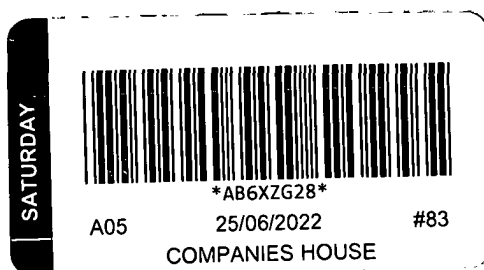


Company Registration No. 08710063 (England and Wales)

**NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**



# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## COMPANY INFORMATION

---

<b>Directors</b>	Mr R Sanderson Mr R Martin Mr M S Ellice
<b>Company number</b>	08710063
<b>Registered office</b>	The Northern & Shell Building Number 10 Lower Thames Street London United Kingdom EC3R 6EN
<b>Auditor</b>	KPMG LLP 15 Canada Square London United Kingdom E14 5GL
<b>Banker</b>	Barclays Bank 27 Soho Square London United Kingdom W1D 3QR

---

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## CONTENTS

---

	<b>Page</b>
Directors' report	1 - 2
<i>Directors' responsibilities statement</i>	3
Independent auditor's report to the members of Northern & Shell Ventures Limited	4 - 7
Statement of comprehensive income	8
Balance sheet	9
Statement of changes in equity	10
Notes to the financial statements	11 - 19

---

# **NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021***

---

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

### **Principal activities**

The principal activity of the company continued to be that of the exploitation of media assets. The company provides media services for a consideration of shares and cash (note 8).

### **Directors**

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

Mr R Sanderson  
Mr R Martin  
Mr M S Ellice

### **Results and dividends**

The results for the year are set out on page 8.

After realising a profit on disposal of fixed asset investments of £104,000 (2020: £770,000) (note 3), incurring a charge of £nil (2020: £241,000) for an impairment of fixed asset investments (note 3) and a provision against amounts due from related parties of £nil (2020: £286,000 credit) (note 3), the company recorded a loss before taxation of £518,000 (2020: a profit of £130,000).

No ordinary dividends were paid. The directors do not recommend payment of a final dividend.

### **Political donations**

The company made no political donations or incurred any political expenditure during the year (2020: £nil).

### **Financial risk management**

The company's operations expose it to a variety of financial risks that include interest rate risk. The company has mechanisms in place that seek to limit the impact of the adverse effects of these risks on the financial performance of the company.

### **Interest rate risk**

The company has interest bearing assets and liabilities. The interest bearing assets and liabilities are amounts owed by/to group undertakings subject to floating interest rates. The directors keep these measures under constant review.

### **Review of the period and future developments**

The directors consider the result for the year to be satisfactory. It is the intention of the company to continue in its principal activity for the foreseeable future, including the provision of media services for cash consideration.

The risks, uncertainties and key performance indicators pertaining to the company are consistent with those experienced by the company's fellow subsidiaries. They are discussed in the Strategic Report of Northern & Shell Plc, the ultimate parent of the company.

The company's net liabilities were £25.7 million as at 31 December 2021 (2020: £25.2 million).

### **Auditor**

The auditor, KPMG LLP, is deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

# **NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

---

### **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.

### **Going concern**

Notwithstanding net liabilities of £25.7 million and net current liabilities of £28.7 million as at 31 December 2021, and a £518,000 loss for the year then ended, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the directors consider to be appropriate for the following reasons.

The ultimate parent company, Northern & Shell Plc, has indicated its intention to continue to make available such funds as are needed by the company, and that it does not intend to seek repayment of the amounts due at the balance sheet date, until at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. As with any company placing reliance on other group entities for financial support, the directors acknowledge that there can be no certainty that this support will continue although, at the date of approval of these financial statements, they have no reason to believe that it will not do so.

Consequently, the directors are confident that the company will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and therefore have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

### **Small companies exemption**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

On behalf of the board



Mr R Sanderson

**Director**

22 June 2022

# **NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**

## **DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021***

---

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 they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK accounting standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

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 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;
- assess the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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 responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

---

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northern & Shell Ventures Limited ("the company") for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity and related notes, including the accounting policies in note 1.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*; 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 are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the company in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

#### Going concern

The directors have prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to liquidate the company or to cease its operations, and as they have concluded that the company's financial position means that this is realistic. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the directors' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the company's business model and analysed how those risks might affect the company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate;
- we have not identified, and concur with the directors' assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the company will continue in operation.

# **NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**

---

#### **Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect**

##### *Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud*

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of directors and inspection of policy documentation as to the company's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, including the company's channel for "whistleblowing", as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- Reading Board minutes.
- Considering remuneration incentive schemes and performance targets.
- Using analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, and taking into account possible pressures to meet profit targets, we perform procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that company management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries and the risk of bias in accounting estimates and judgements such as impairment assumptions. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because there are no revenue transactions. We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We performed procedures including:

- Identifying journal entries and other adjustments to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included those posted to unusual accounts.
- Assessing significant accounting estimates for bias.

##### *Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations*

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience and through discussion with the directors and other management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the directors and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related companies legislation), distributable profits legislation, taxation legislation and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.



# **NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**

---

Secondly, the company is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: health and safety, data protection laws, employment law, anti-bribery, anti-money laundering, recognising the financial nature of the company's activities. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

#### *Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation*

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

#### **Directors' report**

The directors are responsible for the directors' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover that report and we do not express an audit opinion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the directors' report and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report;
- in our opinion the information given in that report for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion that report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required 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; or
- the directors were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

# **NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED**

---

#### **Directors' responsibilities**

As explained more fully in their statement set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; 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 they either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities**

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 our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities).

#### **The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities**

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.

**Mark Prince (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor**  
*Chartered Accountants*

15 Canada Square  
London  
United Kingdom  
E14 5GL

22 June 2022

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £000	2020 £000
Administrative expenses		(33)	(10)
Other operating income	8	104	770
<b>Operating profit</b>	3	71	760
Interest payable and similar expenses	6	(589)	(630)
<b>(Loss)/profit before taxation</b>		(518)	130
Taxation	7	-	-
<b>(Loss)/profit for the financial year</b>		(518)	130
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		(518)	130

The Statement of Comprehensive Income has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £000	£000	2020 £000	£000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Investments	8		3,002		3,059
			<u>3,002</u>		<u>3,059</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(28,745)		(28,284)	
<b>Net current liabilities</b>			(28,745)		(28,284)
<b>Net liabilities</b>			<u>(25,743)</u>		<u>(25,225)</u>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>					
Share capital	11		-		-
Profit and loss reserves			(25,743)		(25,225)
<b>Total equity</b>			<u>(25,743)</u>		<u>(25,225)</u>

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 22 June 2022 and are signed on its behalf by:



Mr R Sanderson  
Director

Company Registration No. 08710063

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021*

---

	Share capital £000	Profit and loss reserves £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 January 2020	-	(25,355)	(25,355)
Year ended 31 December 2020:			
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	130	130
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 December 2020	-	(25,225)	(25,225)
Year ended 31 December 2021:			
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	(518)	(518)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 December 2021	-	(25,743)	(25,743)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

---

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Company information

Northern & Shell Ventures Limited is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Northern & Shell Building, Number 10 Lower Thames Street, London, United Kingdom, EC3R 6EN.

#### 1.1 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 £000 (unless stated otherwise).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. 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 4 'Statement of Financial Position' – Reconciliation of the opening and closing number of shares;
- Section 7 'Statement of Cash Flows' – Presentation of a statement of cash flow and related notes and disclosures;
- Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instrument Issues' – Carrying amounts, interest income/expense and net gains/losses for each category of financial instrument; basis of determining fair values; details of collateral, loan defaults or breaches, details of hedges, hedging fair value changes recognised in profit or loss and in other comprehensive income;
- 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.

Northern & Shell Ventures Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Northern & Shell Plc and the results of Northern & Shell Ventures Limited are included in the consolidated financial statements of Northern & Shell Plc which are available from its registered office, The Northern & Shell Building, Number 10 Lower Thames Street, London, EC3R 6EN.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption provided in section 33.1A of Financial Reporting Standard 102 from the requirement to disclose transactions with other wholly owned group members of Northern & Shell Plc.

Northern & Shell Plc and its subsidiary undertakings are hereinafter referred to as the "group".

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.2 Going concern

Notwithstanding net liabilities of £25.7 million and net current liabilities of £28.7 million as at 31 December 2021, and a £518,000 loss for the year then ended, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the directors consider to be appropriate for the following reasons.

The ultimate parent company, Northern & Shell Plc, has indicated its intention to continue to make available such funds as are needed by the company, and that it does not intend to seek repayment of the amounts due at the balance sheet date, until at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. As with any company placing reliance on other group entities for financial support, the directors acknowledge that there can be no certainty that this support will continue although, at the date of approval of these financial statements, they have no reason to believe that it will not do so.

Consequently, the directors are confident that the company will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and therefore have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

#### 1.3 Turnover

Turnover is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, and is shown net of VAT and other sales related taxes. The fair value of consideration takes into account trade discounts, settlement discounts and volume rebates.

When cash inflows are deferred and represent a financing arrangement, the fair value of the consideration is the present value of the future receipts. The difference between the fair value of the consideration and the nominal amount received is recognised as interest income.

Turnover represents the advertising and production services provided. Turnover generated from advertising sales is recognised when the related advertisement is broadcast. Turnover generated from production services is recognised when the services are provided.

#### 1.4 Fixed asset investments

Interests in subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entities are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. The investments are assessed for impairment at each reporting date and any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in profit or loss.

An associate is an entity, being neither a subsidiary nor a joint venture, in which the company holds a long-term interest and where the company has significant influence. The company considers that it has significant influence where it has the power to participate in the financial and operating decisions of the associate.

#### 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.

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 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 balance sheet 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 debtors 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.

##### **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.



# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, 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 creditors 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 creditors 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 profit and loss account 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, based on the tax rates substantively enacted at the balance sheet date. Deferred tax is charged or credited in the profit and loss account, except when it relates to items charged or credited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is also dealt with in equity.

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

### 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 consider the judgement associated with these financial statements to be over the carrying value of investments.

### 3 Operating profit

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Operating profit for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Profit on disposal of fixed asset investments (notes 8 and 9)	(104)	(770)
Impairment of fixed asset investments (note 8)	-	241
Impairment of amounts due from related parties (note 12)	-	(286)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 4 Auditor's remuneration

Auditor's remuneration of £12,000 (2020: £9,000) in respect of the audit of these financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 is borne by Northern & Shell Plc, the ultimate parent company. There were no non audit services (2020: £nil).

### 5 Directors' remuneration

All directors who served during the year were employed by other Group companies and were remunerated for the qualifying services they provided to them. The value ascribed to these qualifying services in 2021 is £nil (2020: £nil).

There were no employees during the year other than the directors (2020: nil).

### 6 Interest payable and similar expenses

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Interest payable to group undertakings	589	630
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 7 Taxation

A reduction in the UK corporation tax rate from 19% to 17% (effective from 1 April 2020) was substantively enacted on 6 September 2016. The March 2020 Budget announced that a rate of 19% would continue to apply with effect from 1 April 2020, and this change was substantively enacted on 17 March 2020.

An increase in the UK corporation tax rate from 19% to 25% (effective 1 April 2023) was substantively enacted on 24 May 2021. This will increase the company's future current tax charge accordingly.

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

### 7 Taxation

(Continued)

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

	2021 £000	2020 £000
(Loss)/profit before taxation	(518)	130
Expected tax (credit)/charge based on the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.00% (2020: 19.00%)	(98)	25
Tax effect of expenses that are not deductible in determining taxable profit	-	49
Tax effect of income not taxable in determining taxable profit	-	(146)
Group relief not paid for	98	72
Taxation for the year	-	-

The company has tax losses of £3.1 million (2020: £3.1 million) available to carry forward against future profits. Whilst the company expects to be able to benefit from tax losses carried forward, no deferred tax asset has been recognised as future benefit is not certain and losses may be surrendered to other group companies.

### 8 Fixed asset investments

	Notes	2021 £000	2020 £000
Investments in associates	9	1,250	1,250
Unlisted investments		1,752	1,809
		3,002	3,059

Impairment testing:

The company's policy is to carry out annual reviews of its investments. Based on operating results for the subsidiary, its associate undertakings and other investments, future forecasts, their net assets and market comparables, the directors consider that the investments' carrying amount exceeded the recoverable amount by £nil (2020: £241,000) and consequently has been written down by this amount. The impairment losses of £nil (2020: £241,000) have been recognised in administrative expenses in the profit and loss account (note 3).

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

### 8 Fixed asset investments

(Continued)

#### Movements in fixed asset investments

	Shares in group undertakings and participating interests £000	Other investments other than loans £000	Total £000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 January 2021	21,537	2,450	23,987
Disposals	-	(57)	(57)
At 31 December 2021	21,537	2,393	23,930
<b>Impairment</b>			
At 1 January 2021 & 31 December 2021	20,287	641	20,928
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 December 2021	1,250	1,752	3,002
At 31 December 2020	1,250	1,809	3,059

On 24 March 2021, the company sold part of its shareholding in The Cheeky Panda Limited for a total consideration of £161,000, resulting in a profit on disposal of £104,000 (note 3).

On 11 June 2020, the company sold its entire shareholding in OpenRent Limited, an associate undertaking, for a total consideration of £2.0 million resulting in a profit on disposal of £770,000 (note 3).

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

### 9 Associates

Details of the company's associates at 31 December 2021 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
Tepilo Limited *	United Kingdom	Online estate agency	Ordinary	-	45.38
Tepilo Limited *	United Kingdom	Online estate agency	Preference	-	45.38
Tepilo Holdings Limited *	United Kingdom	Holding company	Ordinary	-	45.38
Emoov Limited *	United Kingdom	Online estate agency	Ordinary	45.38	-
My Single Friend Limited	United Kingdom	Online dating	Ordinary	40.00	-
FFS Beauty Limited	United Kingdom	Subscription shaving	Ordinary	22.83	-

\* Denotes the company entered into administration on 3 December 2018.

Emoov Limited is incorporated in the United Kingdom, with a registered office at The White Building, 1-4 Cumberland Place, Southampton, SO15 2NP. There were no changes in ownership or class of shares held during the year.

FFS Beauty Limited (formerly Friction Free Shaving Limited) is incorporated in the United Kingdom, with a registered office at Unit 14 Morgans Business Park, Bettys Lane, Norton Canes, Cannock, WS11 9UU. There were no changes in ownership or class of shares held during the year.

My Single Friend Limited is incorporated in the United Kingdom, with a registered office at 34 Anyards Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2LA. There were no changes in ownership or class of shares held during the year.

Tepilo Holdings Limited is incorporated in the United Kingdom, with a registered office at The White Building, 1-4 Cumberland Place, Southampton, SO15 2NP. There were no changes in ownership or class of shares held during the year.

Tepilo Limited is incorporated in the United Kingdom, with a registered office at The White Building, 1-4 Cumberland Place, Southampton, SO15 2NP. There were no changes in ownership or class of shares held during the year.

### 10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Amounts due to group undertakings	28,546	28,085
Accruals and deferred income	199	199
	<u>28,745</u>	<u>28,284</u>

Amounts due to group undertakings carry interest at 2% above base rate, are unsecured and repayable on demand.

# NORTHERN & SHELL VENTURES LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

---

### 11 Share capital

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Ordinary share capital		
Issued and fully paid		
100 Ordinary of £1 each	-	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 12 Related party transactions

#### Transactions with related parties

In 2018, the company entered into a loan facility arrangement with Emoov Limited. The loan facility was for an initial amount of £2.5 million, charging interest at 5% and was repayable by June 2019. On 3 December 2018, Emoov Limited entered into administration. Accordingly, the amounts outstanding of £2.6 million were provided against in full with an impairment charge of £2.6 million recognised in the profit and loss account.

In 2020, the company received a dividend of £109,000 from Emoov Limited and £167,000 from Tepilo Holdings Limited as part repayment of its debtor balance outstanding under the floating charge.

In 2020, the company received a dividend from Tepilo Limited of £10,000 as part repayment of its prescribed debtor balance.

### 13 Controlling party

The immediate and ultimate parent undertaking is Northern & Shell Plc.

The ultimate controlling party is Richard Desmond, the Chairman of Northern & Shell Plc.

The largest and smallest group into which these accounts are consolidated is Northern & Shell Plc. Northern & Shell Plc is registered in England. Copies of the financial statements of Northern & Shell Plc can be obtained from The Northern & Shell Building, Number 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN, United Kingdom.