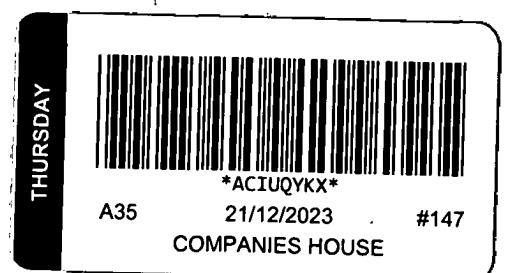


Company registration number 08554978 (England and Wales)

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023



CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	T A Clutterbuck M Cumbers G Nash	(Appointed 13 April 2022) (Appointed 7 August 2023) (Appointed 7 August 2023)
Secretary	Natwest Group Secretarial Services Limited	
Company number	08554978	
Registered office	Stephenson House 2 Cherry Orchard Road Croydon England CR0 6BA	
Auditor	Goodman Jones LLP 29/30 Fitzroy Square London W1T 6LQ	
Business address	Stephenson House 2nd Floor 2 Cherry Orchard Road Croydon CR0 6BA	

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

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CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The directors, in preparing this strategic report, have complied with s414C of the Companies Act 2006.

Review of the business

Creative Auto-Enrolment Limited ("CAE" / "the Company") a private company limited by shares and registered in England and Wales and provides Auto enrolment services to employers and it is also the Scheme manager and Scheme Funder of the Creative Pension Trust (CPT). CAE is the only subsidiary of Creative Benefit Solutions Ltd (CBS). In April 2022, CBS sold 100% of its shares to Cushon MT Ltd in April 2022 and as part of that transaction CAE became a 100% owned subsidiary of CBS. Since April 2022 CAE has continued to trade as before although there are future plans in place to merge the CPT with Cushon's Master Trust but this is unlikely to be completed before the end of 2024.

Cushon Group was itself subject to acquisition with Natwest who purchased 85% of the shares in Cushon Group on 1 June 2023.

CPT obtained Master Trust authorisation from The Pensions Regulator on 4 September 2019, which marked both a key achievement for the group and an important strategic step for its future.

The profit for CAE for the period ended 31st March 2023 before taxation was £2.8m (30 November 2021 - profit £2m).

The board considers the results for the year to be satisfactory and that the business is performing well in terms of retaining its clients, increasing the membership and funds under management in the CPT and building even greater resilience within our operational capability.

The report period is 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2023. The comparative period is 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021. The change of reporting end date is to assign the period end for group reporting purposes.

Key performance indicators

The Company has a number of key performance indicators (KPI's) that assist in assessing the performance of the Group. Considered together, these give a holistic view of the underlying performance of the Group and the alignment with the overall strategy.

Financial KPI's: turnover growth 53% (2021 - 28%) and profit before finance charge and taxation £2.86m (2021 - £2.04m). The turnover growth increase is due the reporting period being a longer reporting period than the prior year together with a growth in funds, clients and new businesses.

The annualised repeat income is 96% which is the same as FY 21. Funds under management as at 31st March 2023 were £879,003,187 (30th November 2021 - £680,897,385)

Non-financial KPI: the number of chargeable employers 13,598 (2021: 13,293).

Principle risks and uncertainties

The Company is primarily exposed to operational and reputational risks due to the sector Creative operates in, and in particular with the parts of the business which are regulated.

The Company is proactive and focused on understanding and managing the risks it is naturally exposed to and actively seeks to mitigate these wherever possible.

Creative has a comprehensive governance structure, maintains a detailed risk register, a considerable number of policies and procedures, regular and effective management reporting and controls in place to identify, mitigate and control risks.

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Company's activities expose it to several financial risks including credit risk, market risk and liquidity risk. The Company does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Credit risk

Credit risk exists through employers settling charges levied by the Company. A provision for doubtful debt is made based on the period of the outstanding debt. The Company is not exposed to high levels of credit risk from financial institutions as it only places cash on deposit.

Market risk

Market risk arises from adverse changes to the value of assets arising from fluctuations in exchange rates, interest rates and market prices, which then impacts revenue. A provision is made when budgeting for a reasonable market fluctuations, however a large part of the income of the Company is not based on market fluctuations and this reduces this risk.

The Company's cash assets are all denominated in sterling and thus is not exposed to any significant market risk.

Liquidity risk

The Company monitors its net cash flow on an ongoing basis to ensure that it has sufficient cash resources to meet the funding demands of the business. Quarterly forecasting is also undertaken to identify any future cash deficiency to allow time for corrective actions to be taken if required.

Future developments

The directors believe that the ongoing investment in business, will provide future benefit to both employers, their employees and the members of the CPT and will provide a firm platform for future growth.

CAE entered into an outsourcing agreement with Link Pensions Administration Ltd (LPAL) on 30th June 2023. As a result 26 staff who were employed within the Creative Group, transferred under TUPE to LPAL who are now undertaking all the administrative tasks previously undertaken by those teams. At the same time LPAL entered into similar administration contracts with other Cushon entities so there is a consistent administrator in the Cushon Group. LINK also purchased HS Administration Services Ltd, who are the third party administrators for the CPT, in October 2022 so in effect all of CPT's administration is now undertaken by LINK. Service level agreements were put in place as part of these arrangements to ensure continued high level of customer delivery.

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Section 172 of the Companies Act

The Directors must act in accordance with a set of general duties outlined in Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors must demonstrate that they act in good faith and promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its stakeholders. Examples of how the Directors respond to these requirements are:

Section 172: The likely consequences of any decision in the long term

The Company's strategic plan to 2024 is closely monitored by the management and strategic boards consisting of largely the executive directors. There are monthly meetings with the Board reviewing performance and a range of other reporting. Consideration of risks and opportunities are also reviewed throughout the year, together with scenario planning and stress testing of plans where appropriate to support consideration of different outcomes in strategic planning. The Company's strategic programmes focus on optimising delivery of strategic objectives in the short, medium and longer term.

Section 172: The interests of the Company's employees

The Company's employees and values are central to the company's ethos:

The health, safety and wellbeing of the Company's employees is a top priority, with an increased focus on mental health through 2022 and into 2023. The Company fosters an integrated approach to health and wellbeing with a range of services and benefits to support employees.

The Company is committed to developing teams, supporting individuals in their career pathways and supporting the achievement of the highest standards. The Company continues to offer career enhancement to its employees through relevant management and personal development work, and a range of training opportunities are in place to ensure that the Company offers high quality opportunities to attract applicants from all backgrounds, to ensure fair and equitable access.

The Company is committed to Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, creating a sustainable culture of inclusion for its employees.

Section 172: The need to foster the Company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others

The Company has categorised several suppliers as strategic, with whom regular meetings take place to discuss strategic and values alignment and performance. These meetings are attended by relevant employees and this activity is key to fostering mutually beneficial business relationships. The Procurement Policy promotes an ethical approach to business and Corporate Social Responsibility with respect to supplier management. As a regulated business Creative demands high standards of conduct from all employees to foster best practice and broader engagement in business relationships.

Section 172: The impact of the Company's operations on the community and the environment

The Company recognises its responsibility to consider its impact on the environment through its direct operations and indirectly through its supply chain. The majority of energy utilisation is through leasing of office premise.

Section 172 : Encouragement of Volunteering/community projects

Creative offers a volunteer program to its staff to encourage active participation in local and national projects.

Section 172: The desirability of the Company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct, and the need to act fairly between members of the Company

Creative has a strong brand and it is critical to uphold the brand and reputation of the Company. The Company has a clear Code of Conduct and framework of Policies and Procedures to support the highest standards of business conduct, integrity and adherence to regulatory requirements, fostering fairness amongst members of the Company and Group.

S172 – the need to act fairly as between the members of the Company

In approving the Company's annual financial statements, the Directors carefully review the financial statements and duly consider a number of factors, including (but not limited to) any recommendations or observations from the Group's Finance team and/or the Company's auditors. To the extent that any operational or control recommendations are raised to the Directors, they are duly considered and discussed with the Group's Finance team and a course of action agreed, thereby facilitating a long-term approach by ensuring future good practice and having regard for the interests of the Company's shareholders in respect of the Company's financial efficacy.

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



.....
T A Clutterbuck

Date: 18 December 2023

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2023.

The report period is 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2023. The comparative period is 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021. The change of reporting end date is to assign the period end for group reporting purposes.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company continued to be that of employee benefit consultancy and automatic enrolment services.

Directors

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

N M Gough	(Resigned 20 July 2023)
D W Johnstone	(Resigned 13 April 2022)
S A Webber	(Resigned 4 April 2022)
D I White	(Resigned 31 May 2023)
T A Clutterbuck	(Appointed 13 April 2022)
D C Howarth	(Appointed 13 April 2022 and resigned 7 August 2023)
M Cumbers	(Appointed 7 August 2023)
G Nash	(Appointed 7 August 2023)

Auditor

Goodman Jones LLP has expressed its willingness to continue in office as auditor.

Energy and carbon report

As the company has not consumed more than 40,000 kWh of energy in this reporting period, it qualifies as a low energy user under these regulations and is not required to report on its emissions, energy consumption or energy efficiency activities.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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.

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Statement of disclosure to auditor

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

On behalf of the board



.....
T A Clutterbuck

Date: 18 December 2023
.....

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Creative Auto-enrolment Limited (the 'company') for the period ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of financial position, the statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its profit for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial period 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.

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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:

Based on our understanding of the company and industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to industry sector regulations and unethical and prohibited business practices, and we considered the extent to which non compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and UK Tax Legislation. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Appropriate audit procedures in response to these risks were carried. These procedures included:

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Obtaining and reading correspondence from legal and regulatory bodies including HMRC;
- Identifying and testing journal entries;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members; and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

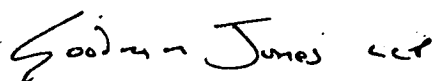
There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we have exercised our professional judgement and maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit.

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.



Phillip Woodgate
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of Goodman Jones LLP

Date: 18/12/23

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

29/30 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 6LQ

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Period ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 30 November 2021 £
Revenue	3	11,611,617	7,582,117
Cost of sales		(2,929,679)	(1,978,805)
Gross profit		8,681,938	5,603,312
Administrative expenses		(5,815,914)	(3,574,389)
Other operating income		-	2,910
Profit before taxation		2,866,024	2,031,833
Tax on profit	6	(238,523)	118,429
Profit for the financial period		2,627,501	2,150,262

The income statement has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	31 March 2023 £	£	30 November 2021 £	£
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables	8	761,459		1,146,338	
Cash and cash equivalents		2,043,005		544,706	
		<u>2,804,464</u>		<u>1,691,044</u>	
Current liabilities	9	(1,410,467)		(2,924,548)	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			<u>1,393,997</u>		<u>(1,233,504)</u>
Equity					
Called up share capital	12		200		200
Share premium account			9,900		9,900
Retained earnings			<u>1,383,897</u>		<u>(1,243,604)</u>
Total equity			<u>1,393,997</u>		<u>(1,233,504)</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 18 December 2023 and are signed on its behalf by:



T A Clutterbuck
Director

Company Registration No. 08554978

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Share capital £	Share premium account £	Retained earnings £	Total £
Balance at 1 December 2020	200	9,900	(3,393,866)	(3,383,766)
Year ended 30 November 2021:				
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	2,150,262	2,150,262
Balance at 30 November 2021	200	9,900	(1,243,604)	(1,233,504)
Period ended 31 March 2023:				
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	2,627,501	2,627,501
Balance at 31 March 2023	200	9,900	1,383,897	1,393,997

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Creative Auto-enrolment Limited is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Stephenson House, 2 Cherry Orchard Road, Croydon, England, CR0 6BA.

1.1 Reporting period

The report period is 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2023. The comparative period is 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021. The change of reporting end date is to assign the period end for group reporting purposes. The comparative amounts presented in the financial statements (including the related notes) are therefore not entirely comparable.

1.2 Accounting convention

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

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

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

This company is a qualifying entity for the purposes of FRS 102, being a member of a group where the parent of that group prepares publicly available consolidated financial statements, including this company, which are intended to give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the group. The company has therefore taken advantage of exemptions from the following disclosure requirements:

- Section 7 'Statement of Cash Flows': Presentation of a statement of cash flow and related notes and disclosures;
- Section 26 'Share based Payment': Share-based payment expense charged to profit or loss, reconciliation of opening and closing number and weighted average exercise price of share options, how the fair value of options granted was measured, measurement and carrying amount of liabilities for cash-settled share-based payments, explanation of modifications to arrangements;
- Section 33 'Related Party Disclosures': Compensation for key management personnel.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption under section 400 of the Companies Act 2006 not to prepare consolidated accounts. The financial statements present information about the company as an individual entity and not about its group.

Creative Auto-enrolment Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cushon Holdings Limited and the results of Creative Auto-enrolment Limited are included in the consolidated financial statements of Cushon Holdings Limited which are available from its registered office, Stephenson House, 2 Cherry Orchard Road, Croydon, England, CR0 6BA.

1.3 Going concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The directors have prepared cash flow and profit forecasts which show that the company can meet its financial obligations as they fall due. Thus the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Revenue

Turnover represents amounts receivable for auto-enrolment services net of VAT and trade discounts.

Ongoing consultancy support charges and other income are recognised when due.

Income from employee and employer scheme administration charges are recognised as the associated contractual obligations are fulfilled.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

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

Cash at bank and in hand includes an amount of £1,280,095 (2021 - £361,000) deposited in an escrow account.

1.6 Financial instruments

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

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's statement of financial position when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

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

Basic financial assets

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

Impairment of financial assets

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial assets

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

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Classification of financial liabilities

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

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.7 Equity instruments

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

1.8 Taxation

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

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 reporting end date.

Deferred tax

Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all timing differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Such assets and liabilities are not recognised if the timing difference arises from goodwill or from the initial recognition of other assets and liabilities in a transaction that affects neither the tax profit nor the accounting profit.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each reporting end date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available to allow all or part of the asset to be recovered. Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the liability is settled or the asset is realised. Deferred tax is charged or credited in the income statement, except when it relates to items charged or credited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is also dealt with in equity. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when the company has a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets and liabilities and the deferred tax assets and liabilities relate to taxes levied by the same tax authority.

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or non-current assets.

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

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Retirement benefits

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

1.11 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged to the profit and loss account in the period they are payable.

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

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

The directors have assessed the critical judgements made in the process of applying the company's accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in financial statements. The directors are of the view that there were no critical accounting adjustments made by the directors in the year that involve estimates that are considered to have a significant effect.

3 Revenue

	2023	2021
	£	£
Revenue analysed by class of business		
Fees receivable in respect of auto-enrolment services	11,611,617	7,582,117

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Revenue

(Continued)

	2023 £	2021 £
Revenue analysed by geographical market		
United Kingdom	11,611,617	7,582,117

	2023 £	2021 £
Other revenue		
Grants received	-	2,910

4 Operating profit

	2023 £	2021 £
Operating profit for the period is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Government grants	-	(2,910)
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	18,450	9,275

5 Employees

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

2023 Number	2021 Number
44	44

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2023 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	2,330,537	1,580,876
Social security costs	198,504	125,489
Pension costs	144,308	75,802
	2,673,349	1,782,167

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6 Taxation

	2023 £	2021 £
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	238,523	(118,429)

The actual charge/(credit) for the period can be reconciled to the expected charge for the period based on the profit or loss and the standard rate of tax as follows:

	2023 £	2021 £
Profit before taxation	2,866,024	2,031,833
Expected tax charge based on the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.00% (2021: 19.00%)	544,545	386,048
Tax effect of expenses that are not deductible in determining taxable profit	523	274
Tax effect of utilisation of tax losses not previously recognised	(306,762)	-
Deferred tax adjustments in respect of prior years	-	(504,702)
Movement in provisions	217	(49)
Taxation charge/(credit) for the period	238,523	(118,429)

7 Cash

Creative Auto-enrolment Limited is the scheme manager and scheme funder of the Creative Pension Trust (CPT). As noted in 1.5 in the Accounting Policies section of these Financial Statements an amount of £1,280,095 is held in Escrow for the benefit of the Trustees of the CPT in the event of a Triggering Event as defined by Section 21 of the Pension Schemes Act 2017. The directors have considered the possibility of a Triggering Event occurring in the foreseeable future and consider it remote and consider that no impairment is deemed necessary.

8 Trade and other receivables

	2023 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade receivables	688,349	832,119
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	11,485
Prepayments and accrued income	73,110	64,211
	761,459	907,815

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8 Trade and other receivables (Continued)

	2023 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Deferred tax asset (note 10)	-	238,523
	<u>761,459</u>	<u>1,146,338</u>
Total debtors	761,459	1,146,338

9 Current liabilities

	2023 £	2021 £
Trade payables	43,191	8,517
Amounts owed to group undertakings	867,916	2,410,115
Taxation and social security	84,190	39,758
Other payables	350	-
Accruals and deferred income	414,820	466,158
	<u>1,410,467</u>	<u>2,924,548</u>

10 Deferred taxation

The following are the major deferred tax liabilities and assets recognised by the company and movements thereon:

	Assets 2023 £	Assets 2021 £
Balances:		
Tax losses	-	238,523
	<u>-</u>	<u>238,523</u>
Movements in the period:		2023 £
Asset at 1 December 2021		(238,523)
Charge to profit or loss		238,523
		<u>-</u>
Liability at 31 March 2023		<u>-</u>

CREATIVE AUTO-ENROLMENT LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Retirement benefit schemes

	2023	2021
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	144,308	75,802

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

12 Share capital

	2023	2021
Ordinary share capital	£	£
Issued and fully paid		
200 Ordinary shares of £1 each	200	200

13 Related party transactions

During the period, Creative Benefit Solutions Limited recharged expenditure on behalf of Creative Auto-Enrolment Limited totalling £2,126,141 (2021: £1,269,778). At the balance sheet date, the balance outstanding on the intercompany account was £9,640 owed from Creative Benefit Solutions Limited (2021: £2,410,115 owed to). Creative Benefit Solutions Limited is a related party by virtue of its shareholding in the company.

During the period, Cushon Group Limited made payments to Creative Auto-Enrolment Limited totalling £877,556. At the balance sheet date, the balance owed on the intercompany account was £877,556. Cushon Group Limited is a related party by virtue of its shareholding in the company's parent.

During the period, N.K. Chambers was a director of the company, and also a director of Chamber Townsend Consultancy Limited. N.K. Chambers resigned as director on 13 April 2022. During the period, Chambers Townsend Consultancy Limited invoiced Creative Auto-Enrolment Limited £782,939 (2021: £492,881); at the balance sheet date, the balance outstanding was £5,460 (2021: £16,331).

15 Control

There is no single ultimate controlling party.

The ultimate parent company is Cushon Holdings Limited. The largest and smallest group of undertakings for which group accounts are drawn up which include the company is headed by Cushon Holdings Limited, which is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The company is the only subsidiary of Creative Benefit Solutions Ltd. In April 2022, Creative Benefit Solutions Ltd sold 100% of its shares to Cushon MT Limited in April 2022 and as part of that transaction the company became a 100% owned subsidiary Cushon Holdings Limited.

Cushon Group was subject to acquisition with Natwest who purchased 85% of the shares in Cushon Group on 1 June 2023.