ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	W B Hicks S Rossi I D C Simm
Company secretary	Z W Stone
Registered number	06739623
Registered office	350 Euston Road London United Kingdom NW1 3AX
Auditor	Deloitte LLP 1 New Street Square London United Kingdom EC4A 3HQ
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc Bishopsgate London ECM2 4AA

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STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

Introduction

The Directors present their strategic report for the year ended 30 April 2022.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Company is to act as an investment holding company within the DS Smith Group ('the Group'). There has been no significant change in the Company's principal activity in the year under review. The Directors are not aware, at the date of this report, of any likely significant changes in the Company's activities in the forthcoming financial year.

Business review and key performance indicators

The results for the financial year show a loss before taxation of £23,385,000 (2021: profit before taxation of £227,396,000). No dividends were paid during the year (2021: £240,250,000 (53.5p per share)). The carrying value of investments at 30 April 2022 was £4,140,636,000 (2021: £4,139,155,000). The movement in profit before tax is due to there being no dividend income during the year, in comparison to the prior year.

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of DS Smith Plc and operates as part of the Group . On this basis the Company's Directors believe that there are no further performance indicators for the Company which might be necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business. No non-financial KPIs not are applicable as the Company is an investment holding company within the Group which does not have any employees, customers or suppliers.

Section 172 (1) statement of the Companies Act 2006

The Directors aim to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its shareholder and the Group as a whole, taking into account the long-term consequences of its decisions and looking at those decisions through a variety of lenses, an example being the impairment of investments in subsidiary undertakings in DS Smith Holdings Ltd. This involves the Board and management considering in detail and discussing the interests of the Company's and Group's stakeholders including our customers, our people, our investors, our suppliers, local communities and non-governmental organisations; the importance of maintaining our reputation for high standards of business conduct through our high customer satisfaction results; and the environment. When making decisions during the year the Directors of the Group received relevant information to help them understand the interest and views of these key stakeholder groups and the potential impact these decisions could have on each group. Information included reports regarding financial and operational performance, risk, responsible business matters and the results of specific stakeholder engagement exercises. The Directors of the Company take into account the interests of the parent company and the ultimate parent company when making decisions through regular communications such as the Balance Sheet Committee.

As the Company is an investment holding company within the Group it does not have any direct employees, customers or suppliers. The Directors of this entity make decisions in respect of this Company with regard to its internal stakeholders. For more details on how the Group considers the interests of the Group's employees, the impact actions have on the communities in which the Group operate and the environment, maintaining high standards of business conduct and acting fairly at all times, refer to the Group's annual report which does not form part of this report. A copy of the Group's annual report can be obtained from the address in note 22.

Future developments

The principal activity of the Company is to act as a Group investment holding that is principally party to intragroup transactions. The Directors expect that this will remain the case in the future and that the general level of activity for the Company will remain consistent with 2022.

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

The Company and Group will seek to minimise adverse impacts on the environment from its activities, whilst continuing to address health, safety and economic issues. The Company has complied with all applicable legislation and regulations.

The Company is included in the Group reporting of the ultimate parent company which has provided its consolidated CO2 emissions and energy consumption on page 33 of the Strategic report in the Group's 2022 annual report.

Financial risk management objective and policies

As the Company's main purpose is to act as an investment holding company, the financial risks that the Company is exposed to are limited.

Where applicable, the Company follows the DS Smith Group policy. The Company's financial risk management is centralised to capitalise on economies of scale and synergy effects and to minimise operational risks.

Interest rate risk

The Company has interest-bearing liabilities held with DS Smith Plc and arise from the operation of the Group's cash pooling arrangements in the UK. The DS Smith Group treasury function is responsible for identifying and managing interest rate exposure.

Credit risk

The Company's credit risk is primarily attributable to its receivables held on the statement of financial position, all of which are inter-group. Recoverability of these receivables is reviewed regularly against the statement of financial position of the counterparty. If required, credit risk is further mitigated through a letter of support from the ultimate parent undertaking.

Liquidity risk

The Company actively manages its liquidity risk by short-term debt finance with Group treasury, supported by external borrowings where appropriate, that is designed to ensure the Company has sufficient available funds for operations.

Foreign currency risk

The Company has transactions in foreign currencies which are then translated into the presentation currency, the GBP, for the purposes of the financial statements. The Group treasury function enters into arrangements such as foreign exchange contracts in order to manage the risk arising upon currency translation.

Principal risks and uncertainties

There continues to be global uncertainty within the macroeconomic environment as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and rising inflation, particularly following significant increases in energy costs. Raw material and other input costs also remain high. However, these are mitigated by effective supplier arrangements, long-term hedging arrangements and rising packaging prices. The Group has demonstrated resilience throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and customer demand remains strong, especially in the FMCG sector which represents over 80% of our volumes. In a challenging supply chain environment, our large scale, security of supply and high service levels have driven ongoing gains with our customers including large multinational companies. The Group remains focused on resilient end markets, including in the US and in regions where demand is buoyant and new sites have been opened. The Group continues to carefully manage our cost base and is confident for the year ahead, expecting a further substantial improvement in performance.

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

This report was approved by the board on 24 November 2022 and signed on its behalf.

W B Hicks Director

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

The Directors present their Annual report and the the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2022.

Results and dividends

The loss for the year, after taxation, amounted to £31,361,000 (2021: profit £231,486,000).

The Company did not pay a dividend for the year ended 30 April 2022 (2021: £240,250,000). There have been no dividends proposed after year end.

Directors

The Directors who held office during the year and to the date of signing the financial statements were:

W B Hicks S Rossi I D C Simm

Directors' and officers' indemnity

During the year and up to the date of approval of these financial statements, the ultimate parent company maintained qualifying third-party indemnity arrangements for the Directors and other Officers of the Company.

Political contributions

No political contributions were made during the year (2021: £NIL).

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. In making their assessment on the appropriateness of using the going concern basis, the Directors have considered any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the continuing use of the going concern basis of accounting in future periods. The Directors have considered a period of at least 12 months from the date the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The Company's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out above. The financial position of the Company is as shown in the statement of financial position on page 12. At 30 April 2022 the Company reported net current liabilities of £1,873,806,000 (2021: £1,833,785,000) and net assets of £2,715,600,000 (2021: £2,746,961,000).

The Company's ultimate parent Company and controlling party is DS Smith Plc, whose financial statements include the Group's objectives, policies and processes for managing its capital; its financial risk management objectives; details of its financial instruments and hedging activities; and its exposures to credit risk and liquidity risk. The Company has access to considerable financial resources from across the Group and has received a legally binding letter of support from DS Smith Plc that it will, as required, continue to support the Company to repay its liabilities as they fall due for a period of no less than 12 months from the approval of these financial statements. As a consequence, the Directors believe that the Company is well placed to manage its business risks successfully despite the current uncertain economic outlook. Taking into consideration the financial performance and financial position of the Company, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

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

Future developments

The principal activity of the Company is to act as a Group investment holding that is principally party to intragroup transactions. The Directors expect that this will remain the case in the future and that the general level of activity for the Company will remain consistent with 2022.

Matters covered in the strategic report

Disclosures required by s416(4) which have been elevated to the strategic report:

- Financial risk management objectives and policies
- Principal risks and uncertainties

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the persons who are Directors at the time when this Directors' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware, and
- the Director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006. Sufficient disclosures have been made under "Sectrion 172 (1) statement of the Companies Act 2006" in the Stategic Report above.

Post balance sheet events

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

Auditor

At the 2022 AGM of DS Smith Plc, the Company's ultimate parent company, held on 6 September 2022 Ernst & Young LLP (EY) were appointed as external auditor to the Group. Accordingly Deloitte LLP will not be seeking reappointment as auditor of the Company at the conclusion of their current term of office. There are no circumstances connected with the resignation of Deloitte LLP as external auditor which should be brought to the attention of the stakeholders of the Company.

This report was approved by the board on 24 November 2022 and signed on its behalf.

W B Hicks Director

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

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 the financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 101 'Reduced Disclosure Framework'. 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 of the Company for that period.

In preparing these 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;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They 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.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DS SMITH HOLDINGS LIMITED

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of DS Smith Holdings Limited (the 'Company'):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 30 April 2022 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework"; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- the statement of comprehensive income;
- the statement of financial position;
- statement of changes in equity; and
- the related notes 1 to 23.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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.

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.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 course of the audit, or

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DS SMITH HOLDINGS LIMITED

otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors 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.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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 auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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.

We considered the nature of the Company's industry and its control environment, and reviewed the Company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management and internal audit about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Company operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included the UK Companies Act, tax legislation; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

We discussed among the audit engagement team including relevant internal specialists specialists regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DS SMITH HOLDINGS LIMITED

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management, internal audit and legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal audit reports.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report in respect of the following matters 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
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DS SMITH HOLDINGS LIMITED

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company'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 Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Stephen Turner, FCA (Senior statutory auditor) For and on behalf of Deloitte LLP Statutory Auditor London, United Kingdom 24 November 2022

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

	Note	2022 £000	2021 £000
Income from investments	4	-	304,885
Other income / (expenses)	5	1,401	(25)
Impairment of investment	8	(1,519)	(55,963)
Operating (loss)/profit	-	(118)	248,897
Finance income	9	17,211	17,390
Finance costs	10	(40,478)	(38,891)
(Loss) / profit before tax	-	(23,385)	227,396
Tax on (loss) / profit	11	(7,976)	4,090
(Loss) / profit for the financial year	-	(31,361)	231,486

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2022 or 2021 other than those included in the statement of comprehensive income.

The notes on pages 14 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

DS SMITH HOLDINGS LIMITED REGISTERED NUMBER: 06739623

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 APRIL 2022

	Note		2022 £000		2021 £000
Non-current assets					
Investments	13		4,140,636		4,139,155
Debtors amounts falling due after more than one year	14		473,220		466,591
			4,613,856		4,605,746
Current assets					
Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	5,111		9,516	
Cash and cash equivalents	16	299		299	
		5,410		9,815	
Current liabilities		,		,	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,879,216)		(1,843,600)	
Net current liabilities			(1,873,806)		(1,833,785)
Total assets less current liabilities Provisions for liabilities			2,740,050		2,771,961
Provisions	17	(24,450)		(25,000)	
			(24,450)		(25,000)
Net assets			2,715,600		2,746,961
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	18		448,858		448,858
Share premium	19		2,189,919		2,189,919
Profit and loss account			76,823		108,184
			2,715,600		2,746,961

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 24 November 2022.

W B Hicks

Director

The notes on pages 14 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

DS SMITH HOLDINGS LIMITED REGISTERED NUMBER: 06739623

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

	Called up share capital £000	Share premium account £000	Profit and loss account £000	Total equity £000
As 30 April 2020	448,858	2,189,059	116,948	2,754,865
Comprehensive income for the year				
Profit for the year	-	-	231,486	231,486
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	231,486	231,486
Dividends: Equity capital (Note 12)	-	-	(240,250)	(240,250)
Shares issued during the year	-	860	-	860
Total transactions with owners	-	860	(240,250)	(239,390)
As 30 April 2021	448,858	2,189,919	108,184	2,746,961
Comprehensive expense for the year				
Loss for the year	-	-	(31,361)	(31,361)
Total comprehensive expense for the year	-	-	(31,361)	(31,361)
As 30 April 2022	448,858	2,189,919	76,823	2,715,600

The notes on pages 14 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

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

1. General information

DS Smith Holdings Limited (the "Company") is a private company limited by shares incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 and is registered in England and Wales. The address of the Company's registered office is 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3AX. The nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the strategic report.

These financial statements are presented in pounds sterling which is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Company operates.

These financial statements are separate financial statements. The Company is exempt from the preparation and delivery of consolidated financial statements, because it is included in the group accounts of DS Smith Plc. The group accounts of DS Smith Plc are available to the public and can be obtained as set out in note 23.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' and the Companies Act 2006.

FRS 101 sets out an optional reduced disclosure framework which addresses the financial reporting requirements and disclosure exemptions for the individual financial statements of subsidiaries and ultimate parent that otherwise apply the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of UK-adopted IFRS Standards.

DS Smith International Limited, The Company is a private company limited by shares incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 and is registered in England and Wales. The address of the Company's registered office is shown on the Company information page. The nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' report on page 1.

In these financial statements, the Company has applied the exemptions available under FRS 101 in respect of the following disclosures:

- statement of cash flows and related notes;
- a comparative period reconciliation for share capital;
- disclosures in respect of transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries;
- · disclosures in respect of capital management;
- the effects of new but not yet effective IFRSs; and
- disclosures in respect of key management personnel.

As the Group financial statements include the equivalent disclosures, the Company has also taken advantage of the exemptions under FRS 101 available in respect of the following disclosures:

• IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement and the disclosures required by IFRS 7 Financial Instruments. The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

The following new standards, amendments or interpretations have been adopted by the Company as of 1 May 2021:

- · Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations;
- Reform amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8 Definition of Material; and
- Amendments to the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting.

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements (continued)

The adoption of the amendments has not had a material effect on the results for the year or the financial position at the year end. Where relevant, equivalent disclosures have been made in the Group accounts

2.2 Financial reporting standard 101 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions under FRS 101:

- the requirements of IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures
- the requirements of paragraphs 91-99 of IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement
- the requirements of paragraphs 10(d), 10(f), 16, 38A, 38B, 38C, 38D, 40A, 40B, 40C, 40D, 111 and 134-136 of IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements
- the requirements of IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows
- the requirements of paragraph 17 and 18A of IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures
- the requirements in IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures to disclose related party transactions entered into between two or more members of a group, provided that any subsidiary which is a party to the transaction is wholly owned by such a member

2.3 Exemption from preparing consolidated financial statements

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing consolidated financial statements afforded by Section 401 of the Companies Act 2006 because it is a wholly owned subsidiary of DS Smith Plc which prepares consolidated financial statements which are publicly available at the address in note 23.

2.4 Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are translated using the rate of exchange ruling at that date.

2.5 Interest income

Finance income is recognised on an accruals basis in the income statement.

2.6 Finance costs

Finance costs are recognised on an accruals basis in the income statement.

2.7 Dividends

No such dividends paid or received during the year

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Valuation of investments

The carrying values of the investments in subsidiaries are reviewed on a regular basis to assess whether any impairment in value is required. Impairment testing is performed annually for investment in subsidiaries by comparing the carrying amount of each investment with the relevant subsidiary's consolidated balance sheet. Where the net assets are lower than the investment value, a discounted cash flow or value-in-use is utilised to calculate the present value of the investment to confirm whether any impairment is required. Refer to note 8 for impairment of investments in subsidiary takings.

2.9 Financial instruments

The Company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in ordinary shares.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Income Statement.

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract.

For financial assets measured at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and best estimate of the recoverable amount, which is an approximation of the amount that the Company would receive for the asset if it were to be sold at the reporting date.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Statement of Financial Position when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. Derivatives, including interest rate swaps and forward foreign exchange contracts, are not basic financial instruments. Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognised in profit or loss in finance costs or income as appropriate. The Company does not currently apply hedge accounting for interest rate and foreign exchange derivatives.

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

Financial liabilities within the scope of IAS 39 are initially classified as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, loans and borrowings, or as derivatives designated as hedging instruments in an effective hedge, as appropriate.

The Group determines the classification of its financial liabilities at initial recognition. All financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and in the case of loans and borrowings, plus directly attributable transaction costs

Subsequently, the measurement of financial liabilities depends on their classification as follows:

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss includes financial liabilities held for trading and financial liabilities designated upon initial recognition as at fair value through profit or loss.

Financial liabilities are classified as held for trading if they are acquired for the purpose of repurchasing in the near term. Derivatives, including separately embedded derivatives are also classified as held for trading unless they are designated as effective hedging instruments. Gains or losses on liabilities held for trading are recognised in profit or loss.

Interest bearing loans and borrowings

Obligations for loans and borrowings are recognised when the Group becomes party to the related contracts and are measured initially at the fair value of consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs.

After initial recognition, interest bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Gains and losses arising on the repurchase, settlement or otherwise cancellation of liabilities are recognised respectively in finance revenue and finance cost.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

A liability is derecognised when the contract that gives rise to it is settled, sold, cancelled or expires Where an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such as an exchange or modification, this is treated as a derecognition of the original liability, such that the difference in the respective carrying amounts together with any costs or fees incurred are recognised in profit or loss.

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 Provisions for liabilities

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Company a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefit, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to profit or loss in the year that the Company becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the Statement of Financial Position date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Statement of Financial Position.

Following the discontinuation of LIBOR as an interest rate benchmark, from the 1st January 2022 risk free rates will be applied to intercompany loans within the DS Smith Group that are impacted by the reform. To ensure the economics of the transactions are consistent before and after the transition a credit adjustment spread will be applied to the risk free rates.

2.12 Taxation

Income tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current. Income tax is recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity, in which case it is recognised in equity. Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted at the balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

For the year ended 30 April 2021 and prior years the Group policy is, for the tax charge during the year, the ultimate parent company DS Smith Plc pays the tax charged on behalf of the entity and the balance is stated as payable balance to Plc and in case of tax credit balance, the Company surrenders current year tax losses to other members of the DS Smith Group, and receives payment for those tax losses at the rate of tax prevailing in the year.

For the year ended 30 April 2022 and onwards, DS Smith Group entities will no longer receive payment for current year tax losses surrendered or make payment for group relief claimed at the rate of tax prevailing in the year.

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.13 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. In making their assessment on the appropriateness of using the going concern basis, the Directors have considered any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the continuing use of the going concern basis of accounting in future periods. The Directors have considered a period of at least 12 months from the date the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The Company's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out above. The financial position of the Company is as shown in the statement of financial position on page 12. At 30 April 2022 the Company reported net current liabilities of $\pounds1,873,806,000$ (2021: $\pounds1,833,785,000$) and net assets of $\pounds2,715,600,000$ (2021: $\pounds2,746,961,000$).

The Company's ultimate parent Company and controlling party is DS Smith Plc, whose financial statements include the Group's objectives, policies and processes for managing its capital; its financial risk management objectives; details of its financial instruments and hedging activities; and its exposures to credit risk and liquidity risk. The Company has access to considerable financial resources from across the Group and has received a legally binding letter of support from DS Smith Plc that it will, as required, continue to support the Company to repay its liabilities as they fall due for a period of no less than 12 months from the approval of these financial statements. As a consequence, the Directors believe that the Company is well placed to manage its business risks successfully despite the current uncertain economic outlook. Taking into consideration the financial performance and financial position of the Company, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

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

3. Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the accounting policies, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

In the opinion of the Directors, there are no critical judgements, apart from those involving estimations (which are dealt with separately below), that have been made in the process of applying accounting policies.

key source of estimation uncertainty

The carrying values of the investments in subsidiaries are reviewed on a regular basis to assess whether any impairment in value is required. Impairment testing is performed annually for investment in subsidiaries by comparing the carrying amount of each investment with the relevant subsidiary's consolidated balance sheet. Where the net assets are lower than the investment value, a discounted cash flow or value-in-use is utilised to calculate the present value of the investment to confirm whether any impairment is required. Refer to note 8 for impairment of investments in subsidiary takings.

The calculations of value-in-use are inherently judgemental and require management to make a series of estimates and assumptions. These are: cash flow forecasts (including sales volumes, price and cost assumptions and capital expenditure underlying these forecasts), the determination of a long-term growth rate, the determination of an appropriate pre-tax adjusted discount rate and the impairment assessment.

4. Income from investments

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Dividends received from subsidiary undertakings	-	304,885
	· .	304,885

There were no dividends received during 2022 (2021: DS Smith Holdings Limited received £209.7m from DS Smith International Limited, £12m from DS Smith UK Limited, £64.6m from DS Smith Roma Limited and £18.5m from DS Smith Hungary.)

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

5. Other income/ (expenses)

The other income/ (expenses) is stated after charging:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Foreign exchange gains / (losses)	1,024	(25)
Reversal of provision	377	-
	1,401	(25)
Auditor's remuneration		
	2022 £000	2021 £000
Fees payable to the Company's auditor and its associates for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements	25	8

The Auditor's remuneration of £24,840 (2021: £7,500) for the statutory audit of the Company's financial statements for the current and previous year has been borne and not recharged by another Group undertaking. No fees in relation to non-audit services were paid to the Company's auditor in the current or preceding year.

7. Employees

6.

The Directors are remunerated by other Group companies and no specific recharge is made in respect of their services to the Company in the current or preceding year.

The Company had no employees during the current and prior year.

8. Impairment of investments

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Impairment of investments in subsidiary undertakings	1,519	55,963
	1,519	55,963

The impairment of investments has arisen from:

DS Smith Roma Limited was impaired during the year for £1,519,486 (2021: DS Smith Roma Limited, as this entity's net assets reduced significantly. This resulted in an impairment of £55,962,514.)

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

9. Finance income

		2022 £000	2021 £000
	Interest receivable on loans to group companies	17,207	17,380
	Other interest receivable	4	10
		17,211	17,390
10.	Finance costs		
		2022 £000	2021 £000
	Interest payable on loans from group undertakings	40,478	38,891
		40,478	38,891
11.	Tax on (loss) / profit		
		2022 £000	2021 £000
	Corporation tax		
	UK Corporation tax in respect of current year charge / (credit)	-	(4,090)
	UK Corporation tax in respect of prior year charge / (credit)	7,976	-
	Total current tax	7,976	(4,090)

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

11. Tax on (loss) / profit (continued)

Factors affecting tax charge / (credit) for the year

The tax assessed for the year is higher than (2021 - lower than) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2021: 19%). The differences are explained below:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
(Loss) / profit before tax	(23,385)	227,396
(Loss) / profit before tax multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2021: 19%) Effects of:	(4,443)	43,205
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of prior periods	7,976	-
Non-taxable income	-	(62,678)
Permanent differences	217	15,383
Group relief claimed not paid for	4,226	-
Total tax charge/ (credit) for the year	7,976	(4,090)

Factors that may affect future tax charges

In future years, the tax charge will be affected by the extent to which any capital gains can either be rolled over or sheltered by capital losses within the Group as well as subsequently enacted changes in tax rate.

Finance Act 2021 included a 6% increase in the main UK corporation tax rate to 25% from 1 April 2023, which was substantially enacted on 10 June 2021. Accordingly, the deferred tax balances have been remeasured in the current year.

12. Dividends

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Dividends paid	-	240,250
	-	240,250

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

13. Investments

	Investments in subsidiary companies £000
Cost or valuation	
At 1 May 2021	5,812,831
Additions	3,000
At 30 April 2022	5,815,831
Impairment	
At 1 May 2021	1,673,676
Charge for the period	1,519
At 30 April 2022	1,675,195
Net book value	
At 30 April 2022	4,140,636
At 30 April 2021	4,139,155

During the year, as the result of a change in the principal activities of in DS Smith Roma Limited, the Company carried out a review of the recoverable amount of that subsidiary. The review led to the recognition of an impairment loss of $\pounds1,519,486$ (2021: $\pounds55,962,514$), which has been recognised in profit or loss, (Refer to Note 8).

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

13. Investments (continued)

Subsidiary undertakings

The following were subsidiary undertakings of the Company:

Name	Registered office	Principal activity	Class of shares	Holding
Abbey Corrugated Limited Ashton Corrugated	England and Wales England and Wales	Dormant Dormant	Ordinary Ordinary	100% 100%
(Southern) Limited Avonbank Paper Disposal Limited	England and Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
Biber Paper Converting Limited	England and Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
Calara Holding Limited Conew Limited Conew Limited Corrugated Products Limited D.W. Plastics (UK) Limited David S. Smith Nominees	England and Wales	Dormant Dormant Dormant Dormant Financing	Ordinary Ordinary Preference Ordinary Ordinary	100% 100% 100% 100% 100% 100%
Limited DS Smith (UK) Limited	England and Wales England and Wales	Dormant Holding Company	Ordinary Ordinary	100%
DS Smith Business Services Limited	England and Wales	Shared Service Centre	Ordinary	100%
DS Smith Dormant Five	England and Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
DS Smith Dormant Five Limited	England and Wales	Dormant	Preference	100%
DS Smith Euro Finance Limited	England and Wales	Financing	Ordinary	100%
DS Smith Europe Limited DS Smith Haddox Limited DS Smith Holdings, Inc.*	England and Wales England and Wales USA	Dormant Dormant Holding Company	Ordinary Ordinary Ordinary	100% 100% 100%
DS Smith International Limited	England and Wales	Holding Company	Ordinary	100%
St Regis International Limited	England and Wales	Paper Packaging	Ordinary	100%
St Regis Paper Company Limited	England and Wales	Paper Packaging	Preference	100%
DS Smith Pension Trustees Limited	England and Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
DS Smith Perch Limited The Less Packaging Company Limited	England and Wales England and Wales	Financing Packaging (no longer trading)	Ordinary Ordinary	100% 100%
DS Smith Roma Limited DS Smith Supplementary Life Cover Scheme Limited	England and Wales England and Wales	Dormant Dormant	Ordinary Ordinary	100% 100%
Miljoint Limited DSS Eastern Europe Limited DSS Poznan Limited DSSH No.1 Limited DS Smith Ukraine Limited	England and Wales England and Wales England and Wales	Dormant Dormant Dormant Holding Company Holding Company	Ordinary Ordinary Ordinary Ordinary Ordinary	100% 100% 100% 100% 100%
Reed & Smith Limited	England and Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%

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

13. Investments (continued)

Subsidiary undertakings (continued)

Name	Registered office	Principal activity	Class of shares	Holding
Treforest Mill plc	England and Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
United Shopper Marketing Limited	England and Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
Waddington & Duval Limited	England and Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%
Total Marketing Support Limited	England and Wales	Dormant	Ordinary	100%

The registered office address for each of the above subsidiaries, except as noted below, is 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3AX.

* The registered office address is Corporation Trust Centre, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Newcastle, DE19801, USA.

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

14. Debtors

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Due after more than one year		
Amounts owed by group undertakings	473,220	466,591
	473,220	466,591

Amounts owed by group undertakings is comprised of a number of loans with interest charged on the loans as follows:

Amounts owed by parent undertaking, DS Smith Plc loan:

None

Amounts owed by other group undertakings:

- Interest is charged on €20,703 (Principal: £17,371; interest accrued: £526) at 12 month EURIBORplus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2022 from DS Smith Belita B.V.
- Interest is charged on €24,450,119 (Principal: £20,515,605; interest accrued: £622,306) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2022 from DS Smith Recycling Benelux BV.
- Interest is charged on €74,712,166 (Principal: £62,689,484; interest accrued: £1,901,581) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2022 from DS Smith Packaging Holdings B.V.
- Interest is charged on €101,083,865 (Principal: £84,817,449; interest accrued: £25,72,795) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2025 from DS Smith Packaging Netherlands B.V.
- Interest is charged on €305,098,312 (Principal: £256,001,891; interest accrued: £7,765,390) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2022 from DS Smith Packaging International BV

Following the discontinuation of LIBOR as an interest rate benchmark, from the 1st January 2022 risk free rates will be applied to intercompany loans within the DS Smith Group that are impacted by the reform. To ensure the economics of the transactions are consistent before and after the transition a credit adjustment spread will be applied to the risk free rates.

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Amounts due within one year		
Tax amounts owed by group undertakings	5,111	9,517
	5,111	9,517

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

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Amounts owed to group undertakings Corporation tax	1,871,240 7,976	1,843,600 -
	1,879,216	1,843,600

Amounts owed to group undertakings is comprised of a number of loans with interest charged on the loans as follows:

Amounts owed to parent undertaking, DS Smith Plc:

- Interest is charged on €111,458,246 (Principal: £93,522,385; interest accrued: £80,273) at 1 month EURIBOR plus 1.03%, repayable on 1st August 2023 to DS Smith Plc.
- Interest is charged on €15,406,686 (Principal: £12,927,442; interest accrued: £Nil) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 2.18%, repayable on 30th April 2027 to DS Smith Plc.
- Interest is charged on £1,118,461,217 (Principal: £1,118,461,217; interest accrued: £1,740,754) at 1 month EURIBOR plus 1.2026%, repayable on 1st August 2023 to DS Smith Plc.

Amounts owed to other group undertakings:

- Interest is charged on €631,314 (Principal: £529,723; interest accrued: £16,068) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2022 to DS Smith de Hoop Holding BV
- Interest is charged on €686,517 (Principal: £576,042; interest accrued: £17,473) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2022 to DS Smith Recycling Holdings BV
- Interest is charged on £24,388,978 (Principal: £24,388,978; interest accrued: £45,554) at 3 month EURIBOR plus 1.2144%, repayable on 30th June 2024 to DS Smith Italy Limited
- Interest is charged on £33,669,514 (Principal: £33,669,514; interest accrued: £49,180) at 3 month EURIBOR plus 1.2144%, repayable on 31st March 2023 to W Rowlandson and Company Limited.
- Interest is charged on €6,274,304 (Principal: £5,264,643; interest accrued: £159,694) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2022 to DS Smith Packaging Barneveld BV.
- Interest is charged on €2,152,981 (Principal: £1,806,523; interest accrued: £54,797) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2022 to DS Smith Packaging Almelo BV.
- Interest is charged on €416,530,482 (Principal: £349,502,396; interest accrued: £1,359,175) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 26th March 2024 to DS Smith Ireland Treasury DAC.
- Interest is charged on £205,641,442 (Principal: £205,641,442; interest accrued: £6,459,814) at 12 month EURIBOR plus 4%, repayable on 29th July 2022 to DS Smith International Limited.

Following the discontinuation of LIBOR as an interest rate benchmark, from the 1st January 2022 risk free rates will be applied to intercompany loans within the DS Smith Group that are impacted by the reform. To ensure the economics of the transactions are consistent before and after the transition a credit adjustment spread will be applied to the risk free rates.

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

16. Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	299	299
-	299	299

17. Provisions

	Other provision £000
At 1 May 2021	25,000
Credited to income	(377)
Utilised in year	(173)
At 30 April 2022	24,450

The provision relates to the estimated liabilites arising from litigation and disputes, and due to the nature of the provision no further information has been disclosed.

18. Called up share capital

Authorised	2022 £000	2021 £000
456,932,794 (2021: 456,932,794) Ordinary Shares shares of £1 each	456,933	456,933
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
448,858,474 (2021: 448,858,473) Ordinary Shares shares of £1 each	448,858	448,858

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

19. Share premium

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Share premium	(2,189,919)	(2,189,919)

There were no movements during the year in Share Premium. (2021: On 14 April 2021 the Company issued 2 shares of £1 to DS Smith Plc in exchange for a loan note of £860,234, therefore creating a share premium of £860,232.)

20. Contingent liabilities

The Company is a participant in the DS Smith Group's uncommitted overdraft facility with a net limit of £5m. The participants in the facility cross guarantee the overdrawn balances under the facility.

21. Related party transactions

The Company has taken the exemption available under FRS 101 from disclosing related party transactions entered into between two or more members of the DS Smith Group, provided that the fellow group entities are wholly owned by the Group. See note 7 for details of Directors' remuneration.

22. Controlling party

The immediate parent company, the ultimate parent company and the ultimate controlling party is DS Smith Plc, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales.

DS Smith Plc represents both the largest and smallest group of undertakings for which Group financial statements are prepared and of which the Company is a member. Copies of the Group financial statements are available from the Company Secretary of DS Smith Plc at 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3AX.

23. Post balance sheet events

Subsequent to the year end, on 2 November 2022, the Company issued one share, fully paid up, to the ultimate parent undertaking, DS Smith plc, in exchange for £25,000,000. On the same date, DS Smith Business Services Limited issued one share, fully paid up, to the Company in exchange for £25,000,000.