

BBC Comedy Productions Limited

Registered number 09158624

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023



Officers and advisors

Directors

Roger Leatham (resigned 1 February 2023)

Francis Ralph Lee

Joanna Rwama

Holly Mellors (appointed 1 February 2023)

Company Secretary

Jackline Ryland (appointed 24 August 2023)

Nicola Chalston (appointed 21 November 2022; resigned 24 August 2023)

Anthony Corriette (resigned 21 November 2022)

Registered office

1 Television Centre

101 Wood Lane

London

W12 7FA

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Directors' Report

Principal Activities

The Directors of BBC Comedy Productions Limited (the 'Company') present their Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of BBC Studios Productions Limited and is a limited company registered in England and Wales.

The principal activity of the Company is the production of television programmes.

Directors

The Directors who held office during the year and at the date of this report, unless otherwise stated, were:

- Roger Leatham (resigned 1 February 2023)
- Francis Ralph Lee
- Joanna Rwana
- Holly Mellors (appointed 1 February 2023)

The company secretary is Jackline Ryland. Previous company secretaries were Anthony Corriette (resigned 21 November 2022 and Nicola Chalston (resigned 24 August 2023).

Results and dividends

The Company made a profit of £1,300k during the year (2022: £441k). The Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend (2022: £nil).

Financial instruments

The Company's financial risk management operations are carried out by a BBC Group Treasury function, within parameters defined formally within the policies and procedures manual agreed by the BBC Board.

Directors' interests and indemnities

No Director had any interest in the share capital of the Company throughout the financial year. No rights to subscribe for shares in or debentures of the Company were granted to any of the Directors or their immediate families, or exercised by them, during the financial year. Directors' and Officers' liability insurance cover was in place throughout the financial year.

The environment

The Company does not operate in industries where there is potential for serious industrial pollution, however it recognises its responsibility to be aware of and take steps to control and minimise any damage its business might cause to the environment.

Corporate governance

The 2018 UK Corporate Governance Code, issued by the Financial Reporting Council and setting out principles of good corporate governance is not applicable to BBC Comedy Productions Limited as a private limited company but the BBC Group voluntarily complies where appropriate. Disclosure of how the BBC complies may be obtained from www.bbc.co.uk/annualreport.

Political and charitable contributions

The Company made no political donations or contributions to charity during the period (2022: £nil).

Future developments

The Company will continue to produce television programmes attracting high-end television tax relief on behalf of its parent.

BBC Comedy Productions Limited
Registered number 09158624
31 March 2023

Directors' Report (continued)

Going concern

The ability of the Company to operate as a going concern is dependent upon securing future commissions (including from within the BBC group) the effective management of costs, and the ongoing utilisation of high-end UK TV tax relief. The Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.


Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting the Company since the year end.

Small companies provision statement

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006. The Company is exempt by virtue of its size from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

By order of the Board

DocuSigned by:

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Jackine Ryland
Company Secretary
Date: 16 November 2023

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The Directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, comprising FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" and applicable law).

Under company law the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors 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 Company will continue in business; and
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 101, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Income Statement

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Revenue		21,633	10,629
Cost of sales		(23,607)	(13,285)
Gross loss		(1,974)	(2,656)
Administrative expenses		(33)	(83)
Operating loss	2	(2,007)	(2,739)
Operating loss reconciled as:			
EBITDA/(LBITDA)		750	(19)
Production tax credits		(2,757)	(2,720)
Profit before taxation		(2,007)	(2,739)
Taxation	5	3,307	3,180
Profit for the year		1,300	441

All amounts above are derived from continuing activities.

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those shown above and therefore no separate statement of other comprehensive income is presented.

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of the financial statements.

Balance Sheet

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current assets			
Inventory	4	1,472	10,405
Trade and other receivables	6	11,309	8,041
Cash and cash equivalents		128	47
		12,909	18,493
Current liabilities			
Trade payables and accruals	7	(9,392)	(13,072)
Contract liabilities	1	-	(3,268)
		(9,392)	(16,340)
Net Assets		3,517	2,153
Capital and reserves			
Share capital	8	-	-
Retained earnings	9	3,517	2,153
Shareholders' Funds		3,517	2,153


The report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary companies.

Directors' Responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements of BBC Comedy Productions Limited, registered number 09158624 were approved by the Directors authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

 F3C1EFA9D6144D3

Joanna Kwama

Director

Date: 16 November 2023

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Share capital £'000	Retained earnings £'000	Total £'000
At 31 March 2021		-	1,712	1,712
Profit for the year		-	441	441
At 31 March 2022		-	2,153	2,153
Profit for the year		-	1,300	1,300
At 31 March 2023	9	-	3,517	3,517

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023

General Information

BBC Comedy Productions Limited is a private company, limited by share, incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales, registration number 09158624. The registered office is 1 Television Centre, 101 Wood Lane, London, W12 7FA, United Kingdom.

Statement of compliance with FRS 101

The financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101, "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (FRS 101).

The Company's financial statements are presented in Sterling and all values are expressed in pounds sterling to the nearest £1,000 unless otherwise stated.

Accounting policies

This section explains the Company's main accounting policies, which have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting convention, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

The Company meets the definition of a qualifying entity under FRS 100 (Financial Reporting Standard 100) issued by the Financial Reporting Council. These financial statements were prepared in accordance with FRS 101 (Financial Reporting Standard 101) 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' as issued by the Financial Reporting Council, for all periods presented.

As permitted by FRS 101, the Company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions under FRS101:

- IFRS 7 Financial instruments
- IFRS 13 Fair value measurement
- IAS 1 Presentation of financial statements
- IAS 7 Statement of cash flows
- IAS 8 Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors
- IAS 24 Related party disclosures
- IAS 36 Impairment of assets

Going concern

The Board remains satisfied with the Company's funding and liquidity position. The Company's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonable possible changes in trading performance, show that the Company should be able to operate with the levels of its existing facilities for a period of no less than 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements. Although the Company is loss making before tax, it will continue to utilise UK high-end television tax relief to ensure that it generates a profit for the year. After making enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Accounting policies (continued)

Revenue

Revenue is measured based on the consideration specified in a contract with a customer and excludes amounts collected on behalf of third parties. Revenue recognition is based on the delivery of performance obligations and an assessment of when control is transferred to the customer. The complexity of individual contractual terms may require the Company to make judgements in assessing when the triggers for revenue recognition have been met, particularly whether the Company has sufficiently fulfilled its obligations under the contract to allow revenue to be recognised.

The Company's main sources of revenue is commissioning income. Revenue is recognised on delivery of the related programme or on a stage of completion basis, depending on the nature of the contract with the customer. Revenue is recognised either when the performance obligation in the contract has been performed ('point in time' recognition) or 'over time' as control of the performance obligation is transferred to the customer. The payment terms are over the term of the contract.

Taxation

Current tax assets and liabilities are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities, based on tax rates and laws that are enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date. The tax currently payable is based on taxable profits for the year.

Income tax is charged or credited to other comprehensive income if it relates to items that are charged or credited to other comprehensive income. Similarly, income tax is charged or credited directly to equity if it relates to items that are credited or charged directly to equity. Otherwise income tax is recognised in the income statement.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities (primarily cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables and trade payables) are recognised on the balance sheet when the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are derecognised from the balance sheet when the Company's contractual rights to the cash flows expire or there has been a substantial transfer of the risks and rewards of the financial asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised from the Company's balance sheet when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires. At each balance sheet date, the Company assesses whether there is any objective evidence that any financial asset is impaired.

Trade and other receivables

These are recognised at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs less an allowance for estimated impairment. The allowance is based on objective evidence that the Company will not be able to recover all amounts due, through a review of all accounts and prior experience collecting outstanding balances. Changes in the carrying amount of the allowance are recognised in the profit and loss account. A provision for impairment of trade and other receivables, based on the simplified approach using the lifetime expected credit losses, has not been recognised as this is not material.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Accounting policies (continued)

Inventories

Work in progress relates to the costs of programmes in the course of production which were not delivered to the programme commissioner by 31 March 2023 and comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the assets to their present location and condition. Net realisable value represents the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits with maturity of less than three months.

Use of estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting assumptions, and requires management to exercise its judgement and to make estimates in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies.

The complexity of individual contractual terms may require the Company to make judgements in assessing when the criteria for recognising revenue have been satisfied, particularly whether the Company has sufficiently fulfilled its obligations under the contract to allow revenue to be recognised.

The Company is able to claim high-end television tax relief by surrendering its allowable losses and converting some or all of it into a payable tax credit. Eligible programming must meet certain criteria set by HMRC. Judgement is required in determining that the programming made by the Company complies with this criteria.

Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

The following new and revised standards and Interpretations have been adopted for the first time, as they became effective for this financial year:

- Reference to the Conceptual Framework (Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations)
- Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use (Amendments to IAS 16)
- Onerous Contracts - Cost of fulfilling a Contract (Amendment to IAS 37)
- Annual Improvements 2018-2020

They have been applied since 1 April 2022 and have not had a significant impact on the results or financial position of the Company.

New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

At the date of authorisation of these financial statements, the following standards and interpretations, which have not yet been applied in these financial statements, were in issue but not yet effective (and in some cases had not yet been adopted by the EU).

- Classification of Liabilities as Current and Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1)
- Definition of Accounting Estimate (Amendments to IAS 8)
- Deferred Tax related to assets and liabilities arising from a Single Transaction (Amendments to IAS 12)
- Insurance Contracts (Amendments to IFRS 17)
- Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practical Statement 2)

The directors do not expect that the adoption of the standards and interpretations above would have a material impact on the financial statements of the Group in future periods.

The Company has consistently applied the accounting policies to all periods presented.

The directors do not expect that the adoption of the standards and interpretations above would have a material impact on the financial statements of the Group in future periods.

BRC Comedy Productions Limited

Registered number 09158624

31 March 2023

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Revenue

Contract balances

Contract liabilities (deferred income) primarily relate to the consideration received from customers in advance of transferring a good or service. The following table provides analysis on significant changes to contract liabilities during the year:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
At 1 April	(3,268)	(5,928)
Decrease due to revenue recognised in the period	3,268	5,928
Increase due to cash received in advance and not recognised as revenue in the year	-	(3,268)
At 1 April	-	(3,268)
Presented within:		
Current	-	(3,268)
Non-current	-	-
At 1 April	-	(3,268)

Contract costs

There were no capitalised commission fees or any other contract costs in the current year or prior year.

Applying the practical expedient in paragraph 94 of IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, the Company recognises the incremental costs of obtaining contracts as an expense when incurred if the amortisation period of the assets that the Company otherwise would have recognised is one year or less.

2 Operating Loss

The Company made an operating loss of £2.0m (2022: £2.7m loss) for the period to 31 March 2023.

The audit fee allocated to BBC Comedy Productions Limited was £nil (2022: £64,000). In 2022 the fees were borne by the parent entity and recharged to the Company. Non-audit fees paid to the Company's auditor were £nil (2022: £nil).

3 Employees and Directors' remuneration

The Company did not have any employees during the year (2022: nil) nor did it make any payments in respect of wages and salaries (2022: £nil).

The Directors received no emoluments from the Company during the year (2022: £nil).

4 Inventory

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Work in progress	1,472	10,405
Total inventory	1,472	10,405

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2023

5 Taxation

a)	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Corporation tax		
Tax credit receivable	(2,757)	(2,720)
Group taxation relief	(551)	(460)
Taxation on loss on ordinary activities	(3,308)	(3,180)

The corporation tax credit receivable relates to UK high-end television tax relief.

b)	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Loss on ordinary activities before tax	(2,007)	(2,739)
Loss on ordinary activities at the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19%	(381)	(520)

Effects of:

Television tax relief adjustments	(190)	(1,545)
Adjustments in group tax relief	455	(460)
The difference in tax rate for TV tax credits	137	(655)
Movement in deferred tax not recognised	(573)	-
Current year tax credit	(2,816)	-
Adjustment to tax charge in respect of previous period	58	-
Total tax charge for the year	(3,308)	(3,180)

6 Trade and other receivables

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Amounts due within one year:		
Tax credit receivable	2,816	2,729
Intercompany Receivables	7,824	4,989
Other receivables	669	243
Prepayments	-	80
Total debtors	11,309	8,041

7 Trade and other payables

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Amounts due within one year:		
Intercompany payables	8,980	11,991
Accruals	357	960
Trade payables	39	85
Other payables	16	36
Total creditors	9,392	13,072

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2023

8 Share capital

	2023	2022
	£	£
Allotted, called up and fully paid:		
2 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	2	2
Total share capital	2	2

The Company has one class of ordinary shares which carry no right to fixed income.

9 Reserves

Retained earnings represents the combination of results from operations in the current and previous years. Share capital represents the total value of shares issued to the company's parent company.

10 Ultimate controlling party

The Company's immediate parent undertaking is BBC Studios Productions Limited, a company registered in England and Wales.

The Company's ultimate parent undertaking, and controlling party, is the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) which is incorporated in the United Kingdom by Royal Charter. The results of the Company are consolidated within BBC Commercial Limited and the British Broadcasting Corporation. Copies of the financial statements of the BBC can be obtained from www.bbc.co.uk/annualreport.

11 Post-balance sheet events

There were no events subsequent to the balance sheet date which require disclosure within the financial statements.

12 Related party transactions

The company has taken advantage of the exemption under paragraph 8(k) of FRS101 not to disclose transactions with fellow wholly owned subsidiaries. There were no other material transactions with related parties during the current or prior year. Transactions with related parties are made on an arm's length basis.