GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 OCTOBER 1994 TO 30 JUNE 1995

FOR CHARLES BIRCH LIMITED

REGISTERED NUMBER: 1161150



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COMPANY INFORMATION

DIRECTORS:

E.H. Wilson C.H. Wilson G. Rooney B. Brian M. Jackson

SECRETARY:

B. Brian

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Holly House

43 Cavendish Street

Leeds LS3 1LY

REGISTERED NUMBER: 1161150

. AUDITORS:

Wilson Braithwaite Scholey Registered Auditor

Chartered Accountants 21 St Paul's Street

Leeds LS1 2ER

Notice is hereby given that the next annual general meeting of the company will be held at Holly Bush Farm, School Lane, Collingham, on 12 October 1995 for the following purposes:

- 1. To receive and adopt the report of the directors and financial statements for the period ended 30 June 1995 together with the report of the auditors thereon.
- 2. To re-appoint Messrs Wilson Braithwaite Scholey, Chartered Accountants, as auditors and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a member of the company.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD:

a Be

B. BRIAN Secretary 21 September 1995

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The directors present their report with the audited financial statements of the company and of the group for the period ended 30 June 1995.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the company and its subsidiary undertakings throughout the period was that of leather and grindery factoring and wholesale footwear.

REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS

The results for the period and financial position of the group are as shown in the annexed financial statements.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The directors' aim is to continue the policies which have resulted in a successful period of trading.

FIXED ASSETS

Movements in fixed assets are detailed in the notes to the accounts.

DIVIDENDS AND TRANSFER TO RESERVES

No dividend will be distributed for the period ended 30 June 1995. The retained group profit transferred to reserves will be £147134.

DIRECTORS

The directors of the company in office during the period and their beneficial interests in the issued share capital were as follows:

Name	Class of Capital	30.6.95	1.10.94
E.H. Wilson	"A" Ordinary Shares £1	72062	72062
E.H. Wilson			
Family Interest	"A" Ordinary Shares £1	15250	15250
G. Rooney	"A" Ordinary Shares £1	2000	2000
C.H. Wilson	"A" Ordinary Shares £1	25025	25025
B. Brian	"A" Ordinary Shares £1	2000	2000
M. Jackson	"A" Ordinary Shares £1	2000	2000

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (continued)

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period which 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 those financial statements, the directors are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which 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 1985. 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.

CLOSE COMPANY

The company is a close company within the meaning of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Wilson Braithwaite Scholey, will be proposed for re-appointment in accordance with Section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD:

B. BRIAN

Secretary

2 October 1995





Chartered Accountants 21 St. Paul's Street, Leeds LS1 2ER Telephone (0113) 244 5451 Fax (0113) 242 6308

CHARLES BIRCH LIMITED

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CHARLES BIRCH LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages eight to twenty-three which have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and the accounting policies set out on page thirteen.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page six the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's and of the group's affairs at 30 June 1995 and of its profit for the period then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Wilson Braithwaite Scholey

Wilson baitwite Scholer.

Registered Auditor

Chartered Accountants 21 St Paul's Street

Leeds

LS1 2ER

Dated: 2 October 1995

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Period Ended 30 June 1995

	Notes	<u>30.6.95</u> £	30.9.94 £
TURNOVER	2	5683401	7857258
Cost of sales		<u>3772291</u>	<u>5421750</u>
GROSS PROFIT		1911110	2435508
Administrative expenses		1769695	2280381
		141415	155127
Other operating income	3	110255	156369
OPERATING PROFIT	4	251670	311496
Interest receivable and similar income	7	95	<u> 165</u>
Interest payable and similar		251765	311661
charges	8	49371	67860
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	;	202394	243801
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	9	55260	62323
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	•	147134	181478
Minority interests			1209
RETAINED PROFIT FOR THE PERIO	DD 19	£ 147134	£ 180269

CONTINUING OPERATIONS: None of the company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current period and previous year.

RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES: The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit for the current period and the previous year.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Period Ended 30 June 1995

	Notes	<u>30.6.95</u> £	<u>30.9.94</u> £
TURNOVER	2	3913735	4655483
Cost of sales		2699364	3431997
GROSS PROFIT		1214371	1223486
Administrative expenses		1270888	<u>1418196</u>
		(56517)	(194710)
Other operating income	3	216450	360290
OPERATING PROFIT	4	159933	165580
Interest receivable and similar income	7	95	165
Intercet warmhis and similar		160028	165745
Interest payable and similar charges	8	<u>49371</u>	65289
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		110657	100456
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	9	33411	<u>22553</u>
RETAINED PROFIT FOR THE PERIOR	D 19	£ 77246	£ 77903

CONTINUING OPERATIONS: None of the company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current period and previous year.

RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES: The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit for the current period and the previous year.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET at 30 June 1995

	Notes	30	.6.95	30	.9.94
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		286414		270461
Investments			1		
			286415		270461
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	12	1735185		1725905	
Debtors	13	2053972		2066633	
Cash at bank and in hand		45893		130383	
		3835050		3922921	
CREDITORS Amounts falling					
due within one year	14	<u>1499892</u>		<u>1715678</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2335158		2207243
NEI CORRENI ASSEIS			<u> 2333136</u>		2201243
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT					
LIABILITIES			2621573		2477704
			2021375		21,,,01
CREDITORS Amounts falling		•			
due after more than one year	15	3758		10091	
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES					
AND CHARGES	17	29071		26003	
			32829		<u>36094</u>
NET ASSETS			£2588744		£2441610
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					•
Called up share capital	18		122963		122963
Other reserves			20070		20070
Profit and loss account	19		<u>2445711</u>		2298577
			CDE00744		£2441610
			£2588744		£244101U

E.H. WILSON - Director

Approved by the Board on 2 October 1995

BALANCE SHEET at 30 June 1995

	Notes	30	.6.95	30	.9.94
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	231745		179799	
Investments	11	491092		491091	
			722837		670890
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	12	1333006		1312070	
Debtors	13	1857133		1771813	
Cash at bank and in hand		7105		<u>7015</u>	
		3197244		3090898	
CREDITORS Amounts falling					
due within one year	14	<u> 1938376</u>		<u>1856281</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			1258868		<u>1234617</u>
Mombil 2000000 17000 077777777					
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT			1001705		1005507
LIABILITIES			1981705		1905507
CDEDITORS Amounts falling					
CREDITORS Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	3758		10091	
due arter more than one year	13	3/36		10091	
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES					
AND CHARGES	17	23805		18520	
			27563	20020	28611
NET ASSETS			£1954142		£1876896
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	18		122963		122963
Other reserves			13541		13541
Profit and loss account	19		<u> 1817638</u>		1740392
			£1954142		£1876896

E.H. WILSON - Director

Approved by the Board on 2 October 1995

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the Period Ended 30 June 1995

	Notes	30.	6.95	30.	9.94
		£	£	£	£
Net cash inflow from operating activities	22		234547		194873
Returns on investments and servicing of finance Interest received		95		165	
Interest paid		(<u>49371</u>)		(<u>68965</u>)	
Net cash outflow from returns on investments			(
and servicing of finance			(49276)		(68800)
Taxation Corporation tax paid			(52192)		(65788)
Investing activities					
Payments to acquire fixed assets Receipts from sales of		(89791)		(52631)	
fixed assets		39835		32390	
Payments to acquire share capital in subsidiary Payments to acquire share		-		(3000)	
capital in participating interest		(<u>1</u>)		-	
Net cash outflow from investing activities			(<u>49957</u>)		(_23241)
Net cash outflow before financing			83122		37044
Financing Capital repayments under finance leases		(8964)		(<u>21414</u>)	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		,		\ <u>==±±±</u> /	
Net cash outflow from financing			(<u>8964</u>)		(_21414)
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	23		£ 74158		£ 15630

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Basis of consolidation

The group accounts consolidate the accounts of Charles Birch Limited and its subsidiaries made up to 30 June in each year.

Turnover

Turnover represents net invoiced sales of goods, excluding value added tax.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided, at the following annual rates, in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Leasehold improvements - 4% on straight line

Plant and machinery - 10% and 25% on reducing balance

Fixtures and fittings - 10% on reducing balance

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Cost consists of direct materials only, being goods purchased for resale, which make up the entire stock of the company.

Deferred taxation

Provision is made at current rates for taxation deferred in respect of all material timing differences except to the extent that, in the opinion of the directors, there is reasonable probability that the liability will not arise in the foreseeable future.

Foreign exchange

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling and recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Tangible fixed assets acquired under finance leases or hire purchase contracts are capitalised and depreciated in the same manner as other tangible fixed assets. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Compliance with Accounting Standards

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. There were no material departures from those standards.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

2. TURNOVER

The turnover and profit are attributable to the principal activities of the group. The analysis of turnover by geographical area is as follows:-

Geograph	ical Area
----------	-----------

		<u>C</u>	ompany	<u>G</u> :	<u>roup</u>
		1995	1994	1995	1994
		£	£	£	£
	United Kingdom	3755840	4429273	5480816	7608229
	Europe	141605	202434	141605	202434
	Channel Islands	<u>16290</u>	23776	60980	46595
		£3913735	£4655483	£5683401	£7857258
					
3.	OTHER OPERATING INCOME				
	Administration fee	1548	15000	1548	15000
	Discounts received	84902	104290	108707	141369
	Management charge	130000	241000	_	
		£ 216450	£ 360290	£ 110255	£ 156369
					,
4.	GROUP OPERATING PROFIT The group operating profit is stated after charging/ (crediting):				
	Total directors' emoluments	168363	217279	168363	237587
	Auditors' remuneration	16250	16250	23250	26750
	Depreciation - owned assets	23662	25648	31575	40324
	Depreciation - assets held under finance leases and	23002	23040	31373	10321
	hire purchase contracts	4609	8195	4609	8195
	Loss on sale of fixed assets Hire of plant and machinery -	-	3473	-	17296
	operating leases	112650	119082	156501	187071
	Profit on sale fixed assets	(1654)	-	(2181)	-
					

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

The remuneration of the directors, including the above, was within the following ranges:

	1995`	1994
	Number	Number
£20001 - £25000	1	_
£25001 - £30000	2	1
£30001 - £35000	-	2
£35001 - £40000	1	-
£40001 - £45000	-	1
£45001 - £50000	1	-
£50001 - £55000	-	1

6. STAFF COSTS

The average number of persons employed, including directors, during the period was as follows:-

	Com	pany	<u>Group</u>		
	1995	1994	1995	1994	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	
Office and management	15	19	26	34	
Productive warehouse	40	32	52	49	
Selling	_12	<u>11</u>	<u>15</u>	_15	
	67	62	93	98	
The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:					
were as refroms.	£	£	£	£	
Wages and salaries	568915	668762	788673	1042754	
Social security	49932	60681	69797	89466	
Other pension costs	20147	24724	24408	<u>35555</u>	
	£638994	£754167	£882878	£1167775	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

7. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	Bank interest	<u>Com</u> 1995 £	1994 £ £	<u>Gr</u> 1995 £	<u>roup</u> 1994 £ £ 165
	Dam Intelest				
8.	INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES Bank loans and overdrafts and other loans repayable				
	within five years Finance charges - finance leases and hire purchase	48137	63997	48137	63997
	contracts	1234	1292	1234	3799
	Other interest	_			<u>64</u>
		£49371	£65289	£49371	£67860
					
9.	TAXATION Current period: Corporation tax at 25%				
	(1994 - 25%) Deferred taxation at 33%	30729	23635	54795	63127
	(1994 - 33%) Prior year: Corporation tax under	5285	3317	3068	3595 ~
	over provided	(<u>2603</u>)	(<u>4399</u>)	(<u>2603</u>)	(<u>4399</u>)
		£33411	£22553	£55260	£62323

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS Company

COMPANY				
	Leasehold	Plant and	Fixtures	Total
	land and	machinery	and	
	<u>buildings</u>		<u>fixtures</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 October 1994	-	140414	179675	320089
Additions	24344	29550	30369	84263
Disposals		(<u>9590</u>)		(<u>9590</u>)
At 30 June 1995	<u>24344</u>	160374	210044	<u>394762</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 October 1994	-	58517	81773	140290
Charge for period	730	17920	9621	28271
On disposals		(<u>5544</u>)		(<u>5544</u>)
At 30 June 1995	<u>730</u>	70893	91394	163017
Net book value				
At 30 June 1995	£23614	£ 89481	£118650	£231745
				
At 30 September 1994	£ -	£ 81897	£ 97902	£179799
				

Included in the total net book value of tangible fixed assets held at 30 June 1995 was £19974 in respect of assets held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts.

Group

-	Leasehold land and <u>buildings</u>	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and <u>fixtures</u>	Total ~
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 October 1994	21437	203359	251469	476265
Additions	24344	31039	34408	89791
Disposals	(<u>21437</u>)	(<u>12302</u>)	(<u>22660</u>)	(<u>56399</u>)
At 30 June 1995	<u>24344</u>	222096	<u>263217</u>	<u>509657</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 October 1994	2543	93377	109884	205804
Charge for period	730	21565	13889	36184
On disposals	(<u>2543</u>)	(<u>7822</u>)	(<u>8380</u>)	(<u>18745</u>)
At 30 June 1995	<u>730</u>	107120	115393	223243

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (continued) Group

-	Leasehold land and buildings	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and fixtures	Total
	£	£	£	
Net book value				
At 30 June 1995	£23614	£114976	£147824	£286414
				
At 30 September 1994	£18894	£109982	£141585	£270461

Included in the total net book value of tangible fixed assets held at 30 June 1995 was £19974 in respect of assets held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts.

11. INVESTMENTS Fixed assets

	Shares in group undertakings
Cost At 1 October 1994 Additions	£ 4910911
At 30 June 1995	£491092

Included in the investments detailed above, the company holds in excess of one-tenth of the nominal value of the stated class of shares in the following undertakings:

Subsidiary undertakings	Country of Incorporation	Holding 	Proportion held	Nature of business
Charles Birch (Scotland) Ltd	England	Ord Shares	100%	Leather and grindery factoring
Lancashire Leather Factors Ltd	r England	Ord Shares	78%	Non-trading
Collinson's Cut Soles Ltd	England	Ord Shares	90%	Non-trading

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

11.	11. INVESTMENTS (continued) Fixed assets					
		Country of Incorporation	Holding n	Proportion held	Nature (of business
	Subsidiary undertakings (continued) Charles Birch (South West) Ltd	England	Ord Share		Non-tra	ding
	m w Poiler	J				J
	T.W. Bailey (Merchants) Ltd	England	Ord Share	s 100%	Non-tra	ding
	McNaught Key & Co Ltd	England	Ord Share	s 82.12	% Non-tra	ding
	Charles Birch (Essex) Ltd	England	Ord Share	s 99.34	Leather % grinder	and y factoring
	Stephen Oddy (Fancy Leather Goods) Ltd	England	Ord Share	s 50%	Fancy L Goods	eather ·
12.	STOCKS		Com	pany	,	Group
			1995 £	1994 £	1995 £	1994 £
	Raw materials and consumables	Ī	£1333006	£1312070	£1735185	£1725905
13.	DEBTORS - amounts					***
	due within one year Trade debtors Amounts owed by		1198033	957878	1749937	1836314
	undertakings Amounts owed by	undertakings	419071 in	644468	-	-
	which the company participating in Other debtors	terest	32237 54290	- 55934	32237 55290	- 63063
	Prepayments and a income	accrued	153502	113533	216508	167256
			£1857133	£1771813	£2053972	£2066633

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

14. CREDITORS - amounts falling due within one year

		Company		Group		
		1995	1994	1995	1994	
		£	£	£	£	
	Bank loans and overdrafts					
	(note 16)	828831	987479	828831	987479	
	Payments received on account	-	-	-	738	
	Trade creditors	346995	369054	369260	399318	
	Amounts owed to group					
	undertakings	530625	273477		-	
	Corporation tax	30729	23635	54795	63127	
	Social security and					
	other taxes	119920	125012	147495	160259	
	Hire purchase and					
	finance leases	9322	11953	9322	11953	
	Other creditors	43861	37922	49637	51748	
	Accruals and deferred income	<u>28093</u>	27749	40552	<u>41056</u>	
		£1938376	£1856281	£1499892	£1715678	
		 				
15.	CREDITORS - amounts falling due after more than one year Hire purchase and finance leases	£ 3758	£ 10091	£ 3758	£ 10091	
16.	LOANS AND OVERDRAFTS The aggregate amount of loans and overdrafts was as follows Amounts falling due within one year:	:			An .	
	Bank overdrafts	£ 828831	£ 987479	£ 828831	£ 987479	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

17.	PROVISIONS FO	OR LIABILITIES	AND C	CHARGES					Company		Gro	up
									Deferred taxation £			rred tion
	Balance at 1 Charge for pe	October 1994 eriod							18520 5285		260 30	03 <u>68</u>
	Balance at 30	0 June 1995						£	23805	:	£ 290	71
	The amount p	provided and t	he po	tential	li	.ab	ility	for (deferred	taz	kation	is a
					199	95			:	1994	1	
				Provide	d	P	otentia	al	Provide	£	Poten	tial
				£			£		£		£	
	The Company											
	Accelerated of	capital										
	allowances		£	23805		£	23805	£	18520	:	E 185	20
	The Group Accelerated of allowances	capital	£	29071		£	29071	£	26003	:	£ 260	03
18.	CALLED UP SHA	ARE CAPITAL							1995		19	94
									£		£	
	Authorised Number	Class					minal alue				_	
	499800	Ordinary "A"	Shares	3			£1		499800		4998	00
	200	Ordinary "B"	Shares	5			£1		200		2	00
									£500000		£5000	00
	Allotted, is:	`. sued and fully	paid									
	Number	Class					minal alue					
	122963	Ordinary "A"	Shares	5			£1		£122963		£1229	63

a:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 June 1995

19. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	Company	<u>Group</u>
	£	£
At 1 October 1994	1740392	2298577
Profit for period	<u>77246</u>	<u>147134</u>
At 30 June 1995	£1817638	£2445711

20. LEASING COMMITMENTS

At 30 June 1995 there were annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as detailed below:

	Co	Company		Group		
	1995	1995 1994		1994		
	£	£	£	£		
Operating leases which expire	:					
Within one year	33311	31036	33311	31036		
Within two to five years	132860	63726	<u>132860</u>	<u>63726</u>		
	£166171	£ 94762	£166171	£ 94762		

21. PENSION COSTS

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £20147 (1994 £24724).

22. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

ACIIVIIIES		
	1995	1994
	£	£
Operating profit	251670	311496
Depreciation charges	36184	48519
(Profit) loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	(2181)	17296
Increase in stocks	(9280)	(84722)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	12661	(92575)
Decrease in creditors	(<u>54507</u>)	(<u>5141</u>)
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	£234547	£194873