Company registration number 02775128 (England and Wales)

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	Mr C F Cox Mr J P Walsh Mr M J Holroyd Mr M A Edwards
Company number	02775128
Registered office	Hall Lane Works Farnworth Bolton
Auditor	Barlow Andrews LLP Carlyle House 78 Chorley New Road Bolton
Bankers	Svenska Handelsbanken AB 6 The Courtyard Calvin Street Bolton

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

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GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The directors present the strategic report for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Review of the business
The key performance indicators for the company are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover	17,500,938	11,058,465
Gross profit	3,364,954	1,792,454
Gross profit margin	19.23%	16.21%

2023 saw a significant rise in turnover with an increase of 58.3% on the previous year. This was a result of both increased awards within the year and previously delayed contracts finally coming on stream. The year saw the successful culmination of the long-term strategic plan to broaden the client base, within our core field of activity. Careful consideration and targeting of opportunities have also resulted in an improvement in the gross profit margin from 16.2% to 19.2%, with the resultant improvement in overall gross profit from £1.79m to £3.36m. This constitutes an 87.7% increase in the year.

Administrative costs rose principally as a result of recruitment activity, but were held well below the general increases in trading and gross profit.

The company has worked hard to broaden its supply chain. Previous material shortages within the industry have generally eased and this is no longer considered a risk to successful delivery of projects.

The growth in activity has continued into the new financial year.

The company has successfully increased the number of long framework contracts which provide clarity of work streams across a number of clients for the forthcoming years and are reporting that their budgets look firm for the next few years.

The company has worked hard to strengthen and enhance its Commercial and Management team with a number of significant additions to the organisation, with further planned in the forthcoming year.

Cash balances have continued to be strong throughout the year with improvements on previous historic highs.

The company has enhanced its training and apprentice programme with a new cohort of 5 apprentices starting in September along with additions to the Management training team.

It undertook a successful re-branding exercise to mark its 75 years of trading including an updated web site and new vehicle livery, its largest ever community project comprising of the clearing of around 6 Ha of waste land and cultivating and planting 7,500 trees.

The company undertakes quarterly Social Value audits on all its major framework contracts and has always met or exceeded targets pre-agreed with its clients.

Principal risks and uncertainties
The company regularly updates and reviews its working practices in consultation with industry bodies, its workforce, and its supply chain. A full 'business impact' developed during the recent pandemic has now been broadened to incorporate the challenges to the supply chain.

All members of staff are consulted on their views and options on risk analysis, which are regularly reviewed by the Directors to prevent any negative impact on trading.

On behalf of the board

Mr C F Cox
Director

16 February 2024

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The directors present their report for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Principal activities
The principal activity of the company continued to be that of highway contractors.

Results and dividends
The results for the year are set out on page 8.

Ordinary dividends were paid amounting to £400,000. The directors do not recommend payment of a final dividend.

Directors
The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Mr C F Cox
Mr J P Walsh
Mr M J Holroyd
Mr M A Edwards

Financial instruments
Liquidity risk
The company manages its cash and borrowing requirements in order to maximise interest income and minimise interest expense, whilst ensuring the company has sufficient liquid resources to meet the operating needs of the business.

Credit risk
All customers who wish to trade on credit terms are subject to credit verification procedures. Trade debtors are monitored on an ongoing basis and provision is made for doubtful debts where necessary.

Future developments
The company has successfully expanded the number of framework contracts it now undertakes with local authority councils. These clients have secured funding for a number of large long-term schemes for which we have been appointed preferred Contractor status and in doing so this provides security of work flows for the next two to three years maintaining the recent growth we have enjoyed.

In addition to our local authority clients, we have expanded our number of blue chip, private sector clients, from which we have secured work well into 2025.

Auditor
The auditors, Barlow Andrews LLP, are deemed to be reappointed under section 487 (2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of disclosure to auditor
So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Medium-sized companies exemption
This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the medium-sized companies exemption.

On behalf of the board

Mr C F Cox
Director

16 February 2024

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual 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 of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBER OF GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of George Cox & Sons Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 30 September 2023 which comprise the Profit And Loss Account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the 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 state of the company's affairs as at 30 September 2023 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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 *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the 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 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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 our 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 the 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 company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the 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 financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of directors
As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, 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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 auditor's 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the construction sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006 and taxation legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

Alison Cornes
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of Barlow Andrews LLP

16 February 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Carlyle House
78 Chorley New Road
Bolton

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 as restated £
Turnover	3	17,500,938	11,058,465
Cost of sales		(14,135,984)	(9,266,011)
Gross profit		3,364,954	1,792,454
Administrative expenses		(1,967,114)	(1,472,090)
Other operating income		24,185	33,252
Operating profit	4	1,422,025	353,616
Interest payable and similar expenses	8	(21,496)	(4,810)
Profit before taxation		1,400,529	348,806
Tax on profit	9	(312,193)	(65,978)
Profit for the financial year		1,088,336	282,828

The profit and loss account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

There is no other comprehensive income for the year. The total comprehensive income is the profit for the financial year shown above.

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Current assets					
Stocks	11	372,476		219,986	
Debtors	12	6,220,895		3,071,549	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,299,877		822,713	
		7,893,248		4,114,248	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(6,341,934)		(3,148,625)	
Net current assets			1,551,314		965,623
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14		-		(105,667)
Provisions for liabilities					
Provisions	16	(35,472)		(32,450)	
			(35,472)		(32,450)
Net assets			1,515,842		827,506
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	18		72,851		72,851
Share premium account	19		115,165		115,165
Profit and loss reserves			1,327,826		639,490
Total equity			1,515,842		827,506

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 16 February 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:

Mr C F Cox
Director

Company Registration No. 02775128

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Notes	Share capital £	Share premium account £	Profit and loss reserves £	Total £
Balance at 1 October 2021		72,851	115,165	637,662	825,678
Year ended 30 September 2022:					
Profit and total comprehensive income		-	-	282,828	282,828
Dividends	**10**	-	-	(281,000)	(281,000)
Balance at 30 September 2022		72,851	115,165	639,490	827,506
Year ended 30 September 2023:					
Profit and total comprehensive income		-	-	1,088,336	1,088,336
Dividends	**10**	-	-	(400,000)	(400,000)
Balance at 30 September 2023		72,851	115,165	1,327,826	1,515,842

GEORGE COX & SONS LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**23**		1,080,600		492,789
Interest paid			(21,496)		(4,810)
Income taxes paid			(66,273)		(116,630)
Net cash inflow from operating activities			992,831		371,349
Financing activities					
Repayment of borrowings		(115,667)		(10,000)	
Dividends paid		(400,000)		(281,000)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(515,667)		(291,000)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			477,164		80,349
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			822,713		742,364
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,299,877		822,713

1 Accounting policies

Company information

George Cox & Sons Limited is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Hall Lane Works, Farnworth, Bolton.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This expectation is based upon a strong forward order book, along with forecasts for sales and cash, reinforcing the position of the directors in continuing to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Turnover

Turnover is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for services provided in the normal course of business, and is shown net of VAT and other sales related taxes.

Profit is recognised on long term contracts if the final outcome can be assessed with reasonable certainty, by including in the profit and loss account, turnover and related costs as contract activity progresses. Turnover is calculated as the proportion of the contract value which is estimated to have been completed.

1.4 Stocks

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

At each reporting date, an assessment is made for impairment. Any excess of the carrying amount of stocks over its estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell is recognised as an impairment loss in profit or loss. Reversals of impairment losses are also recognised in profit or loss.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Construction contracts

Where the outcome of a construction contract can be estimated reliably, revenue and costs are recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract activity at the reporting end date. Variations in contract work and claims are included to the extent that the amount can be measured reliably and its receipt is considered probable.

When it is probable that total contract costs will exceed total contract turnover, the expected loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

Where the outcome of a construction contract cannot be estimated reliably, contract revenue is recognised to the extent of contract costs incurred where it is probable that they will be recoverable. Contract costs are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

Amounts recoverable on long term contracts, which are included in debtors, are stated at the net sales value of the work done after provision for contingencies and anticipated future losses on contracts, less amounts received as progress payments on account. Excess progress payments are included in creditors as payments on account.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

1.7 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors, loans due from group and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Equity instruments

Equity instruments issued by the company are recorded at the proceeds received, net of transaction costs. Dividends payable on equity instruments are recognised as liabilities once they are no longer at the discretion of the company.

1.9 Taxation

The tax expense represents the sum of the tax currently payable.

Current tax

The tax currently payable is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from net profit as reported in the profit and loss account because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The company's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting end date.

1.10 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the company will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

When the company receives claims from third parties or employees, it makes a provision for the estimated uninsured element of each claim.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.11 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.13 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease except where another more systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased asset are consumed.

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements

The key source of estimation and uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Amounts receivable on long term contracts

Profit on long term contracts is recognised in the profit or loss account based on the amount of chargeable work carried out by the end of the financial period less amounts already invoiced to the customer. A level of judgement is applied in assessing the likely overall outcome of the project.

3 Turnover

The total turnover of the company has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the United Kingdom. An analysis of the company's turnover is as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover analysed by class of business		
Highway contractor	17,500,938	11,058,465

4 Operating profit

	2023	2022
Operating profit for the year is stated after charging:	£	£
Operating lease charges	114,242	78,496

5 Auditor's remuneration

	2023	2022
Fees payable to the company's auditor and associates:	£	£
For audit services		
Audit of the financial statements of the company	13,200	15,400

6 Employees

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management	18	15
Administration	12	12
Site operatives	45	43
Total	75	70

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	2,590,769	2,110,487
Social security costs	259,924	201,589
Pension costs	65,754	60,911
	2,916,447	2,372,987

7 Directors' remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Remuneration for qualifying services	-	28,828
Company pension contributions to defined contribution schemes	-	440
	-	29,268

The number of directors for whom retirement benefits are accruing under defined contribution schemes amounted to 0 (2022 - 1).

8 Interest payable and similar expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest on financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:		
Interest on loans and other payables	21,496	4,810

9 Taxation

	2023	2022
	£	£
Current tax		
UK corporation tax on profits for the current period	312,193	66,273
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	-	(295)
Total current tax	312,193	65,978

The actual charge for the year can be reconciled to the expected charge for the year based on the profit or loss and the standard rate of tax as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Profit before taxation	1,400,529	348,806
Expected tax charge based on the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 22.01% (2022: 19.00%)	308,231	66,273
Tax effect of expenses that are not deductible in determining taxable profit	3,962	-
Adjustments in respect of prior years	-	(295)
Taxation charge for the year	312,193	65,978

The tax rate used is the average rate used for the year.

10 Dividends

	2023	2022
	£	£
Interim paid	400,000	281,000

11 Stocks

	2023	2022
	£	£
Raw materials and consumables	372,476	219,986

12 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Trade debtors	2,559,137	1,254,129
Gross amounts owed by contract customers	2,615,544	868,619
Amounts owed by group undertakings	217,901	193,487
Other debtors	679,826	678,553
Prepayments and accrued income	148,487	76,761
	6,220,895	3,071,549

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Other borrowings	15	-	10,000
Payments received on account		52,324	40,056
Trade creditors		4,505,099	2,336,979
Corporation tax		312,193	66,273
Other taxation and social security		572,153	406,434
Other creditors		17,739	12,062
Accruals and deferred income		882,426	276,821
		6,341,934	3,148,625

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Other borrowings	15	-	105,667

15 Loans and overdrafts

	2023 £	2022 £
Other borrowings	-	115,667
Payable within one year	-	10,000
Payable after one year	-	105,667

Other borrowings are secured by a personal guarantee from Mr C Cox, director, with interest charged on the loan at a rate of 4%. The loan was fully repaid during the year.

16 Provisions for liabilities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Personal injury and damage claims	35,472	32,450

Movements on provisions:

	Personal injury and damage claims
	£
At 1 October 2022	32,450
Additional provisions in the year	12,372
Reversal of provision	(9,350)
At 30 September 2023	35,472

When the company receives claims from third parties or employees it makes a provision for the estimated uninsured element of each claim.

17 Retirement benefit schemes

	2023	2022
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	65,754	60,911

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

18 Share capital

	2023	2022	2023	2022
Ordinary share capital	Number	Number	£	£
Issued and fully paid				
Ordinary shares of £1 each	72,851	72,851	72,851	72,851

The holders of ordinary shares are entitled to receive dividends and are entitled to one vote per share at the meetings of the Company. All shares rank equally with regard to the Company's residual assets.

19 Share premium account

The share premium account includes any premiums received on the issue of share capital. Any transaction costs associated with the issuing of shares are deducted from the share premium.

20 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	98,470	78,500
Between two and five years	268,738	278,708
In over five years	-	10,000
	367,208	367,208

21 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	249,218	211,938

Transactions with related parties

During the year the company entered into the following transactions with related parties:

Companies associated via the directors

During the year George Cox & Sons Limited incurred expenses of £719,946 (2022: £507,191) and made sales of £57,703 (2022: £90,377) to a company associated through common directorship. At the year end £98,464 was due from (2022: £19,705 due to) the connected company. An additional £154,360 was also included in accruals in respect of management charges (2022: £nil).

In 2018, a company controlled by Mr C Cox, director, lent George Cox & Sons Limited £200,000. Interest was being charged on the loan at a rate of 4%. The balance due at the year end was £nil (2022: £115,667). The loan was supported by a personal guarantee from Mr C Cox.

During the year, George Cox & Sons Limited made payments for rent of £9,500 (2022: £9,500) to another company associated through common directorship. There were no balances outstanding with this company at the year end (2022: £nil).

22 Ultimate controlling party

The ultimate parent company is George Cox Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. The registered office is Hall Lane, Farnworth, Bolton.

The company is included in the consolidated financial statements of George Cox Limited. These consolidated financial statements are available from its registered office, Hall Lane, Farnworth, Bolton.

23 Cash generated from operations

	2023	2022
	£	£
Profit for the year after tax	1,088,336	282,828
Adjustments for:		
Taxation charged	312,193	65,978
Finance costs	21,496	4,810
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	3,022	(5,931)
Movements in working capital:		
Increase in stocks	(152,490)	(66,423)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(3,149,346)	298,129
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,957,389	(86,602)
Cash generated from operations	1,080,600	492,789

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 October 2022	Cash flows	30 September 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	822,713	477,164	1,299,877
Borrowings excluding overdrafts	(115,667)	115,667	-
	707,046	592,831	1,299,877

25 Prior period adjustment

In the prior year, £327,893 of costs relating to wages and salaries were included within cost of sales. On further reflection, these costs should have been included within administrative expenses and have been reallocated as necessary within the comparative figures.

In addition, £93,030 of consultancy fees and £72,135 of courier and delivery charges were included within administrative expenses and have now been reallocated to cost of sales.

These reallocations do not have an effect on operating profit or the balance sheet. The prior period adjustments do not give rise to any effect upon equity.