

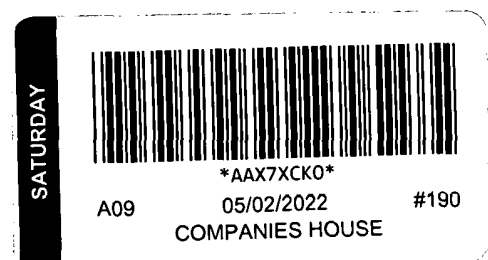
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# **Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**30 April 2021**

**Registered Number: OC353760**



# **Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements 2021**

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## **Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP**

### **Annual Report and Financial Statements 2021 Information**

#### **DESIGNATED MEMBERS**

C J R Barrett  
M D Kerr

#### **MEMBERS**

N S P Blundell  
P R Brownlow  
Dr M J Hilton  
N T Jenkins  
M Macdonald  
J M Mutimear  
S J Shooter  
K J Stephens  
J P Taylor

#### **LLP REGISTERED NUMBER**

OC353760

#### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

12 New Fetter Lane  
London  
EC4A 1JP

## **Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP**

### **Report to the Members For the year ended 30 April 2021**

The members present their annual report and the un-audited financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2021.

#### **PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY**

The principal activity of the LLP is the provision of legal services in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. All results derive from continuing activities.

#### **DESIGNATED MEMBERS**

C J R Barrett and M D Kerr were designated members of the LLP throughout the year, and up the date of signing these financial statements.

#### **MEMBERS**

Unless otherwise stated, all members listed on page 1 were members throughout the current financial year, and up to the date of signing of these financial statements.

#### **MEMBERS' CAPITAL AND INTERESTS**

Members have no obligation to provide capital. The LLP is funded through loans and other financial support from Bird & Bird LLP.

The members do not receive drawings directly from the LLP. All members of the LLP are also members of the ultimate controlling party (refer note 10) and receive drawings directly from this party.

#### **STATEMENT OF MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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 firm and of the profit or loss of the firm for that period. 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;
- 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.

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

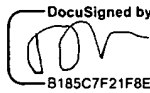
## **Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP**

### **Report to the Members For the year ended 30 April 2021**

#### **AUDITOR**

For the year ended 30 April 2021 the LLP was entitled to exemption from audit under section 479A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the members on 26 January 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**M D Kerr**  
Designated Member

**Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP****Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the year ended 30 April 2021**

		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
<b>TURNOVER</b>		5,688	4,030
Staff costs	4	(5,022)	(4,169)
Depreciation		(193)	(228)
Other operating expenses		(2,884)	(864)
<b>OPERATING LOSS</b>		<b>(2,411)</b>	<b>(1,231)</b>
Finance costs (net)	5	(89)	(93)
<b>LOSS FOR THE YEAR BEFORE MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND PROFIT SHARES AVAILABLE FOR DISCRETIONARY DIVISION AMONG MEMBERS</b>		<b>(2,500)</b>	<b>(1,324)</b>
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations		58	(46)
<b>Other comprehensive income / (expense)</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>(46)</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(2,442)</b>	<b>(1,370)</b>

The notes on pages 7 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

**Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP****Statement of Financial Position  
As at 30 April 2021**

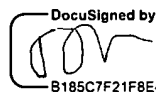
	Notes	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	6	186	400
		<b>186</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	7	3,923	2,609
Cash at bank and in hand		451	634
		4,374	3,243
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(7,022)	(5,891)
<b>NET CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>(2,648)</b>	<b>(2,648)</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>(2,462)</b>	<b>(2,248)</b>
<b>NET LIABILITIES ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS</b>		<b>(2,462)</b>	<b>(2,248)</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Loans and other debts due to members			
Members' other interests			
Other reserves classified as equity		(2,462)	(2,248)
		<b>(2,462)</b>	<b>(2,248)</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' INTERESTS</b>			
Other amounts due to members		(2,462)	(2,248)
		<b>(2,462)</b>	<b>(2,248)</b>

For the year ended 30 April 2021 the LLP was exempt from audit under section 479A of the Companies Act 2006.

Members' responsibilities: The members acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of this Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.


The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small LLPs regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A – Small Entities.

The financial statements of Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP, registered number OC353760, were approved and authorised for issue by the members on 26 January 2022 and were signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**M D Kerr**

Designated Member

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**C J R Barrett**

Designated Member

**Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP****Statement of Changes in Equity  
For the year ended 30 April 2021**

	Equity	Debt	
	Members' other interests	Loans and other debts due to members	
	Other reserves	Members' capital classified as debt	Total members' interests
	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Total members' interests at 1 May 2019</b>	<b>(3,274)</b>	-	<b>(3,274)</b>
Loss for the financial year available for discretionary division among members	(3,274)	-	(3,274)
<b>Total members' interests after loss for the year</b>	<b>(4,598)</b>	-	<b>(4,598)</b>
Exchange difference on translation of foreign operations	(46)	-	(46)
<b>Total members' interests after Comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(4,644)</b>		<b>(4,644)</b>
Allocation of prior year loss	2,919	(2,919)	-
Consideration received from members		3,098	3,098
Other exchange differences	(523)	(179)	(702)
<b>Total members' interests at 30 April 2020</b>	<b>(2,248)</b>	-	<b>(2,248)</b>
Loss for the financial year available for discretionary division among members	(2,500)	-	(2,500)
<b>Total members' interests after loss for the year</b>	<b>(4,748)</b>	-	<b>(4,748)</b>
Exchange difference on translation of foreign operations	58	-	58
<b>Total members' interests after Comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(4,690)</b>	-	<b>(4,690)</b>
Allocation of prior year loss	2,153	(2,153)	-
Consideration received from members	-	1,983	1,983
Other exchange differences	75	170	245
<b>Total members' interests at 30 April 2021</b>	<b>(2,462)</b>	-	<b>(2,462)</b>



## **Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 April 2021**

#### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP is a limited liability partnership incorporated in England and Wales. Registered number OC253760. Its registered head office is located at 12 New Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1JP.

#### **2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with Section 1A of Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting by Limited Liability Partnerships".

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

##### **2.2 FRS 102 – Reduced disclosure exemptions**

The LLP has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102:

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirements of Section 3 Financial Statement Presentation paragraph 3.17(d);
- the requirements of Section 11 Financial Instruments paragraphs 11.41(b), 11.41(c), 11.41(e), 11.41(f), 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b) and 11.48(c);
- the requirements of Section 12 Other Financial Instruments paragraphs 12.26, 12.27 12.29(a), 12.29(b) and 12.29A.
- the requirements of Section 33 Related Party Disclosures paragraph 33.7.

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of Bird & Bird LLP (refer note 10), the LLP's ultimate controlling body.

##### **2.2 Going concern**

The LLP operates in a cash-pooling arrangement with its ultimate parent undertaking. The LLP's forecasts and projections, taking account of changes in the economic climate, show that the LLP is expected to be able to operate within the level of its current facilities for the foreseeable future.

The ultimate parent undertaking has provided a letter of support which confirms that it will continue to provide such financial support as is required by the LLP for a year of at least 12 months from the date of the signing of this report to allow it to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

After making enquiries and considering the ability of the parent undertaking to provide this support, the members have a reasonable expectation that the LLP has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

##### **2.3 Revenue**

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the LLP and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes. The following criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

# **Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 April 2021**

### **Rendering of services**

Revenue from a contract to provide services is recognised in the period in which the services are provided in accordance with the stage of completion of the contract when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the LLP will receive the consideration due under the contract;
- the stage of completion of the contract at the end of the reporting period can be measured reliably; and
- the costs incurred and the costs to complete the contract can be measured reliably.

### **2.4 Accrued revenue**

Where appropriate, services provided to clients, which, at the Statement of Financial Position date, have not been billed, have been recognised as revenue. Accrued revenue recognised is based on an assessment of the fair value of services provided by the Statement of Financial Position date. Provision is made against unbilled amounts on those engagements where the right to receive payment is contingent on factors outside the control of the firm.

### **2.5 Members' drawings policy**

The members do not receive drawings directly from the LLP. All members of the LLP are also members of the ultimate controlling party (refer note 10), and receive drawings directly from this party.

### **2.6 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Leasehold improvements	Life of the lease (minimum 10% per annum)
Fixtures and fittings	20% per annum
Office equipment	20% per annum
Computer equipment	33% per annum

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised within 'other operating income' in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

### **2.7 Debtors**

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

### **2.8 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

## **Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 30 April 2021**

#### **2.9 Creditors**

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### **2.10 Foreign currency translation**

The LLP's functional currency is Emirati Dirham (AED). The LLP's presentational currency is Euro, consistent with the LLP's ultimate controlling party.

##### **Transactions and balances**

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of transactions and from the translation at period-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income except when deferred in other comprehensive income as qualifying cash flow hedges.

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings and cash and cash equivalents are presented in the Statement of Comprehensive Income within 'finance income or costs'. All other foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in the Statement of Comprehensive Income within 'other operating income'.

#### **2.11 Leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term, even if the payments are not made on such a basis. Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are recognised as a reduction to the expense and similarly spread on a straight-line basis over the lease term; except where the period to the review date on which the rent is first expected to be adjusted to the prevailing market rate is shorter than the full lease term, in which case the shorter period is used.

#### **2.12 Taxation**

Income tax payable on LLP profits is the personal liability of individual members. No reserve for taxation is made in the financial statements in respect of members' personal tax liabilities.

#### **2.13 Employee benefits**

Short term employee benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

## Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 April 2021

#### 3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the LLP's principal accounting policies, which are described in note 2, the members are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions on 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 on-going 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.

#### **Critical judgements in applying the LLP's accounting policies**

No critical judgements were required to be made by the members in the process of applying the LLP's accounting policies which have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

#### **Key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty are discussed below.

#### **Revenue recognition – accrued revenue:**

The value of accrued revenue is derived on the basis of estimations and assumptions regarding the earned value of unbilled time at the year end, having regard to the LLP's accounting policy for revenue recognition. The accrued revenue balance at 30 April 2021 was estimated based on value of time and progress of completion and the rate of recoverability achieved during the year.

#### **Impairment of debtors:**

The LLP makes an estimate of the recoverable value of debtors, other debtors and accrued revenue. When assessing impairment of trade receivables, other debtors and accrued revenue, management considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile and historical experience. See note 7 for the net carrying amount of the LLP's debtors and associated impairment provision.

#### 3. OPERATING LOSS

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Operating loss is stated after charging:		
Fees payable to the auditor:		
Audit fees:		
Fees payable to Deloitte member firms for the audit of the LLP's financial statements	-	-

## Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 April 2021

#### 4. MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES

Average monthly number of persons employed during the year (including members with contracts of employment):

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Fee earning staff	21	16
Support staff	15	15
	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>

Information in relation to members:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Average monthly number of members during the year	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>

#### 5. FINANCE COSTS (NET)

Interest payable and similar expenses:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Other loans	89	93

Other loans are loans to the LLP's ultimate controlling party (note 10).

**Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP****Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the year ended 30 April 2021****6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Leasehold improvements, furniture, fixtures and fittings €'000</b>	<b>Office equipment and computers €'000</b>	<b>Total €'000</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 May 2020	1,753	306	2,059
Exchange movements	(190)	(33)	(223)
Additions	-	17	17
Disposals	-	-	-
<b>At 30 April 2021</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>1,853</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>			
At 1 May 2020	1,363	296	1,659
Exchange movements	(153)	(32)	(176)
Charge for the year	186	7	193
Disposals	-	-	-
<b>At 30 April 2021</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>1,667</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
<b>At 30 April 2021</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>At 30 April 2020</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>400</b>

**7. DEBTORS**

	<b>2021 €'000</b>	<b>2020 €'000</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	2,725	1,575
Accrued revenue	612	481
Prepayments	286	259
Other debtors	300	294
	<b>3,923</b>	<b>2,609</b>

An impairment provision of €979,000 (2020: €455,000) has been recognised against trade debtors.

## Bird & Bird (MEA) LLP

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 April 2021

#### 8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	€'000	€'000
Trade creditors	544	395
Accruals	260	290
Other taxation and social security	98	145
Other creditors	700	590
Amounts owed to other group undertakings	5,420	4,471
	<b>7,022</b>	<b>5,891</b>

Amounts owed to other group undertakings represent funding loans at commercial rates of interest. The loans are repayable on demand.

#### 9. LEASING COMMITMENTS

Future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021 Land and buildings €'000	2020 Land and buildings €'000
Within one year	409	440
Between one and five years	-	459
	<b>409</b>	<b>899</b>

#### 10. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

Bird & Bird LLP, a limited liability partnership incorporated in the United Kingdom, and registered in England and Wales, is, in the opinion of the members, by virtue of the fact that it has power to exercise, or actually exercises, dominant influence or control, considered to be the LLP's ultimate and immediate parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party at 30 April 2021.

The only entity in which the accounts of the LLP are consolidated is Bird & Bird LLP. Copies of the group financial statements are available from its registered office at 12 New Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1JP.