# MEMBERS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

Limited Liability Partnership Registration No OC373542 (England and Wales)

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## LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

**Designated members** 

L A Attrup

B A Brennan K E Carroll

J D Foy

S C Glenholme

D D Keegan H J Kent C E Sharp N A G Turner H Young

C J Debenham R L Boulton

Limited liability partnership number

OC373542

Registered office

Ivy House

107 St Peter's Street

St Albans Hertfordshire AL1 3EW

**Auditors** 

Kingston Smith LLP

105 St Peter's Street

St Albans Hertfordshire AL1 3EJ

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## DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP MEMBERS' REPORT

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

The members present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2013

The LLP's members are, on a day to day basis, known as Partners

Debenhams Ottaway LLP was incorporated on 21 March 2012 On 1 May 2013 the business of Debenhams Ottaway, a general partnership with unlimited liability was transferred to the LLP

The prior year comparatives included in the financial statements are therefore the results of the unlimited partnership. Incorporation of the business has not however resulted in any material changes of accounting policy.

#### Principal activities

The principal activity of the LLP was of the provision of legal services

### **Designated Members**

The following designated members have held office since 1 May 2013

L A Attrup

B A Brennan

K E Carroll

J D Foy

S C Glenholme

D D Keegan

H J Keegar

C E Sharp

N A G Turner

H Young

C J Debenham (resigned 31 March 2013)

R L Boulton

#### Policy on members' drawings

Members are permitted to make drawings in anticipation of profits that 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. On retirement, capital is repaid to members over a period of time in accordance with the member's agreement

### Statement of members' responsibilities

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

Legislation applicable to limited liability partnerships requires 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). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the LLP and of the profit and loss of the LLP for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the members are required to

- · select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- make judgements and 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 modified by the Limited Liability Partnerships Regulations 2008. The members 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.

## DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP MEMBERS' REPORT (continued)

## FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

In so far as the members are aware

- · there is no relevant audit information of which the LLP's auditor is unaware, and
- the members have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

#### Auditor

Kingston Smith LLP is deemed to be re-appointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006 as modified by the Limited Liability Partnerships Regulations 2008

Registered office 105 St Peter's Street St Albans Hertfordshire AL1 3EJ Signed on behalf of the members

Approved by the members on

D Keegan Designated member Attrup Designates member

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

We have audited the financial statements of Debenhams Ottaway LLP for the period ended 30 April 2013, set out on pages 3 to 12. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

This report is made solely to the LLP's members in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, as applied by Part 12 of The Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts and Audit) (Application of Companies Act 2006) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the LLP'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 LLP and the LLP's members for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed

#### RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS AND AUDITOR

As explained more fully in the Members' Report, the members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the LLP's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the designated members, and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Members' report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

In our opinion the financial statements

- give a true and fair view of the state of the LLP's affairs as at 30 April 2013 and of its profits for the year then ended,
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, as applied to limited liability partnerships by The Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts and Audit) (Application of Companies Act 2006) Regulations 2008

#### 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, as applied to limited liability partnerships, requires us to report to you if, in our opinion

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or

Nigel Birch (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Kingston Smith LLP

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor

105 St Peter's Street St Albans

Hertfordshire AL1 3EJ

## DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

| Notes | 2013<br>£   | 2012<br>£   |
|-------|-------------|---|
| Notes | £           | £   |
|       |             | ~   |
|       | 6,858,813   | 6,661,761   |
|       | (5,396,292) | (4,990,077)   |
| 2     | 1,462,521   | 1,671,684   |
| 4     | 240,814     | 237,864   |
| 4     | (63,013)    | (154,539)   |
|       | 1,640,322   | 1,755,009   |
|       | (1,640,322) | (1,755,009)   |
|       | -           | -   |
|       | 4           | (5,396,292)  2 1,462,521  4 240,814 4 (63,013)  1,640,322 |

The profit and loss account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those passing through the profit and loss account

## **DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP BALANCE SHEET**

## **AS AT 30 APRIL 2013**

|  |          |             | 2013      | Profe       | orma<br>2012 |
|--|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
|  | Notes    | £           | £         | £           | £            |
| Fixed assets                               |          |             |           |             |              |
| Tangible assets                            | 6        |             | 218,242   |             | 237,543      |
| Current assets                             |          |             |           |             |              |
| Work in progress                           | 7        | 536,823     |           | 243,663     |              |
| Debtors                                    | 8        | 2,723,791   |           | 2,890,426   |              |
| Cash at bank and in hand                   |          | 580,893     |           | 516,914     |              |
|  |          | 3,841,507   |           | 3,651,003   |              |
| Creditors amounts falling due within       |          |             |           |             |              |
| опе year                                   | 9        | (1,460,329) |           | (1,196,936) |              |
| Net current assets                         |          |             | 2,381,178 |             | 2,454,067    |
| NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBE           | RS 10    |             | 2,599,420 |             | 2,691,610    |
| REPRESENTED BY                             |          |             | ·         |             |              |
| Loans and other debts due to members       | <b>,</b> |             |           |             |              |
| Other amounts due to members               | 10       |             | 1,169,420 |             | 1,191,610    |
| Members' other interests                   |          |             |           |             |              |
| Members' capital classified as a liability | 10       |             | 1,430,000 |             | 1,500,000    |
|  |          |             | 2,599,420 |             | 2,691,610    |
|  |          |             |           |             |              |

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on 171013

Designated member

and signed on their behalf by

D Keegan

Designated member

Limited Liability Partnership Registration No OC373542

## DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

## **AS AT 30 APRIL 2013**

|  |       | 20          |             | Proform     |             |
|--|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | Notes | £           | £           | £           | £           |
| Cash flow from operating activities  | 13    |             | 1,392,684   |             | 1,604,896   |
| Returns on investments and servicing of finance                              |       |             |             |             |             |
| Interest received  |       | 240,814     |             | 237,864     |             |
| Interest paid  |       | (63,013)    |             | (154,539)   |             |
| Net cash inflow for returns on investments                                   | s and | <del></del> |             |             |             |
| servicing of finance   |       |             | 177,801     |             | 83,325      |
| Capital expenditure and financial investme                                   | ent   |             |             |             |             |
| Payments made to acquire tangible assets                                     |       | (41,518)    |             | (108,076)   |             |
| Net cash outflow for capital expenditure                                     |       |             | (41,518)    |             | (108,076)   |
| Transactions with members and former members                                 |       |             |             |             |             |
| Payments to and on behalf of members   |       | (1,554,303) |             | (1,839,353) |             |
| Post retirement payments to former members                                   | 3     | (108,209)   |             | (108,409)   |             |
| Net cash outflow to members and former members                               |       |             | (1,662,512) |             | (1,947,762) |
| Net cash inflow / (outflow) before manager of liquid resources and financing | ment  |             | (133,545)   |             | (367,617)   |
| Financing  |       |             |             |             |             |
| Capital introduced   |       | 80,000      |             | -           |             |
| Net cash (outflow) from financing  |       |             | 80,000      | <del></del> | -           |
|  |       |             | (53,545)    |             | (367,617)   |
|  |       |             |             |             |             |

## DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### 11 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting by Limited Liability Partnerships" ("the SORP")

On 1 May 2012 the business of Debenhams Ottaway, a general partnership with unlimited liability was transferred to Debenhams Ottaway LLP

The transfer of business has been accounted for in accordance with the principles of merger accounting since as at 1 May 2012 the members of Debenhams Ottaway LLP were the same as the former partners of the unlimited partnership and their rights, relative to each other, were unchanged. Therefore the members had a continuing interest in the business, both before and after its transfer to the LLP Consequently the financial statements have been prepared as if Debenhams Ottaway LLP had been in existence both for the current and previous year.

Under the principle of merger accounting, the assets and liabilities of the former unlimited partnership have been brought in at their book values under the accounting policies of Debenhams Ottaway LLP. The balance sheet of the former unlimited partnership as at 30 April 2012 together with the profit and loss account, cashflow statement and notes for the year then ended are presented as proforma comparatives.

### 1.2 Revenue recognition

Fees receivable are recognised in the profit and loss account when a right to consideration has been obtained in exchange for performance of contractual obligations. Income is recorded at the fair value of the right to consideration, including principal time, after deducting allowances for discounts, credit risk, and any other uncertainties relating to a client's willingness to pay

Fee income that is contingent on events outside the control of the firm is recognised when the contingent event occurs

#### 1.3 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows

Leasehold improvements

Over the period of the lease

Office equipment and furniture

15% reducing balance

Computer equipment

33 33% reducing balance

## 14 Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the lease term

#### 15 Work in progress

Work in progress in relation to contingent fee arrangements, where the contingent condition has not been met at the balance sheet date is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is arrived at on the basis of direct chargeable salary costs plus attributable overheads based on normal levels of activity.

#### 16 Taxation

The taxation payable on the profits is the personal liability of the members. Consequently no reserve for taxation is made in these financial statements and the profits are shown within 'Loans and other debts due to members' without any deduction of tax.

## DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

### 1.7 Retirement benefits

The LLP operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. The amount charged to the profit and loss account in respect of pension costs and other post retirement benefits is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown in creditors in the financial statements.

| 2 | Operating profit                            |         | Proforma |
|---|---|---------|----------|
|   | •   | 2013    | 2012     |
|   |   | £       | £        |
|   | Operating profit is stated after charging   |         |          |
|   | Depreciation of tangible assets             | 32,417  | 55,777   |
|   | Auditors' remuneration                      | 14,000  | -        |
|   | Operating lease costs - plant and equipment | 22,283  | 22,650   |
|   | - Land & buildings                          | 224,267 | 207,478  |

### 3 Turnover

The LLP's turnover is from the provision of legal services. All turnover comes from UK-based offices

| 4 | Interest payable and interest receivable | 2013      | Proforma<br>2012 |
|---|--|-----------|------------------|
|   |  | 3         | £                |
|   | Interest receivable                      |           |                  |
|   | Bank interest                            | 240,814   | 237,864          |
|   |  |           |                  |
|   | Interest payable                         |           |                  |
|   | Interest paid to clients                 | 63,013    | 154,539          |
|   |  |           |                  |
| 5 | Employee information                     | 2013      | Proforma<br>2012 |
|   |  | £         | £                |
|   | Wages and salaries                       | 2,349,153 | 2,270,058        |
|   | Social security costs                    | 993,372   | 1,026,523        |
|   | Other pension costs                      | 105,759   | 103,072          |
|   |  | 3,448,284 | 3,399,653        |
|   |  |           |                  |

The average number of persons (excluding members) employed by the LLP were 47 professional staff (2012 43) and 46 administrative staff (2012 44)

# DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

| 6 | Tangible fixed assets                          | 1                         | 055                 | Tatal            |
|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|   |  | Leasehold<br>Improvements | Office<br>Equipment | Total            |
|   | Cost   | mprovements               | Equipment           | £                |
|   | At 1 May 2012                                  | 236,085                   | 434,038             | 670,123          |
|   | Additions                                      | -                         | 41,518              | 41,518           |
|   | At 30 April 2013                               | 236,085                   | 475,556             | 711,641          |
|   | Depreciation                                   | <del></del>               |                     |                  |
|   | At 1 May 2012                                  | 196,842                   | 235,737             | 432,579          |
|   | Charge for the year                            | 7,407                     | 53,413              | 60,820           |
|   | At 30 April 2013                               | 204,249                   | 289,150             | 493,399          |
|   | Net book value                                 |                           |                     | -                |
|   | At 30 April 2013                               | 31,836                    | 186,406             | 218,242          |
|   | At 30 April 2012                               | 39,243                    | 198,301             | 237,544          |
| 7 | Work in Progress                               |                           | 2013                | Proforma<br>2012 |
|   |  |                           | £                   | £                |
|   | Contingent work in progress                    |                           | 536,823             | 243,663          |
| 8 | Debtors  |                           | 2013                | Proforma         |
| • |  |                           |                     | 2012             |
|   |  |                           | £                   | £                |
|   | Trade debtors                                  |                           | 982,105             | 979,992          |
|   | Amounts recoverable on contracts               |                           | 1,510,432           | 1,697,269        |
|   | Prepayments                                    |                           | 231,254             | 213,165          |
|   |  |                           | 2,723,791           | 2,890,426        |
|   |  |                           |                     | Proforma         |
| 9 | Creditors: amounts falling due within one year |                           | 2013                | 2012             |
|   |  |                           | £                   | £                |
|   | Trade creditors                                |                           | 84,849              | 66,847           |
|   | Bank loans and overdrafts                      |                           | 201,504             | 83,980           |
|   | Taxation and social security                   |                           | 359,362             | 368,760          |
|   | Other creditors                                |                           | 275,390             | 191,467          |
|   | Amounts due to retired partners                |                           | 539,224             | 485,882          |
|   |  |                           | 1,460,329           | 1,196,936        |
|   |  |                           |                     |                  |

## DEBENHAMS OTTAWAY LLP NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

### 10 Loans and other debts due to members

|  | Members'<br>Capital<br>Accounts | Other<br>amounts<br>due to |             |  |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--|
|  |                                 | members                    | Total       |  |
|  | £                               | £                          | £           |  |
| Members' interests at 1 May 2012             | 1,500,000                       | 1,191,610                  | 2,691,610   |  |
| Members' remuneration charged as an expense  | -                               | 1,640,322                  | 1,640,322   |  |
| Members' interests after profit for the year | 1,500,000                       | 2,831,932                  | 4,331,932   |  |
| Capital contributions                        | 80,000                          | -                          | 80,000      |  |
| Drawings                                     | -                               | (1,554,303)                | (1,554,303) |  |
| Reclassification                             | (150,000)                       | (108,209)                  | (258,209)   |  |
| Members' interests at 30 April 2013          | <del></del>                     | <del></del>                |             |  |
|  | 1,430,000                       | 1,169,420                  | 2,599,420   |  |
|  |                                 |                            |             |  |

in the event of a winding up the amounts included in "Loans and other debts due to members" will rank equally with unsecured creditors

### 11 Financial commitments

At 30 April 2013 the limited liability partnership was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases in the year 30 April 2014

|  |         | Proforma |
|--|---------|----------|
|  | 2013    | 2012     |
|  | £       | £        |
| Land and buildings operating leases which expire |         |          |
| Less than one year                               | -       | 187,741  |
| Between one and two years                        | -       | -        |
| Between two and five years                       | 23,250  | 23,250   |
| After five years                                 | 187,500 | -        |
|  |         |          |
| Other operating leases which expire              |         |          |
| Between two and five years                       | 22,916  | 22,126   |
|  |         |          |

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

| 12 | Information in relation to members  | 2013<br>Number | Proforma<br>2012<br>Number |
|----|---|----------------|----------------------------|
|    | The average number of members during the year was                               | 11             | 12                         |
|    |   | 2013<br>£      | Proforma<br>2012<br>£      |
|    | Highest paid member's remuneration  | 157,088        | 148,311                    |
|    |   | 2013<br>£      | Proforma<br>2012<br>£      |
|    | The average members' remuneration during the year was                           | 149,120        | 146,250                    |
| 13 | Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash inflow from operating activities | 2013<br>£      | Proforma<br>2012<br>£      |
|    | Operating profit  | 1,462,521      | 1,671,684                  |
|    | Depreciation of tangible assets   | 60,820         | 90,074                     |
|    | (Increase) in work in progress  | (293,160)      | (47,144)                   |
|    | Decrease in debtors   | 166,635        | 15,644                     |
|    | Decrease in creditors   | (4,132)        | (125,362)                  |
|    | Net cash inflow from operating activities                                       | 1,392,684      | 1,604,896                  |

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

| 14 | Analysis of net debt                             | 1 May<br>2012 | Cash flow | Other non-<br>cash<br>changes | 30 April 2013 |
|----|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|---------------|
|    |  | £             | £         | £                             | £             |
|    | Net cash   |               |           |                               |               |
|    | Cash at bank and in hand                         | 516,914       | 63,979    | -                             | 580,893       |
|    | Bank overdrafts and loans                        | (83,980)      | (117,524) | •                             | (201,504)     |
|    | Net funds  | 432,934       | (53,545)  | -                             | 379,389       |
| 15 | Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in n | et debt       |           | 2013                          | 2012          |
|    |  |               |           | £                             | £             |
|    | Movement in net funds for the year               |               |           | (53,545)                      | (367,617)     |
|    | Opening net funds                                |               |           | 432,934                       | 800,551       |
|    | Closing net funds                                |               |           | 379,389                       | 432,934       |