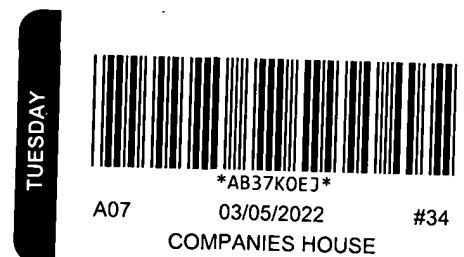


Company registration number: 04452715



Alliance Boots Holdings Limited
Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2021

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Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Strategic report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

Principal activities

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited (the "Company") is an investment holding company within the Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. consolidated group ("Group").

Business review and key performance indicators (KPI)

The key performance indicators for the Company are provided in the table below:

	2021	2020
	£million	£million
Operating profit/(loss)	2,684	(399)
Profit for the year	3,387	28
Shareholders' equity	11,497	8,895

During the year, an impairment loss in relation to loans to Group undertakings of £11 million (2020: £62 million) was recognised.

During the year, an impairment loss of £120 million (2020: £399 million) was recognised in relation to investments in subsidiaries. See note 12 for further information.

During the year, the Company received a return of capital from WBA Acquisitions UK Holdco 5 Limited of £224 million and WBA Holdings 1 Limited of £127 million.

The Company acquired investments in seven Group undertakings and disposed of six holdings. See note 12 for further information.

In December 2019, an outbreak of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) emerged globally and became more widespread in 2020, including a major outbreak in the United Kingdom. While the Company did not suffer significant disruptions, COVID-19 has created significant public health concerns as well as significant volatility, uncertainty and economic disruption. Policies and initiatives have been designed to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 have resulted in, among other things, temporary closure of Company facilities and the adoption of work-from-home policies. While the Company has not suffered significant disruptions from COVID-19, the Company has put plans in place at our facilities to maintain continuity of our operations, while also taking steps to keep our team members healthy and safe. See Principal Risks and Uncertainties below.

The Directors and their duties under Section 172 of the Companies Act

The Company has a board of Directors comprised of three directors as stated within the Directors' report.

The Directors believe that a commitment to strong corporate governance standards is an essential element of enhancing long-term shareholder value in a sustainable manner. Being a part of the Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. Group, the Company adheres to the Corporate Governance Guidelines (the "guidelines") that have been adopted by Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. to assist the Board in the exercise of its responsibilities on behalf of the Company and its shareholders. The guidelines are intended to provide guidance as a component of the flexible framework within which the Directors oversee and direct affairs of the Company. The Board also complies with the Code of Conduct and Business Ethics, issued by the Group which are applicable to all employees, officers and Directors of the Company. A copy of the Corporate Governance Guidelines can be found at <https://investor.walgreensbootsalliance.com/corporate-governance.cfm>.

In addition, the Company adheres to the robust framework of delegated authorities and internal policies adopted by the Group, which support the Group's corporate governance arrangements across the organisation.

Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 requires a director of a company to act in the way he or she considers, in good faith, would most likely promote the long term success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole and in doing so have regard (amongst other matters) to

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term;
- the interests of the company's employees;
- the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment;
- the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- the need to act fairly as between members of the company.

As a part of their induction, the Directors of the Company are briefed on their duties including those under section 172(1) and they can access professional advice on these either from the Company Secretary or, if they judge necessary, from independent advisors for effective discharge of their duties.

When making any decisions, during the year ended 31 August 2021, the Directors considered, both individually and together, the matters set out in section 172(1)(a-f) and have acted in a way they consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its members, as a whole. Below are some of the ways in which the Directors have engaged with various stakeholders and fulfilled their duty under this section.

Employees: The Directors pursue a policy to promote diversity and inclusion among employees. The Company either directly or through its affiliate companies, has various formal and informal processes to actively engage with its employees. These may include employee performance reviews/appraisals, communications through email, intranet, bulletin boards and town hall meetings. The Directors use these processes and engagements to understand employees' views and take these into account while making decisions. By way of example, employee engagement surveys are undertaken covering the majority of the workforce, with the results reported to the Board. Survey results are cascaded throughout the organisation, actions are identified through collaboration with the wider employee teams and resulting actions are communicated to colleagues.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Strategic report (continued) for the year ended 31 August 2021

The Directors and their duties under Section 172 of the Companies Act (continued)

Customers, Suppliers and other stakeholders: The Directors strongly believe in operating in a transparent way, in the marketplace, and treating its customers, suppliers and other stakeholders both equitably and fairly. The Company whether directly or through its affiliate companies, engages with these stakeholders through multiple channels. These would typically include face-to-face interactions, social media interaction, surveys, meeting, and corporate website. These engagements provide the Directors with a broad and diverse understanding of issues most relevant to these stakeholders and allows them to take into account the interest of these stakeholders while performing their duty under section 172(1).

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Company's Directors monitor the overall risk profile of the Company. In addition, the Directors are responsible for determining clear policies as to what the Company considers to be acceptable levels of risk. These policies seek to enable people throughout the Company to use their expertise to identify risks that could undermine performance and to devise ways of bringing them to within acceptable levels. Where the Directors identify risks that are not acceptable, they develop action plans to mitigate them with clear allocation of responsibilities and timescales for completion and ensure that progress towards implementing these plans is monitored and reported upon. There are no additional business risks for the Company necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business other than those mentioned below.

COVID-19

Risk

The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant volatility, uncertainty and economic disruption. These factors may have an adverse impact on the future business operations and financial position of the Company.

Mitigation

The Company has assessed and will continue to assess the impact of any governmental actions on the Company. The Company has taken measures to keep facilities open as well as providing the option for working from home in order to safeguard team members health and safety.

Sustainability

The Company is part of the Walgreens Boots Alliance Group that leverages its experience and global outreach to care for people and the planet in numerous social responsibility and sustainability initiatives that have an impact on the health and wellbeing of millions of people. For further details, please refer to the Group's Corporate Social Responsibility report published on the Group website <https://www.walgreensbootsalliance.com/>.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



C Jennings
Director

13 December 2021

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Directors' report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

The Directors present their annual report on the affairs of Alliance Boots Holdings Limited ("the Company"), together with the audited financial statements and auditor's report, for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. In adopting the going concern, the Company has considered business activities, principal risks and uncertainties as set out within the Strategic Report, and the impact of COVID-19.

The Company has net current assets of £5,151 million and therefore the Directors have assessed that there is no material uncertainty surrounding the going concern of the entity. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

On the basis of their assessment of the Company's financial position, the Company's Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company will be able to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in note 3 to the financial statements.

Financial Instruments and financial risk management

The Company is exposed to a variety of financial risks, which includes the effects of changes in market prices (interest rates and foreign exchange rates), credit risk, and liquidity risk. Being part of the larger Walgreens Boots Alliance Group, the Directors of the Company monitor these risks, in conjunction with the Group Treasury function, and necessary action is taken either at the Company level or at a Group level to manage these risks, in line with the Group Treasury policy. Below is a summary of the various risk management policies that have been adopted by the Group and its subsidiaries.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counter party may default on its contractual obligations, resulting in financial loss. In the Company, credit risk arises from multiple sources including cash balances and deposits held with financial institutions, derivative financial instruments and credit exposures to customers including outstanding receivables or committed transactions. The Group has issued specific policies to mitigate credit risk which have been adopted by the Company. These require the Company to assess the creditworthiness of potential customers prior to extending their credit terms, deal only with Group approved Financial Institutions and restrict the balances held with each financial institution at an agreed limit.

Liquidity risk

The Company needs to maintain adequate liquidity to carry out its business. The Group's approach to managing liquidity in the short term is to minimize risk and maintain liquidity and in the long term is to maintain a strong balance sheet and financial flexibility. In order to meet these objectives, liquidity is monitored both at the Company level and at a Group level. Based on the review of cash generated via operations, cash flow forecast and long term cash requirements, the Company, may take on incurrence of both long term and short term debt to meet its short term and long term liquidity objectives either from approved financial institutions or from other Group subsidiaries.

Interest rate risk

The Company may face interest rate volatility, with regard to existing variable-rate debt instruments and future incurrences of fixed or variable-rate debt, which exposure primarily relates to movements in various interest rates, such as LIBOR and commercial paper rates. In order to mitigate the risk of adverse interest rate movements, the Company or other Group subsidiaries, may, either individually or collectively, enter into interest rate swaps or forward-starting interest rate swaps to hedge these exposures.

Foreign currency exchange rate risk

The Company may be exposed to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. These primarily arise from cash flows related to foreign denominated transactions, investment in foreign subsidiaries, translation of foreign currency earnings to functional currency and debt extended or incurred in a non-functional currency. To manage these, the Company or other Group subsidiaries, on its behalf, may enter into foreign currency forward contracts to hedge against the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on non-functional currency cash flows. In addition, the Company or other Group subsidiaries, on its behalf, may also enter into foreign currency forward contracts that are not designated in hedging relationships to offset, in part, the impacts of certain intercompany activities (primarily associated with intercompany financing transactions).

Dividends

An interim dividend of £967 million (2020: £nil million) was declared and paid in the year. Further details can be found in note 11 of the financial statements.

Future developments

The Company intends to continue operating as a holding company within the Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. consolidated group ("Group").

Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events since the balance sheet date which should be considered for a proper understanding of these financial statements.

Directors

The following served as Directors during the year and to the date of this report:

A Clare	
F Standish	
C Jennings	(appointed on 22 December 2020)
M Muller	(resigned on 22 December 2020)

The Directors benefited from qualifying third party indemnity provisions in place during the financial year and at the date of this report.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Directors' report (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

Engagement with employees and employment of disabled people

Diversity and inclusion are key aspects of the Company's strong value system and culture. The Company never makes any employment-related decisions based upon a person's race, colour, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, former military status, marital status or any other basis protected by law.

The Company, either directly or through its associated companies, aims to ensure that all employees are informed about, and engaged with, their part of the business, augmented by a deeper understanding of the Company's financial and economic factors affecting the performance of the company and providing them with information of matters of concern to them as employees. Some of the approaches used to fulfil these would include performance reviews/appraisals, communications through email, intranet, bulletin boards, providing access to the Company's annual report and press releases, and town hall meetings with senior management. These processes aim to ensure that the Company and its Directors take into account the views of the employees in the decision making process on a regular basis.

It is the Company's policy to give full and fair consideration for employing disabled persons wherever suitable opportunities exist. Employees who have become disabled are given every opportunity and assistance to continue in their employment or to be trained for suitable positions. It is the policy of the Company that the training, career development, and promotion of disabled persons should be identical to that of other employees.

Details of how the directors have had regard to employee interests can be found in the section 172 (1) statement on page 1.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others

The Company aims to operate fairly, transparently and with integrity in the marketplace. The Company along with its associate companies, engages with its customers, suppliers and other key stakeholders through multiple channels. These may include face to face interactions, social media interactions, conferences, corporate / business websites and surveys. This provides a broad and diverse understanding of evolving priorities of various stakeholders and helps the Company and its Directors to consider these views in their decision making.

Independent Auditor

Pursuant to s487 Companies Act 2006, Deloitte LLP were deemed to be reappointed and will therefore continue in office.

Disclosure of information to the auditor

The Directors who held office at the date of approval of this Directors' report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware; and each Director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act of 2006.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



C Jennings
Director

12 December 2021

Registered office:
Sedley Place
4th Floor
361 Oxford Street
London
W1C 2JL

Registered in England and Wales No. 04452715

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Directors' responsibilities statement

for the year ended 31 August 2021

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic report, 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 elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework".

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; 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 Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Independent auditor's report

to the members of Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of Alliance Boots Holdings Limited (the 'Company'):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework"; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- the income statement;
- the balance sheet;
- the statement of changes in equity; and
- the related notes 1 to 24.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (the 'FRC's') Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditors responsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent auditor's report (continued)

to the members of Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

We considered the nature of the company's industry and its control environment, and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management and the in-house legal counsel about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the company operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included UK Companies Act, pensions legislation, tax legislation; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

We discussed among the audit engagement team regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management and the in-house legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Strategic report and the Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic report and the Directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Strategic report or the Directors' report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

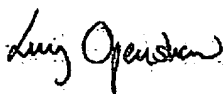
Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report in respect of the following matters if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



L Openshaw FCA (Senior statutory auditor)
For and on behalf of Deloitte LLP
Statutory Auditor
London, United Kingdom

13 December 2021

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Income statement

for the year ended 31 August 2021

		2021	2020
	Notes	£million	£million
Operating Income/(expense)		2,684	(399)
Operating profit/(loss)	5	2,684	(399)
Income from shares in Group undertakings		614	383
Finance income	8	201	237
Finance costs	9	(84)	(172)
Profit before taxation		3,415	49
Tax	10	(28)	(21)
Profit for the year		3,387	28

Operating profit is all derived from continuing operations.

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the Company's financial statements.

The Company has no comprehensive income and has, therefore, not included a separate statement of comprehensive income.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

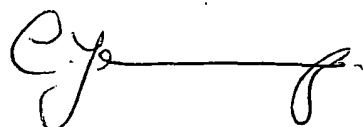
Balance sheet

As at 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £million	2020 £million
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Investments in subsidiaries	12	3,693	4,803
Interests in associates	13	5	7
Other investments	14	2,648	5,037
		6,346	9,847
Current assets			
Other investments	14	6,512	134
Derivative financial instruments	15	1	—
Current tax assets		—	18
Trade and other receivables	16	144	1,212
Cash and bank balances		3	4
		6,660	1,368
Total assets		13,006	11,215
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Derivative financial instruments	15	—	(2)
Current tax liabilities	17	(9)	—
Trade and other payables	17	(192)	(323)
Borrowings	18	(1,308)	(241)
		(1,509)	(566)
Net current assets		5,151	802
Total assets less current liabilities		11,497	10,649
Non-current liabilities			
Derivative financial instruments	15	—	(43)
Borrowings	18	—	(1,711)
		—	(1,754)
Net assets		11,497	8,895
Equity			
Share capital	19	362	362
Share premium account	20	194	194
Capital redemption reserve	21	211	29
Retained earnings	21	10,730	8,310
Total Equity		11,497	8,895

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the Company's financial statements.

The financial statements of Alliance Boots Holdings Limited (registered number: 04452715) were approved by the Board of directors and authorised for issue on 15 December 2021. They were signed on its behalf by:



C Jennings
Director

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Share capital £million	Share premium account £million	Capital redemption reserve £million	Retained Earnings £million	Total £million
At 1 September 2019	362	194	29	8,282	8,867
Profit for the year	—	—	—	28	28
At 31 August 2020	362	194	29	8,310	8,895
Profit for the year	—	—	—	3,387	3,387
Capital contribution	—	—	182	—	182
Dividends paid	—	—	—	(967)	(967)
At 31 August 2021	362	194	211	10,730	11,497

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the Company's financial statements.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021

1. General information

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited is a private Company limited by shares incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 and is registered in England and Wales.

The address of the registered office is given on page 4.

The nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Strategic report on page 1.

These financial statements are presented in pounds sterling because that is the Company's functional currency and the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Company operates. All amounts in the financial statements and notes have been rounded off to the nearest million British pounds sterling, unless otherwise stated.

These financial statements are separate financial statements. The Company is exempt from the preparation of consolidated financial statements under s401 of the Companies Act 2006, because it is included in the group accounts of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. The group accounts of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. are available from the Walgreens Boots Alliance website at www.walgreensbootsalliance.com. The principal office of the parent company preparing consolidated accounts is 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, Illinois, 60015, United States of America and the registered office is Corporation Service Company, 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, New Castle County, DE, 19808-1674, United States.

2. Adoption of new and revised standards

Impact of initial application of other amendments to IFRS Standards and Interpretations

In the current year, the Company has applied a number of amendments to IFRS Standards and Interpretations issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) that are effective for an annual period that begins on or after 1 January 2020. Their adoption has not had any material impact on the disclosures or on the amounts reported in these financial statements.

Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards	The Company has adopted the amendments included in <i>Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards</i> for the first time in the current year. The amendments include consequential amendments to affected Standards so that they refer to the new Framework. Not all amendments, however, update those pronouncements with regard to references to and quotes from the Framework so that they refer to the revised Conceptual Framework. Some pronouncements are only updated to indicate which version of the Framework they are referencing to (the IASC Framework adopted by the IASB in 2001, the IASB Framework of 2010, or the new revised Framework of 2018) or to indicate that definitions in the Standard have not been updated with the new definitions developed in the revised Conceptual Framework. The standard which are amended are IFRS 2, IFRS 3, IFRS 6, IFRS 14, IAS 1, IAS 8, IAS 34, IAS 37, IAS 38, IFRIC 12, IFRIC 19, IFRIC 20, IFRIC 22, and SIC-32.
Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8 <i>Definition of material</i>	The Company has adopted the amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8 for the first time in the current year. The amendments make the definition of material in IAS 1 easier to understand and are not intended to alter the underlying concept of materiality in IFRS Standards. The concept of 'obscuring' material information with immaterial information has been included as part of the new definition. The threshold for materiality influencing users has been changed from 'could influence' to 'could reasonably be expected to influence'.

3. Significant accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The Company meets the definition of a qualifying entity under FRS 100 'Application of Financial Reporting Requirements' issued by the FRC. Accordingly, these financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework ("FRS 101").

The Company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions under FRS 101:

- (a) the requirements of IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*;
- (b) the requirements of paragraphs 91-99 of IFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement*;
- (c) the requirement in paragraph 38 of IAS 1 '*Presentation of Financial Statements*' to present comparative information in respect of:
 - (i) paragraph 79(a)(iv) of IAS 1;
- (d) the requirements of paragraphs 10(d), 10(f), 16, 38A, 38B, 38C, 38D, 40A, 40B, 40C, 40D, 111 and 134-136 of IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*;
- (e) the requirements of IAS 7 *Statement of Cash Flows*;
- (f) the requirements of paragraphs 30 and 31 of IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*;
- (g) the requirements of paragraph 17 of IAS 24 *Related Party Disclosures*; and
- (h) the requirements in IAS 24 *Related Party Disclosures* to disclose related party transactions entered into between two or more members of a group, provided that any subsidiary which is a party to the transaction is wholly owned by such a member.

Where relevant, equivalent disclosures have been given in the group accounts of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

3. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of accounting (continued)

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique. In estimating the fair value of an asset or a liability, the Company takes into account the characteristics of the asset or liability if market participants would take those characteristics into account when pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. Fair value for measurement purposes in these financial statements is determined on such a basis, except for share-based payment transactions that are within the scope of IFRS 2, leasing transactions that are within the scope of IAS 16, and measurements that have some similarities to fair value but are not fair value, such as net realisable value in IAS 2 or value in use in IAS 36.

The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting.

The Company's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and position, are set out in its strategic report.

The Company has net current assets of £5,151 million and therefore the Directors have assessed that there is no material uncertainty surrounding the going concern of the entity. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Investments in subsidiaries

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less, where appropriate, provisions for impairment.

Investments in associates

An associate is an entity over which the Company has significant influence and that is neither a subsidiary nor an interest in a joint venture. Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee but is not control or joint control over those policies. Investments in associates are accounted for at cost less, where appropriate, provisions for impairment.

Impairment of Investments

At each balance sheet date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its investments to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where the asset does not generate cash flows that are independent from other assets, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable net of sales-related taxes.

Dividend and interest revenue

Dividend income from investments is recognised when the shareholders' rights to receive payment have been established.

Finance income is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the effective interest rate applicable, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to that asset's net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Foreign currencies

Currency transactions

Transactions denominated in currencies other than an entity's functional currency are translated into an entity's functional currency at the exchange rates prevailing at the date of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than an entity's functional currency at the year-end are translated at the exchange rate ruling at that date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured at historical cost and are denominated in currencies other than an entity's functional currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value and are denominated in currencies other than an entity's functional currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined. Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the income statement.

Operating profit

Operating profit is stated after charging restructuring costs but before investment income and finance costs.

Taxation

The tax charge represents the sum of the current tax and deferred tax.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

3. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Taxation (continued)

Current tax

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

Current tax and deferred tax for the year

Current and deferred tax are recognised in profit or loss, except when they relate to items that are recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, in which case, the current and deferred tax are also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

Cash and bank balances

Cash and bank balances comprises cash in hand and short term deposits with maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the Company's balance sheet when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value except for trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Company has applied the practical expedient and which are measured at the transaction price determined under IFRS 15. Transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of financial assets and financial liabilities (other than financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss) are added to or deducted from the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities, as appropriate, on initial recognition. Transaction costs directly attributable to the acquisition of financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are recognised immediately in profit or loss.

Financial assets

All financial assets are recognised and derecognised on a trade date where the purchase or sale of a financial asset is under a contract whose terms require delivery of the financial asset within the timeframe established by the market concerned, and are initially measured at fair value, plus transaction costs, except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value.

Financial assets are classified into the following specified categories: 'amortised cost', 'fair value through other comprehensive income - debt investment' (FVOCI - debt investment), 'fair value through other comprehensive income - equity investment' (FVOCI - equity investment) and 'fair value through profit and loss' (FVPL). The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Effective interest method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts (including all fees and points paid or received that form an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life of the debt instrument, or, where appropriate, a shorter period, to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Income is recognised on an effective interest basis for debt instruments.

Amortised cost

A financial asset is measured at amortised cost if it meets both of the following conditions:

- it is held within a business model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
- its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

These assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income, foreign exchange gains and losses and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Fair Value OCI - debt investments

A debt investment is measured at FVOCI if it meets both of the following conditions:

- it is held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets; and
- its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Interest income is calculated using the effective interest method, foreign exchange gains and losses and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Other net gains and losses are recognised in OCI. On derecognition, gains and losses accumulated in OCI are reclassified to profit or loss.

Fair value through OCI - equity investment

Dividends are recognised as income in profit or loss unless the dividend clearly represents a recovery or part of the cost of the investment. Other net gains and losses are recognised in OCI and are never reclassified to profit or loss.

On initial recognition of an equity investment that is not held for trading, the Company may irrevocably elect to present subsequent changes in the investment's fair value in OCI. This election is made on an investment-by-investment basis.

Fair value through profit or loss

All financial assets which are not classified as amortised cost or fair value through OCI as described above are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Net gains and losses, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in profit or loss.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

3. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

Impairment of financial assets

The Company recognises loss allowances for expected credit losses (ECLs) on financial assets measured at amortised cost, debt investments measured at FVOCI and contract assets (as defined in IFRS 15).

The Company measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime ECL, except for other debt securities and bank balances for which credit risk (i.e. the risk of default occurring over the expected life of the financial instrument) has not increased significantly since initial recognition which are measured as 12-month ECL.

Loss allowances for trade receivables and contract assets are always measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECL.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating ECL, the Company considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis, based on the Company's historical experience and informed credit assessment and including forward-looking information.

Measurement of ECLs

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all cash shortfalls (i.e. the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract and the cash flows that the Company expects to receive). ECLs are discounted at the effective interest rate of the financial asset.

Credit-impaired financial assets

At each reporting date, the Company assesses whether financial assets carried at amortised cost and debt securities at FVOCI are credit-impaired. A financial asset is 'credit-impaired' when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset have occurred.

Write-offs

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is written off (either partially or in full) to the extent that there is no realistic prospect of recovery.

Derecognition of financial assets

The Company derecognises a financial asset only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset to another entity. If the Company neither transfers nor retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership and continues to control the transferred asset, the Company recognises its retained interest in the asset and an associated liability for amounts it may have to pay. If the Company retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of a transferred financial asset, the Company continues to recognise the financial asset and also recognises a collateralised borrowing for the proceeds received.

On derecognition of a financial asset measured at amortised cost, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable is recognised in profit or loss. In addition, on derecognition of an investment in equity instrument which the Company has elected on initial recognition to measure at FVOCI, the cumulative gain or loss previously accumulated in the investments revaluation reserve is not reclassified to profit or loss, but is transferred to the profit and loss reserve.

On derecognition of a financial asset other than in its entirety (e.g. when the Company retains an option to repurchase part of a transferred asset), the Company allocates the previous carrying amount of the financial asset between the part it continues to recognise under continuing involvement, and the part it no longer recognises on the basis of the relative fair values of those parts on the date of the transfer. The difference between the carrying amount allocated to the part that is no longer recognised and the sum of the consideration received for the part no longer recognised and any cumulative gain or loss allocated to it that had been recognised in other comprehensive income is recognised in profit or loss. A cumulative gain or loss that had been recognised in other comprehensive income is allocated between the part that continues to be recognised and the part that is no longer recognised on the basis of the relative fair values of those parts.

Financial liabilities and equity

Debt and equity instruments are classified as either financial liabilities or as equity in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangement and the definitions of a financial liability and an equity instrument.

Equity instruments

An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all of its liabilities. Equity instruments issued by the Company are recognised at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs.

Repurchase of the Company's own equity instruments is recognised and deducted directly in equity. No gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of the Company's own equity instruments.

Financial liabilities

All financial liabilities, including borrowings, are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method or at FVPL.

Financial liabilities at FVPL

Financial liabilities are classified as at FVPL when the financial liability is (i) held for trading or (ii) it is designated as at FVPL. A financial liability is classified as held for trading if:

- it has been acquired principally for the purpose of repurchasing it in the near term; or
- on initial recognition it is part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that the Company manages together and has a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking; or
- it is a derivative, except for a derivative that is a financial guarantee contract or a designated and effective hedging instrument.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

3. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

Financial liabilities at FVPL (continued)

A financial liability other than a financial liability held for trading may be designated as at FVPL upon initial recognition if:

- such designation eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise; or
- the financial liability forms part of a group of financial assets or financial liabilities or both, which is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with the Company's documented risk management or investment strategy, and information about the grouping is provided internally on that basis; or
- it forms part of a contract containing one or more embedded derivatives, and IFRS 9 permits the entire combined contract to be designated as at FVPL.

Financial liabilities measured subsequently at amortised cost

Financial liabilities that are not (i) held-for-trading, or (ii) designated as at FVPL are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period, to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

The Company derecognises financial liabilities when, and only when, the Company's obligations are discharged, cancelled or they expire. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognised and the consideration paid and payable is recognised in profit or loss.

Derivative financial instruments

The Company enters into a variety of derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to interest rate and foreign exchange rate risk, including foreign exchange forward contracts, interest rate swaps and cross currency swaps. Further details of derivative financial instruments are disclosed in note 22.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each balance sheet date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in profit or loss depends on the nature of the hedge relationship. The Company designates certain derivatives as either hedges of the fair value of recognised assets or liabilities or firm commitments (fair value hedges), hedges of highly probable forecast transactions or hedges of foreign currency risk of firm commitments (cash flow hedges).

A derivative with a positive fair value is recognised as a financial asset whereas a derivative with a negative fair value is recognised as a financial liability. A derivative is presented as a current asset due after one year or a creditor due after more than one year if the remaining maturity of the instrument is more than 12 months and it is not expected to be realised or settled within 12 months. Other derivatives are presented as current assets or current liabilities.

Provisions

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

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the balance sheet date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows (when the effect of the time value of money is material).

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, a receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

4. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, which are described in note 3, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

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

During the year, the Directors have concluded that there were no critical accounting judgements.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date, which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, are discussed below.

Fair value measurements and valuation processes

Some of the Company's assets and liabilities are measured at fair value for financial reporting purposes. In estimating the fair value of an asset or a liability, the Company uses market-observable data to the extent it is available. Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the Company engages third party qualified valuers to perform the valuation. The Company works closely with the qualified external valuers to establish the appropriate valuation techniques and inputs to the model.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

4. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

Impairment of investments in Group Undertakings

Determining whether the Company's investments in subsidiaries have been impaired requires estimations of the investments' values in use. The value in use calculations require the entity to estimate the future cash flows expected to arise from the investments and suitable discount rates in order to calculate present values. The carrying amount of investments in subsidiaries at the balance sheet date was £3,693 million (2020: £4,803 million) with impairment loss of £120 million recognised in 2021 (2020: £399 million)

The Directors consider the methodologies and assumptions adopted in the impairment of calculation of investments are supportable, reasonable and robust. Due to the number of investments and inherent uncertainty of valuation, the investment value recorded by the Company can significantly vary from the values that would have been used had a ready market for the investment existed and the differences could be significant.

5. Operating (profit)/loss for the year

Profit for the year has been arrived at after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£million	£million
Gain on disposal of investments in subsidiaries	(2,804)	—
Impairment of investments in subsidiaries	120	399
	(2,684)	399

6. Auditor's remuneration

The 2021 fee for the audit of these financial statements was borne by a fellow Group undertaking. The amount allocated that would have been incurred for 2021 is £12,806 (2020: £13,000).

No non-audit services were provided to the Company by its auditor in the current or preceding year.

7. Staff numbers and costs

There were no employees during the current or preceding year. No emoluments are payable to the Directors for their services to the Company in the current or preceding year. Directors emoluments are paid by a fellow Group undertaking.

8. Finance income

	Notes	2021	2020
		£million	£million
Interest receivable from Group undertakings		192	201
Fair value gains on derivative financial instruments	22	9	36
Total interest receivable		201	237
		201	237

9. Finance costs

	2021	2020
	£million	£million
Interest payable to Group undertakings	58	73
Other finance costs	8	37
Impairment of loans to Group undertakings	11	62
Fair value losses on loan to Group undertakings	7	—
	84	172

During the year, an impairment loss in relation to loans to Group undertakings of £11 million (2020: £62 million) was recognised. This is split by Current assets £2 million (2020: £60 million) and Non-Current assets £9 million (2020: £5 million).

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

10. Tax

An analysis of the tax charge for the year is presented as follows:

	2021 £million	2020 £million
Corporation tax:		
UK corporation tax	(25)	(17)
Adjustments in respect of prior periods		
- UK corporation tax	(3)	(4)
	(28)	(21)

Corporation tax is calculated at 19% (2020: 19%) of the estimated taxable profit for the year.

The tax charge for the year can be reconciled to the profit in the income statement as follows:

	2021 £million	2020 £million
Profit before tax	3,415	49
Tax at the UK corporation rate of 19% (2020: 19%)	(649)	(9)
Effects of:		
Group relief for nil payment	—	7
Non-taxable income	533	—
Non-taxable dividends received	117	73
Adjustments in respect of prior years	(3)	(4)
Impairment of investments	(24)	(76)
Impairment of loans to Group undertakings	(2)	(12)
Tax charge for the year	(28)	(21)

Factors that may affect future current and total tax charges.

On May 24, 2021 the UK Finance Act 2021 was substantively enacted increasing the UK tax rate from 19% to 25% effective April 1, 2023. The impact of the tax rate, primarily revaluation of deferred tax liabilities, has been reflected in these financial statements.

11. Dividends

The Company's declared and paid dividends are presented as follows:

	2021 £million	2020 £million
Amounts recognised as distributions to equity holders in the year:		
First interim dividend for the year, equivalent to £0.53 per share (2020: £nil per share)	518	—
Second interim dividend for the year, equivalent to £0.21 per share (2020: £nil per share)	201	—
Third interim dividend for the year, equivalent to £0.25 per share (2020: £nil per share)	248	—
	967	—

12. Investments in subsidiaries

	£million
Cost	
At 1 September 2020	5,752
Additions	614
Disposals	(1,253)
Return of capital	(351)
At 31 August 2021	4,762
Provision for impairment	
At 1 September 2020	(949)
Created	(246)
Released	126
At 31 August 2021	(1,069)
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2020	4,803
At 31 August 2021	3,693

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

12. Investments in subsidiaries (continued)

During the year, the Company made the following investment additions and disposals in subsidiary undertakings:

During the year, the Company received a return of capital from WBA Acquisitions UK Holdco 5 Limited of £223.5 million and WBA Holdings 1 Limited of £127.1 million.

During the year, an impairment loss of £64.4 million, £0.37 million and £0.44 million was recognised in relation to investments in Boots Propco H Limited, SportsPlatform Holdco Limited and Beeston Site Services Limited respectively (2020: £15.6 million, £2.7 million and £23.2 million was recognised in relation to investments in Alliance Healthcare Asia Pacific Limited, Boots Propco D Limited and Boots Propco H Limited respectively).

On 4 September 2020, the Company transferred CLP Loan Notes to WBA UK 6 LLP in exchange for £92.9 million membership interests in WBA UK 6 LLP. Subsequently, the Company transferred its interest in WBA UK 6 LLP to Walgreens Boots Alliance Scottish LP in exchange for £92.9 million cash.

On 10 February 2021, the Company formed WBA Nederland Holdco 1 BV, a Netherlands BV company, with \$1.00 of cash in exchange for the issuance of 1 share.

On 17 May 2021, WBA UK Holdco 1 Limited transferred its 29% interest in Sprint Investments 1 Limited to the Company in exchange for cash of £0.6 million.

On 18 May 2021, the Company contributed \$100,000 cash, equivalent to £0.07 million to WBA Nederland Holdco 1 BV in exchange for the issuance of 1 share at \$1.00 per share with remainder contributed to share premium.

On 18 May 2021 the Company disposed its interest in Almus Pharmaceuticals Limited (£195.3 million), WBA UK Holdco 1 Limited (£444.7 million) and Alliance UniChem IP Limited (£1) to WBA Nederland Holdco 1 BV. As a result, the Company indirectly acquired an interest in Almus Pharmaceuticals Limited (£69.7 million), WBA UK Holdco 1 Limited (£444.7 million), Alliance UniChem IP Limited (£1) and Alliance Healthcare SA (£5.9 million) through its investment in WBA Nederland Holdco 1 BV.

Subsequently, the Company transferred WBA Nederland Holdco 1 BV to Superior Luxco 3 Sarl for a consideration of £3,320.0 million at a premium of £2,804.0 million. This comprised of investment cost of £520.3 million.

The Company also recognised impairment losses of £56.6 million and £125.6 million in relation to the investment in WBA Holdings 1 Limited and Almus Pharmaceuticals Ltd respectively. Later, the Company released the provision on impairment on Almus Pharmaceuticals Limited of £125.6 million.

The Company's subsidiary undertakings at the balance sheet date are presented as follows:

	Share class	Percentage held by the Company or subsidiary undertakings	Registered office
Directly owned			
Alliance Healthcare Asia Pacific Limited	Ordinary	100	40th Floor, Dah Sing Financial Centre, No. 248 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Alliance Healthcare Limited	Ordinary	100	Block 3, Harcourt Centre, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2, Ireland
B&B Capital Partners L.P.	Unincorporated entity	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Beeston Site Services Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Boots Benevolent Fund	Trust without share capital	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Boots Charitable Trust	Trust without share capital	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Boots Delivery Services Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, England
Boots International Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Boots International Management Services Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, England
Boots Korea Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, England
Boots Management Services Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, England

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Share class	Percentage held by the Company or subsidiary undertakings	Registered office
Boots Optical Investment Holdings Limited	Ordinary A	58	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Boots Opticians Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Boots Pensions Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Boots Propco D Limited	Ordinary	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Boots Propco E Limited	Ordinary	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Boots Propco F Limited	Ordinary	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Boots Propco G Limited	Ordinary	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Boots Propco H Limited	Ordinary	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Boots Pure Drug Company Limited	Ordinary	100	D90, 1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Boots The Chemists Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Boots UK Limited	Ordinary	100	Nottingham, NG2 3AA
D200 Energy Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, England
E. Moss, Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Liz Earle Beauty Co. Limited	Ordinary, Ordinary A	100	The Green House Nicholson Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 1BG, England
No7 Beauty Company Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Sprint Investments 5 Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
The Boots Company PLC	Ordinary	100	Nottingham, NG2 3AA
UniChem Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Walgreens Boots Alliance Services Limited	Ordinary	100	2, The Heights, Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0NY, England;
Walgreens Boots Alliance Services MC S.A.M.	Ordinary	99.9	24, boulevard du Tenao, Entresols 3 et 2, 98000, Monaco
WBA (IT Services) International Limited	Ordinary	100	2, The Heights, Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0NY;
WBA Acquisitions UK Holdco 5 Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
WBA Holdings 1 Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Indirectly owned			
AA Asia Limited	Ordinary	100	40th Floor, Dah Sing Financial Centre, No. 248 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Share class	Percentage held by the Company or subsidiary undertakings	Registered office
AAI Aromatherpy Associates Ireland Limited	Ordinary	100	Block 3, Harcourt Centre, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2, Ireland
AB Property Holdings Limited	Ordinary	100	Sanne Trustees (Cayman) Limited, 3rd Floor, Citrus Grove, 106 Goring Avenue, PO Box 492, George Town, Grand Cayman, KY1-1106, Cayman Islands
Alliance Healthcare Italia (IT Services) Srl	Ordinary	100	Via Cesarea 11/10, Genova, 16121, Italy
Alliance Santé - Distribuição Farmacêutica de Eulália Baeta Pereira e Ramalho Fernandes, S.A.	Ordinary	100	RUA Engenheiro Ferreira Dias N 728, 3 PISO SUL, Porto, 4149-014, Portugal
Aroma Actives Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Aromatherapy Associates Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Aromatherapy Associates, Inc	Ordinary	100	Corporation Service Company, 211 E. 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, TX, 78701-3218
Aromatherapy Investments Holding Limited	Ordinary A Deferred	93.1	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Aromatherapy Investments Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
B&B Capital Partners (GP) Ltd	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
B&B Capital Partners (SLP GP) Ltd	Ordinary	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
B&B Investment Partners LLP	Unincorporated entity	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Blyth Pharmacy Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, England
Boots 2 Property Partnership	Unincorporated entity	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Boots 2 Property Scottish Limited Partnership	Unincorporated entity	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Boots Opticians Professional Services Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, England;
Boots PropCo B Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Boots PropCo C Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Boots Properties Limited	Ordinary	100	Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Boots Property Partnership	Unincorporated entity	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Boots Property Scottish Limited Partnership	Unincorporated entity	100	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Dollond & Aitchison Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, England
Health Team Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
PhD Acquisition Bidco Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
PhD Acquisition Midco Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Share class	Percentage held by the Company or subsidiary undertakings	Registered office
Sleek International Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Soap & Glory Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, England
SportsPlatform Holdco Limited	Ordinary A, Ordinary B	78.1	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
SportsPlatform Midco Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Sprint Investments 1 Limited	Ordinary	80	2, The Heights Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0NY, England;
The Refinery Limited	Ordinary A, Ordinary B	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
TPW Acquisition Bidco Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
TPW Acquisition Midco Limited	Ordinary	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
W.H.C.P. (Dundee) Limited	Ordinary	57.5	Wallacetown Health Centre, Lyon Street, Dundee, DD4 6RB
WBA Group Limited	Ordinary, Preference	100	Sedley Place, 4th Floor, 361 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2JL
Wiggly-Amps Limited	Ordinary	100	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA

13. Interests in associates

	£million
Cost	
At 1 September 2020	7
Prior year adjustment	4
Disposals	(6)
At 31 August 2021	5

During the year, the Company made the following investment additions and disposals in associates:

In 2019, the Company recognised a reduction of capital in its investment in Alliance Healthcare S.A (an associate), for £4 million but should have recognised this as dividends. Interest in associates should be recognised at cost, as the Company is exempt from preparing consolidated financial statements. The prior year adjustment is to record this investment at its original cost. Subsequently, on 18 May 2021 the Company disposed its interest in Alliance Healthcare S.A of £6 million to WBA Nederland Holdco 1 BV.

The Company's associate undertakings at the balance sheet date are presented as follows:

	Share class	Percentage held by the Company directly	Registered office
B&B Capital Partners (SLP) L.P.	Ordinary	43.3%	Boots - North, 3rd Floor, 79 - 91 High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1ES, Scotland
Nottingham Enterprise Zone Development Company Limited	Ordinary	50.0%	1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA
Walgreens Boots Alliance Luxembourg S.a r.l.	Ordinary	35.0%	59, Rue de Rollingergrund, Luxembourg, L-2440, Luxembourg

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

14. Other investments

	Current assets		Non-Current assets	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£million	£million	£million	£million
Trading investments carried at fair value through OCI:				
Shares	—	—	22	22
Loans receivable carried at amortised cost:				
Loans to Group Undertakings	6,514	194	2,635	5,020
Impairment of loans to Group undertakings	(2)	(60)	(9)	(5)
Total investments	6,512	134	2,648	5,037

The Company holds strategic non-controlling interests in the following:

- 4.60 percent in Russian Pharmacy Chain 36.6 amounting to £22 million, and
- less than 0.01 percent in the Chinese company Guangzhou Baiyunshan Pharmaceutical Holdings Co. Ltd amounting to £4,000.
- 9.00 percent non-controlling interest in Sprint Lux Holdco 3 S.a.r.l. amounting to €1,080.

These shares are not held for trading and accordingly the directors of the Company have elected to designate these investments in equity instruments as at FVOCI as they believe that recognising short-term fluctuations in these investments' fair value in profit and loss would not be consistent with the Company's strategy of holding these investments for long-term purposes and realising their performance in the long run.

Loans to Group undertakings are committed loans at variable and fixed market rates of interest and mature between 2020 and 2024.

15. Derivative financial instruments

	Current assets		Non-Current assets	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£million	£million	£million	£million
Financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)				
Cross currency interest rate swaps	1	—	—	—
	1	—	—	—
Financial liabilities carried at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)				
Forward foreign currency contracts	—	(2)	—	—
Cross currency interest rate swaps	—	—	—	(43)
	—	(2)	—	(43)

Further details of derivative financial instruments are provided in note 22.

16. Trade and other receivables

	2021	2020
	£million	£million
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Amounts owed by Group undertakings	144	1,212
	144	1,212

Amounts owed by Group undertakings comprise short term current account balances at variable market rates of interest.

17. Trade and other payables

	2021	2020
	£million	£million
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	192	322
Corporation tax payable	9	—
Other creditors	—	1
	201	323

Amounts owed to Group undertakings comprise short term current account deposits at variable market rates of interest.

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued) for the year ended 31 August 2021

18. Borrowings

	2021	2020
	£million	£million
Unsecured borrowing:		
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	1,308	1,952
Total borrowings	1,308	1,952
	2021	2020
	£million	£million
Amount due for settlement within 12 months		
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	1,308	241
	1,308	241
Amount due for settlement after 12 months		
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	—	1,711
	—	1,711
	1,308	1,952

The principal features of the Company's borrowings are as follows:

Loans owed to Group undertakings are committed loans at variable and fixed market rates of interest and mature between 2020 and 2024. These loans, which are denominated in USD and GBP, are fully drawn and their carrying value at 31 August 2020 was £1,308 million (2020: £1,952 million).

19. Share capital

	2021	2020
	£	£
Authorised		
Unlimited ordinary shares of 37 7/39 pence each (2020: unlimited shares)	unlimited	unlimited
Issued and fully paid		
973,906,943 ordinary shares of 37 7/39 pence each (2020: 973,906,943 shares)	362	362

The Company has one class of ordinary shares which carry no right to fixed income.

20. Share premium account

	£million
At 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021	194

21. Retained earnings

	Capital redemption reserve	Profit and loss account
	£million	£million
At 1 September 2019	29	8,282
Profit for the year	—	28
At 31 August 2020	29	8,310
Dividends paid	—	(967)
Profit for the year	—	3,387
Capital contribution	182	—
At 31 August 2021	211	10,730

Alliance Boots Holdings Limited

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

22. Financial instruments

Categories of financial instruments held at fair value:

	2021	2020
	£million	£million
Financial assets at fair value		
Cross currency interest rate swaps	1	—
	1	—
Financial liabilities at fair value		
At fair value through profit or loss	—	(43)
	—	(43)
Profit for the year has been arrived at after crediting:		
	2021	2020
	£million	£million
Financial assets at fair value		
At fair value through profit or loss	9	36
	9	36

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are determined as follows:

The fair values of derivative instruments are calculated using quoted prices. Where such prices are not available, a discounted cash flow analysis is performed using the applicable yield curve for the duration of the instruments for non-optional derivatives, and option pricing models for optional derivatives. Foreign currency forward contracts are measured using quoted forward exchange rates and yield curves derived from quoted interest rates matching maturities of the contracts. Interest rate swaps are measured at the present value of future cash flows estimated and discounted based on the applicable yield curves derived from quoted interest rates.

23. Contingent liabilities

During 2021, the Company provided a guarantee (under deed) to the Trustee of the Boots Pension Scheme (Boots Pensions Ltd). As Guarantor, the Company was obliged to pay to the Trustee any amounts due to the Scheme from the Scheme's sponsoring employer and also any of the Scheme's participating employers to the extent that such employers fail to make those payments. On 15 May 2021, this obligation was transferred to a fellow Group undertaking WBA Financial Services Limited.

24. Ultimate parent undertaking

At 31 August 2021, the Company's immediate parent company was WBA Acquisitions UK Holdco 7 Limited Limited and its ultimate parent company and controlling party was Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. is also the parent undertaking of the largest and smallest group in which the Company is consolidated. The consolidated financial statements of this group are available from the Walgreens Boots Alliance website at www.walgreensbootsalliance.com.

Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. is incorporated in the United States of America, its principal office address is 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, Illinois, 60015, United States, and registered office address is Corporation Service Company, 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, New Castle County, DE, 19808-1674, United States.