Registration number: OC336022

# BRACHERS LLP ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022



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# LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

Designated members JAD Bullock

S K Gaines M R Oatham J P Worby

Members

S P Alexander (resigned 30 April 2022)

K Baigent A R Cosgrove C L Daw

C K G Eriksson-Lee

E A Huseyin
M A Jilani
M L McNab
J D P Millis
M Simmonds
C D Smith

Registered office

Somerfield House 59 London Road Maidstone Kent ME16 8JH

Bankers

HSBC Plc 1-5 Week Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1QW Hazlewoods LLP

**Auditors** 

Windsor House Bayshill Road Cheltenham GL50 3AT

# MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

The members present their report and the audited consolidated financial statements consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2022.

#### Firm structure

The LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales.

#### Principal activity

The principal activity of the LLP is the provision of legal services.

#### Review of the business and future developments

For the 2021-22 financial year Brachers LLP reports a decrease in statutory turnover of 3.5%. The reduction in fee income was primarily due to continuing challenges with legal enforcement of Debt Recovery work, the withdrawal from a Healthcare contract and fewer settlements from our PI practice. All remaining practice areas combined to provide a small income growth year on year.

Overall expenditure was contained within budget expectations with a 3.5% increase on the prior year, which remains lower than pre- pandemic. Increase in staff costs, continued investment in the Firm's IT infrastructure and a general increase in business overheads as operations started to return to norm following the pandemic, all contributed to the increase.

The result of both the reduction in turnover and increased expenditure resulted in Members' profit share reducing. The firm is focused on growth and new instruction volumes for legal work continue to increase. There is a strong focus on staff wellbeing and development. Planning is underway to improve and consolidate office space and to better support hybrid working and collaboration. Significant IT investment has continued with a focus on improving efficiency through smarter working.

# **Designated members**

The members who held office during the year were as follows:

J A D Bullock

S K Gaines

M R Oatham

J P Worby

# **Allocation of profits**

Any profits shared among the members are governed by the LLP Membership Deed dated 11 January 2021.

Members are remunerated solely out of the profits of the LLP and the final allocation of profits to members is made in accordance with the Membership Deed.

# Canita

The members may only contribute to the LLP's capital in accordance with the Membership Deed.

# Members' drawings and the subscription and repayment of members' capital

Members are permitted to make drawings in anticipation of profits which will be allocated to them. The amount of such drawings is set at the beginning of each financial year, taking into account the anticipated cash needs of the LLP.

New members are required to subscribe a minimum level of capital and in subsequent years, members are invited to subscribe for further capital, the amount of which is determined by the performance and seniority of those members. On retirement, capital is repaid to members.

P Worby | Designated member

# MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# Financial instruments

# Price risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and cash flow risk

The management of the group and the execution of the group's strategy are subject to a number of risks. The key business risks and uncertainties affecting the group are considered to relate to competition from other legal practices and changes in the legal industry.

The group has sufficient financial resources available and is currently trading profitably and generating cash. The members have prepared forecasts for the next 12 months that indicate that this trend will continue. The members believe that the entity has sufficient resources to continue in operational existence for the forseeable future and have continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

# Disclosure of information to the auditors

Each member has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a member in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the limited liability partnership's auditors are aware of that information. The members confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditors are unaware.

Approved by the LLP Members on 23.1.23... and signed on their behalf by:

# STATEMENT OF MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

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

The Limited Liability Partnerships, Partnerships and Groups (Accounts & Audit) Regulations 2016 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). Under Company law as applied to LLPs the members 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 group and limited liability partnership and of the profit or loss of the group and limited liability partnership for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- · make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group and partnership 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 limited liability partnership and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, as applied to limited liability partnerships by the Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts and Audit) (Application of Companies Act 2006) Regulations 2008, and in accordance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting by Limited Liability Partnerships (issued July 2014). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the limited liability partnership and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

These responsibilities are exercised by the Board on behalf of the members.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRACHERS LLP

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Brachers LLP (the 'limited liability partnership') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 30 April 2022, which comprise the Consolidated Profit and Loss Account, Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Changes in Members' Interests, Statement of Changes in Members' Interests, Consolidated Cash Flow Statement, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

# Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the limited liability partnership's affairs as at 30 April 2022 and of the group's profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, as applied to limited liability partnerships.

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

# Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the members' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the 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 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.

# 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, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance or 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 in the financial statements or 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 this regard.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRACHERS LLP (CONTINUED)

# Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the limited liability partnership, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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.

### Responsibilities of members

As explained more fully in the Statement of Members' Responsibilities set out on page 4, 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 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 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or
  error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is
  sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement
  resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery,
  intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are
  appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the
  group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's or the limited liability partnership's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or the limited liability partnership to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and event in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business
  activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements.
   We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely
  responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRACHERS LLP (CONTINUED)

# Use of this report

This report is made solely to the group and 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 by the Limited Liability Partnerships, Partnerships and Groups (Accounts & Audit) Regulations 2016. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the group and 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 group and limited liability partnership, and the group and limited liability partnership members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Doub

Jon Cartwright (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Hazlewoods LLP, Statutory Auditor

Windsor House Bayshill Road Cheltenham GL50 3AT

Date: 27.01.23

**BRACHERS LLP** CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover	2	14,558,544	15,092,251
Administrative expenses		(11,160,905)	(10,782,593)
Operating profit	4	3,397,639	4,309,658
Other interest receivable and similar income		42,908	31,541
Interest payable and similar charges		(15,147)	(24,919)
Profit for the year before members' remuneration charged as an expense		3,425,400	4,316,280
Members' remuneration charged as an expense		(3,425,400)	(4,316,280)
Profit/(loss) for the year available for discretionary division among members		•	•

Turnover and operating profit derive wholly from continuing operations.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Profit for the year	3,425,400	4,316,280
Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability	(14,000)	(84,000)
Total comprehensive income for the year available for division among members	3,411,400	4,232,280
Total comprehensive income attributable to:		
Owners of the LLP	3,411,400	4,232,280
	3,411,400	4,232,280

# (REGISTRATION NUMBER: OC336022) CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 APRIL 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	211,353	237,888
Investments	9 _	123,048	123,048
	. <b>-</b>	334,401	360,936
Current assets	•		
Debtors	10	5,228,794	5,544,940
Cash and short-term deposits	_	1,609,129	2,057,593
·		6,837,923	7,602,533
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11 _	(2,285,993)	(2,333,244)
Net current assets	_	4,551,930	5,269,289
Total assets less current liabilities		4,886,331	5,630,225
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	-	(277,360)
Provisions			
Other provisions	14 _	(300,000)	(270,000)
Net assets attributable to members	=	4,586,331	5,082,865
Represented by:			
Loans and other debts due to members			
Members' capital classified as a liability	_	4,586,331	5,082,865
	=	4,586,331	5,082,865
Total members' interests			
Loans and other debts due to members	_	4,586,331	5,082,865
		4,586,331	5,082,865

The financial statements of Brachers LLP (registered number OC336022) were approved by the Members and authorised for issue on 33.1...33... They were signed on behalf of the LLP by:

IP Worby U Designated member

# (REGISTRATION NUMBER: OC336022) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 APRIL 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	211,353	237,888
Investments	9 _	373,048	373,048
	_	584,401	610,936
Current assets			
Debtors	10	5,184,426	5,540,963
Cash and short-term deposits	_	1,570,387	2,037,373
		6,754,813	7,578,336
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11 _	(2,495,053)	(2,562,949)
Net current assets		4,259,760	5,015,387
Total assets less current liabilities		4,844,161	5,626,323
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	-	(277,360)
Provisions			
Other provisions	14 _	(300,000)	(270,000)
Net assets attributable to members	_	4,544,161	5,078,963
Represented by:			
Loans and other debts due to members			
Members' capital classified as a liability		4,544,161	5,078,963
	_	4,544,161	5,078,963
Total members' interests			
Loans and other debts due to members	_	4,544,161	5,078,963
	_	4,544,161	5,078,963

The financial statements of Brachers LLP (registered number OC336022) were approved by the Members and authorised for issue on 23.11.12.3... They were signed on behalf of the LLP by:

JP Worby Pesignated member

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' INTERESTS AT 30 APRIL 2022

	Loans and other debts due to/(from) members		
	Members' capital classified as a liability £	Members' other amounts £	Total 2022 £
Members' interest at 1 May 2021	2,349,484	2,733,381	5,082,865
Members' remuneration charged as an expense	•	3,425,400	3,425,400
Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability	-	(14,000)	(14,000)
Members' capital introduced	45,000	-	45,000
Drawings (including tax payments)	-	(3,952,934)	(3,952,934)
At 30 April 2022	2,394,484	2,191,847	4,586,331

•	Loans and other debts due to/(from) members			
	Members' capital classified as a liability £	Members' other amounts £	Total 2021 £	
Members' interest at 1 May 2020	2,331,292	2,820,831	5,152,123	
Members' remuneration charged as an expense	-	4,316,280	4,316,280	
Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability	-	(84,000)	(84,000)	
Members' capital introduced	205,000	-	205,000	
Capital repaid	(186,808)	-	(186,808)	
Drawings (including tax payments)	-	(4,289,977)	(4,289,977)	
Transfer of capital to former members' balances	•	(29,753)	(29,753)	
At 30 April 2021	2,349,484	2,733,381	5,082,865	

Loans and other debts due to members would rank pari passu on the event of a winding up.

Capital repaid

At 30 April 2021

Drawings (including tax payments)

Transfer of capital to former members' balances

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LLP ONLY) AT 30 APRIL 2022

	Loans and oth to/(from) n		
	Members' capital classified as a liability £	Members' other amounts £	Total 2022 £
Members' interest at 1 May 2021	2,349,484	2,729,479	5,078,963
Members' remuneration charged as an expense	-	3,387,132	3,387,132
Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability	. •	(14,000)	(14,000)
Members' capital introduced	45,000	-	45,000
Drawings (including tax payments)	-	(3,952,934)	(3,952,934)
At 30 April 2022	2,394,484	2,149,677	4,544,161
	Loans and oth		
	Members' capital classified as a liability £	Members' other amounts £	Total 2021 £
Members' interest at 1 May 2020	2,331,292	2,779,672	5,110,964
Members' remuneration charged as an expense	-	4,307,447	4,307,447
Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability	-	(84,000)	(84,000)
Members' capital introduced	205,000	-	205,000

(186,808)

2,349,484

(4,243,887)

2,729,479

(29,753)

(4,243,887)

5,078,963

(186,808)

(29,753)

Loans and other debts due to members would rank pari passu on the event of a winding up.

**BRACHERS LLP** CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Net cash inflow from operating activities	16 _	3,740,017	4,340,631
Cash flows from investing activities Purchase of tangible fixed assets Interest received		(50,605) 42,908	(94,118) 31,541
Interest paid	-	(15,147)	(24,919)
Net cash flows from investing activities	-	(22,844)	(87,496)
Cash flows from financing activities Repayment of loans and borrowings Payments to or on behalf of members Capital contributions by members Repayments to former members Capital repaid	_	(257,703) (3,952,934) 45,000 - -	(14,787) (4,289,977) 205,000 (29,753) (186,808)
Net cash flows from financing activities	_	(4;165,637)	(4,316,325)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(448,464)	(63,190)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 May 2021	_	2,057,593	2,120,783
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 April 2022	=	1,609,129	2,057,593
		2022 £	2021 £
Reconcillation to cash at bank and in hand:			
Cash on hand Cash at bank		1,510 1,607,619	1,510 2,056,083
Casti at pain	-		·
	_	1,609,129	2,057,593

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

# 1 Accounting policies

# Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

#### Statement of compliance

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

# General information and basis of accounting

The LLP is incorporated in England and Wales under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2000. The address of the registered office is given on the limited liability partnership information page. The nature of the LLP's operations and its principal activities are given in the members' report.

These financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention except that as disclosed in the accounting policies certain items are shown at fair value.

The functional currency of Brachers LLP is considered to be Pounds Sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the LLP operates. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound. Foreign operations are included in accordance with the policies set out below.

#### Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements consolidate the financial statements of the LLP and its subsidiary undertakings drawn up to 30 April 2022.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the LLP. Control is achieved where the LLP has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between the LLP and its subsidiaries, which are related parties, are eliminated in full.

Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group. Non-controlling interests in the net assets of consolidated subsidiaries are identified separately from the group's equity therein. Non-controlling interests consist of the amount of those interests at the date of the original business combination and the non-controlling shareholder's share of changes in equity since the date of the combination. Total comprehensive income is attributed to non-controlling interests even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance.

# Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the members have a reasonable expectation that the LLP has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the members continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### **Judgements**

In the application of the LLP's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying 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.

# Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Bad debt provision - due to the nature of the business, there are high levels of trade debtors at the year end, and therefore a risk that some of these balances may be irrecoverable. A bad debt review is carried out, where debts are assessed and provided against when the recoverability of these balances is considered to be uncertain. The carrying amount is £152,770 (2021 - £165,682).

Amounts recoverable on contracts - The process of assessing amounts recoverable on contracts requires various estimates and judgements to be made. Fee earners are required to record time spent on client assignments and this is used as the basis for the amounts recoverable on contracts estimate. A year end report of time on all assignments is circulated to fee earners to identify likely recoverable amounts. The carrying amount is £1,293,086 (2021 - £1,251,895).

Dilapidations provision - a provision for dilapidations on the offices is being built up each year based on the amount expected to be payable on termination of the relevant leases. The carrying amount is £300,000 (2021 - £270,000).

# Revenue recognition

Fee income represents the amounts recoverable for the services provided to clients, excluding VAT, under contractual obligations which are performed gradually over time. Turnover is recognised by reference to an assessment of the fair value of services performed at the balance sheet date as a proportion of the total value of the engagement. Services provided during the year to clients, that at the balance sheet date have not yet been billed, are recognised as turnover.

Payments received on account of work done are deducted from gross unbilled debtors. Payments received on account in excess of the carrying value of the relevant work in progress are included in creditors.

Fee income in respect of contingent fee assignments is recognised in the period when the contingent event occurs and collectability of the fee is assured.

Unbilled income on Individual client assignments is Included as amounts recoverable on contracts within debtors.

# **Government grants**

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

# Members' remuneration and division of profits

The profits of the LLP are automatically divided among the members in accordance with the agreed profit share arrangements.

A member's share of the profit or loss for the year is accounted for as an allocation of profits.

# Taxation

The taxation payable on the LLP's profits is the personal liability of the members, although payment of such liabilities is administered by the LLP on behalf of its members. Consequently, neither LLP taxation nor related deferred taxation is accounted for in these financial statements. Sums set aside in respect of members' tax obligations are included in the balance sheet within loans and other debts due to members, or are set against amounts due from members as appropriate.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 1 Accounting policies (continued)

# Goodwill

Positive goodwill is capitalised, classified as an asset on the balance sheet and amortised on a straight line basis over its useful economic life, which is considered to be five years. It is reviewed for impairment at the end of the first full financial year following the acquisition and in other periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

#### **Amortisation**

Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic lifeas follows:

# **Asset class**

Goodwill

# Amortisation method and rate

5 years straight line

#### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any provision for Impairment,

The cost of tangible assets includes directly attributable incremental costs incurred in their acquisition and installation.

# Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

# **Asset class**

IT equipment
Fixtures and fittings
Motor vehicles
Leasehold Improvements

# Depreciation method and rate

33.3% of cost per annum
20% of cost per annum
20% of cost per annum
20% of cost per annum

# **Fixed asset investments**

Investments in equity shares which are publicly traded or where the fair value can be measured reliably are initially measured at fair value, with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. Investments in equity shares which are not publicly traded and where fair value cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Interest income on debt securities, where applicable, is recognised in income using the effective interest method. Dividends on equity securities are recognised in income when receivable.

# Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from clients for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. All trade debtors are repayable within one year and hence are included at the undiscounted cost of cash expected to be received. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the debtors.

# Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

# **Trade creditors**

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the LLP does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and all are repayable within one year and hence are included at the undiscounted amount of cash expected to be paid.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### **Borrowings**

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the profit and loss account over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the LLP has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Borrowing costs which are directly attributable to the construction of tangible fixed assets are capitalised as part of the cost of those assets. The commencement of capitalisation begins when both finance costs and expenditures for the asset are being incurred and activities that are necessary to get the asset ready for use are in progress. Capitalisation ceases when substantially all the activities that are necessary to get the asset ready for use are complete.

#### Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the LLP has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the LLP will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

### **Operating leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to income on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease except where another more systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the lease asset are consumed.

# **Members' interests**

On retirement a member's capital and current account are paid in accordance with an agreed payment schedule.

# Pensions and other post retirement obligations

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

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as an expense in measuring profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in the profit or loss as other finance revenue or cost.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other comprehensive income in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to profit and loss in subsequent periods.

The defined net benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted seculties is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### **Employee benefits**

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

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

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

# Financial instruments

# Classification

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for according to the substance of the contractual arrangement, as financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the LLP after deducting all of its liabilities. Where shares are issued, any component that creates a financial liability of the LLP is presented as a liability on the balance sheet. The corresponding dividends relating to the liability component are charged as interest expenses in the profit and loss account.

# **Recognition and Measurement**

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 financing 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.

# Impairment of financial 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.

A non financial asset is impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after initial recognition, the estimated recoverable value of the asset has been reduced. The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

The recoverable amount of goodwill is derived from measurement of the present value of the future cash flows of the cash-generating units ('CGUs') of which the goodwill is a part. Any impairment loss in respect of a CGU is allocated first to the goodwill attached to that CGU, and then to other assets within that CGU on a pro-rata basis.

Where Indicators exist for a decrease in impairment loss, the prior impairment loss is tested to determine reversal. An impairment loss is reversed on an individual impaired 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. Where a reversal of impairment occurs in respect of a CGU, the reversal is applied first to the assets (other than goodwill) of the CGU on a pro-rata basis and then to any goodwill allocated to that CGU.

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.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 2 Turnover

Fee income is wholly attributable to the principal activity of the LLP and arises solely within the United Kingdom.

# 3 Government grants

Last year, the LLP made use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) which allowed it to furlough a number of employees and apply for a grant to cover a portion of their usual monthly wage costs. The amount of grants recognised in the financial statements was £Nil (2021 - £220,871).

# 4 Operating profit

Operating profit is stated after charging:

•	2021 £ 58,132 27,635
Depreciation of owned assets 77,140	88,132
111111	•
5 Particulars of employees	
The average number of persons employed by the LLP (including members) during the year, analyst category was as follows:	sed by
2022	2021
No.	No.
Solicitors / fee earners 112	121
Administrative and support staff 82	91
194	212
The aggregate payrell costs were as follows:	
The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:	
2022	2021
£	3
	33,368
Other pension schemes 371,242 24	15,746

7,323,682

7,379,114

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

#### 6 Members' remuneration

Average number of members during the year \_\_\_\_\_\_15 \_\_\_\_\_14

The average profit allocation per member in respect of the year's results amounted to £227,627 (2021 - £302,306).

Profits are shared among members in accordance with agreed profit sharing arrangements. The average profit per member is calculated in accordance with the requirements of the SORP by dividing the profit for the financial year before members' remuneration and profit shares by the average number of all members.

The profit attributable to the member with the largest entitlement was £286,906 (2021 - £377,876).

Allocated profits take in to account pension and annuity payments and include sums allocated as interest, members' motor expenses and capital profits.

# 7 Profit of the LLP

The LLP has taken advantage of Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 as applied by the Limited Liability Partnerships, Partnerships and Groups (Accounts & Audit) Regulations 2016 and has not included its own profit and loss account in these financial statements. Its own profit for the year available for discretionary division among members was £3,387,132 (2021 - £4,307,447) and the total comprehensive income for the year available for division among members was £3,373,132 (2021 - £4,223,447).

**BRACHERS LLP** 

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 8 Tangible fixed assets

Group and LLP	Leasehold Improvements £	IT equipment £	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost At 1 May 2021 Additions	62,236 15,445	1,733,691 17,324	741,775 17,836	9,500	2,547,202 50,605
At 30 April 2022	77,681	1,751,015	759,611	9,500	2,597,807
Depreciation At 1 May 2021 Charge for the year	14,472 12,448	1,644,603 44,598	640,739 20,094	9,500	2,309,314 77,140
At 30 April 2022	26,920	1,689,201	660,833	9,500	2,386,454
Net book value					
At 30 April 2022	50,761	61,814	98,778	-	211,353
At 30 April 2021	47,764	89,088	101,036	•	237,888
9 Investments held Group Other investments	as fixed assets			2022 £ 123,048	2021 £ 123,048
Other Investments		·			Unlisted investments £
Cost At 1 May 2021 and at	30 April 2022			_	123,048
Net book value					
At 30 April 2021 and a	t 30 April 2022			=	123,048

The unlisted investment represents an 8% interest in the ordinary share capital of Meridies Insurance Company Limited.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 9 Investments held as fixed assets (continued)

	~

	2022	2021
Other investments	373,048	373,048
Other investments		
	•	Unlisted investments £
Cost	-	
At 1 May 2021 and at 30 April 2022		373,048
Net book value		

# Details of undertakings

At 30 April 2021 and at 30 April 2022

Details of the investments in which the LLP holds 20% or more of the nominal value of any class of share capital are as follows:

373,048

Undertaking	Country of Incorporation	Holding	Proportion of voting rights and shares held	Principal activity
Subsidiary undertakii	ngs			
Kent HR LLP	England and Wales	N/A	100%	Provision of professional services and advice
Brachers Trust Corporation Ltd	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%	Provision of professional services and advice

# 10 Debtors

	Group		LI	LP
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	2,922,326	2,953,216	2,869,811	2,941,664
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	9,576	9,004
Amounts recoverable on contracts	1,293,086	1,251,895	1,293,086	1,251,895
Other debtors	391,429	501,429	390,000	500,000
Prepayments and accrued income	621,953	838,400	621,953	838,400
	5,228,794	5,544,940	5,184,426	5,540,963

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

•	Group		Group		Group LLF		Group LLP	
	2022	2021	2022	2021				
	£	£	£	£				
Bank loans and overdrafts	242,297	250,000	242,297	250,000				
Payments received on account	8,576	1,150	•	-				
Trade creditors	629,332	510,299	624,340	510,299				
Amounts owed to group undertakings	1,200	1,200	101,200	101,200				
Amounts due to former members	50,753	53,543	50,753	53,543				
Other taxes and social security	616,810	601,394	604,991	599,334				
Other creditors	51,585	57,023	201,585	207,023				
Accruals and deferred income	685,440	858,635	669,887	841,550				
	2,285,993	2,333,244	2,495,053	2,562,949				

# 12 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group		LLP	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	250,000	•	250,000
Amounts due to former members	-	27,360		27,360
		277,360		277,360

# 13 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

# **Operating leases**

The total of future minimum lease payments is as follows:

	Group		LLP	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than one year	384,038	384,038	384,038	384,038
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,059,927	1,398,965	1,059,927	1,398,965
Later than five years		45,000		<u>45,</u> 000
	1,443,965	1,828,003	1,443,965	1,828,003

The amount of non-cancellable operating lease payments recognised as an expense in the group during the year was £387,602 (2021 - £377,835).

The amount of non-cancellable operating lease payments recognised as an expense in the LLP during the year was £387,602 (2021 - £377,835).

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 14 Provisions

# Group and LLP

	Dilapidations provision £
At 1 May 2021	270,000
Additional provisions	30,000
At 30 April 2022	300,000

# 15 Pension and other schemes

# Defined benefit pension schemes Group and LLP

The group operates a defined benefit scheme in the UK. This is a separate trustee administered fund holding the pension scheme assets to meet long term pension liabilities.

A full actuarial valuation was carried out at 30 April 2021 and updated to 30 April 2022 by a qualified actuary, independent of the scheme's sponsoring employer.

# Principal actuarial assumptions

The principal actuarial assumptions at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	<b>2022</b> %	2021 %
Discount rates	3.05	2.00
CPI Inflation	3.40	2.85
Revaluation of deferred pensions	3.65	2.80
Post retirement mortality assumptions		
Assumed life expectations on retirement at age 65:		
	2022 %	<b>2021</b> %
Retiring today - Males	22.20	22.10
Retiring today - Females	24.60	24.50
Retiring in 20 years - Males	23.80	23.80
Retiring in 20 years - Females	26.30	26.20

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 15 Pension and other schemes (continued)

Amounts taken to other comprehensive income:		
	2022	2021
	£	£
Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit obligation	338,000	56,000
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts in net interest)	(275,000)	25,000
Movement in unrecognised plan surplus	(126,000)	(95,000)
Total cost	(63,000)	(14,000)
Reconciliation of scheme assets and liabilities to assets and liabilities	es recognised	
The amounts recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:		
	2022	2021
	£	£
Present value of defined benefit obligation	2,329,000	2,712,000
Fair value of scheme assets	(2,779,000)	(3,029,000)
Surplus in scheme	(450,000)	(317,000)
Unrecognised past service cost	450,000	317,000
Total (asset) / liability recognised	-	-
Defined benefit obligation		
Changes in the defined benefit obligation are as follows:		
		2022
		£
Present value at start of year		2,712,000
Interest cost		53,000
Actuarial gains and losses		(338,000)
Benefits paid		(98,000)
Present value at end of year		2,329,000

# **Brachers LLP**

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 April 2022 (continued)

# 16 Cash flow statement

Group
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Croup	2022 £	2021 £
Operating profit	3,397,639	4,309,658
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment charges	77,140	68,132
Decrease in debtors	316,146	422,331
Decrease in creditors	(66,908)	(435,490)
Increase in provisions	30,000	60,000
Difference between defined benefit pension charge and cash contributions	(14,000)	(84,000)
Cash generated by operations	3,740,017	4,340,631
Net cash inflow from operating activities	3,740,017	4,340,631

# 17 Analysis of changes in net debt

# Group

		<b></b>	Other	A4 00 A
	At 1 May 2021 £	Financing cash flows	non-cash changes £	At 30 April 2022 £
Cash at bank	2,057,593	(448,464)	-	1,609,129
Bank borrowings (less than one year)	(250,000)	7,703	-	(242,297)
Bank borrowings (more than one year)	(250,000)	250,000	-	
Net debt (before members' debt)	1,557,593	(190,761)	-	1,366,832
Loans and other debts due to members				
Members' capital	(2,349,484)	(45,000)	-	(2,394,484)
Other amounts due to members	(2,733,381)	3,952,936	(3,411,402)	(2,191,847)
Net debt	(3,525,272)	3,717,175	(3,411,402)	(3,219,499)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

# 18 Related party transactions

During the year ended 30 April 2022 rent of £270,000 (2021 - £270,000) was charged to Brachers LLP by Brachers Property LLP, a partnership which has some designated members in common. As at 30 April 2022 Brachers LLP owed Brachers Property LLP £67,500 (2021 - £67,500) in respect of the rent and Brachers Property LLP owed Brachers LLP £390,000 (2021 - £500,000) with regard to a previous loan.

# 19 Control

In the opinion of the members, at 30 April 2022 there is no ultimate controlling party of Brachers LLP, with the members controlling Brachers LLP in accordance with their capital contribution to the business.