Directors' Report, Strategic Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2019

Registered Number: 3189671

#### Strategic Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

The directors present their strategic report of Jack Morton Worldwide Limited (the "Company") registered number 3189671 for the year ended 31 December 2019.

#### Principal activities and review of the business

The Company's principal activity during the year was that of brand experience consultancy, design and creation, including corporate, consumer and public events, conferences, exhibitions, roadshows, film, video, digital, and 3D & graphic design.

The Company's profit for the year was £2,348,000 (2018: profit £2,463,000). The directors consider that the result for the year is in line with expectations. The Company had net assets of £16,507,000 as at 31 December 2019 (2018: net assets of £14,159,000).

2019 was a financially solid year, where despite a small decline in revenue we maintained our margins.

It was a year where our innovation practice, Genuine X, fuelled by exciting and edectic talent, attracted multiple new clients with a focus on creating brand experiences at the intersection of content, technology and data. Our experience innovation thought leadership was profiled and marketed in our new podcast series, breakfast briefings and the publication of multiple white papers.

Building on our existing and enviable client list were some notable new additions including GE Lifescience, OPPO, Lloyds of London and Novartis. We created globally awarded brand experiences in 2019 including the Scania Expanded Horizons Campaign; Sponsorship activation for Heineken of the Rugby World Cup in Japan, and we celebrated a decade of delivering the Ericsson Experience at MWC in Barcelona.

We were also proud to continue our commitment and actions on improving DEI in the creative industries, and to support an internal initiative; 'Balance Your Inner Orange', recognising and providing support for the growing challenges in mental health and wellness. We launched a new sustainability platform 'Aiming for Zero' and underscored our long-standing efforts to tackle the global climate crisis. Our support for our local community resulted in a partnership with City Harvest where we donated creative solutions and volunteer time.

#### Key performance indicators

The following are key performance indicators of the business:

	2019	2018
Revenue growth (%) Year on year revenue growth expressed as a percentage	(5.9)%	24.5%
Operating margin (%) Ratio of operating profit to revenue expressed as a percentage	20.1%	20.7%
Staff costs / revenue (%) Staff costs as a percentage of revenue	43.4%	44.2%
Headcount	68	70

#### Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102)

The Company has complied with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) during the year.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

From the perspective of the Company, the principal risks and uncertainties are integrated with the principal risks of The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. and are not managed separately. These risks are discussed in The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019, which does not form part of this report. Copies of The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. consolidated financial statements can be obtained from:

The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. 909 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022, USA

## Strategic Report for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## Strategy and future developments

The Company's strategy is to continue to grow market share by generating demonstrable business value for leading brands through fresh insights, bold ideas and face to face and online engagements with their key communities.

On behalf of the Board

A Sunderji Director

31 August 2020

#### Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

The directors present their report and financial statements of Jack Morton Worldwide Limited (the "Company") registered number 3189671 for the year ended 31 December 2019.

#### **Future developments**

Future developments, strategy and key performance indicators are discussed in the strategic report.

#### Dividends

The Directors did not recommend the payment of a dividend during the year (2018: £nil).

#### Objectives and policies

The Company's operations expose it to a variety of financial risks. These include the credit risk, the liquidity risk associated with recovering customer debt on a timely basis, and the interest rate cash flow risk. The Company has in place a risk management programme that seeks to minimise the potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Company by monitoring customer debt levels and the related financial risks to the business.

The Company follows the standard policy and procedures (SP&P) manual provided by The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc., which sets out specific guidelines to manage credit and liquidity risks. Interest rate cash flow risk is managed by The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc..

#### Financial risk management

The Company's operations expose it to a variety of financial risks that include the effects of changes in debt market prices, credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Company has in place a risk management programme that seeks to limit the adverse effects on the financial performance of the Company by monitoring levels of debt finance and the related finance costs.

Given the size of the Company, the directors have not delegated the responsibility of monitoring financial risk management to a sub-committee of the board. The policies set by the board of directors are implemented by the Company's finance department. The department follows the policy and procedures manual provided by The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. that sets out specific guidelines to manage credit and liquidity risks. Interest rate cash flow risk is managed by The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc.

#### Credit risk

The Company has implemented policies to monitor customer debt levels and to ensure that excessive credit is not extended to any particular customer. This provides the business with visibility of balances and ensures that no further credit is extended in cases where this is not merited. The maximum exposure to credit risk at 31 December 2019 was mainly as follows: trade debtors £7,138,000, amounts owed by group undertakings £10,497,000, other debtors £133,000, prepayment and accrued income £4,540,000 and debtors due after more than one year £1,000 (2018: £9,951,000, £11,073,000, £136,000, £1,702,000, £4,000 respectively).

Credit given to other Group companies is also monitored and credit is extended where it is merited. Group debts are collected on the same basis as non-Group debts.

The Company also attempts to minimize credit exposure to cash investments. Cash investments are placed with high-quality financial institutions with limited exposure to any one institution.

#### Liquidity risk

The Company's customer profile is such that late payments and defaults may reduce the funds available for operations and planned expansions. The Company manages this risk by engaging external collection agencies where required.

#### Political donations

The Company made no political donations in 2019 (2018: £nil).

## Branches outside the UK

The Company had one branch outside of the United Kingdom, in Greece, which was disposed of during the year. The branch had no activity during the current or previous year.

#### Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### Disabled employee note

The Company is committed to employment policies which follow best practice based on equal opportunities for all employees, irrespective of sex, race, colour, disability or marital status. The Company gives full and fair consideration to applications for employment from disabled persons, having regard to their particular aptitudes and abilities. Appropriate arrangements are made for the continued employment and training, career development and promotion of disabled persons employed by the Company. If members of staff become disabled the Company continues employment, either in the same or an alternative position, with appropriate retraining being given if necessary.

#### **Employee involvement**

The Company systematically provides employees with information on matters of concern to them, consulting them or their representatives regularly, so that their views can be taken into account when making decisions that are likely to affect their interests. Employee involvement in the Company is encouraged, as achieving a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting the Company plays a major role in maintaining its future success.

#### **Directors**

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signing the financial statements are given below:

W Davies M Kunheim J McCall J Pullan A Sunderji

#### **Events post statement of financial position**

Since 31 December 2019, COVID-19 has been declared as a pandemic. The Company has determined that, in line with Section 32 of FRS102, this is a non-adjusting event after the end of the reporting period.

## Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have prepared the Company's financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- notify its shareholders in writing about the use of disclosure exemptions, if any, of FRS 102 used in the preparation of 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 are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the Company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Company at 31 December 2019 and its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirement of section 394 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the Company;
- the maintenance and integrity of the Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

#### **Audit exemption**

Advantage has been taken of the audit exemption available for subsidiary companies conferred by section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 on the grounds:

- a) that for the year ended 31 December 2019 the Company was entitled to the exemption from a statutory audit under section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary companies; and
- b) that no notice has been deposited under section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to the financial statements for the financial year.

On behalf of the Board

A Sunderji Director

31 August 2020

# Statement of comprehensive income For the year ended 31 December 2019

		2019	2018
	Note	£000's	£000's
Turnover Cost of sales	5	50,606 (37,858)	55,307 (41,763)
Revenue/Gross profit Administrative expenses Distribution costs		12,748 (9,745) (438)	13,544 (9,999) (743)
Operating profit	6	2,565	2,802
Interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar expenses	7 8	170 (15)	93 (9)
Profit before taxation Tax on profit	11	2,720 (372)	2,886 (423)
Profit for the financial year		2,348	2,463

All operations are continuing.

# Statement of financial position As at 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets Tangible assets	12 13	314	437
		314	437
Current assets			<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>
Work in progress	14	5,177	3,017
Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	14	22,590 10,276	25,185 2,7 <b>4</b> 5
		38,043	30,947
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(21,278)	(16,655)
Net current assets		16,765	14,292
Total assets less current liabilities		17,079	14,729
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year Provisions for liabilities	16 17	(62) (510)	(61) (509)
Net assets		16,507	14,159
Capital and reserves			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Called up share capital	18	1,500	1,500
Retained earnings		15,007	12,659
Total equity		16,507	14,159

Advantage has been taken of the audit exemption available for subsidiary companies conferred by section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 on the grounds:

- a) that for the year ended 31 December 2019 the Company was entitled to the exemption from a statutory audit under section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary companies; and
- b) that no notice has been deposited under section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to the financial statements for the financial year.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- a) ensuring that the Company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
   and
- b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Company at 31 December 2019 and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirement of section 394 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the Company.

The notes on pages 10 to 29 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 29 were authorised for issue by the board of directors on 31 August 2020 and were signed on its behalf.

A Sunderji

Jack Morton Worldwide Limited Registered No. 3189671

# Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Called up share capital	Retained earnings	Total Equity
	£000's	£000's	£000's
At 1 January 2018	1,500	10,196	11,696
Profit for the financial year	<u>-</u>	2,463	2,463
At 31 December 2018	1,500	12,659	14,159
	Called up share	Retained earnings	Total Equity
	<b>capital</b> £000's	£000's	£000's
At 1 January 2019	1,500	12,659	14,159
Profit for the financial year	-	2,348	2,348
At 31 December 2019	1,500	15,007	16,507

#### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019

#### 1 General information

The Company's principal activity during the year was that of brand experience consultancy, design and creation, including corporate, consumer and public events, conferences, exhibitions, roadshows, film, video, digital, and 3D & graphic design.

The Company is a private company limited by shares and is incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The address of its registered office is 16-18 Acton Park Industrial Estate, The Vale, London, W3 7QE.

#### 2 Statement of compliance

The individual financial statements of the Company have been prepared in compliance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Companies Act 2006.

#### 3 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated. The Company has adopted FRS 102 in these financial statements.

#### a) Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies.

The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are disclosed in note 4.

#### b) Going concern

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

#### c) Exemptions for qualifying entities under FRS 102

As a qualifying entity, the Company has taken advantage of the exemption, under FRS 102 paragraph 1.12(b), from preparing a statement of cash flows, on the basis that it is a qualifying entity and its intermediate parent company, IPG Holdings (UK) Limited, includes the Company's cash flows in its own consolidated financial statements.

The Company has also taken advantage of the exemption, under FRS 102 paragraph 1.12(c), to the disclosure requirements of FRS 102 section 11 Basic Financial Instruments paragraphs 11.39 to 11.48A, and FRS 102 section 12 Other Financial Instrument Issues, paragraphs 12.26 to 12.29A, on the basis that it is a qualifying entity and the consolidated accounts of IPG Holdings (UK) Limited include the equivalent disclosures.

#### d) Consolidated financial statements

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of IPG Holdings (UK) Limited and of its ultimate parent, The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. and its results are included in the consolidated financial statements of The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. which are publicly available. The directors have therefore concluded that the Company is exempt by virtue of section 400 of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirement to prepare consolidated financial statements. These financial statements are the Company's separate financial statements.

#### e) Revenue recognition

Turnover represents the amounts invoiced to customers in respect of completed projects and is stated after the deduction of trade discounts and value added tax. Revenue is generally deferred until contract completion as the final act is so significant in relation to the service transaction taken as a whole. Fees are also recognised on a milestone basis if the terms of the contract call for the delivery of discrete projects. Fees are recognised on a straight-line or monthly basis when service is provided essentially on a pro-rata basis and the terms of the contract support monthly basis accounting. Revenues that are recognised ahead of billings are shown as accrued income. If the agreed billing date is greater than 12 months ahead, the associated revenue is recorded at fair value, after recognising a discount.

#### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 3 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### f) Interest income

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

#### g) Dividend income

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

#### h) Employee benefits

The Company provides a range of benefits to employees, including annual bonus arrangements, paid holiday arrangements and defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans.

#### Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holiday pay and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

#### Pension costs

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the Company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge disclosed in note 22 represents contributions payable by the Company to the fund.

Contributions payable in respect of employees' personal pension plans are expensed in the statement of comprehensive income as they are incurred.

#### Annual bonus plan

The Company operates an annual bonus plan for some employees. An expense is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation to make payments under the plan as a result of past events and a reliable estimate of the obligation can be made.

#### i) Foreign currencies

The Company's functional and presentation currency is pound sterling. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the statement of financial position date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences arising from the revaluation of foreign currency assets and liabilities are taken to the statement of comprehensive income during the year to which they relate.

## j) Borrowing costs

All borrowing costs are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income in the period in which they are incurred.

#### k) Leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases, where substantially all of the benefits and risks of membership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of comprehensive income on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

#### I) Lease incentives

Incentives received to enter into an operating lease are credited to the statement of comprehensive income, to reduce the lease expense, on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

#### m) Exceptional items

Exceptional items comprise those that are by their nature, large unusual non-recurring and are shown separately in the statement of comprehensive income.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 3 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### n) Taxation

Taxation expense for the period comprises current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

Current and deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Corporation tax payable is provided on taxable profits and is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end.

Deferred taxation is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the statement of financial position date, where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future, or a right to pay less tax in the future, have occurred at the statement of financial position date. Timing differences are differences between a company's taxable profits and its results as stated in the financial statements that arise from the inclusion of gains and losses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements.

A deferred tax asset is regarded as recoverable and therefore recognised only when, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as probable that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred tax is measured at the average tax rates and laws that are expected to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the statement of financial position date. Deferred tax is measured on a non-discounted basis in line with FRS 102.

#### o) Intangible assets

Intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is calculated, using the straight-line method, to allocate the depreciable amount of the assets to their residual values over their estimated useful lives

Goodwill 20 years

An impairment review is undertaken at the end of the first financial year of an acquisition and thereafter at each reporting date where events or changes in circumstances indicate that a review is necessary.

#### p) Tangible assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the assets evenly over their expected useful lives as follows:

Equipment, fixtures & fittings 3-10 years
Plant & machinery 3-10 years

Asset retirement obligation

Lesser of 10 years or the remaining life of the lease
Long leasehold and leasehold improvements

Lesser of 10 years or the remaining life of the lease

Computer hardware and software 3-4 years

The assets' useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted, if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. The effect of any change is accounted for prospectively.

Subsequent costs, including major inspections, are included in the assets carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Company and the cost can be measured reliably.

Repairs, maintenance and minor inspection costs are expensed as incurred.

#### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 3 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### p) Tangible assets (continued)

The fair value of estimated asset retirement obligations is recognised in the statement of financial position when identified and a reasonable estimate of fair value can be made. The fair value is determined based on the net present value of the estimated costs which include those legal obligations where the Company will be required to return the properties to their original condition. The asset retirement costs, equal to the estimated fair value of the asset retirement obligation is capitalised as part of the cost of the related long lived asset. Asset retirement costs are amortised over the life of the lease.

Amorfisation of asset retirement costs is included in depreciation of fixed assets. Increases in the provision of asset retirement obligation resulting from the passage of time are recorded as interest expense in the statement of comprehensive income. Actual expenditures incurred are charged against the accumulated provision.

#### q) Impairment of non-financial assets

At each statement of financial position date non-financial assets not carried at fair value are assessed to determine whether there is an indication that the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) may be impaired. If there is such an indication the recoverable amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is compared to the carrying amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit).

If the recoverable amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is estimated to be lower than the carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in the profit and loss account, unless the asset has been revalued when the amount is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation. Thereafter any excess is recognised in profit or loss.

If an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the revised carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of depreciation or amortisation) had no impairment loss been recognised in prior periods. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

#### r) Work in progress

Work in progress comprises external charges for goods and services incurred on behalf of clients which have still to be invoiced to clients. Work in progress is stated at the lower of cost or net realisable value. The Company assesses annually at the reporting date if any impairment is required and recognises any impairment loss to the statement of comprehensive income.

#### s) Financial instruments

The Company has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of financial instruments.

#### (i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including debtors and cash at bank and in hand balances are initially recognised at transaction price, 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. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If an asset is impaired the 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 the statement of comprehensive income.

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 the statement of comprehensive income.

Other financial assets, including equity investments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price.

Financial assets are derecognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party, or (c) control of the asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical ability to unilaterally sell the asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions.

#### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## 3 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### s) Financial instruments (continued)

#### (ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and other payables, loans from fellow group companies 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 receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers.

Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as creditors: amounts falling due over one year. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Derivatives, including interest rate swaps and forward foreign exchange contracts, are not basic financial instruments.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income in finance costs or income as appropriate.

The Company does not currently apply hedge accounting for interest rate and foreign exchange derivatives.

#### t) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash at bank and in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank loans and overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### u) Deferred income

Deferred income represents revenue invoiced in advance of services that have not yet been rendered to clients.

#### v) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; if it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provision is not made for future operating losses.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as a finance cost.

#### w) Called up share capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of new ordinary shares or options are shown in equity as a deduction, net of tax, from the proceeds.

#### x) Distributions to equity holders

Dividends and other distributions to the Group's shareholders are recognised as a liability in the financial statements in the period in which the dividends and other distributions are approved by the shareholders. These amounts are recognised in the statement of changes in equity.

#### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 3 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### y) Related party disclosures

The Company discloses transactions with related parties which are not wholly owned with the same group. It does not disclose transactions with members of the same group that are wholly owned.

Under FRS 102 Advantage has been taken of the exemption for Related Party Disclosures not to disclose transactions with companies that are part of the IPG Group. The address at which the consolidated financial statements of The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. are publicly available is shown in note 25.

#### z) Incentive compensation plans

Compensation costs related to share-based transactions, including employee stock options, are recognised in the financial statements based on fair value. Stock-based compensation expense is generally recognised over the requisite service period based on the estimated grant-date fair value. Cash settled share based payments are measured at fair value at the statement of financial position date and are included in creditors.

The movement in cumulative expense since the previous statement of financial position date is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, with a corresponding entry in creditors.

Cash awards are generally granted on an annual basis and have a service period vesting condition and generally vest in three years. Cash awards do not fall within the scope of share based payments as they are not paid in equity and the value of the award is not correlated with The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. share price. The present value of the amount expected to vest for cash awards and performance cash awards over the vesting period is amortised using the straight-line method in the statement of comprehensive income.

#### aa) Netting off policy

Balances with other companies in The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. are stated gross, unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (i) The Company and the counterparty owe each other determinable monetary amounts, denominated either in the same currency, or in different but free convertible currencies;
- (ii) The Company has the ability to insist on a net settlement; and
- (iii) The Company's ability to insist on a net settlement is assured beyond doubt. For this to be the case it is necessary that the debit balance mature no later than the credit balance. It is also necessary that the Company's ability to insist on a net settlement would survive the insolvency of the counterparty.

## 4 Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### (a) Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 4 Critical accounting estimates and assumptions (continued)

#### (i) Useful economic lives of tangible assets (note 3p)

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 13 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note 3p for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

#### (ii) Useful economic lives of goodwill (note 3o)

The annual amortisation charge for goodwill is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. The useful economic life of the assets are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on historic and expected future performance of the asset. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the intangible assets.

#### (iii) Impairment of trade and other debtors (note 14)

The Company makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. When assessing impairment of trade and other debtors, management considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile of debtors and historical experience. See note 14 for the net carrying amount of the debtors and associated impairment provision.

#### 5 Turnover

	2019	2018
	£000's	£000's
Turnover by origin		
United Kingdom	50,565	55,242
Rest of World	41	65
	50,606	55,307

The analysis above is by geographical origin, being the location of the Company, which is performing the service for the customer, who may be located in a different location.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## 6 Operating profit

The following amounts have been charged/(credited) in arriving at the operating profit:		
	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Employee costs (note 9)	5,532	5,984
Depreciation - Tangible fixed assets - Asset retirement obligation	184 13	185 13
Bad debt - provision increase/(decrease)	2	(49)
Loss on disposal of tangible assets	-	2
Exchange loss	346	101
Operating lease rentals - Office space - Other	270 13	264 42
7 Interest receivable and similar income		
	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Interest receivable on bank accounts Interest received from other group undertakings	20 150	85 8
	170	93
8 Interest payable and similar expenses		
	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Interest payable on bank overdrafts Unwinding of discount	15	8 1
	15	9

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## 9 Employee costs

	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Wages and salaries (including directors) Social security costs Pension costs (note 22)	4,246 627	<b>4,414</b> 699
- Defined contribution	223	284
Severance expense	25	121
Share based payment costs (note 21) Miscellaneous, non-share based incentives and other costs	109 302	110 356
Miscellaneous, non-share based incentives and other costs		330
Employee costs	5,532	5,984
The Company's employees are principally located in the United Kingdom.		
The average monthly number of people employed (including directors) by the Company during the year	ear is set out below	•
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	2019	2018
United Kingdom	68	70
Average monthly number employed	68	70
Key management compensation		
The compensation paid or payable to key management (including directors) for employee services is	shown below:	
	2019	2018
	£'000's	£000's
Wages and salaries	999	1,062
Social security costs	152	180
Pension costs (note 22)  - Defined contribution	53	135
Severance expense	53 -	121
Share based payments costs (note 21)	109	110
Miscellaneous, non-share based incentives and other costs	67	108
Key management compensation	1,380	1,716

In addition to the above, an amount of £184,000 (2018: £324,000) was recharged to another group company in respect of key management compensation, giving rise to a total compensation for the year of £1,196,000 (2018: £1,392,000).

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 10 Directors' emoluments

The directors are remunerated by the Company in respect of their services to the Company.

	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Aggregate emoluments, including benefits in kind Defined contribution scheme - company contributions Severance expense Share option expense	766 40 - 109	858 124 121 108
	915	1,211
Highest paid director		
	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Aggregate emoluments, including benefits in kind Defined contribution scheme - company contributions Share option expense	407 18 89	408 18 99
	514	525

Retirement benefits are accruing to 2 directors under a defined contribution scheme (2018: 3)

In addition to the above, an amount of £184,000 (2018: £324,000) was recharged to another group company in respect of directors' emoluments, giving rise to a total compensation for the year of £731,000 (2018: £887,000). Emoluments for some directors were borne by other group companies in both 2019 and 2018.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 11 Tax on profit

	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Current taxation		
UK corporation taxation Foreign taxation - withholding tax	382 9	433 2
	391	435
Adjustments in respect of prior years - UK corporation taxation	(54)	(29)
Total current taxation	337	406
Deferred taxation		<del></del>
Origination & reversal of timing differences Adjustments in respect of prior years	30 5	19 (2)
Total deferred taxation	35	17
Tax on profit	372	423

#### Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is lower (2018: lower) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.00% (2018: 19.00%). The difference is explained below:

	2019	2018
	£000's	s'0003
Profit before taxation	2,720	2,886
Profit before taxation at the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.00% (2018: 19.00%)	517	548
Effects of:		
Expenses not deductible for taxation purposes	32	43
Group relief for nil consideration	(132)	(101)
Foreign taxation	9	2
Adjustments in respect of prior years	(50)	(29)
Unrecognised deferred tax	•	(38)
Effect of change in tax rate	(4)	(2)
Total tax for the year	372	423

A reduction in the rate of UK corporation tax from 19% to 17% from 1 April 2020 has been substantively enacted. However, this was subsequently reversed in March 2020.

At 31 December 2019 there were unused trading losses and non-trading deficits of £nil (2018: £nil) that are available indefinitely for offset against the Company's future taxable profits, and capital losses of £nil (2018: £nil) that are available for offset indefinitely against the Company's future capital gains.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## 12 Intangible assets

	Goodwill £000's
At 31 December 2018 Cost Accumulated amortisation	21,269 (21,269)
Net book value	-
Cost At 1 January 2019 Disposals At 31 December 2019	21,269 (21,269)
Accumulated amortisation At 1 January 2019 Disposals	(21,269) 21,269
At 31 December 2019	-
Net book value At 31 December 2019	•

During the year the Company disposed of fully amortised goodwill of £21,269,000. The goodwill arose following the group restructure in September 1997 and the transfer of business and assets from the Company's wholly owned subsidiary Creation Communications Design Limited in August 2000. Creation Communications Design Limited was since dissolved.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## 13 Tangible assets

	Long leasehold & leasehold improvements	Computer equipment	Equipment, fixtures & fittings	Asset retirement obligation	Plant & machinery	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
At 31 December 2018						
Cost	1,349	164	1,096	233	985	3,827
Accumulated depreciation	(1,260)	(100)	(878)	(207)	(945)	(3,390)
Net book value	89	64	218	26	40	437
Cost						
1 January 2019	1,349	164	1,096	233	985	3,827
Additions	· -	20	57	-	-	77
Disposals	(730)	(263)	(163)	-	-	(1,156)
Other adjustments*	-	647	338	(17)	(985)	(17)
31 December 2019	619	568	1,328	216	-	2,731
Accumulated depreciation						
1 January 2019	(1,260)	(100)	(878)	(207)	(945)	(3,390)
Charge for the year	(51)	(45)	(88)	(13)	` -	(197)
Disposals	730	263	163	-	-	1,156
Other adjustments*	(1)	(550)	(396)	16	945	14
31 December 2019	(582)	(432)	(1,199)	(204)	**	(2,417)
Net book value						
31 December 2019	37	136	129	12	-	314
Net book value						
31 December 2018	89	64	218	26	40	437

<sup>\*</sup> This represents an adjustment to bring cost and accumulated depreciation in line with the underlying records.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## 14 Debtors

## Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

Trade debtors 7,138 Amounts owed by group undertakings 10,497 1 Other debtors 133 Other taxation - Prepayments and accrued income 4,540 Deferred taxation (see below) 281	2018 £000's 9,951 11,073 136 2,003 1,702 316
Trade debtors Amounts owed by group undertakings Other debtors Other taxation Prepayments and accrued income Peferred taxation (see below)  All amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.	9,951 1,073 136 2,003 1,702 316
Amounts owed by group undertakings  Other debtors Other taxation Prepayments and accrued income Deferred taxation (see below)  22,589  All amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.	1,073 136 2,003 1,702 316
Other debtors Other taxation Prepayments and accrued income Deferred taxation (see below)  22,589 All amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.	136 2,003 1,702 316
Other debtors Other taxation Prepayments and accrued income Deferred taxation (see below)  22,589 All amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.	2,003 1,702 316
Prepayments and accrued income Deferred taxation (see below)  22,589 2  All amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.	1,702 316
Deferred taxation (see below)  281  22,589  2  All amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.	316
All amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.	
All amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured and repayable on demand.	25,181
Deferred taxation	
2019	2018
£000's	£000's
Accelerated capital allowances 235	270
Other short term timing differences 46	46
Total deferred tax asset 281	316
The movement in the deferred taxation balance can be summarised as follows:	
The merenion in the detented taxation balance can be definitioned as follows.	
	£000's
At 1 January 2019	316
Charged to statement of comprehensive income	(35)
At 31 December 2019	281

The amount of the net reversal of deferred tax expected to occur in 2020 is £nil.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## 14 **Debtors** (continued)

## Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Other debtors Prepayments and accrued income	1 -	- 4
	1	4
15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2019	2018
	£000's	£000's
Bank loans and overdrafts Trade creditors	3,468 1,081	1,6 <b>42</b> 2,301
Amounts owed to group undertakings	415 1,043	494 1,069
Corporation Tax Other creditors including taxation and social security	1,043 1,932	790
Incentive compensation plans	30	38
Accruals and deferred income	13,309	10,321
	21,278	16,655

Amounts owed to group undertakings are unsecured, repayable on demand and do not accrue interest.

The Group participates in The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. pooling arrangement with Lloyds Banking Group plc. The overdraft interest rate is linked to bank base rate and bank borrowing is secured by an ultimate parent undertaking guarantee. The remaining creditors are unsecured.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## 16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Incentive compensation plans Deferred lease credits	28 34	27 34
	62	61

Deferred lease credits are in respect of property lease incentives received at the inception of the lease.

## 17 Provisions for liabilities

17 Provisions for liabilities	Asset retirement obligations £000's
At 1 January 2019 Charge to statement of comprehensive income	509 1
At 31 December 2019	510

The Company has a provision for liabilities for the estimated costs of decommissioning leasehold improvements at the end of the current lease in 2020.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

## 18 Called up share capital

	2019 Number (000's)	2018 Number (000's)	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Allotted and fully paid: A ordinary shares of £1.00 each	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
19 Capital and other commitments  There were no capital commitments at year ended 31 Decemb	er 2019 or 2018.		2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Operating lease commitment				
As at 31 December, the Company had the following total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases for each				
Payments due:				
- Not later than one year			168	326
- Later than one year and not later than five years			12	193
Total minimum lease commitments		_	180	519

#### Notes to the financial for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 20 Contingent liabilities

The Company is not party to any commitments or guarantees including composite cross guarantees between banks and fellow subsidiaries except for The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. pooling arrangements with Lloyds Banking Group plc. The interest rate is linked to a variable base rate and borrowings are secured by parent company guarantees.

#### Share based payments

#### Long term incentive plans

The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. issues stock and cash based incentive awards to employees under a plan established by The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc., along with other companies in the Interpublic group, participates in The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. long term incentive plans. Refer to The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. 2019 Form 10-K for further disclosures relating to their long term incentive plans.

Effect of share-based payment transactions on company's results and the financial	position	
	2019	2018
	£0003	£000's
Total expense recognised for equity-settled share based transactions	109	110
Total expense recognised for share based transactions	109	110
Closing liability/other reserves for equity-settled share based transactions	43	28

#### **Equity Settled Restricted Stock Units**

Awards to be settled in shares are granted to certain key employees and are subject to certain restrictions and vesting requirements, as determined by The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc.'s Compensation Committee. The vesting period is generally three years. The fair value of the restricted stock awards is based on The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc.'s share price on the date the award is granted. No monetary consideration is paid by a recipient for a stock-settled award and the fair value of the shares determined on the grant date is amortized over the vesting period.

The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. grants both time based and performance based restricted stock units to be settled in shares.

There were no equity settled restricted stock units awarded to Jack Morton Worldwide Limited's employees prior to 2007.

Performance-based awards have been granted subject to certain restrictions and vesting requirements as determined by The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc.'s Compensation Committee. Performance-based awards are a form of stock-based compensation in which the number shares ultimately received by the participant depends on the Company and/or individual performance against specific performance targets.

The awards generally vest over a three-year period subject to the participant's continuing employment as well as the achievement of certain performance objectives. The final number of units and therefore shares that could ultimately be received by a participant ranges from 0% to 300% of the target amount of units originally granted. Stock-based compensation expense is amortised for the estimated number of performance-based awards that are expected to vest over the vesting period using the fair value of the shares at the end of the period.

#### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 21 Share based payments (continued)

#### **Share Settled Performance Related Restricted Stock Units**

Movements in the number of awards outstanding and their related weighted average exercise prices are as follows:

	2019 No. of units	2019 Weighted average fair value (£)	2018 No. of units	2018 Weighted average fair value (£)
Outstanding as at 1 January Granted during the year Cancelled during the year Vested during the year Outstanding at 31 December	15,395	16.32	20,633	14.92
	3,092	17.28	2,995	17.16
	-	-	(1,546)	17.36
	(6,571)	17.28	(6,687)	17.32
	11,916	17.49	15,395	16.32

Compensation expense in connection with the restricted stock awards was £75,000 in 2019 (2018: expense £95,000). The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. is responsible for issuing the shares upon settlement of the awards and therefore holds the equity balance for the equity settled awards.

#### **Share Settled Time Based Restricted Stock Units**

Movements in the number of awards outstanding and their related weighted average exercise prices are as follows:

	2019 No. of units	2019 Weighted average fair value (£)	2018 No. of units	2018 Weighted average fair value (£)
Outstanding as at 1 January Granted during the year Outstanding at 31 December	2,995 3,091 6,086	16.32 17.28 17.49	2,995 2,995	17.16 16.32

Compensation expense in connection with the restricted stock awards was £34,000 in 2019 (2018: expense £15,000). The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. is responsible for issuing the shares upon settlement of the awards and therefore holds the equity balance for the equity settled awards.

#### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 (continued)

#### 22 Pensions

#### **Defined contributions scheme**

The Company participates in a number of defined contribution pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost represents contributions payable by the Company to the fund and amounted to £223,000 (2018: £284,000). At 31 December 2019, £nil remained unpaid and accrued (2018: £16,000).

#### 23 Events after the reporting period

Since 31 December 2019, COVID-19 has been declared as a pandemic. The Company has determined that, in line with Section 32 of FRS102, this is a non-adjusting event after the end of the reporting period. Accordingly, the financial position and results for the year ending 31 December 2019 have not been adjusted to reflect the impact of the pandemic. The duration and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic remains unclear at this time. It is not possible to reliably estimate the duration and severity of these consequences, as well as their impact on the financial position and results of the Company for future periods.

## 24 Company information

The Company is registered in England and Wales and its registered office is at 16-18 Acton Park Industrial Estate, The Vale, London, W3 7QE.

#### 25 Ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party

The immediate parent undertaking is IPG Holdings (UK) Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. Copies of its financial statements are available 3 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0BD.

The ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party is The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc., a company incorporated in the United States.

The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. is the parent undertaking of the largest group of undertakings to consolidate these financial statements at 31 December 2019, and the smallest group of undertakings to consolidate these financial statements at 31 December 2019 is IPG Holdings (UK) Limited.

The consolidated financial statements for The Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc. can be obtained from 909 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA.

The consolidated financial statements for IPG Holdings (UK) Limited can be obtained from 3 Grosvenor Gardens, London, United Kingdom, SW1W 0BD.