loss using the effective interest method, unwinding of the discount on provisions, and net foreign exchange losses that are recognised in the profit and loss account (see foreign currency accounting policy). Other interest receivable and similar income include interest receivable on funds invested and net foreign exchange gains. Interest income and interest payable are recognised in profit or loss as they accrue, using the effective interest method. Dividend income is recognised in the profit and loss account on the date the company's right to receive payments is established. Foreign currency gains and losses are reported on a net basis.

# Taxation

The charge for taxation is based on the profit for the year and takes into account taxation deferred because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes.

Deferred tax is recognised, without discounting, in respect of all timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes which have arisen but not reversed by the balance sheet date.

#### Basic financial instruments

Trade and other debtors / creditors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price less attributable transaction costs. Trade and other creditors are recognised initially at transaction price plus attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost, less any impairment losses in the case of trade debtors.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash, for the purpose of the cash flow statement, comprises cash in hand and cash deposits repayable on demand.

# 2. Analysis of turnover

	2019 £000s	2019 £000s
By activity		
Advertising, sponsorship, promotions and commercial production	-	21,594
Other	-	1,443
	-	23,037
By geographical area		
United Kingdom	-	22,418
Rest of world	•	619
	<u> </u>	23,037
3. Operating profit		
Operating profit is stated after charging:		
	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	828
Research and development costs	-	26
Foreign exchange (losses)/gains	-	10
Auditor's remuneration		
Audit of these financial statements	-	-

The Company has taken the exemption from audit available under s479a of the Companies Act in 2019 (see page 6).

## 4. Remuneration of directors

	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
Directors' emoluments	-	465

The Box Plus Network Limited did not pay any directors during 2020 (2019: 1 director). The aggregate emoluments of the highest paid director were £465k in 2019, inclusive of money purchase scheme contributions of £9k. Directors paid by Channel 4 are not remunerated for services provided to the Company.

## 5. Staff numbers and costs

As stated in the Strategic Report, all previous employees of the Company became employees of Channel 4 as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. The average number of persons employed by the Company (including directors) during the year was as follows;

Programming, production and operations -	26
Sales, marketing and administration -	11
•	37
Aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:	
2020	2019
£000s	£000s
Wages and salaries -	2,569
Social security costs -	198
Other pension costs -	106
	2,873

# 6. Interest receivable

	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
Bank interest receivable	7	18
7. Taxation		
Analysis of charge in period	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
UK corporation tax		
Current tax on income for the period	-	(439)
Group relief	2	-
Adjustment in respect of prior years		3
Total current tax charge	2	(436)
Deferred tax (see note 8)		
Current year	-	74
Adjustment in respect of prior periods	-	(4)
Total deferred tax	 •	70
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	2	(366)

## 7. Taxation

(continued)

#### Factors affecting the tax charge for the period

Corporation tax is charged at the standard UK rate of 19% for the year (2019: 19%). A reduction to 17% (effective 1 April 2020) was previously expected based on legislation enacted in 2016; however, it was announced in the Spring Budget on 11 March 2020 that the Corporation tax rate would remain at 19% during 2020. An increase in the main rate of corporation tax to 25% (effective 1 April 2023) was substantively enacted in May 2021 following the balance sheet date; this will increase the Company's future current tax charge accordingly.

The total tax charge for the year is in line with (2019: higher than) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2019: 19%). The differences are as follows:

	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
Tax reconciliation		
Profit/(Loss) on ordinary activities before tax	12	(3,181)
Tax at 19% (2019: 19%)	2	(605)
Effects of:		
Expenditure not deductible for tax purposes	•	7
Capital allowances for period in excess of depreciation	-	9
Other short term timing differences	•	13
Deferred tax not recognised	-	209
Adjustment to tax charge in respect of prior periods		1
Tax on profit on ordinary activities (see above)	2	(366)

# 8. Deferred tax

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognised at 19% (2019: 17%) reflecting the corporation tax rate substantially enacted as at 31 December 2020.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rate that is expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on the rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax assets have not been recognised in respect of:

	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
Carried forward capital allowances	-	67
Carried forward trading losses	-	142
At 31 December	-	209

# 9. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £000s	Fixtures and fittings £000s	Total
Cost	20003	20003	20003
At 1 January 2020	1,524	636	2,160
Transfer to parent undertaking	(1,524)	(636)	(2,160)
At 31 December 2020	-	<u>-</u>	-
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2020	1,524	636	2,160
Transfer to parent undertaking	(1,524)	(636)	(2,160)
At 31 December 2020	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-	· -
Net book value			
At 31 December 2020		-	<u>-</u>
At 1 January 2020	-	-	-

# 10. Intangible fixed assets

	Software	Total
	£000s	£000s
Cost		
At 1 January 2020	535	535
Transfer to parent undertaking	(535)	(535)
At 31 December 2020	•	-
Amortisation		
At 1 January 2020	535	535
Transfer to parent undertaking	(535)	(535)
At 31 December 2020	•	-
	<del></del>	
Net book value		
At 31 December 2020	-	-
At 1 January 2020	-	•

# 11. Stock

Programme rights represent costs incurred for programmes which had not been transmitted at the balance sheet date. Costs are usually incurred between one and three months before transmission. No programme rights were expensed during the year (2019: £2,887k).

	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
Programme rights	<u>•</u>	281
	•	281

# 12. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Trade debtors	-	268
Amounts receivable from parent undertakings (see note 17)	863	6,439
Corporation tax receivable from parent undertaking (see note 17)	-	440
Taxation and social security	-	454
Corporation tax receivable	-	65
Prepayments and accrued income	-	349
	863	8,015

No interest is charged on amounts receivable from parent undertakings and these are repayable on demand. The amount due from parent undertakings as at 31st December 2020 was settled following the balance sheet date by means of an interim dividend to distribute the Company's remaining reserves which cancelled the intercompany receivable.

# 13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
Trade creditors	•	32
Amounts owed to parent undertakings (see note 17)	-	1,995
Corporation tax payable to parent undertaking (see note 17)	2	-
Other creditors	-	406
Accruals and deferred income	-	5,137
· 	2	7,570

No interest is charged on these balances, including amounts owed to parent undertakings.

# 14. Called-up share capital

	2020	2019
	£	£
Allotted, called-up and fully paid		
Ordinary shares of £1 each	1	1,000
	1	1,000

A capital reduction was carried out in 2020 to cancel all but one of 1,000 ordinary shares of £1 each in the Company.

## 15. Commitments

The Company had the following non-cancellable operating commitments expiring as follows:

	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Within one year	-	1,048
Within two to five years	-	1,112
	-	2.160

The Company had no capital commitments at the balance sheet date. The Company's previous commitments were transferred to Channel 4 as part of the transfer of the Company's trade and assets.

# Programme Commitments

At 31 December 2020, the company had committed future expenditure for programmes due for payment, as follows:

	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
Within one year		421
Within two to five years		241
	<u>-</u>	662

#### 16. Pension scheme

Prior to the transfer of the Company's employees into Channel 4 on 1st January 2020, Channel 4 operated a defined contribution pension scheme on behalf of the Company. The pension cost charge for 2019 represented contributions payable by the Company to the scheme and amounted to £106,000. No amounts were owing by the Company to Channel 4 at 31 December 2020 (2019: £nil) in respect of pension contributions which were settled by Channel 4 on behalf of the Company.

# 17. Related party transactions

During the year, transactions with related parties comprised the following:

	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Sales to parent undertaking	-	-
Purchases from parent undertaking	-	(4,348)
Capital reduction returned to parent undertaking	(1,715)	-
Total paid and payable to parent undertaking	(1,715)	(4,348)

Purchases from parent undertakings mainly related to commissions payable on the sales of television advertising, as well as payments for costs settled on the company's behalf for other services including fixed assets, transmission, programme costs, brand royalties, marketing, facilities management, information systems, finance and other administrative support and pensions.

A capital reduction was carried out in 2020 to convert the Company's share capital and share premium to distributable reserves, which were subsequently distributed to the Company's sole shareholder.

At the year end, the following balances were receivable from / (payable to) related parties:

	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Amounts receivable from parent undertaking (see note 12)	863	6,879
_		
Amounts owed to parent undertaking (see note 13)	(2)	(1,995)

None of the balances are secured. The balances were settled in 2021 after the balance sheet date by means of an interim dividend to distribute the Company's remaining reserves which cancelled the intercompany amounts outstanding.

Total compensation of key management personnel (including directors) in the year amounted to £nil (2019: £989k).

# 18. Ultimate Controlling Parties

Channel Four Television Corporation ("Channel 4"), a statutory Corporation domiciled in the United Kingdom, is the ultimate and immediate parent and controlling party. The largest and smallest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that headed by the Corporation.

## 19. Post Balance Sheet Events

Following the balance sheet date, an interim dividend was declared as at July 2021 to distribute the Company's remaining reserves to Channel 4 as its sole shareholder. The dividend was settled through cancellation of the Company's remaining intercompany debtor balance with Channel 4.