Registered number: 4250825

Wallis Retail Limited

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

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Company Information

Directors RL Burchill

R de Dombal

MJM Geraghty (resigned 19 November 2014)

GA Hague

M Gammon (appointed 1 December 2014)

S Wightman

Company secretary R Flaherty

Registered number 4250825

Registered office Colegrave House

70 Berners Street

London W1T 3NL

Independent auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Benson House 33 Wellington Street

Leeds LS1 4JP

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Strategic report for the year ended 30 August 2014

Introduction

The directors present their Annual report and the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended 30 August 2014.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Company is the operation of retail clothing stores under the Wallis brand name.

Business review

During the year, the Company was a wholly owned subsidiary of Taveta Investments Limited and a review of the group's businesses during the year, its future outlook and its position at 30 August 2014 is given on page 1 to the financial statements of that company.

Management of and reporting of Key performance indicators (KPIs)

The directors of Taveta Investments Limited manage the Company's risks and those of its fellow subsidiaries at a group level. Furthermore, they monitor the group's performance on a brand basis rather than at a statutory company level.

For these reasons the Company's directors do not believe that a discussion of the principal risks facing the Company or the KPIs used to analyse its performance is appropriate for an understanding of its development, performance or financial position.

The KPIs used by the group and the principal business risks it faces, are discussed on page 1 of Taveta Investments Limited's annual report which does not form part of this report.

Results for the year

The profit for the financial year, amounted to £11,112,000 (2013: loss of £1,139,000).

During the year, the Company incurred an exceptional charge of £3,911,000 (2013: £6,366,000). This related to the movement on a provision against the future leasing obligations of the Company's loss-making stores.

It should be noted that all comparative figures throughout these financial statements in respect of the year ended 31 August 2013 related to a 53-week period as opposed to the 52-week period for the year ended 30 August 2014.

This report was approved by the board on 21 May 2015 and signed on its behalf.

S Wightman Director

Directors' report for the year ended 30 August 2014

The directors present their Annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014.

Matters covered in the strategic report

The principal activities and the business review are both discussed in the strategic report on page 1.

Directors

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of approval of the financial statements were:

RL Burchill
R de Dombal
MJM Geraghty (resigned 19 November 2014)
GA Hague
S Wightman
M Gammon (appointed 1 December 2014)

Dividends

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend in respect of the year (2013: £nil) and hence the profit for the financial year of £11,112,000 (2013: loss of £1,139,000) has been transferred to (2013: deducted from) reserves.

Qualifying third party indemnity provisions

As permitted by the Articles of Association, the directors have the benefit of an indemnity which is a qualifying third party indemnity provision as defined by section 234 of the Companies Act 2006. The ultimate parent company (Taveta Investments Limited) also purchased and maintained throughout the financial year directors' and officers' liability insurance in respect of itself and its directors.

Employment policies

Staff are consulted on a regular basis so that their views can be taken into account in making decisions that are likely to affect their interests as employees. They are also made aware of the financial and economic factors that affect the performance of the Company via a number of communication channels including face-to-face briefings, an intranet site supplemented by e-mail announcements and a staff magazine.

The board recognises the importance of a highly motivated and well trained workforce. It encourages employees' involvement in the Group's performance through their participation in a variety of incentive bonus schemes linked to the achievement of operational or financial targets in the part of the business for which they work, and it invests in training programmes aimed at achieving the highest standards of personal development and customer service.

The Group is an equal opportunities employer, recruiting and promoting employees on the basis of suitability for the job and on no other grounds. Proper consideration is given to employment applications from disabled persons whose aptitude and skills can be utilised within the business and to their training and career progression. Wherever possible, this includes the retraining and retention of staff that become disabled during their employment.

Directors' report for the year ended 30 August 2014

Directors' responsibilities statement

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 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;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are directors at the time when this Directors' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors
 are unaware, and
- that director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

Independent auditors

The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, are deemed to be reappointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006 by virtue of an effective resolution passed by the members on the 29 August 2011.

This report was approved by the board on 21 May 2015 and signed on its behalf.

S Wightman Director

Independent auditors' report to the members of Wallis Retail Limited

Report on the financial statements

Our opinion

In our opinion the financial statements, defined below:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 30 August 2014 and of the 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.

This opinion is to be read in the context of what we say in the remainder of this report.

What we have audited

The financial statements, which are prepared by Wallis Retail Limited, comprise:

- the balance sheet as at 30 August 2014;
- the profit and loss account for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In applying the financial reporting framework, the directors have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

What an audit of financial statements involves

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) ("ISAs (UK & Ireland)"). An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of:

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed;
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report and Financial Statements to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion 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.

Independent auditors' report to the members of Wallis Retail Limited

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Adequacy of accounting records and information and explanations received

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Directors' remuneration

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Our responsibilities and those of the directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and ISAs (UK & Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Steve Denison (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Leeds

21 May 2015

Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 August 2014

	Note	2014 £000	2013 £000
Turnover	2	171,216	167,270
Cost of sales		(147,674)	(151,419)
Exceptional cost of sales	6	3,911	(6,366)
Total cost of sales		(143,763)	(157,785)
Gross profit		27,453	9,485
Administrative expenses		(11,345)	(9,087)
Operating profit	3	16,108	398
Interest payable and similar charges	5	(734)	(631)
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation		15,374	(233)
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities	7	(4,262)	(906)
Profit/(loss) for the financial year	17	11,112	(1,139)

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2014 or 2013 other than those included in the profit and loss account.

There are no material differences between the profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation and the profit/(loss) for the financial years stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The notes on pages 8 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Registered number: 4250825

Balance sheet as at 30 August 2014

	Note	£000	2014 £000	£000	2013 £000
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	8		25,843		29,535
Tangible assets	9		3,135		5,064
Investments	10		12,822		12,822
		•	41,800	-	47,421
Current assets					
Stocks	11	10,573		10,120	
Debtors	12	121,668		113,040	
Cash at bank and in hand		161		199	
	•	132,402	•	123,359	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(22,031)		(22,701)	
Net current assets	•		110,371		100,658
Total assets less current liabilities		•	152,171	-	148,079
Provisions for liabilities					
Other provisions	15		(12,484)		(19,504)
Net assets		-	139,687	- -	128,575
Capital and reserves		•		_	
Called up share capital	16		7		7
Share premium account	17		87,760		87,760
Profit and loss account	17	_	51,920	_	40,808
Total shareholders' funds	18	_	139,687	_	128,575

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 21 May 2015.

S Wightman Director

The notes on pages 8 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom. A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been consistently applied, are set out below.

The Company is itself a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Taveta Investments Limited, which prepared consolidated financial statements and is exempt from the requirement to prepare consolidated financial statements by virtue of section 400 of the Companies Act 2006. These financial statements therefore present information about the Company as an individual undertaking and not about its group.

1.2 Cash flow

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed by Financial Reporting Standard 1 (revised) from preparing a cash flow statement, as the Company's cash flows are included within the consolidated cash flow statement of Taveta Investments Limited.

1.3 Turnover

Turnover comprises the value of sales of all merchandise to third parties, including concession income, and excludes value added tax. Sales to franchisees and internet customers are recognised on despatch of the goods, and in the case of internet business includes charges levied on customers for postage and packaging.

Commissions and related income from the operation of the Company's store card business are recognised in the same period as the underlying sales transaction.

1.4 Goodwill

Goodwill is the difference between amounts paid on the acquisition of a business and the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities. It is amortised to the profit and loss account over its estimated economic life.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. 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 provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Retail fixtures and equipment - 3 to 10 years Fit out - 15 years

1.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are shown at cost less amounts impaired. Provision is made where, in the opinion of the directors, there has been an impairment in the carrying value of the investment.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Taxation

Corporation tax payable is provided on taxable profits at the rate prevailing during the year.

Deferred taxation is provided on all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date. Deferred tax assets are regarded as recoverable and therefore recognised only when, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying tax differences can be deducted. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

1.8 Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where incentives to sign the leases have been received. Such incentives are spread on a straight-line basis over the lease term, or if shorter, the period to the next open market rent review date.

Where the Company has leasehold stores that are loss-making, and projections indicate that their future cash flows will be insufficient to meet the related property costs, provision is made for the expected net cash outflows. These cash flows are discounted using a rate of return of 8% (2013: at a rate of 4%).

1.9 Pension costs

The Company's employees participate in two defined benefit schemes operated by the group to which the Company contributes in order to provide pension and other benefits expressed in terms of a percentage of pensionable salary. Although these pension schemes are defined benefit in nature the Company accounts for its contributions as though they were defined contribution schemes as the Company is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the schemes.

The above schemes are now closed and eligible employees are offered the opportunity to join the group's defined contribution scheme. For this scheme, the amounts charged to the profit and loss account are the contributions payable during the period.

1.10 Stock valuation

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value and represent goods for resale. Cost represents actual purchase price and includes the direct costs of warehousing and transportation to the stores. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

1.11 Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Profits and losses of overseas branches and subsidiaries which have currencies of operation other than sterling are translated into sterling at the average rates of exchange for the period. Monetary assets and liabilities recorded in foreign currencies are translated either at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date or the rates fixed by forward contracts. Exchange differences arising from the re-translation of the opening net assets of overseas subsidiaries are taken to reserves. Other exchange differences are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Provisions

In accordance with FRS 12, 'Provisions, Contingencies and Commitments,' the Company provides in full for liabilities when it has a legal or constructive obligation arising from a past event.

1.13 Debtors

Trade debtors are recognised and measured at their original invoiced amount less any provision for any uncollectible amounts. An estimate for doubtful debts is made when the collection of the full amount is no longer probable. Bad debts are written off to the profit and loss account when they are identified.

1.14 Finance costs

Costs associated with the issue of bank and other borrowings are deferred and are charged to the profit and loss account over the term of the respective loan at a constant rate to the loan's carrying value.

2. Turnover

The whole of the turnover is attributable to the company's principal activities.

A geographical analysis of turnover is as follows:

£000
· ·
8,151
407.070
167,270

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

3. Operating profit

The operating profit is stated after charging:

2014	2013
£000	£000
3,692	3,692
2,000	1,986
544	549
12,827	16,430
11,345	9,087
	£000 3,692 2,000 544 12,827

Agency costs represent fees paid to a fellow subsidiary of Taveta Investments Limited for the use of the trade name used by the Company.

Arcadia Group Limited, a fellow group undertaking, incurs distribution costs and administrative expenses (including auditors' remuneration) on behalf of the Company.

4. Staff costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	23,183 —————	24,986
	22.402	24.086
Other pension costs	493	476
Social security costs	1,320	1,434
Wages and salaries	21,370	23,076
	£000	£000
	2014	2013

The average monthly number of employees, including the directors, during the year was as follows:

	2014	2013
	No.	No.
Retailing activities	2,235	2,502

The average number of full-time equivalent employees was 904 (2013: 1,006).

During the year no employees had service contracts with the Company. These were held by Arcadia Group Limited and one of its subsidiaries. Employment costs are recharged to the Company in full.

None of the directors received any remuneration in respect of his or her services to the Company during the year (2013: £nil).

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

5. Interest payable and similar charges

	Discount unwind on the onerous lease provision	2014 £000 734	2013 £000 631
6.	Exceptional items		
		2014 £000	2013 £000
	Provision for onerous leases on loss-making stores (note 15)	3,911	(6,366)

In light of the difficult trading environment being experienced by the Company, the directors have reviewed those leasehold stores currently making a loss to assess whether their future operating cash flows are projected to meet their rental and other property cost obligations. Where appropriate, the projected shortfall between the operating cash flows and the property costs for the period of the lease or, if earlier, the date of disposal, has been provided for. The resultant provision has been discounted to net present value using a rate of return of 8% per annum.

The tax credit/(charge) arising on the exceptional items above is £868,000 (2013: £1,604,000).

7. Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities

	2014 £000	2013 £000
Analysis of tax charge in the year		
Current tax (see note below)		
UK corporation tax charge on profit/(loss) for the year	4,432	978
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	(167)	(129)
Adjustment in respect of previous periods	(19)	(7)
Effect of changes in tax rates	16	64
Total deferred tax (see note 14)	(170)	(72)
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	4,262	906

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

7. Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities (continued)

Factors affecting tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is higher than (2013 - higher than) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 22.2% (2013 - 23.6%). The differences are explained below:

	2014 £000	2013 £000
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before tax	15,374	(233)
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 22.2% (2013 - 23.6%)	3,413	(55)
Effects of:		
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	852	904
Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	167	129
Current tax charge for the year (see note above)	4,432	978

Factors that may affect future tax charges

As part of the changes within Finance Act 2013 the main rate of UK corporation tax reduces from 23% to 21% from 1 April 2014, and will reduce to 20% from 1 April 2015. Therefore within these financial statements, deferred tax assets and liabilities being realised or settled before 31 March 2015 have been measured at the 21% rate, and those realised or settled after 1 April 2015 at the 20% rate..

8. Intangible fixed assets

	Goodwill £000
Cost	
At 1 September 2013 and 30 August 2014	73,838
Accumulated amortisation	
At 1 September 2013	44,303
Charge for the year	3,692
At 30 August 2014	47,995
Net book value	
At 30 August 2014	25,843
At 31 August 2013	29,535

Goodwill is being amortised on a straight-line basis over 20 years, being the directors' estimate of the period during which the value of the underlying business is expected to exceed the value of the underlying assets.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Fit out, fixtures and equipment £000
Cost	
At 1 September 2013 Additions Disposals	19,050 71 (1,665)
At 30 August 2014	17,456
Accumulated depreciation	\ <u></u>
At 1 September 2013 Charge for the year Disposals	13,986 2,000 (1,665)
At 30 August 2014	14,321
Net book value	
At 30 August 2014	3,135
At 31 August 2013	5,064

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

10. Fixed asset investments

	Shares in group
	undertakings
	£000
Cost	
At 1 September 2013 and 30 August 2014	12,822
Net book value	
At 30 August 2014	12,822
At 31 August 2013	12,822

At 30 August 2014, the Company owned the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of the group undertakings listed below:

Company	Country of operation	registration	Activity
Wallis Retail (Ireland) Limited	Ireland	Ireland	Fashion retailing
Wallis Retail Properties Limited	United Kingdom	England	Property investment

^{*} denotes indirect subsidiary

In the opinion of the directors the aggregate value of the Company's investments in its group undertakings is not less than the amount at which they are stated.

11. Stocks

	2014	2013
	£000	£000
Goods for resale	10,573	10,120

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

12. Debtors

	2014	2013
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	4,708	4,468
Amounts owed by group undertakings	115,969	107,886
Other debtors	17	-
Prepayments and accrued income	403	285
Deferred tax asset (see note 14)	571	401
	121,668	113,040

The deferred tax asset above arises as a result of accelerated capital allowances and is measured on a non-discounted basis at the rates that are expected to apply when the timing differences reverse. There are no unprovided deferred tax assets or liabilities.

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

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

		2014 £000	2013 £000
	Trade creditors Taxation and social security Other creditors Accruals and deferred income	13,583 4,028 1,449 2,971	12,611 4,655 1,827 3,608
		22,031	22,701
14.	Deferred tax asset		
		2014 £000	2013 £000
	At 1 September 2013 Movements during year	401 170	329 72
	At 30 August 2014	571	401
	The deferred tax asset is made up as follows:		
		2014 £000	2013 £000
	Accelerated capital allowances	571	401

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

15. Other provisions

	leases £000
At 1 September 2013 Profit and loss account (note 6) Utilised during the year Discount unwind	19,504 (3,911) (3,843) 734
At 30 August 2014	12,484

Onorous

Onerous leases

The onerous lease provision relates to loss-making stores and is discounted at a rate of return of 8% per annum.

16. Called up share capital

	2014	2013
	£	£
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
4,958 (2013: 4,958) ordinary shares of £1 each 1,742 (2013: 1,742) cumulative participating preference shares of	4,958	4,958
£1 each	1,742	1,742
	6,700	6,700

The holders of the cumulative participating preference shares are entitled to an initial dividend at the annual rate of LIBOR plus 1.75 per cent and, in the event that the Company's profits for the year exceed £50,000,000, a further dividend of 0.01%. Dividends payable to the cumulative participating preference shareholders take priority over those payable on the ordinary shares. The preference shares also confer on their holders priority to a return of capital in the event of a winding up and rank pari passu with the ordinary shares with regards the right to attend and vote at general meetings.

Non-equity interests in the Company represent the paid up amount on the cumulative participating preference shares, together with any accrued dividends.

17. Reserves

•	Share	
	premium	Profit and
	account	loss account
	£000	£000
At 1 September 2013	87,760	40,808
Profit for the financial year	-	11,112
At 30 August 2014	87,760	51,920

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

18. Reconciliation of movement in shareholders' funds

	2014 £000	2013 £000
Opening shareholders' funds Profit/(loss) for the financial year	128,575 11,112	129,714 (1,139)
Closing shareholders' funds	139,687	128,575

19. Pension commitments

The Company's eligible employees participate in two defined benefit schemes operated by Arcadia Group Limited to which the Company contributes in order to provide pension and other benefits expressed in terms of a percentage of pensionable salary. These schemes are financed through separate trustee administered funds. Contributions to the schemes are based on actuarial advice following the most recent valuations of the funds.

Although these pension schemes are defined benefit in nature the Company accounts for its contributions as though they were defined contribution schemes as the Company is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the schemes.

During the year, the Company contributed £nil (2013: £nil) to the above schemes.

An actuarial valuation of the defined benefit schemes referred to above, and carried out as at 30 August 2014 for the purposes of FRS 17, identified that the present value of their liabilities exceeded the market value of the schemes' assets by £123,838,000 (2013: £156,758,000). The detailed disclosures required by FRS 17 are provided for the Group as a whole in the consolidated financial statements of the Company's ultimate parent undertaking, Taveta Investments Limited.

The defined benefit schemes above closed to future accrual during the prior year and eligible employees were offered the opportunity to join the Group's defined contribution scheme, to which the Company contributed £493,000 (2013: £476,000).

20. Contingent liabilities

The Company, along with certain other subsidiary undertakings, has provided cross guarantees in respect of its parent undertakings' bank borrowings. These borrowings are secured by way of a fixed charge over certain of the companies' freehold properties and by legal charge over their other assets and undertaking.

At the year end the amount outstanding under these guarantees totalled £7,100,000 (2013: £25,880,000). The directors do not expect a loss to arise as a result of providing these guarantees.

21. Related party transactions

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 8 from disclosing related party transactions with entities that are part of the Taveta Investments Limited group or investees of Taveta Investments Limited.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2014

22. Ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party

The Company's ultimate parent company is Taveta Investments Limited ('Taveta'), a company incorporated in England. The largest group to consolidate these financial statements is Taveta Investments Limited. The smallest group is Arcadia Group Limited. Copies of both Arcadia Group Limited and Taveta consolidated financial statements can be obtained by writing to the Secretary at Colegrave House, 70 Berners Street, London, W1T 3NL.

The Company's ultimate controlling party is Lady Cristina Green and her immediate family.