ANDERSEN

Berrington (UK) Limited

Consolidated accounts 30 November 2000

together with directors' and auditors' reports

Registered number: 3179466

Directors' report
For the period ended 30 November 2000

The directors present their annual report on the affairs of the group and company, together with the accounts and auditors' report, for the period ended 30 November 2000.

Principal activities and business review

The company acquired the entire share capital of ITW Limited on 28 September 2000.

The group manufactures and distributes a wide range of components to a wide range of industries. These industries include the steel and plastic strapping, packaging, motor, consumer durables, canned drinks, construction, electronics, industrial re-finish, and non-destructible testing equipment and materials industries.

During the year the company was sold to CS (Holdings) Europe, a subsidiary within the group headed by Illinois Tool Works Inc.

The directors expect the general level of activity to increase over the next three years because of the group's product development policy.

Results and dividends

Group results were as follows:

	£'000
Retained profit at the beginning of the period	-
Group loss for the period after taxation and minority interests	(1,659)
Dividends paid	(70,313)
Retained loss at the end of the period	(71,972)

The directors do not recommend the payment of a final dividend.

Directors and their interests

The directors who served during the year were as follows:

A. Smotlak	(resigned 18 September 2000)
D. Van der Veen	(resigned 19 September 2000)
C.M.D. Probert	(appointed 18 September 2000)
T.A. Lewis	(appointed 18 September 2000)

None of the directors had any interests in shares that require disclosure under Schedule 7 of the Companies Act 1985.

Directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and group and of the profit of the group for that period. In preparing those accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and group and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disabled employees

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the respective aptitudes and abilities of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled every effort is made to ensure that their employment with the group continues and that appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the group that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of a person who is fortunate enough not to suffer from a disability.

Employee consultation

The group places considerable value on the involvement of its employees and has continued its previous practice of keeping them informed on matters affecting them as employees and on the various factors affecting the performance of the group. This is achieved through formal and informal meetings and the group magazine. Employee representatives are consulted regularly on a wide range of matters affecting their current and future interests.

Donations

The group made charitable donations amounting to £2,173 (1999: £8,132).

Supplier payment policy

The group's policy is to settle terms of payment with suppliers when agreeing the terms of each transaction, ensure that suppliers are made aware of the terms of payment and abide by the terms of payment. Trade creditors of the group at 30 November 2000 were equivalent to 27 (1999: Nil) days' purchases, based on the average daily amount invoiced by suppliers during the year. The company had no trade creditors (1999: None).

Share capital

During the year the parent company subscribed for an additional 207,580 £1 ordinary shares in the company for consideration of £20 million.

Auditors

Levy Gee resigned as auditors and Arthur Andersen were appointed to fill the casual vacancy arising.

The directors will place a resolution before the annual general meeting to appoint Arthur Andersen as auditors for the ensuing year.

PO Box 87
Queensway
Fforestfach
Swansea
SA5 4YE

By order of the Board,

C.M.D. Probert
Director

Date 25/05/01

ANDERSEN

To the Shareholders of Berrington (UK) Limited:

We have audited the accounts on pages 5 to 23 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 8 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 2, the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in the United Kingdom by statute, the Auditing Practices Board and by our profession's ethical guidance.

Basis of opinion

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the group at 30 November 2000 and of the group's loss for the period then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Arthur Andersen

Arthur Andersen
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Abbots House
Abbey Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 3BD

Date 28/9/01

Consolidated profit and loss account

For the period ended 30 November 2000

	Notes	17 months to 30 November 2000 £'000 (two months trade)	12 months to 30 June 1999 £'000 (Note 25)
Turnover	2	41,676	-
Cost of sales		(30,957)	-
Gross profit		10,719	-
Other operating expenses	3	(9,931)	-
Operating profit		788	-
Investment income	4	541	-
Interest payable and similar charges		(2,597)	-
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation	5	(1,268)	-
Tax on loss on ordinary activities	8	(391)	-
Loss on ordinary activities after taxation		(1,659)	-
Minority interests	19	-	-
Loss on ordinary activities attributable to members, being the loss for the financial period		(1,659)	-
Dividends paid and proposed	9	(70,313)	-
Retained loss for the financial period	19	(71,972)	-

There were no recognised gains or losses in either period other than the loss for the periods as shown above.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this consolidated profit and loss account.

All material operations of the group were acquired during the period and no material operations were discontinued.

Consolidated balance sheet

30 November 2000

	Notes	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000 (Note 25)
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	10	59,352	-
Tangible assets	11	66,606	-
		125,958	-
Current assets			
Stocks	13	32,644	-
Debtors	14	109,182	291
Cash at bank and in hand		43,426	1
		185,252	292
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(101,521)	-
Net current assets		83,731	292
Total assets less current liabilities		209,689	292
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(250,424)	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges	17	(10,260)	-
Net (liabilities) assets		(50,995)	292
Capital and reserves			
Called-up share capital	18	500	292
Share premium	19	19,792	-
Profit and loss account	19	(71,972)	-
Equity shareholders' (deficit) funds	20	(51,680)	292
Minority interests	19	685	-
Total capital employed		(50,995)	-

Signed on behalf of the Board on 25/1/01

C.M.D. Probert

Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this consolidated balance sheet.

Company balance sheet

30 November 2000

	Notes	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000 (Note 25)
Fixed assets			
Investments	12	159,000	-
Current assets			
Debtors	14	70,759	-
Investments		-	291
Cash at bank and in hand		1	1
		70,760	292
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,669)	-
Net current assets		69,091	292
Total assets less current liabilities		228,091	292
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(209,000)	-
Net assets		19,091	292
Capital and reserves			
Called-up share capital	18	500	292
Share premium	19	19,792	-
Profit and loss account	19	(1,201)	-
Equity shareholders' funds	20	19,091	292

Signed on behalf of the Board on 25/7/01

C.M.D. Probert
Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this balance sheet.

1 Accounting policies

A summary of the principal group accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the period and the preceding period, is set out below.

a) Basis of accounting

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

b) Basis of consolidation

The group accounts consolidate the accounts of Berrington (UK) Limited and all of its subsidiary undertakings made up to 30 November 2000. Unless otherwise stated, the acquisition method of accounting has been adopted. Under this method, the results of subsidiary undertakings acquired or disposed of during the period are included in the consolidated profit and loss account from the date of acquisition or up to the date of disposal.

The acquisition of ITW Limited and its subsidiaries was accounted for as a group reconstruction in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard No 6 using the principles of merger accounting as if the transaction had been effected on 28 September 2000.

No profit and loss account is presented for Berrington (UK) LImited, as provided by Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985. The company's profit before tax for the financial period, determined in accordance with the Act, was £69,112,000 (Year ended 30 June 1999: loss £32).

c) Stocks

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

The cost incurred in bringing each product to its present location and condition is based on:

Raw materials	-	purchase cost on a first-in, first-out basis, including transportation
Work-in-progress and finished goods	-	cost of direct materials and labour plus a reasonable proportion of manufacturing overheads based on normal levels of activity.

Net realisable value is based on estimated normal selling price less further costs expected to be incurred to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving or defective items where appropriate.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

d) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any provision for impairment. Any related government grants are reported as deferred income and amortised over the expected useful life of the assets concerned. The following annual depreciation rates have been applied on a straight-line basis to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of the assets over their estimated useful lives:

Freehold buildings	1% - 4%	
Short leasehold land and buildings, and improvements	2% - 10%	(minimum rates commensurate with remaining lives of leases)
Plant and equipment	10% - $33\frac{1}{3}$%	
Motor vehicles	20% - 25%	

e) Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets represent goodwill, both purchased and that arising on consolidation (representing the excess of the fair value of the consideration given over the fair value of the separable net assets acquired) is capitalised and amortised over a period of twenty years from the date of the acquisition; and

f) Taxation

UK corporation tax is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantially enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred taxation has been calculated on the liability method. Deferred taxation is provided on all timing differences which will probably reverse, at the rates of tax likely to be in force at the time of reversal. Deferred taxation is not provided on timing differences which, in the opinion of the directors, will probably not reverse.

g) Turnover

Turnover represents:

(1) Sales which are recorded at invoice value and are stated net of all credit notes, trade discounts, allowances and value added tax.

(2) Rental income which is recognised over the period of applicable rental agreements. Amounts received in advance are carried forward as deferred income.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

h) Investments

Fixed asset investments are shown at cost, less any provision for impairment. Current asset investments are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

i) Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date, arising in currencies other than sterling, have been translated at year-end exchange rates. Profit and loss transactions have been translated at the rates of exchange prevailing during the period. Differences on translation have been charged or credited to the profit and loss account.

j) Pension costs

It is the policy of the group to fund pension liabilities, on the advice of external actuaries, by payments to independent fund managers. Payments made to the funds and charged in the profit and loss account comprise current and past service contributions. Independent actuarial valuations, on a going concern basis, are carried out every three years.

k) Leases

Assets held under finance leases, which confer rights and obligations similar to those attached to owned assets, are capitalised at the present value of the minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease with an equivalent liability categorised as appropriate under creditors due within or after one year. The asset is depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and its useful economic life. Finance charges are allocated to accounting periods over the period of the lease to produce a constant rate of return on the outstanding balance. Payments are apportioned between finance charges and reduction of the liability, and allocated to cost of sales and other operating expenses as appropriate. Hire purchase transactions are dealt with similarly, except that assets are depreciated over their useful lives. The group enters into operating leases. Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term, even if the payments are not made on such a basis.

l) Cashflow statement

The results of the company are included in the consolidated accounts of Illinois Tool Works Inc., and these accounts include a consolidated cashflow statement and are available to the public. The directors have chosen to take advantage of the exemption set out in Financial Reporting Standard 1 (Revised) and have not presented a cashflow statement for the company.

2 Segment information

The analysis of turnover and profit on ordinary activities before taxation by geographical market and by activity has been omitted.

3 Other operating expenses

	17 months to 30 November 2000 £'000	12 months to 30 June 1999 £'000
Selling, distribution and marketing costs	4,171	-
Product engineering	5,593	-
Administrative expenses	167	-
	9,931	-

4 Investment income

	17 months to 30 November 2000 £'000	12 months to 30 June 1999 £'000
Interest receivable and similar income	541	-

5 Profit on ordinary activities before taxation

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

	17 months to 30 November 2000 £'000	12 months to 30 June 1999 £'000
Rental income (Note 1g (2))	(730)	-
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets	1,286	-
Amortisation of goodwill and intangible fixed assets	886	-
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(23)	-
Hire of plant and machinery	235	-
Auditors' remuneration	15	-

In addition to the above auditors' remuneration, Arthur Andersen received £67,740 (1999: £Nil) in respect of fees for non-audit services during the period ended 30 November 2000.

6 Staff costs

Particulars of employee costs (including executive directors) are as shown below:

	17 months to 30 November 2000 £'000	12 months to 30 June 1999 £'000
Employee costs during the period amounted to:		
Wages and salaries	6,552	-
Social security costs	636	-
Other pension costs (see Note 23)	485	-
	7,673	-

The average monthly number of persons employed by the group during the two month's trading period was as follows:

	17 months to 30 November 2000 Number	12 months to 30 June 1999 Number
Production and distribution	1,179	-
Sales and administration	683	-
	1,862	-

7 Directors' emoluments

The directors of the company received the following remuneration from subsidiary undertakings for the period ended 30 November 2000:

	17 months to 30 November 2000 £'000	12 months to 30 June 1999 £'000
Directors' emoluments	38	-

Three (1999: None) of the directors were members of the company's defined benefit pension schemes.

The accrued pension entitlement under the group's defined benefits schemes of the highest paid director at 30 November 2000 was £54,000 (Year ended 30 June 1999: £Nil).

8 Tax on loss on ordinary activities

The corporation tax charge comprises:

	17 months to 30 November 2000 £'000	12 months to 30 June 1999 £'000
Corporation tax	391	-

9 Dividends paid and proposed

	17 months to 30 November 2000 £'000	12 months to 30 June 1999 £'000
Interim dividend of £140 (1999: £Nil) per share	70,313	-

10 Intangible fixed assets

Group	Goodwill arising on consolidation £'000	Purchased goodwill £'000	Total £'000
Cost			
At 1 July 1999	-	-	-
Additions	56,889	3,349	60,238
At 30 November 2000	56,889	3,349	60,238
Amortisation			
At 1 July 1999	-	-	-
Amortisation for the period	830	56	886
At 30 November 2000	830	56	886
Net book value			
At 1 July 1999	-	-	-
At 30 November 2000	56,059	3,293	59,352

11 Tangible fixed assets

The movement on tangible fixed assets was as follows:

Cost	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Short leasehold land £'000	Plant and equipment £'000	Total £'000
At 1 July 1999	-	-	-	-
Additions	31,985	2,433	33,474	67,892
At 30 November 2000	31,985	2,433	33,474	67,892
Depreciation				
At 1 July 1999	-	-	-	-
Charge for the period	76	26	1,184	1,286
At 30 November 2000	76	26	1,184	1,286
Net book value				
At 1 July 1999	-	-	-	-
At 30 November 2000	31,909	2,407	32,290	66,606

12 Fixed asset investments

13 Investments in subsidiary undertakings:

Company	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
At 1 July 1999	-	-
Additions in the period	159,000	-
At 30 November 2000	159,000	-

12 Fixed asset investments (continued)

b) Current period acquisitions

During the period, the group acquired the entire share capital of ITW Limited. The book values of the assets of the group and liabilities acquired were as follows:

	Book Value	Revaluation	Fair Value to Group
	£000	£000	£000
Fixed Assets			
Intangible	28,174	-	28,174
Tangible	47,318	15,752	63,070
Current Assets			
Stocks	27,484	-	27,484
Debtors	56,305	-	56,305
Cash	33,472	-	33,472
Total assets	192,753	15,752	208,505
Creditors			
Trade creditors	(14,798)	-	(14,798)
Other creditors	(44,744)	-	(44,744)
Accruals	(10,590)	-	(10,590)
Provisions			
Deferred Taxation	(10,260)	-	(10,260)
Total liabilities	(80,392)	-	(80,392)
Net assets	112,361	15,752	128,113
Minority interest			(685)
Goodwill			31,572
			159,000
Satisfied by			
Cash consideration			159,000

12 Fixed asset investments (continued)

c) Principal subsidiaries

The group owns 100% of the issued share capital of the following subsidiary undertakings, all of which are registered in England and Wales (with the exception of Orgapack Limited, which is registered in Scotland):

Magnaflux Holding Co (UK) Ltd	(a)	Eurofoil Limited	(a)
Signode Limited	(a)	ERG Components Limited (formerly Clomarc Investment Corporation Limited)	(a)
Irathane International Limited	(a)	ERG Limited	(a)
DeVilbiss Holdings Company Limited	(a)	Marlborough Liners Limited	(a)
The DeVilbiss Company Limited	(a)	Rocol Group Limited	(c)
Ransberg – Gema UK Limited	(a)	Rocol France SA	(c)
Developline Limited	(a)	Hofmann Industrial (UK) Limited	(b)
Volstatic International Limited	(a)	Orgapack Limited	(a)
Impex Suprafast Limited	(a)	Flo-Mech Packaging Machinery Limited	(a)
Mazel (1980) Limited	(a)	Unipac Limited	(a)
Duo-Fast (UK) Limited	(a)	Thermal Transfer Media Limited	(a)

c) Principal subsidiaries (continued)

All of the above subsidiary undertakings were dormant during the period. In addition, the group owns 50% of Signode Ireland Limited.

(a) The group's ownership of these subsidiary undertakings is effected through ITW Limited.

(b) The group's ownership of Hofmann Industrial (UK) Limited is effected through a nominee, who is an employee of ITW Limited, and a minority shareholder exists who owns 2 of the 100,000 ordinary shares of the subsidiary.

(c) The company's ownership of these subsidiary undertakings is effected through Mazel (1980) Limited.

13 Stocks

	Group	
	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
Raw materials and consumables	9,820	-
Work-in-progress	2,734	-
Finished goods and goods for resale	20,090	-
	32,644	-

14 Debtors

	Group		Company	
	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade debtors	64,369	-	-	-
Amounts owed by group undertakings	5,043	291	70,000	-
Other debtors	3,453	-	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	13,574	-	759	-
	86,439	291	70,759	-
Amounts falling due after more than one year:				
Prepayments and accrued income	22,743	-	-	-
	109,182	291	70,759	-

15 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Company	
	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
Trade creditors	16,804	-	-	-
Amounts owed to group undertakings	67,172	-	1,669	-
Other creditors				
- UK corporation tax	812	-	-	-
- social security and PAYE	1,287	-	-	-
- VAT payable	907	-	-	-
- pension contributions payable	442	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	14,097	-	-	-
	101,521	-	1,669	-

16 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group		Company	
	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
Convertible debt				
10% subordinated unsecured convertible loan notes 2095	40,000	40,000	-	-
Non interest bearing unsecured loan notes 2005	100,000	-	100,000	-
8% unsecured promisory note 2005	59,000	-	59,000	-
Unsecured intercompany loan 2005	50,000	-	50,000	-
	249,000	-	209,000	-
Other creditors				
Deferred income on Government grants	238	247	-	-
Accrued pension contributions	1,186	-	-	-
	1,424	247	-	-
	250,424	247	209,000	-

The 10% subordinated unsecured convertible loan notes are repayable at the earlier of the company's option and 30 November 2095, unless the company defaults on certain obligations to the loan note holders whereupon the loan notes are repayable on demand. The loan notes may be converted into ordinary shares of the company at the option of the loan note holders.

The 2005 intercompany loan attracts interest at the Euro LIBOR rate.

17 Provisions for liabilities and charges

Provisions for liabilities and charges comprise deferred taxation balances arising as follows:

	Group	
	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	11,309	-
Short-term timing differences	(1,049)	-
	10,260	-

The movement in deferred tax comprises the following:

	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
At 1 July 1999	-	-
Acquired	10,260	-
At 30 November 2000	10,260	-

18 Called-up share capital

	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
Authorised		
100,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	100,000	100,000
Allotted, called-up and fully paid		
500,000 (30 June 1999: 292,420) ordinary shares of £1 each	500	292

During the year the company issued 207,580 £1 ordinary shares for consideration of £20 million.

19 Movements in reserves

The movement on reserves during the period was as follows:

Group	Share premium £'000	Profit and loss account £'000	Minority interests £'000
At 1 July 1999	-	-	-
Acquired	-	-	685
Retained loss for the period	-	(71,972)	-
Premium on issue of shares	19,792	-	-
At 30 November 2000	19,792	(71,972)	685

Company	Share premium £'000	Profit and loss account £'000
At 1 July 1999	-	-
Premium on issue of shares	19,792	-
Loss for the period	-	(1,201)
At 30 November 2000	19,792	(1,201)

20 Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds

	Group		Company	
	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
(Loss) profit for the period	(1,659)	-	69,112	-
Dividends paid and proposed	(70,313)	-	(70,313)	-
Capital contribution received	19,792	-	19,792	-
Increase in share capital	208	277	208	277
Net movement in shareholders' funds	(51,972)	277	18,799	277
Opening shareholders' funds	292	15	292	15
Closing shareholders' funds	(51,680)	292	19,091	292

21 Capital commitments

There were the following capital commitments at the end of the period:

	Group		Company	
	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000	30 November 2000 £'000	30 June 1999 £'000
Contracted for but not provided for	2,066	-	-	-

22 Lease commitments

The minimum annual rental payments under operating leases are as follows:

Group	Land and buildings £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Total £'000
2000			
Leases expiring			
- within 1 year	235	543	778
- within 2-5 years	692	619	1,311
- after 5 years	1,329	-	1,329
	2,256	1,162	3,418

In 1999 there were no lease commitments at the year end.

23 Pension scheme

The group operates defined benefit pension arrangements under trust. The pension assets of the schemes are therefore held separately from those of the company.

The pension cost charged to the profit and loss account is calculated by an actuary so as to spread the cost of pensions over the employees' working lives with the company. The pension costs are based on the most recently completed actuarial valuations. For the two main schemes, The Signode Pension Fund and the ITW Pension Fund, these were made as at 31 December 1999 and 5 April 2000 respectively.

The actuarial method used in the valuations was the projected unit method. The most significant assumptions for their overall effect on pension cost were:

Investment return	7.25% per annum
Salary increases	5.0% per annum
LPI pension increases (where relevant)	2.75% per annum
Equity dividend increases	4.0% per annum

Actuarial valuations of each of the arrangements take place at least once every three years. The market value of the assets (excluding members' AVC's) at the most recent valuation dates was £29,250,000 for the Signode Fund and £56,860,000 for the ITW Fund. The funding levels of the schemes were 105% and 108% respectively, based on the market value of assets and the projected past service liabilities adjusted to market values in line with the assumptions above. The total pension charge for the year was £484,000 (1999: £ Nil).

24 Ultimate parent company

The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary undertaking of Illinois Tool Works Inc. (the ultimate parent company), incorporated in the State of Delaware, United States of America.

The largest and smallest group in which the results of Berrington (UK) Limited are consolidated is that headed by Illinois Tool Works Inc. The consolidated accounts of this group are available to the public and may be obtained from Illinois Tool Works Inc., 3600 West Lake Avenue, Glenview, Illinois 60025, United States of America.

The company has taken advantage of the exemptions for disclosures of related party transactions available in Financial Reporting Standard No. 8 to wholly owned subsidiaries of companies with publicly available accounts.

25 Prior year comparatives

The prior period comparatives were audited by a firm of auditors other than Arthur Andersen.