Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited

Registration number: SC012921

Annual Report and Financial Statements

52 weeks ended 25 December 2022

Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited
(Registration number: SC012921)

Contents

Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited
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Officers and Registered Office

Directors	Jim Mullen
	Darren Fisher
Company secretary	Reach Secretaries Limited
Registered office	One Central Quay Glasgow Lanarkshire G3 8DA
Independent auditors	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 1 Embankment Place London WC2N 6RH

Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited
(Registration number: SC012921)

Strategic Report for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022

The directors present their Strategic Report for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022.

Fair review of the business

Business review
Revenue for the period fell by 7% from £45,343,000 to £42,239,000.

Performance in the year has been challenging, affected by the worsening of macroeconomic conditions over the course of the year.

There was a more subdued demand for advertising, particularly during the second half of the year when we saw an industry-wide advertising blackout around the death of HM The Queen.

Year on Year Revenue Change

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY
	%	%	%	%	%
Print	(9)	(7)	(7)	(11)	(9)
Digital	(6)	(5)	14	6	3
Total Revenue	(8)	(7)	(4)	(8)	(7)

The average monthly circulation volumes of our national newspapers were as follows below:

	2022 Volume actual[a] 000	2021 Volume actual[a] 000
Daily Record	70	82
Sunday Mail	67	82

a Average ABC circulation excluding sampling for January to December 2022 and January to December 2021.

Page views for our key websites are set out below:

	2022 Page Views[b]	2021 Page Views[b]
Daily Record	74,496,170	60,452,082
Glasgow Live	11,691,903	11,162,502

b Google Analytics average monthly January to December.

Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited (the "company") has consistently proactively managed its cost base with savings delivered through natural mitigation where volumes decline, day-to-day management interventions and structural programmes which permanently remove costs. A key priority for the company is maintaining quality journalism whilst ensuring the commercial viability and profitability of the Reach brands into the future. To achieve this we continue to drive efficiencies that do not adversely impact our products.

During 2022 the company has been impacted by an increase in the cost of newsprint due to rising energy prices following the start of the war in Ukraine. To mitigate the impact of inflation, the company has continued to tightly manage its cost base, which will protect investment in our digital strategy and put us in a strong position when the economy starts to recover.

Operating profit fell by 65% from £9,498,000 to £3,309,000 and operating margin decreased by 13 percentage points to 8%.

Financial position and future prospects

The financial position of the company is set out on page 12. The directors are satisfied as to the future prospects of the company. The company has continued to perform in line with management's expectations since the year end. The directors are confident that the company will make further good progress through the rest of the year delivering its customer-focused strategic objectives and digital growth ambitions.

The net assets of the company have increased by £2,797,000 (2021: £1,846,000) to £81,286,000 (2021: £78,489,000) due to the profit for the period.

The financial risk management objectives are set out in the Directors' Report (page 4).

Section 172 statement

From the perspective of the board, as a result of the group governance structure, the matters that it is responsible for considering under Section 172 (1) of the Companies Act 2006 ('s172') have been considered to an appropriate extent by the group board in relation both to the group and to this company. The board has also considered relevant matters where appropriate. To the extent necessary for an understanding of the development, performance and position of the company, an explanation of how the group board has considered the matters set out in s172 (for the group and for the company) is set out on pages 101 to 103 of the 2022 Reach plc Annual Report, which does not form part of this report.

Section 172 compliance outlined in the 2022 Reach plc Annual Report is applicable to the company. This gives an overview of how the company has engaged with key stakeholders during the year, including shareholders, pension schemes, colleagues and suppliers.

Key performance indicators

The key performance indicators that the company uses are revenue, operating profit, operating margin and audience measures. In a challenging market, as has been experienced during the period, the company seeks to target performance in line with or ahead of competitors or comparators taking account of the company's strategy. The key performance indicators are outlined in the business review above.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties outlined in pages 85 to 88 of the 2022 Reach plc Annual Report are applicable to the company. Specifically the principal risks to the company is of the deterioration in macro-economic conditions, that the structural challenges facing print media results in a faster than anticipated loss of print revenue, and the growth of digital revenue is not sufficient, over time, to offset these declines. The directors look to mitigate this risk by the continuing focus on reducing costs and focus on developing digital revenue streams through the Customer Value Strategy.

Approved by the Board on 27 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

....
Darren Fisher
Director

Directors' Report for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022.

Directors of the company

The directors of the company who were in office during the period and up to the date of signing the financial statements were as follows:

Jim Mullen

Simon Fuller (resigned 31 December 2022)

Darren Fisher (appointed 14 February 2023)

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company is the publishing of newspapers and related digital activities. Key brands include the Daily Record, Sunday Mail, regional newspapers and websites.

Results and dividends

The results for the period are set out on page 10. The profit for the period of £2,797,000 (2021: £7,846,000) has been transferred to reserves. During the period, no dividend was paid to the immediate parent undertaking (2021: £6,000,000). No dividends have been proposed or paid since the period end (2021: £nil).

Employee related matters

Communication and participation of employees is achieved through formal and informal management and staff briefings and where relevant, formal union procedures. Where appropriate, communication is by individual personal letter or circular. The company policy is to give fair and equal consideration to the recruitment, employment and career development of disabled persons where suitable opportunities arise and to provide such training and other assistance as may be necessary and practicable. Employees who become disabled and are unable to continue in their existing jobs are given the opportunity to be retrained for suitable alternative employment. Our employees participate in incentive schemes either through the Management Bonus Scheme, a local business incentive scheme or, for all other qualifying employees, through inclusion in the Group's Employee Bonus Scheme. Diversity and Inclusion continued to be a key focus in 2022. We now have eight inclusion networks in total, which provide our people an opportunity to play a key part in creating an inclusion culture. Two new networks were created in 2022, Family & Carers, which puts a focus on people's family responsibilities, and ReachMind, in recognition of the unique needs and discussion points around mental health.

Financial risk management policies and objectives

The company's operations expose it to financial risks that include credit and liquidity exchange risk. The company has mechanisms in place that seek to limit the impact of the adverse effects of these risks on the financial performance of the company.

Credit risk management

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counter-party with the company will default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss. Credit risk for the company considers both external and inter-group debt. In respect of external debt, the company has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and ongoing credit evaluation is performed on the financial condition of trade receivables. In respect of inter-group receivables, the position of the counter-party, and the level of support provided by the wider Reach plc group are considered.

Liquidity risk management

The company, taking into consideration the support of the Reach plc group as required, actively manages its finances to ensure that it has sufficient funds available for its operations and to meet its obligations.

Financial position and future prospects

The company's future developments are integrated with those of the Group, which are discussed on page 43 in the 2022 Reach plc Annual Report, which does not form part of this report. Further details of the financial position and future prospects of the company is set out in the Strategic Report on page 3.

Going concern basis

In determining whether the company's financial statements can be prepared on a going concern basis the directors have considered the factors likely to affect the future development, performance and financial position of the company. In particular, the directors have reviewed the assessment, and considered the progress being made in the Customer Value Strategy and the implications of the current economic environment including inflationary pressures.

The company has net current assets of £62,734,000 at 25 December 2022 (2021: £59,938,000), which includes net amounts owed from other subsidiary undertakings of Reach plc of £62,764,000 (2021: £60,206,000). The directors note that Reach plc group has a strong balance sheet and liquidity with a net cash positive position of £25,400,000 at 25 December 2022. This represents a cash balance of £40,400,000 with a draw down of £15,000,000 on the group's revolving credit facility of £120,000,000.

At the date of signing of these financial statements the directors have considered all the factors impacting the company's business, including downside sensitivities and the strong balance sheet of Reach plc. The directors therefore 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 company's financial statements.

Directors' liabilities

During the period and as at the date of signing the annual report and financial statements, the ultimate parent company has in place a directors' and officers' liability insurance policy which includes the company.

Qualifying indemnity provision

During the period the existing and former directors of the company benefited from a qualifying third party indemnity provision, in accordance with section 234 of the Companies Act 2006. The provision was in force during the financial period and where the Directors' Report was approved, and this remains in force at the date of this report. The indemnity is provided by Reach plc and covers, to the extent permitted by law, any third party liabilities which directors may incur as a result of their service on the board.

Independent auditors

The independent auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Directors' Report for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 (continued)

Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

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

Under company law, 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 of the company for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 101 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are also 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.

Directors' confirmations

In the case of each director in office at the date the Directors' Report is approved:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Board on 27 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

....
Darren Fisher
Director

Independent auditors' report to the members of Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 25 December 2022 and of its profit for the 52 week period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: Balance Sheet as at 25 December 2022; the Profit and Loss Account and the Statement of Changes in Equity for the period then ended; and the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance 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 an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of 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 based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Strategic report and Directors' Report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the UK Companies Act 2006 have been included.

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, the Companies Act 2006 requires us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Strategic report and Directors' Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Strategic report and Directors' Report for the period ended 25 December 2022 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Strategic report and Directors' Report.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Director's Responsibilities in Respect of the Financial Statements, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The directors are also responsible for such internal control as they 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 directors are responsible for assessing the company'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 directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the company and industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to employment law and data privacy law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as tax legislation and the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to management's estimates and the posting of inappropriate journal entries so as to manipulaterevenue and expenditure or to conceal the misappropriation of cash. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management, internal audit and the group's legal advisors, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud.
- Requesting legal confirmations from external lawyers and reviewing the nature of legal expenses.
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates.
- Identifying and testing journal entries to address the risk of inappropriate journals referred to above.
- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and agreeing to underlying supporting documentation.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Kirsty Luke

Kirsty Luke (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
London
27 June 2023

Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited
(Registration number: SC012921)

Profit and Loss Account
for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 (52 weeks ended 26 December 2021)

	Note	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 £ 000	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 £ 000
Turnover	3	42,239	45,343
Cost of sales		(23,581)	(24,105)
Gross profit		18,658	21,238
Distribution costs		(891)	(1,016)
Administrative expenses		(14,458)	(10,724)
Operating profit	4	3,309	9,498
Income from shares in associate undertakings		119	119
Interest payable and similar expenses	8	(5)	(8)
Profit before tax		3,423	9,609
Tax on profit	6	(626)	(1,763)
Profit for the financial period		2,797	7,846

All turnover and results arose from continuing operations.

There are no other comprehensive income other than the profit for the period (2021: £nil). Accordingly, a separate statement of comprehensive income has not been presented.

The notes on pages 13 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited
(Registration number: SC012921)

Statement of Changes in Equity
for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 (52 weeks ended 26 December 2021)

	Called up Share capital £ 000	Share premium £ 000	Profit and loss account £ 000	Total £ 000
At 28 December 2020	1,022	18	75,603	76,643
Profit for the period	-	-	7,846	7,846
Total comprehensive income	-	-	7,846	7,846
Dividends (note 7)	-	-	(6,000)	(6,000)
At 26 December 2021	1,022	18	77,449	78,489

	Called up share capital £ 000	Share premium £ 000	Profit and loss account £ 000	Total £ 000
At 27 December 2021	1,022	18	77,449	78,489
Profit for the period	-	-	2,797	2,797
Total comprehensive income	-	-	2,797	2,797
At 25 December 2022	1,022	18	80,246	81,286

Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited
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Balance Sheet
at 25 December 2022 (at 26 December 2021)

	Note	25 December 2022 £ 000	26 December 2021 £ 000
Non-current assets			
Right-of-use assets	8	28	65
Investments	9	18,625	18,625
		18,653	18,690
Current assets			
Deferred tax asset	6	1	-
Debtors	10	62,764	60,206
Cash at bank and in hand		7	-
		62,772	60,206
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(38)	(268)
Net current assets		62,734	59,938
Total assets less current liabilities		81,387	78,628
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	(101)	(139)
Net assets		81,286	78,489
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	15	1,022	1,022
Share premium account	15	18	18
Profit and loss account	15	80,246	77,449
Total shareholders' funds		81,286	78,489

The financial statements on pages 10 to 25 were approved by the Board of Directors on 27 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

....
Darren Fisher
Director

The notes on pages 13 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

1 General information

The company is a private company limited by share capital, incorporated and domiciled in Scotland.

The address of its registered office is:
One Central Quay
Glasgow
Lanarkshire
G3 8DA

2 Basis of preparation and significant accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The company financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101, 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' (FRS 101).

Basis of preparation
The financial statements of Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Limited, a private company limited by shares, incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 and registered in Scotland have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRS 101 requires the use of certain key accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies.

For administrative convenience, the financial statements are made up to a suitable date near the end of the calendar year. These financial statements have been prepared for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 and the comparative period has been prepared for the 52 weeks ended 26 December 2021.

The financial statements are presented in Pounds Sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

The nature of the company's operations and its principal activity are set out in the Directors' Report on page 4.

These financial statements are separate financial statements. The company is exempt from the preparation of consolidated financial statements, by virtue of section 400 of the Companies Act 2006, because it is included in the group accounts of Reach plc. Details of the parent in whose consolidated financial statements the company is included are shown in note 17 to the financial statements.

As permitted by FRS 101, the company has taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions available under that standard in relation to financial instruments, presentation of comparative information in respect of certain assets, presentation of a cash-flow statement, standards not yet effective, disclosure of remuneration paid to auditors for non-audit services, related party transactions, key assumptions in cash flow projections and qualitative and quantitative information related to changes in contract assets and contract liabilities. Where required, equivalent disclosures are given in the group accounts of Reach plc. The group accounts of Reach plc are available to the public and can be obtained as set out in note 17.

The company has applied the exemption available under FRS 101 in relation to paragraphs 30 and 31 of IAS 8, 'Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors' (requirement for the disclosure of information when an entity has not applied a new IFRS that has been issued but is not yet effective).

Adoption of new and revised standards
There were no amendments to IFRSs or new interpretations effective for the current period that have had a material impact on the company's financial statements.

2 Basis of preparation and significant accounting policies (continued)

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.

Revenue
Revenue is recognised in line with IFRS 15 and in accordance with the 5 Step model framework.

Revenue primarily comprises sales of goods and services excluding sales taxes. Revenue is measured based on the consideration received, net of applicable discounts and value added tax to which the company expects to be entitled.

The sources of revenue for the company are circulation, print advertising (including digital classified which is predominately upsold from print), print other (contract publishing, syndication, and events) and digital (display and transactional revenue streams). Revenue is recognised when the performance obligations identified in the contract are fulfilled, with revenue being measured as the transaction price allocated in respect of that performance obligation.

Payment is received in line with the satisfaction of performance obligations. Where this is not the case, accrued or deferred revenue is recognised. The majority of customers are on a credit term of 25 to 60 days.

The company recognises revenue when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer. The following accounting policies are applied to the principal revenue generating activities in which the company is engaged:

Circulation revenue
The company sells newspapers and magazines through wholesalers on a sale and return basis. Revenue is recognised when the performance obligation has been fulfilled being when the publication has been delivered to the wholesaler. Revenue is measured at cover price less the contractual wholesaler and retailer margins.

Print advertising revenue
Print advertising revenue includes digital classified revenue which is predominantly upsold from print advertising. Revenue comprises third-party clients and agency contracts. The performance obligation is fulfilled, and revenue is recognised, on publication of the advert. If an advertising campaign is over a period of time, revenue is recognised on a straight-line basis over the period of the campaign reflecting the pattern in which the performance obligation is fulfilled. Revenue is measured at the transaction price in the contract. Rebates are recognised based on the level of third-party spend over the contract period. Rebates are only recognised where the third-party has a clear entitlement to the receipt of the rebate and a reliable estimate can be made.

Print other revenue
Print other revenue includes contract publishing, readers offers and events. Within print other revenue, the performance obligation is fulfilled, and revenue is recognised, on publication of the product or holding of the event, or when the goods have been purchased by a reader or at a point when the service is provided and the performance obligation is fulfilled. Revenue is measured at the transaction price in the contract.

Digital revenue
For digital display advertising revenue, the performance obligation is fulfilled, and revenue is recognised, on publication of the advert. If an advertising campaign is over a period of time, revenue is recognised over the period of the online campaign on a straight-line basis or pages served basis reflecting the pattern in which the performance obligation is fulfilled. For digital transaction revenue, the performance obligation is fulfilled, and revenue is recognised, when the service is provided. Revenue is measured at the transaction price in the contract.

2 Basis of preparation and significant accounting policies (continued)

Leases

Leases are recognised on the balance sheet as a right-of-use asset and corresponding liability at the date at which a leased asset is made available for use by the company, except for short-term leases (defined as leases with a lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low-value assets. For these leases, the company recognises the lease payments as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted by using the company's weighted average incremental borrowing rate and subsequently held at amortised cost in accordance with IFRS 9. Finance costs are charged to the profit and loss account over the lease term, at a constant periodic rate of interest. Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis. Each lease payment is allocated between the liability and finance cost. The company does not act as a Lessor.

Defined contribution pension obligation

The company contributes to certain group defined contribution pension schemes. The amount charged to the profit and loss account is the contributions payable in the period. Differences between contributions payable in the period and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Current and deferred tax

The tax expense represents the sum of the corporation tax currently payable and deferred tax.

The corporation tax currently payable is based on taxable profit for the period. Taxable profit differs from profit before tax as reported in the profit and loss account because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The company's liability for tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

Deferred tax is the tax expected to be payable or recoverable on differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit and is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method. Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the liability is settled or the asset is realised. Deferred tax is charged or credited in the profit and loss account except when it relates to items charged or credited in the statement of comprehensive income or items charged or credited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is also dealt with in the statement of comprehensive income and equity respectively.

Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised. Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for taxable temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries and associates, except where the company is able to control the reversal of the temporary difference and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future. The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each reporting date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available to allow all or part of the asset to be recovered.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less provision for any impairment.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost. The principal financial asset is intercompany receivables which are unsecured and repayable on demand. The measurement of expected credit losses is a function of the probability of default, loss given default (i.e. the magnitude of the loss if there is a default) and the exposure at default.

2 Basis of preparation and significant accounting policies (continued)

Financial liabilities
Financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, net of transaction costs.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and short-term bank deposits with an original maturity of one week or less.

Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the company has a present obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that the company will be required to settle that obligation. Provisions are measured at the directors' best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the reporting date, and are discounted to present value where the effect is material.

Called up share capital
Ordinary shares are classified as equity.

Dividends
Dividend distributions to the company's shareholders are recognised as a liability in the financial statements in the period in which the dividends are approved.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty
There were no key sources of estimated uncertainty in determining the carry amounts of assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date. In applying the company's accounting policies, described above, no critical judgements were identified.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as set out in the Directors' Report.

3 Turnover

The analysis of the company's turnover for the period from continuing operations is as follows:

	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 £ 000	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 £ 000
Circulation	27,021	29,081
Advertising	6,779	8,199
Other	839	648
Print	34,639	37,928
Digital	7,600	7,415
Total turnover	42,239	45,343

The analysis of the company's turnover for the period by market is as follows:

	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 £ 000	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 £ 000
UK	42,239	45,343

Notes to the Financial Statements for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 (continued)

4 Operating profit

Operating profit is stated after charging:

	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 £ 000	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 £ 000
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	37	65
Restructuring charges in respect of cost reduction measures	983	96

The auditors' remuneration of £20,000 (2021: £20,000) for the audit of the statutory financial statements of this company has been borne and not recharged by another group company.

5 Information regarding directors and employees

All employees have an employment contract with a group entity and provide services throughout the group. The staff costs disclosure relates to services provided by employees for this company:

	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 £ 000	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 £ 000
Wages and salaries	9,264	9,067
Social security costs	1,153	1,035
Pension costs relating to defined contribution pension schemes	588	578
	11,005	10,680

Wages and salaries include bonuses payable in the period. The restructuring costs are excluded from the staff costs and are disclosed in note 4.

The average monthly number of employees charged to the company during the period is set out below:

	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 No.	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 No.
Production and editorial	232	225
Sales and distribution	13	26
Administration	11	8
	256	259

Directors' emoluments

The directors holding office during the period consider their services to the company are incorporated within their duties as directors of Reach plc group, it is not practical to allocate remuneration to each entity. No remuneration has been apportioned to the company (2021: none). The directors' remuneration is included in the aggregate of directors' remuneration disclosed in the Remuneration Report contained within the 2022 Reach plc Annual Report on pages 120 to 136.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the 52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 (continued)

5 Information regarding directors and employees (continued)

Defined contribution pension scheme
The company contributes to the Reach Pension Plan, a defined contribution scheme. Contributions to the Reach Pension Plan for the period were £588,000 (2021: £578,000). At 25 December 2022 there were no outstanding or prepaid contributions (2021: £nil).

6 Tax on profit

Tax charged in the profit and loss account

	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 £ 000	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 £ 000
Current taxation		
UK corporation tax	627	1,762
Deferred taxation		
Arising from origination and reversal of temporary differences	-	46
Arising from previously unrecognised tax loss, tax credit or temporary difference of prior periods	(1)	(45)
Total deferred taxation	(1)	1
Tax expense in the profit and loss account	626	1,763

The tax on profit before tax for the period is lower than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK (2021: lower than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK) of 19% (2021: 19%).

The differences are reconciled below:

	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 £ 000	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 £ 000
Profit before tax	3,423	9,609
Corporation tax at standard rate of 19% (2021: 19%)	650	1,826
Increase from effect of expenses not deductible in determining taxable profit	-	6
Deferred tax credit from unrecognised temporary differences from a prior period	(1)	(45)
Decrease from effect of revenues exempt from taxation	(23)	(24)
Total tax charge	626	1,763

The Budget on 5 March 2021 increased the rate of corporation tax from 19% to 25% with effect from 1 April 2023. At 26 December 2021, this rate change had been substantively enacted by parliament meaning that the opening deferred tax position in 2021 had been recalculated in the period but resulted in no impact to the profit and loss account.

The current tax liabilities amounted to £nil (2021: £nil) at the reporting date.

6 Tax on profit (continued)

Deferred tax
Deferred tax assets

Deferred tax movement during the period:

	At 27 December 2021 £ 000	Recognised in profit and loss £ 000	At 25 December 2022 £ 000
Accelerated tax depreciation	-	1	1

Deferred tax movement during the prior period:

	At 28 December 2020 £ 000	Recognised in profit and loss £ 000	At 26 December 2021 £ 000
Accelerated tax depreciation	1	(1)	-

7 Dividends

	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 £ 000	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 £ 000
Final dividend of £nil (2021: £5.87) per each ordinary share	-	6,000

8 Right-of-use assets

	Property £ 000	Vehicles £ 000	Total £ 000
Cost			
At 28 December 2020	167	152	319
Additions	-	29	29
Derecognition at end of lease term	(24)	-	(24)
At 26 December 2021	143	181	324
Derecognition at end of lease term	-	(16)	(16)
At 25 December 2022	143	165	308
Accumulated depreciation			
At 28 December 2020	(35)	(57)	(92)
Charge for period	(6)	(59)	(65)
Derecognition at end of lease term	24	-	24
Impairment	(126)	-	(126)
At 26 December 2021	(143)	(116)	(259)
Charge for the period	-	(37)	(37)
Derecognition at end of lease term	-	16	16
At 25 December 2022	(143)	(137)	(280)
Carrying amount			
At 25 December 2022	-	28	28
At 26 December 2021	-	65	65

Amounts recognised in the profit and loss account
The profit and loss account includes the following amounts relating to leases:

	52 weeks ended 25 December 2022 £ 000	52 weeks ended 26 December 2021 £ 000
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	37	65
Expenses relating to short-term leases	17	11
Interest on lease liabilities (included in Interest payable and similar expenses)	5	8
Total charged to the profit and loss account	59	84

9 Investments

Investment in subsidiaries undertakings	£ 000
Cost	
At 28 December 2020	25,418
At 26 December 2021	25,418
At 25 December 2022	25,418
Provision for impairment	
At 28 December 2020	(6,897)
At 26 December 2021	(6,897)
At 25 December 2022	(6,897)
Carrying amount	
At 25 December 2022	18,521
At 26 December 2021	18,521

A full list of subsidiaries at the reporting date is appended on page 25 and forms part of these financial statements.

The subsidiaries are all dormant companies with a net asset position higher than the carrying value of the investment.

Investments in associated undertakings

	£ 000
Cost and net book value	
At 28 December 2020	68
Additions	36
At 26 December 2021	104
At 27 December 2021	104
At 25 December 2022	104

Details of the associates are as follows:

Name of associate and company number	Principal activity	Registered office	Proportion of ownership interest and voting rights held 25 December 2022	26 December 2021
PA Media Group Limited (4197)	News agency	The Point, 37 North Wharf Road, Paddington, London, W2 1AF United Kingdom	1.18%	1.18%

10 Debtors

	25 December 2022 £ 000	26 December 2021 £ 000
Amounts owed from fellow subsidiaries	62,764	60,206

A fellow subsidiary undertaking operates a centralised debtors function for the group which results in trade debtors balances of the company being recorded in the balance sheet of the fellow subsidiary undertaking with consideration being recorded through intercompany. Credit risk relating to these trade debtors is borne by the company.

Intercompany balances are unsecured, non-interest bearing balances repayable on demand.

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	25 December 2022 £ 000	26 December 2021 £ 000
Accrued expenses	-	207
Current portion of long term lease liabilities (note 13)	38	60
Bank overdrafts	-	1
	38	268

A fellow subsidiary undertaking operates a centralised accounts payable function for the group which results in trade creditor balances of the company being recorded in the balance sheet of the fellow subsidiary undertaking with consideration being recorded through intercompany. The net balance with the fellow subsidiary is shown in note 10.

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	25 December 2022 £ 000	26 December 2021 £ 000
Long term lease liabilities (note 13)	101	139

13 Lease liabilities

Leases included in creditors
Lease liabilities represent rental obligations for office properties and motor vehicles.

	25 December 2022 £ 000	26 December 2021 £ 000
Current portion of long-term lease liabilities	38	60
Long-term lease liabilities	101	139

Lease liabilities maturity analysis
A maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on undiscounted gross cash flow is reported in the table below:

	25 December 2022 £ 000	26 December 2021 £ 000
Within one year	42	65
Greater than one and less than five years	107	130
Greater than five years	-	19
Total lease liabilities (undiscounted)	149	214

Total cash outflows related to leases
Total cash outflows related to leases are presented in the table below:

	25 December 2022	26 December 2021
Payment	**£ 000**	**£ 000**
Lease liabilities	65	94

The company does not face significant liquidity risk in relation to its lease liabilities.

14 Provisions for liabilities

	Restructuring £ 000
At 27 December 2021	-
Additional provisions	983
Provisions utilised	(983)
At 25 December 2022	-

The restructuring provision relates to restructuring charges incurred in the delivery of cost reduction measures.

15 Capital and reserves

Allotted, called up and fully paid shares

	25 December 2022 No.	25 December 2022 £	26 December 2021 No.	26 December 2021 £
Ordinary shares of £1 each	1,022,084	1,022,084	1,022,084	1,022,084

The authorised share capital is 1,022,100 ordinary shares of £1 each (2021: 1,022,100). The company has one class of ordinary shares (2021: one) which carry no right to fixed income.

The share premium account contains the premium arising on the issue of equity shares net of issue expenses. The profit and loss account reserve represents cumulative profit and losses net of dividends paid and other adjustments.

16 Contingent liabilities

The company, together with certain of its fellow subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, has guaranteed the loans and bank overdraft of the group with certain of the group's bankers. At 25 December 2022, this amounted to £15,000,000 (2021: £nil).

17 Ultimate parent company and immediate parent undertaking

The company's immediate parent is MGL2 Limited.

The ultimate parent is Reach plc. The group financial statements are available upon request from its registered office at One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP.

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of MGL2 Limited and of its ultimate parent, Reach plc.

Relationship between entity and parents
The parent of the largest and smallest group in which these financial statements are consolidated is Reach plc, incorporated in England and Wales.

18 Subsidiary undertakings

In compliance with Section 409 of the Companies Act 2006, the following comprises a list of all related subsidiary undertakings of the company, as at 25 December 2022.

The following subsidiaries are 100% owned (all share classes) and are incorporated in Scotland with a registered office at One Central Quay, Glasgow, G3 8DA.

Subsidiary name and company number	Share class	Proportion of shares held by company	Proportion of shares held by subsidiary
First Press Publishing Limited (SC139798)	£1.00 ordinary	100%	0.00%
Insider Publications Limited (SC094795)	£1.00 ordinary	100%	0.00%
Metropolitan Free Newspapers Limited (SC126368)	£1.00 ordinary	100%	0.00%
Saltire Press Limited (SC151303)	£1.00 ordinary	100%	0.00%
Glaswegian Publications Limited (SC109893)	£1.00 ordinary	0.00%	100%
The Edinburgh and Lothians Post Limited (SC122538)	£1.00 ordinary	0.00%	100%