Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 May 2020



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

DESIGNATED MEMBERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

DESIGNATED MEMBERS

C M Clarke J J P Ripman N J R Davis C S G Staveley M A Hovell S E Seed

REGISTERED OFFICE

24 King William Street London EC4R 9AT

BANKERS

The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc 1 Broadland Business Park Peachman Way Norwich NR7 0WF

AUDITOR

Deloitte LLP Statutory Auditor London

MEMBERS' REPORT

The members are pleased to present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2020.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of Mills & Reeve LLP is the provision of legal services in the UK.

GROUP STRUCTURE

These financial statements are the statutory accounts for Mills & Reeve LLP and reflect the results for the year to 31 May 2020. The financial statements consolidate the accounts of Mills & Reeve LLP and all its subsidiary undertakings (the 'Group') drawn up to 31 May each year.

RESULTS AND REVIEW OF BUSINESS

The results for the year are set out on page 9. The members regard the results and future prospects to be satisfactory.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

During 2015, the Group set out a 5 year strategy to take us to 2020. Each of the components of this strategy were met and in the case of the turnover goal, even exceeded:

- A £100m+ business;
- Growing faster than top 100 average;
- · With increased profitability;
- A great place to work;
- · A national leader with worldwide reach; and
- · A reputation for innovation.

For the past 12 months we have been working on our 2025 strategy which is focussed on being a leader in client experience supported by becoming a leader in innovation, talent development and our chosen sectors and markets. Investment in our people, technology and infrastructure will continue to support these goals. The current COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly had an impact on our markets, clients, partners and staff however we are well positioned to address any challenges and more importantly maximise the opportunities arising.

DESIGNATED MEMBERS

The designated members who served throughout the year and subsequently are shown on page 1.

MEMBERS' DRAWINGS AND CAPITAL POLICY

The members' policy on drawings is dependent upon the working capital requirements of the firm. A conservative level of monthly drawings is set at the start of the year and further distributions are made once the results for the year are known and announced to the members.

The level of members' capital is determined by the members from time to time. Capital is repaid to members on resignation from the firm, or at such other time as is determined by the Board.

DISABLED EMPLOYEES

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled every effort is made to ensure that their employment with the Group continues and that appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the Group that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to those of other employees.

EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION

The Group places considerable value on the involvement of its employees and has continued to keep them informed on matters affecting them as employees and on the various factors affecting the performance of the Group. This is achieved through formal and informal meetings, intranet announcements and office briefings. Employee representatives are consulted regularly on a wide range of matters affecting their current and future interests.

MEMBERS' REPORT

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our business since the beginning of lock-down in March 2020. At that time, we agreed a set of guiding principles to guide us in navigating what we anticipated to be some challenging times. These principles were communicated to all partners and staff and have been used through the period. At the outset we were able to quickly ensure that all our partners and staff were able to work effectively from home. We commenced enhanced daily reporting for key management immediately and have monitored this very closely throughout. This reporting included information on key business drivers such as activity, cash and availability of our staff (i.e. sickness levels). Whilst some teams have experienced a slow down in activity, other teams have been busy throughout. Overall, fees and cash for the year were down on what was originally forecast and a number of measures have been put in place to manage our cost base specifically:

- A number of staff, mainly in our facilities, events and Executive Support Service teams were furloughed from April under the government's coronavirus job retention scheme;
- At the beginning of June, a number of fee earners in quieter parts of the business agreed to temporarily reduce their work arrangement by 20%;
- The March to June 2020 VAT payments and the July 2020 partner tax payment were deferred until 2021 under HMRCs tax deferral scheme;
- Partners agreed to defer their final distribution for the 2020 financial year and are also expecting to defer a portion of next year's distributions.

Our cash levels in particular are being monitored closely and monthly re-forecasting of fees, costs and cash, including sensitivity analysis, will continue throughout next financial year.

AUDITOR

In the case of each of the persons who are members of the Group at the date when this report is approved:

- so far as each of the members is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the group's auditor is unaware; and
- each of the members has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a member to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the groups'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 2006.

Deloitte LLP have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditor and a resolution to reappoint them as auditor will be proposed at the next meeting of the Board.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Members

Date: 10 August 2020

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ENERGY AND CARBON REPORT

We have reported on all sources of GHG emissions and energy usage as required under the Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts and Audit) (Application of Companies Act 2006) Regulations 2008 as amended.

GHG emissions and energy usage

GHG emissions and energy usage data for period 1 June 2019 to 31 May 2020	UK
	2020
Emissions from combustion of gas (Scope 1 – tonnes of CO ₂ e)	298.081
Emissions from combustion of fuel for transport purposes (Scope 1 – tonnes of CO ₂ e)	
Emissions from electricity purchased for own use, including for the purposes of transport (Scope 2 – tonnes of CO ₂ e)	573.376
Emissions from business travel in rental cars or employee-owned vehicles where company is responsible for purchasing the fuel (Scope 3 - tonnes of CO ₂ e)	93.011
Total gross CO₂e based on above	964.468
Annual kWh per m2 Gross Floor Area	307.3
Annual kgCO2e per m2 Gross Floor Area	69.8

Mills & Reeve are a long-standing member of the Legal Sustainability Alliance, and have recently signed up with Net Positives to work towards improving the social and economic impacts of our activity, as well as the environmental ones.

No waste from any offices goes to landfill, and all single use plastic has been removed from catering provisions. Paper file storage has been replaced by an electronic file system and our paper usage has been reduced by 44% over the past 5 years (to February 2020). All performance reviews, payslips and reward statements are issued online, and tenders are submitted to electronic portals. The company's procurement policy takes into account the environmental impact of purchased goods and we are working with staff and suppliers to reduce waste, energy usage and non-essential travel.

In the period covered by the report the company has undertaken ESOS audits to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce consumption. The audits gave recommendations with an estimated total energy saving of 11% from utilities and 8% from transport fuels per year. The estimated total cost of the measures is £33,000. Recommendations include replacing lighting with LED equivalents, staff awareness training, and implementing a green transport policy. Server hardware and desktop computers have been replaced with more efficient models and lighting at all offices is controlled with PIR sensors.

MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The members are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts & Audit) (Application of Companies Act 2006) Regulations 2008 require the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the members 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 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the LLP and the Group and of the profit or loss of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 LLP will continue in business.

The members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the LLP and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, as applicable to limited liability partnerships. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the LLP and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MILLS & REEVE LLP

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of Mills & Reeve LLP (the 'parent limited liability partnership') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group'):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent limited liability partnership's affairs as at 31 May 2020 and of the Group's profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice including Financial Reporting Standard 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 as applied to limited liability partnerships.

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- the consolidated profit and loss account;
- the consolidated and limited liability partnership balance sheets;
- the consolidated and limited liability partnership statements of changes in members' interests;
- the consolidated cash flow statement; and
- the related notes 1 to 20.

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).

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 Group and of the parent limited liability partnership 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

We are required by ISAs (UK) to report in respect of the following matters where:

- the members' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the members have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may
 cast significant doubt about the Group's or the parent limited liability partnership's ability to continue to
 adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the
 financial statements are authorised for issue.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MILLS & REEVE LLP (continued)

Other information

The members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement of the other information. 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 respect of these matters.

Responsibilities of members

As explained more fully in the members' responsibilities statement, the members 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 members 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 members are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent limited liability partnership'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 members either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent limited liability partnership 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/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent limited liability partnership, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent limited liability partnership financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MILLS & REEVE LLP (continued)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the limited liability partnership's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 as applied to limited liability partnerships. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the limited liability partnership'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 limited liability partnership and the limited liability partnership's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Peter Saunders (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Deloitte LLP

Statutory Auditor . London, United Kingdom

Date: 11 August 2020

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT Year ended 31 May 2020

	Note	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
TURNOVER	3	113,780	110,984
Other operating income Staff costs Depreciation and amortisation Other operating expenses	5	1,166 (43,589) (2,391) (26,015)	1,889 (41,447) (1,977) (26,120)
OPERATING PROFIT		42,951	43,329
Finance costs (net)	6.	(72)	(27)
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	4	42,879	43,302
Tax on profit	7	(472)	(471)
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION		42,407	42,831
Amounts transferred from subsidiaries		1,097	45 .
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR BEFORE MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND PROFIT SHARES		43,504	42,876
Members' remuneration charged as an expense		(43,504)	(42,876)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR AVAILABLE FOR DISCRETIONARY DIVISION AMONG MEMBERS		_	-

All results relate to continuing activities.

There are no comprehensive income or expenses other than the profit for the financial year and the preceding financial year. Accordingly, no statement of comprehensive income is given.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET 31 May 2020

	Note	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Intangible assets Tangible assets	9 10 .	11,351	11,175
	•	18.351	11,175
CURRENT ASSETS Stocks			43
Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	12	43,555 £4,261	50,641 3,394
		57,816	54,078
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	5 3	(19,379)	(18,556)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		38,437	35,522
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		49.788	46,697
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more thus one year	14	(3,550)	(1,600)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	35	(442)	(613)
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS		45,796	44,484
REPRESENTED BY: Members' capital classified as a liability under			
FRS102 Other reserves classified as a liability under FRS102		19,878 25,918	19,232 25,252
TOTAL MEMBERS' INTEREST		45,796	44,484
		THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	

These financial statements of Mills & Rueve 1.1.P. registered number OC326165 were approved by the Board on behalf of the Members and authorised for Issue on 10 August 2020.

Approved and signed on hebalf of the Members

Designated Member

Designated Member

LLP BALANCE SHEET 31 May 2020

	Note	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
FIXED ASSETS			
întangible assets	Ŷ	•	
Tangible assets	10	11,351	11,175
Investments	3 [250	250
		11,601	11,425
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	4	•	43
Debtors	12	43,548	50,637
Cash at bank and in hand		11,664	£8
		55,212	50,763
CREDITORS: aniounts folling due within one			
year	13	(18,338)	(17,991)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		36,874	32,862
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT			
LIABILITIES		48,475	44,287
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more	.•		
than one year	14	(3,550)	(1,600)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	15	(442)	(613)
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO			
MEMBERS		44,483	42.074
REPRESENTED BY:			
Members' capital classified as a liability under			
FRS102		19,878	19,232
Other reserves classified as a liability under FRS102		24,605	22,842
TOTAL MEMBERS' INTEREST		44,483	42,074
•			***************************************

The profit for the financial year dealt with in the financial statements of the parent LLP was £43,504,000 (2019 - £43,017,000).

These financial statements of Mills & Reeve 1.1.P. registered number OC326165 were approved by the Board on behalf of the mombers and authorised for Issue on

Approved and signed on behalf of the Members

Designated Member

Designated Member

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' INTERESTS 31 May 2020

	Loans and other debts due to members within one year		
	Members' capital £'000	Other amounts £'000	Total £'000
At 1 June 2018	17,238	26,433	43,671
Total comprehensive income for the year divided among members	. <u>-</u>	42,831	42,831
Members' interest after profit for the year	17,238	69,264	86,502
Distributions to members	•	(43,626)	(43,626)
Transfer to former partners' accounts	(301)	(357)	(658)
Capital introduced by members	2,266	-	2,266
Transfer to capital	29	(29)	
At 1 June 2019	19,232	25,252	44,484
Total comprehensive income for the year divided among members	<u>-</u>	42,407	42,407
Members' interest after profit for the year	19,232	67,658	86,890
Distributions to members	· -	(41,358)	(41,358)
Transfer to former partners' accounts	(180)	(382)	(562)
Capital introduced by members	826	-	. 826
At 31 May 2020	19,878	25,918	45,796

In the event of a winding up, loans and other debts due to members and members' other interests rank subordinate to other unsecured creditors.

LLP STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' INTERESTS 31 May 2020

	Loans and other debts due to members within one year		
	Members'	Other	
	capital £'000	amounts £'000	Total £'000
At 1 June 2018	17,238	23,837	41,075
Total comprehensive income for the year divided among members		43,017	43,017
Members' interest after profit for the year	17,238	66,854	84,092
Distributions to members	-	(43,626)	(43,626)
Transfer to former partners' accounts	(301)	(357)	(658)
Capital introduced by members	2,266		2,266
Transfer to capital	29	(29)	-
At 1 June 2019	19,232	22,842	42,074
Total comprehensive income for the year divided among members		43,504	43,504
Members' interest after profit for the year	19,232	66,345	. 85,577
Distributions to members		(41,358)	(41,358)
Transfer to former partners' accounts	(180)	(382)	(562)
Capital introduced by members	826	-	826
At 31 May 2020	19,878	24,605	44,483

In the event of a winding up, loans and other debts due to members and members' other interests rank subordinate to other unsecured creditors.

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT Year ended 31 May 2020

	Note	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Net cash flow from operating activities	18	55,970	32,714
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received	ı	46	43
Interest paid		(118)	(70)
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	•	(3,020)	(4,580)
Disposal of subsidiary, net of cash disposed			243
Net cash flows from investing activities		(3,092)	(4,364)
Cash flows from financing activities	•		
Payments to members	·	(41,358)	(43,626)
Capital introduced by members		826	2,266
Proceeds from borrowings		4,000	-
Repayment of borrowings		(1,250)	(600)
Net cash flows from financing activities		(37,782)	(41,960)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		15,096	(13,610)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		(1,114)	12,496
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		13,982	(1,114)
	•		· ; · ',
		•	
Reconciliation to cash at bank and in hand			
Cash at bank		14,261	3,394
Bank overdraft		(279)	(4,508)
Cash and cash equivalents		13,982	(1,114)
•			

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand less bank overdraft.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. These have all been applied consistently throughout the current and prior year.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting by Limited Liability Partnerships'. The particular accounting policies adopted by the members are described below.

General information and basis of accounting

Mills & Reeve LLP ("the Partnership") is incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2000. The address of the registered office is given on page 1. The nature of the Group's operations and its principal activities are set out in the members' report on page 2.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' issued by the Financial Reporting Council and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting by Limited Liability Partnerships (issued July 2014).

The functional currency of Mills & Reeve LLP is considered to be pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Partnership operates. The consolidated financial statements are also presented in pounds sterling. Foreign operations are included in accordance with the policies set out below.

Mills & Reeve LLP meets the definition of a qualifying entity under FRS 102 and has therefore taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions available to it in respect of its separate financial statements, which are presented alongside the consolidated financial statements. Exemptions have been taken in relation to financial instruments, presentation of a cash flow statement, intra-Group transactions and remuneration of key management personnel.

For the year ending 31 May 2020, the following UK subsidiaries will take advantage of the audit exemption set out within section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary companies. Unless otherwise stated, the undertakings listed below are 100% owned, either directly or indirectly, by Mills & Reeve LLP.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

Subsidiary Name	Companies House Registration Number
M&R Secretarial Services Limited	05065514
Francis House Trustees Limited	02617456
Mills & Reeve Limited	02242713
Everslim Services	02146590
Mills & Reeve (Nominees) Limited	03360399
CUEF Robinson Bond Investment Limited	08865757
M&R Sarum 1 Limited	07909652
M&R Sarum 2 Limited	07909658
M&R Sarum 3 Limited	07909665
M&R Sarum 4 Limited	07909668
Sarum (TCC) Limited	07914958
M&R Nominees Limited	08902952
M&R Dorney 1 Limited	08379888
M&R Dorney 2 Limited	08379960
M&R Dorney 3 Limited	08379907
M&R Dorney 4 Limited	08379878
Dorney (CUEF) Limited	08380165
Skara Brae Limited	09801995
Brodgar Limited	10419833
Tankerness Limited	09802139
East Midlands Finance Group Limited	10742480

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basis of consolidation

Business combinations are accounted for under the purchase method. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by the Group. All intra-Group transactions, balances, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation.

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of Mills & Reeve LLP and all its subsidiaries. The acquisition method has been adopted.

As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, no separate profit and loss account or statement of comprehensive income is presented in respect of the parent LLP. The profit attributable to the LLP is disclosed in the footnote to the LLP's balance sheet.

Going concern

In their consideration of going concern, the members have reviewed the Group's future profit and cash flow forecasts, with sensitivity analysis, which are based on market projections and past experience. The members are of the opinion that the Group's forecasts and projections, which take into account reasonably possible changes in trading performance as a result of the general economic disruption and Covid-19 pandemic related restrictions, show that the Group is able to operate and comply with its banking covenants for the a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

At the year-end, members' capital was £19.9m (2019: £19.2m) and other reserves totalled £25.9m (2019: £25.3m). The firm meets its day to day working capital requirements through cash balances held at the bank and a seasonal overdraft facility.

Whilst market uncertainty as a result of the current pandemic poses additional risk to the legal sector and certain elements of the firm's client base, the Group's activities are relatively well hedged and the members are comfortable that the impact on our business can be managed. Reliance on government support to date has been limited to a small number of employees being furloughed and deferral of our VAT and partner tax payments to 2021.

In assessing the going concern assumption, management have prepared 'base case' and 'reasonable worst case' forecasts that include mitigating actions within management's control. The key drivers of the cash

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

forecasts are considered to be underlying activity levels and 'lock up' – being the time taken for activity to be billed and collected from clients. While management do not consider the 'reasonable worst case' scenario to be likely, they demonstrated that, with mitigating actions, the business is able to operate within its current banking facilities for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

As a consequence, the members believe that the Group is well placed to manage its business risks successfully and continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these accounts.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, on each asset on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold buildings and improvements (excluding fit out costs)

Computer equipment

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment

the unexpired period of the lease

3 to 10 years 3 to 10 years

Intangible assets - goodwill

Goodwill arising on the acquisition of subsidiary undertakings and businesses, representing any excess of the fair value of the consideration given over the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired, is capitalised and written off on a straight line basis over its useful economic life, which is 5 years. Provision is made for any impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Investments

In the LLP balance sheet investments in subsidiaries are measured at cost less provision for impairment.

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value using the first in first out method.

Taxation

Members are personally liable for taxation on their share of the profits of the limited liability partnership. Consequently no reserve for taxation is made in the financial statements in respect of members' tax liabilities, and the profits are shown within 'Members' interests' or as 'Loans and other debts due to members' without any deduction for tax.

The consolidated accounts incorporate the tax position of the underlying subsidiaries, which are subject to corporation tax due to their group status. The accounting policy applied in the recognition of this tax position in the consolidated accounts is detailed below.

Current tax, comprising UK corporation tax, is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

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

Deferred tax is measured at the average tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date. Deferred tax is measured on a non-discounted basis.

Leases

Rents payable and receivable under operating leases are charged/recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term, even if the payments or receipts are not made on such a basis.

Pension costs

The firm operates a Group personal pension plan. Contributions to defined contribution schemes are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Turnover and revenue recognition

Revenue for services represents the fair value of legal services provided during the year on client assignments. Fair value reflects the amount expected to be recoverable from clients and is based on time spent, expertise and skills provided, and expenses incurred. Fee income is stated net of Value Added Tax.

Legal services provided to clients during the year which, at the balance sheet date, have not been invoiced to clients, have been recognised as fee income in accordance with Section 23 Revenue of Financial Reporting Standard 102. Fee income recognised in this manner is based on an assessment of the fair value of the services provided by the balance sheet date as a proportion of the total value of the engagement.

Unbilled fee income is included as amounts recoverable on contracts within debtors. Amounts recoverable on contracts are stated at fair value where the right to consideration has been obtained. Provision is made against unbilled amounts on those engagements where the right to receive payments is contingent on factors outside the control of the Group. Contingent fee income (over and above any agreed minimum fee which is recognised as above) is recognised in the period when the contingent event occurs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

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 Group after deducting all of its liabilities.

Financial assets and financial liabilities

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the balance sheet when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Group intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

- (a) Returns to the holder are (i) a fixed amount; or (ii) a fixed rate of return over the life of the instrument; or (iii) a variable return that, throughout the life of the instrument, is equal to a single referenced quoted or observable interest rate; or (iv) some combination of such fixed rate and variable rates, providing that both rates are positive.
- (b) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.
- (c) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in relevant taxation or law.
- (d) There are no conditional returns or repayment provisions except for the variable rate return described in (a) and prepayment provisions described in (c).

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which are derecognised when and only when) a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the limited liability partnership transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the limited liability partnership, despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party and the other party has the practical ability to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party and is able to exercise that ability unilaterally and without needing to impose additional restrictions on the transfer.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Impairment of assets

Assets, other than those measured at fair value, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each balance sheet date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss as described below.

Financial assets

For financial assets carried at amortised cost, the amount of an impairment is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate.

For financial assets carried at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the best estimate of the amount that would be received for the asset if it were to be sold at the reporting date.

Where indicators exist for a decrease in impairment loss, and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the prior impairment loss is tested to determine reversal. An impairment loss is reversed on an individual impaired financial asset to the extent that the revised recoverable value does not lead to a revised carrying amount higher than the carrying value had no impairment been recognised.

Members' interests

Members' capital is repayable on retirement of the member and is therefore classified as a liability. Because members may retire with less than one year's notice and typically have their capital repaid within one year of serving notice, members' capital is shown as being due within one year. Amounts due to members after more than one year comprise provisions for annuities to current members which are not repayable within twelve months of the balance sheet date.

Divisible profits and members' remuneration

All profits for each year are charged as members' remuneration. No profits are available for discretionary division among the members.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Group 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the LLP's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the members 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.

The following are the critical judgements that the members have made in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Revenue recognition - unbilled work in progress

The value of work in progress is derived on the basis of estimations and assumptions regarding the fair value of unbilled time at the year end, having regard to the Group's accounting policy for revenue recognition and historic experience.

Impairment of debtors

The Group makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade debtors. When assessing impairment of trade debtors management considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile and historic experience.

Measurement of provisions

The Group's provisions, as set out in note 15 to the financial statements, include provisions for professional indemnity and other commercial claims, and are based on Management's best estimate of future cash flows after taking due account of any insurance cover in place.

There are no key sources of estimation uncertainty.

3. TURNOVER

Turnover represents fee income earned from the provision of legal services in the United Kingdom, and is stated net of value added tax.

An analysis of the Group's revenue is as follows:

			2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Fee income Net bank interest receivable on client monies	•		113,413 367	110,511 473
			113,780	110,984

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

4. PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION

2020 £'000 453 2,391 4,064 (393)	2019 £'000 30 1,977 3,933 (433)
2,391 4,064	1,977 3,933
2,391 4,064	1,977 3,933
4,064	3,933
(393)	(433)
(393)	(433)
•	
2020	2019
	£'000
	1.
26	26
. 15	24
, 41	50
. 7	7
	23
25	23
32	53
	7 25

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

5. STAFF COSTS

Staff numbers	·	2020 No.	2019 No.
Fee earners		436	420
Secretaries		176	180
Support staff	•	226	222
		838	822
Staff costs	• •	£'000	£'000
Employee costs during the year amounted to:	£		
Wages and salaries		34,317	32,972
National insurance	•	3,920	3,915
Pension costs		. 5,352	4,560
		43,589	41,447

6. FINANCE COSTS (NET).

	2020 , £'000	2019 £'000
Bank interest receivable Bank interest payable	46 (118)	43 (70)
	(72)	(27)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

7. A TAX ON PROFIT OF SUBSIDIARIES

The taxation payable on profits of the LLP is the personal liability of the partners and is not dealt with in these financial statements. Accordingly, the disclosures provided below relate only to current and deferred tax in respect of the corporate subsidiaries.

Tax charge for the year		•	 £'000	2019 £'000
Current taxation United Kingdom corporation tax	•		 472	471

The standard rate of corporation tax for the year, based on the UK standard rate of corporation tax is 19% (2019 - 19%). The actual tax charge for the current year differs from the standard rate for the reasons set out in the following reconciliation:

Reconciliation of current tax	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Profit before taxation	42,879	43,302
Tax on profit at standard rate	8,147	8,227
Tax assessable to members	(7,675)	(7,756)
Total actual amount of current tax	472	471

The UK Finance Bill 2016 enacted provisions to reduce the main rate of UK corporation tax to 17% from 1 April 2020. However, in the March 2020 Budget it was announced that the reduction in the UK rate to 17% will now not occur and the Corporation Tax Rate will be held at 19%. As substantive enactment occurred before the balance sheet date there is no impact on the accounts for the current period.

8. MEMBERS' SHARE OF PROFITS

Profits are shared among the members in accordance with agreed profit sharing arrangements. Members are required to make their own provision for pensions and tax from their profit shares.

	2020 No	. 2019 . No
Average number of members during the year	128	124

Profit attributable to the member with the largest entitlement to profit was £531,000 (2019 - £544,000).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

9. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

GRO	UP	AND	LLP

GROOT AND EDI	Goodwill £'000
Cost At 1 June 2019 and 31 May 2020	200
Accumulated amortisation At 1 June 2019 and 31 May 2020	
Net book value At 31 May 2020	
At 31 May 2019	

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

GROUP	Leasehold buildings and impro- vements £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Office equipment £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost.	•				
At 1 June 2019	9,136	2,198	1,043	9,209	21,586
Additions	1,344	423	101	1,152	3,020
Disposals	(794)	(247)	(36)	(826)	(1,903)
At 31 May 2020	9,686	2,374	1,108	9,535	22,703
Accumulated .					. •
depreciation			•		
At 1 June 2019	2,656	1,222	73 0	5,803	10,411
Charge for the year	904	349	122	1,016	2,391
Disposals	(364)	(231)	(32)	(823)	(1,450)
At 31 May 2020	3,196	1,340	820	5,996	11,352
Net book value		•	•.		
At 31 May 2020	6,490	1,034	288	3,539	11,351.
At 31 May 2019	6,480	976	313	3,406	11,175

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (continued)

Leasehold buildings and impro- vements £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Office equipment £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Total £'000
	•		•	• '
9,136	2,198	1,043	9,209	21,586
1,344	423	101	1,152	3,020
(794)	(247)	(36)	(826)	(1,903)
9,686	2,374	1,108	9,535	22,703
*		·		
2,656	1,222	730	5,803	10,411
904	349	122	1,016	2,391
(364)	(231)	(32)	(823)	(1,450)
3,196	1,340	820	5,996	11,352
6,490	1,034	288	3,539	11,351
6,480	976	313	3,406	11,175
	buildings and improvements £'000 9,136 1,344 (794) 9,686 2,656 904 (364) 3,196 6,490	buildings and improvements £'000 £'000 9,136 2,198 1,344 423 (794) (247) 9,686 2,374 2,656 1,222 904 349 (364) (231) 3,196 1,340 6,490 1,034	buildings and improvements vements Fixtures and fittings equipment Office equipment \$\frac{2}{9000}\$ \$\frac{2}{9000}\$ \$\frac{2}{9000}\$ \$9,136 2,198 1,043 \$1,344 423 101 \$(794)\$ (247) (36) \$9,686 2,374 1,108 \$2,656 1,222 730 \$904 349 122 \$(364)\$ (231) (32) \$3,196 1,340 \$20 \$6,490 1,034 288	buildings and improvements vements Fixtures fittings equipment Computer equipment \$\frac{2}{1000}\$ \$\frac{2}{1000}\$ \$\frac{2}{1000}\$ \$9,136 2,198 1,043 9,209 \$1,344 423 101 1,152 \$(794)\$ (247) (36) (826) \$9,686 2,374 1,108 9,535 \$2,656 1,222 730 5,803 \$904 349 122 1,016 \$(364)\$ (231) (32) (823) \$3,196 1,340 820 5,996 \$6,490 1,034 288 3,539

11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

LLP		• • •	 2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Subsidiary undertakings			250	250

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (continued)

Name	Nature of trade	Proportion of share capital and voting rights held	Country of incorporation
Mills & Reeve Limited 1	Dormant company	100%	UK
Everslim Services ¹	Dormant company	100%	UK
Mills & Reeve (Nominees) Limited 1	Dormant company	100%	UK
Francis House Trustees Limited 1	Management services	100%	· UK
M & R Secretarial Services Limited ²	Secretarial services	100%	UK
Mills & Reeve Trust Corporation Limited 1	Trust services	. 100%	UK
Mills & Reeve Services Limited 1	Employment services	100%	UK
CUEF Robinson Bond Investment Limited * 3	Dormant company	100%	UK
M&R Sarum 1 Limited * 2	Dormant company	100%	UK
M&R Sarum 2 Limited * ²	Dormant company	100%	UK
M&R Sarum 3 Limited * ²	Dormant company	100%	ŲK
M&R Sarum 4 Limited * ²	Dormant company	100%	UK
Sarum (TCC) Limited * 2	Dormant company	100%	UK
M&R Nominees Limited * 2	Dormant company	100%	UK
M&R Dorney 1 Limited * ²	Dormant company	100%	UK
M&R Dorney 2 Limited * ²	Dormant company	100%	UK
M&R Dorney 3 Limited * ²	Dormant company	100%	UK
M&R Dorney 4 Limited * ²	Dormant company	100%	UK .
Dorney (CUEF) Limited * 2	Dormant company	100%	UK
Skara Brae Limited * 1	Non-trading	100%	UK
Brodgar Limited * 1	Holding company	100%	UK
Tankerness Limited * 1	Non-trading	100%	UK
East Midlands Finance Group Limited * 2	Dormant company	100%	UK

All of the above investments are held directly by the LLP other than indirect subsidiaries as marked and are ordinary shares.

The registered addresses of the subsidiaries listed above are as follows:

^{*}represents indirect subsidiaries (held by Mills & Reeve Trust Corporation Limited, Skara Brae Limited and M&R Nominees Limited).

¹ 1 St James Court, Whitefriars, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1RU

² Botanic House, 100 Hills Road, Cambridge, England, CB2 1PH

³ The Old Schools (University Offices), Trinity Lane, Cambridge, United Kingdom, CB2 1TN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

12. DEBTORS

• .	GROUP		LLP	
·	2020	2019	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Due within one year:	•			
Trade debtors	29,637	35,279	29,632	35,276
Amounts recoverable from clients in respect of		•	•	
unbilled work performed	8,954	9,594	8,954	9,594
Accrued income	403	496	403	496
Other debtors	459	516	457	515
Prepayments	4,102	4,756	4,102	4,756
•	43,555	50,641	43,548	. 50,637
•	 ·			

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

•	GR	GROUP		P
•	. 2020	2019	2020	2019
	£,000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank overdraft	279	4,508	279	4,508
Bank loans	1,400	600	1,400	600
Trade creditors	3,959	5,121	3,959	5,121
Amount owed to subsidiaries	· -		5,740	4,791
Taxation and social security	8,720	2,844	3,778	95
Accruals	4,106	4,455	2,529	1,997
Provision for annuity	•	107	-	107
Sundry creditors	19	24	19	24
Former partners' accounts	634	658	634	658
Corporation tax	262	239		
,	19,379	18,556	18,338	17,901

The bank loans and overdraft are unsecured.

The amounts owed to subsidiaries were unsecured and free from guarantees. They will be settled with cash.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

•	GRO	GROUP		_ LLP	
	2020 £'000	2019 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000	
Bank loans	3,550	1,600	3,550	1,600	

Interest is payable on the two five year bank loans at a variable rate of base +1.65% and +1.25% respectively upon the principal amounts.

Borrowings are repayable as follows:

	GROUP TO SERVICE OF THE SERVICE OF T		LLP	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
•	. £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank loans	•			
On demand or within one year	1,400	600	1,400	600
Between one and five years	3,550	1,600	3,550	1,600
	4,950	2,200	4,950	2,200

The members of the LLP have agreed that (a) loans and other debts due to members, (b) members' other interests (including capital and reserves) and (c) any members' residual interest will rank behind all amounts due to non-members in the administrative or winding up of the LLP. This agreement cannot be revoked by the members and may be enforced by creditors.

15. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

GROUP AND LLP	,	provision £'000
At 1 June 2019 Charged to profit and loss account Utilisation of provision	*	613 31 (202)
At 31 May 2020	•	442

In respect of the legal claims provision, payments will be made on conclusion of the individual legal claims and are shown net of any related insurance reimbursement.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

16. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

GROUP AND LLP Land and buildings			2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Within one year	•		4,105	3,663
Between one and five years			16,273	13,850
After five years		•	12,830	11,892
·	*		33,208	29,405

At 31 May 2020 the Group and LLP had authorised and contracted capital commitments of £nil (2019 - £nil).

17. PENSIONS

The total expense charged to the profit and loss in the year ended 31 May 2020 was £5,352,000 (2019: £4,560,000). As at 31 May 2020 contributions of £nil (2019 - £nil) due in respect of the current year had not been paid over to schemes.

18. CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Reconciliation of operating profit to cash generated by operations.

	£'000	£'000
Operating profit	42,951	43,329
Tax paid	. (449)	(469)
Depreciation	2,391	1,977
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	453 .	30
Profit on disposal of subsidiary		(251)
Operating cash flow before movement in working capital	45,345	44,616
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	7,086	(10,554)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	3,667	(1,421)
Decrease / increase in stocks	43	(1)
(Decrease) / increase in provisions	(171)	. 74
Cash generated by operations	55,970	32,714

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ended 31 May 2020

19. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

The members have taken advantage of the exemption from reporting transactions with other Group companies on the grounds that Group accounts are prepared.

The remuneration for key management personnel for the year totalled £3,186,000 (2019: £2,853,000).

20. CONTROLLING PARTY

The LLP is controlled by its members and as such there is no one controlling party.