Fife Scottish Omnibuses Limited

Financial statements for the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

Registered number: SC026126

Strategic report

For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

The directors present their strategic report on the Company for the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023.

Review of the business

Fife Scottish Omnibuses Limited ("the Company") is a public transport operator, operating predominantly local bus services in Fife and the surrounding area. The Company operates a fleet of 452 (2022: 518) buses and employs 1,224 (2022: 1,232) people.

Results and performance

The growth in revenue reflects recovering passenger demand across our services as pandemic-related restrictions have eased and confidence has returned.

The results of the Company for the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023 show a profit on ordinary activities before taxation of £5,167,000 (2022: £745,000) and revenue of £74,917,000 (2022: £67,006,000). The Company has net assets of £31,972,000 (2022: £25,257,000).

The Company's business is built on a successful commercial formula of low fares, investment and high customer service which has maintained our presence in the region.

Business environment

The Company operates predominantly local bus services, and carried around 55,000 (2022: 58,000) passengers a day. These services are mainly operated on a commercial basis in a largely deregulated market. The Company also operates tendered services, including school contracts, on behalf of local authorities and other public bodies. The Company works closely with local authorities, passengers and other stakeholders. The Company benefits from being part of the UK Bus (regional operations) Division of Stagecoach Group Limited ("the Group"), a nationwide public transport operator.

Business culture

We are committed to conducting business in a socially responsible way and we believe this to be consistent with our business objectives and strategy. Indeed, by taking a responsible approach towards the environment and the wider community, we believe we will enhance our objective to deliver organic growth.

Strategy

The Company's absolute focus remains safety and operational excellence, which underpin our delivery of high quality public transport services. Providing good value travel and investing in our people, fleet and new technology is essential to enhancing our customers' experience. We also continue to take steps to improve the efficiency of our operations and maintain close control of costs.

Future outlook

Our services are central to delivering economic growth, social equity and objectives around improved air quality and decarbonisation. This is reflected in the continued government investment in buses, in particular, as we transition to a net zero future. We are continuing with the delivery of Bus Service Improvement Plans across Scotland along with our partner regional and local transport authorities.

In Scotland, we are seeing positive growth in bus travel linked to the under-22 free bus travel scheme, and we have also been working with Transport Scotland and other operators on a marketing campaign to boost bus use. The Scottish Government has also recently launched the second phase of the Scottish Zero Emission Bus Challenge Fund ("ScotZEB"), with up to £58m of funding available.

Future outlook (continued)

We will continue to work collaboratively with national and local governments across the country to re-shape local bus networks to reflect new travel patterns. Although we see ongoing forecasting uncertainty in relation to passenger demand and cost inflation, we currently forecast continued good regional bus profitability for the year ahead, as we return to a more commercial model for regional bus services underpinned by greater certainty around government funding for the year ahead.

Looking further ahead, we expect a lasting effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel patterns with an acceleration in trends of increased working from home, shopping from home, telemedicine and home education. At the same time, we see positive drivers for the business from a renewed societal focus on health, wellbeing and the environment. Buses across the UK can play a major role in a cleaner, greener and more resilient economy and society, tackling climate change with strong government action to reduce car use.

We continue to see positive long-term outlook, leveraging the benefits of new ownership and supportive government policy and funding. Strong partnership working between bus operators, national government and local transport authorities is critical if we are to maximise the opportunities ahead and we are pleased that this is reflected in the direction of public policy across the country.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The management of the business and the execution of the Company's strategy are subject to a number of risks.

The management and reporting of risk is undertaken at the Group level, rather than at an individual business unit level.

The principal risks and uncertainties of Stagecoach Group Limited, which includes those of the Company, are discussed in the Group's 2023 Annual Report (paragraph 1.4.5 of the Strategic Review), which does not form part of this report.

Key performance indicators ("KPIs")

The directors of Stagecoach Group Limited manage the Group's performance on a divisional basis. For this reason, the Company's directors believe that analysis using KPIs for the Company is not necessary or appropriate for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business of the Company. The development, performance and position of the UK Bus Division of Stagecoach Group Limited, which includes the Company, is discussed in the Strategic Review (paragraph 1.4.6) of the Group's 2023 Annual Report which does not form part of this report.

Financial risk management

The Company's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including the effects of changes in interest rates, credit risk and commodity prices. The effects of changes in interest rates and commodity prices are managed at a Group level by a central Group treasury function. The Company has implemented policies which require appropriate credit checks to be performed on potential customers before sales are made. All credit checks are performed centrally by Stagecoach Services Limited, a fellow Group company.

Section 172 statement

The Directors believe that in the decisions taken during the period ended 29 April 2023, they have acted, both individually and together, in the way they consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole. In doing so, the Directors have had regard to, amongst other things, the matters set out in section 172(1)(a-f) of the Companies Act 2006.

Section 172 statement (continued)

Recognising their duty to have regard to stakeholders, the Board engages with, and receives updates from various stakeholders. The views of and impact of the Company's activities on those stakeholders are an important consideration for the Directors when making relevant decisions. Due to the number and distribution of both the Company's stakeholders and the Stagecoach Group, generally our stakeholder engagement takes place at an operational and group level. The culture and values upheld when engaging with stakeholders are consistent across the Group, whichever company is communicating with stakeholders.

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 have been considered to an appropriate extent by the Stagecoach Group Limited Board in relation to both the Group and the Company. To the extent necessary for an understanding of the development, performance and position of the Company, an explanation of how the Board of Directors of Stagecoach Group Limited has considered the matters set out in section 172 (for the Group and for the Company) is summarised on pages 36-37 of the Group's 2023 Annual Report, which does not form part of this report.

Employees

From the perspective of the Directors, as a result of the Group governance the Group Directors have taken the lead in carrying out the duties of a director in respect of the Company's employees, including engaging with them, having regard to their interests and the effect of that regard (including on the principal decisions taken by the Company during the financial period). The Directors have also considered relevant matters where appropriate. An explanation of how the Group Directors have carried out these responsibilities for the Company is set out on pages 36-37 of the Group's Annual Report, which does not form part of this report.

Other stakeholders

Similarly, from the perspective of the Directors, as a result of the Group governance structure, the Group Directors have taken the lead in carrying out the duties of a directors in respect of the Company's other stakeholders. The Directors have also considered relevant matters where appropriate. An explanation of how the Group's Directors have had regard to the need to foster the Company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others, and the effect of that regard, including on the principal decisions taken by the Company during the financial period, is set out for both the Group and Company on pages 36-37 of the Group's Annual Report, which does not form part of this report.

By order of the Board

Bruce Dingwall

BM Dingwall
Director

10 Dunkeld Road
Perth
United Kingdom
PH1 5TW

29 January 2024

Directors' report

For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

The directors present their report on the affairs of the Company, together with the audited financial statements and independent auditors' report, for the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023 (52 week period ended 30 April 2022).

Results and dividends

The growth in revenue reflects recovering passenger demand across our services as pandemic-related restrictions have eased and confidence has returned.

The results of the Company for 52 week period ended 29 April 2023 show a profit on ordinary activities before taxation of £5,167,000 (2022: £745,000) and revenue of £74,917,000 (2022: £67,006,000). The profit for the financial period amounted to £4,323,000 (2022: loss £301,000). This amount has been appropriated as follows:

	Note	2023	2022
		£000	£000
Profit/(loss) for the financial period		**4,323**	(301)
Dividend to parent company	7	**(6,000)**	-
Transferred to reserves		**(1,677)**	(301)

Future developments

Future developments have been discussed in future outlook section of the strategic report on pages 1 and 3.

Financial risk management

Financial risk management has been discussed in the strategic report on page 3.

Directors

The directors who held office during the period under review and up to the date of approval of these financial statements were:

BM Dingwall

D Robertson

SD Greer

CL Stockton-Jones Resigned 03 July 2023

Employees

Human resources are key to the Company's business and the Company's relationship with its employees is fundamental to achieving its objectives. We aim to recruit and retain the best employees in our sector, which allows us to deliver good customer service. The Company invests significantly in the training and development of our people. We have strong, long-established working relationships with trade unions and work in partnership with them on a range of issues including training and development, occupational health matters, pensions and other employee benefits, as well as areas such as new vehicle design and uniforms.

The Company recognises its obligations to give disabled people full and fair consideration for all vacancies within the statutory medical requirements which have to be met for certain grades of staff. Wherever reasonable and practicable, the Company will retain newly disabled employees and at the same time provide fair opportunities for the career development of disabled people. Refer to s.172 disclosure in the Strategic Report on page 3 for further details on the directors' engagement with employees.

Business relationships

The Directors have had regard for the need to foster the Company's business relationships with supplier, customers and others. Details of these activities are included as part of the s.172 disclosure in the Strategic Report.

Energy and carbon reporting

Energy and carbon reporting for Stagecoach Group Limited, which includes the energy and carbon emissions figures for the Company, are disclosed in Stagecoach Group Limited's 2023 annual report (paragraph 1.7.2 of the Strategic Report), which does not form part of this report.

Statement of corporate governance arrangements

As the Group is now a large private company, we now follow The Wates Corporate Governance Principles for Large Private Companies issued by the Financial Reporting Council ("The Wates Principles"). The principles can be found at https://www.frc.org.uk. Until June 2022, the Group's shares were traded on the London Stock Exchange and the Company's corporate governance reflected that. In the Group's 2022 Annual Report, we reported our corporate governance arrangements with reference to the Financial Reporting Council's UK Corporate Governance Code. On 9 March 2022, Inframobility UK Bidco Limited made an all-cash offer to acquire the entire issued and to be issued share capital of the Group. That offer became unconditional on 20 May 2022.

On 28 June 2022, the listing of the Group's shares was cancelled. On 15 August 2022, Inframobility UK Bidco Limited completed the acquisition of the Group's entire issued share capital, and on 17 October 2022, the Group re-registered as a private company. Inframobility UK Bidco Limited is a Company managed by DWS Infrastructure, a long-term infrastructure investment management business. During the period ended 29 April 2023, we adjusted our corporate governance arrangements to reflect the change in ownership of the Group and the de-listing of its shares, transitioning from applying the UK Corporate Governance Code to applying the Wates Principles, an explanation of is summarised on pages 41-43 of the Group's 2023 Annual Report, which does not form part of this report.

For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023, the Company has prepared the financial statement in accordance with The Companies (Miscellaneous Reporting) Regulations 2018 (the "Reporting Regulations"). In complying with these requirements, the Company has elected not to apply a code because for the period ended 29 April 2023, Stagecoach Group Limited, has applied the Wates Principles, which was applied throughout the Group.

Reflecting the structure of the Group, a number of corporate governance matters are reserved for the board of Stagecoach Group Limited. The principal responsibilities include agreeing the overall strategy and investment policy, to approve major capital expenditure, to monitor performance and risk management procedures of senior management, to ensure there are proper internal controls in place and to consider major acquisitions or disposals.

The Executive Directors of the Group maintain day-to-day contact and meet regularly face-to-face or in video conferences with senior management and Directors of the Company. The Company's managing director reports to one of four regional directors and is supported by his or her own management teams. The regional directors report to the UK Managing Director. To the extent necessary for an understanding of the corporate governance arrangements applied across the Group, an explanation of is summarised on pages 41-43 of the Group's 2023 Annual Report, which does not form part of this report.

Donations

Donations to charitable organisations amounted to £1,235 (2022: £130).

The Company does not make political contributions and accordingly there were no payments for political purposes during the period (2022: £nil).

COVID-19

We believe our business model remains appropriate for a post COVID-19 world. Our business model adjusted during the pandemic, with more of our income being from COVID-19 grants from government. We expect our business model will continue to evolve to reflect the opportunities presented from changes in government policy and climate change, and to respond to a closer relationship with government.

The Company is also receiving significant payments from government to ensure the continuation of public transport services in light of the COVID-19 situation. That includes continuing payments to some extent of concessionary revenue, tender revenue and bus operating grants.

The Company has received grants under the COVID-19 Support Grant Restart ("CSG-R") and Network Support Grant scheme ("NSG") during the period and is continuing to receive grants under NSG.

There is a risk that the extent of the payments available to the Company reduces faster than improvements in the underlying financial performance of its businesses. That could adversely affect the Company's financial performance and financial position.

The Company has received COVID-19 related payments from government for periods since mid-March 2020, which has enabled the continuation of transport services as customer demand has continued to recover. As anticipated, the COVID-19 Support Grant Restart ("CSG-R") for local bus services came to an end on 31 March 2023. The Scottish Government has put in place a new grant to support bus service during the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Network Support Grant ("NSG") for the period 1 April 2023 to 9 October 2023.

The Scottish Government has also recently launched the second phase of the Scottish Zero Emission Bus Challenge Fund ("ScotZEB"), with up to £58m of funding available.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. In applying the going concern basis, the Directors have taken into account of the recent trading performance and increased and uncertain cost inflation. The Company is in a net current liabilities and net assets position as at 29 April 2023. The directors have also considered the Company's cash position and forecast cash flows for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements, arising from the services to be rendered.

The Directors have received confirmation from Stagecoach Group Limited, the Company's intermediate parent company, that Stagecoach Group Limited intends to provide financial support to the Company, to assist the Company in meeting its liabilities as and when they fall due, to the extent that resources are not otherwise available to the Company to meet such liabilities.

Going concern (continued)
Stagecoach Group Limited has confirmed that it has the ability to provide such support and intends to provide the support, as appropriate, for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. In applying the going concern basis, the Directors have also considered the past practice of Stagecoach Group Limited in providing financial support to the Company and its fellow subsidiaries.

The Directors note that although Stagecoach Group Limited has indicated its intention to provide financial support to the Company as appropriate, there is no commitment to provide such support. The Directors consider that the reliance on the letter of support with such limitations results in a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Directors cannot be absolutely certain that Stagecoach Group Limited will provide the Company with financial support if required but, having taken account of Stagecoach Group Limited's current intention, Stagecoach Group Limited's past practice, recent trading performance, and increased and uncertain cost inflation, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company will continue to operate as a going concern for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The financial statements do not reflect any adjustments that would be required to be made if they were prepared on basis other than going concern.

Refer to note 1(a) for further details on the going concern basis.

Statement of directors' responsibilities
The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law 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), Financial Reporting Standard 101. 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 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, comprising FRS 101 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 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.

Directors' report (continued)

For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

Independent auditors and disclosure of information to auditors

Each director, as at the date of this report, has confirmed that insofar as they are 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.

The auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning their re-appointment will be proposed at the next Annual General Meeting of Stagecoach Group Limited.

Indemnification of Directors and officers

The Company maintains Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance in respect of legal action that might be brought against its directors. The Company has indemnified each of its directors and other officers of the Company against certain liabilities that may be incurred as a result of their offices.

On behalf of the Board

Bruce Dingwall

BM Dingwall
Director

10 Dunkeld Road
Perth
United Kingdom
PH1 5TW

29 January 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFE SCOTTISH OMNIBUSES LIMITED

For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Fife Scottish Omnibuses Limited for the period ended 29 April 2023 which comprise the Income Statement, the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the related notes 1 to 23, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the company's affairs as at 29 April 2023 and of its profit for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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 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.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to Note 1 in the financial statements, which indicates the intention of Stagecoach Group Limited to provide financial support on a non-binding basis. As stated in Note 1, these events or conditions, along with the other matters as set forth in note 1, indicate a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

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 this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Other information (continued)

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 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 a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 strategic report and the directors' report for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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 material misstatements in the strategic report or directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- 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.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 8, 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.

Explanation as to what extent 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 irregularities, including fraud. 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. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the company and determined that the most significant include compliance with applicable health & safety, environmental and data protection regulations, competition and consumer protection laws, labour regulations, employee rights laws, and to the reporting framework (FRS 101 and Companies Act 2006) and relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK.
- We understood how Fife Scottish Omnibuses Limited is complying with those frameworks by making enquiries of management, internal audit, those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We corroborated our enquiries through our reading of board minutes and papers provided to the Group Audit Committee, as well as other correspondence.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by meeting with management within various parts of the business to understand where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud. We also considered performance targets and their influence on efforts made by management to manage earnings. Where this risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address the identified fraud risk. These procedures included testing manual journals and were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error.
- Based on this understanding, we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures included reading board minutes to identify any non-compliance with laws and regulations and enquiries of senior management.

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

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.

Ernst & Young LLP

Julie Cavin (Senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Statutory Auditor
Edinburgh

Date: 29 January 2024

Income statement

For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

	Note	**52 week period ended 29 April 2023 £000**	52 week period ended 30 April 2022 £000
Revenue	2	**74,917**	67,006
Operating costs		**(87,329)**	(77,971)
Gross loss		**(12,412)**	(10,965)
Other operating income	3	**17,460**	12,199
Profit on ordinary activities before interest and taxation		**5,048**	1,234
Loss on disposal of properties	4	**-**	(272)
Finance income/(charges)	5	**119**	(217)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	6	**5,167**	745
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	10	**(844)**	(1,046)
Profit/(loss) for the financial period		**4,323**	(301)

The results for each period arise wholly from continuing operations.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this income statement.

Statement of other comprehensive income

For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

	Note	**52 week period ended 29 April 2023 £000**	52 week period ended 30 April 2022 £000
Profit/(loss) for the financial period		**4,323**	(301)
Other comprehensive income:			
Actuarial gain on retirement benefit obligations	18	**8,392**	12,447
Other comprehensive income		**8,392**	12,447
Tax charge relating to actuarial gain on retirement benefit obligations	10(b), 16	**-**	(1,735)
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax		**8,392**	10,712
Total comprehensive income for the period		**12,715**	10,411

Balance sheet
As at 29 April 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets	11(a)	**4**	11
Tangible assets	11(b)	**50,712**	45,190
Right of use assets	11(c)	**850**	808
Retirement benefit asset	18	**12,005**	3,313
		63,571	49,322
Current assets			
Assets held for sale	12	**580**	580
Stocks	13	**555**	447
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	14	**4,296**	6,164
Cash at bank and in hand		**659**	801
		6,090	7,992
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	**(23,538)**	(21,330)
Corporation tax creditor		**-**	(141)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	**(13)**	-
		(23,551)	(21,471)
Net current liabilities		**(17,461)**	(13,479)
Total assets less current liabilities		**46,110**	35,843
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	**(9,346)**	(6,976)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	**(4,792)**	(3,610)
Net assets		**31,972**	25,257
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	17	**2,675**	2,675
Profit and loss account		**29,297**	22,582
Total shareholders' funds		**31,972**	25,257

The financial statements and accompanying notes on pages 13 to 46 were approved by the Board of Directors on the 29 January 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Bruce Dingwall

BM Dingwall
Director

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this balance sheet.

Statement of changes in equity

For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

	Called up share capital	Profit and loss account	Total shareholders' funds
	£000	£000	**£000**
At 1 May 2021	**2,675**	**12,171**	**14,846**
Loss for the financial period	-	(301)	(301)
Other comprehensive income	-	10,712	10,712
Total comprehensive income for the period	**-**	**10,411**	**10,411**
At 30 April 2022	**2,675**	**22,582**	**25,257**
Profit for the financial period	-	4,323	4,323
Other comprehensive income	-	8,392	8,392
Total comprehensive income for the period	**-**	**12,715**	**12,715**
Dividends	**-**	**(6,000)**	**(6,000)**
At 29 April 2023	**2,675**	**29,297**	**31,972**

Reference for called up share capital in note 17.

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the period 52 week period to 29 April 2023 and the preceding reporting period, are:

a) Basis of accounting

The Company is a private company limited by shares, incorporated and domiciled in the UK and registered in Scotland. The address of the Company's registered office is shown on page 8 and a description of the Company's principal activities are set out on page 1. The registered number is SC026126.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101, 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' (FRS 101) and the Companies Act 2006 (the Act).

The following exemptions from the requirements of IFRS have been applied in the preparation of these financial statements, in accordance with FRS 101:

- Paragraphs 45(b) and 46-52 of IFRS 2, 'Share-based payment'
- Paragraphs 130(f)(iii), 134(d)-134(f) and 135(c)-135(e) of IAS 36 'Impairment of Assets'
- Second sentence of paragraph 110 and paragraphs 113(a), 114, 115, 118, 119(a) to (c), 120-127, and 129 of IFRS 15 'Revenue from contracts with customers'
- IFRS 7, 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures'
- Paragraphs 91 to 99 of IFRS 13, 'Fair value measurement' (disclosure of valuation techniques and inputs used for fair value measurement of assets and liabilities)
- Paragraphs 10(d), 10(f), 16, 38A-D, 40A-D, 111 and 134-136 of IAS 1 'Presentation of financial statements
- IAS 7, 'Statement of cash flows'
- Paragraphs 30 and 31 of IAS 8 'Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors'
- Paragraph 17 and 18A of IAS 24, 'Related party disclosures'

The Company has notified its shareholders in writing about, and they do not object to, the use of the disclosure exemptions used by the company in these financial statements. The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency and presentational currency of the entity, and rounded to the nearest £'000.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. In applying the going concern basis, the Directors have taken into account of the recent trading performance and increased and uncertain cost inflation. The Company is in a net current liabilities and net assets position as at 29 April 2023. The directors have also considered the Company's cash position and forecast cash flows for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements, arising from the services to be rendered. The Directors have received confirmation from Stagecoach Group Limited, the Company's intermediate parent company, that Stagecoach Group Limited intends to provide financial support to the Company, to assist the Company in meeting its liabilities as and when they fall due, to the extent that resources are not otherwise available to the Company to meet such liabilities.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

a) Basis of accounting (continued)

Going concern (continued)

Stagecoach Group Limited has confirmed that it has the ability to provide such support and intends to provide the support, as appropriate, for 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. In applying the going concern basis, the Directors have also considered the past practice of Stagecoach Group Limited in providing financial support to the Company and its fellow subsidiaries. The Directors note that although Stagecoach Group Limited has indicated its intention to provide financial support to the Company as appropriate, there is no commitment to provide such support. The Directors consider that the reliance on the letter of support with such limitations results in a material uncertainty related to events or conditions which may cast significant doubt upon the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. The Directors cannot be absolutely certain that Stagecoach Group Limited will provide the Company with financial support if required but, having taken account of Stagecoach Group Limited's current intention, Stagecoach Group Limited's past practice, recent trading performance, and increased and uncertain costs inflation, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company will continue to operate as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The financial statements do not reflect any adjustments that would be required to be made if they were prepared on basis other than going concern.

The Group going concern assessment performed by Stagecoach Group Limited (the "parent") was performed using financial forecasts for the period to 31 January 2025 and considering a wide range of downside scenarios.

The forecasts of the parent indicate that the Group is projected to operate within its cash balances and available facilities for the going concern period.

The broader political and economic uncertainty has been factored into the scenarios considered as part of the Group and parent's adoption of the going concern assumption.

In reaching its conclusion on the going concern assessment, the Directors also assessed the Group's assessment of severe and plausible downside scenarios which contemplate lower regional bus commercial revenue over the forecast period, in addition to more cautious assumptions around our levels of cost increases and government funding support. The downside scenario considered in the going concern period was:

- passenger numbers at between 75% and 76% of pre-COVID levels in the going concern period;
- commercial revenue at between 90% and 91% of pre-COVID levels in the going concern period;
- concessionary revenue at 91% of pre-COVID levels for the remainder of the going concern period;
- no additional government funding of zero emission buses, beyond awards already made; and
- failure to win the majority of its bus franchise bids resulting in the loss of services in a number of its depots.

The accounts of the Group and parent undertaking, Stagecoach Group Limited, include more details of the downside scenarios, mitigating actions, funding requirements and liquidity headroom. In the downside scenarios modelled as set out above, liquidity headroom exists in the Group and parent undertaking throughout the going concern period after taking account of controllable, plausible mitigating actions.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

a) Basis of accounting (continued)

i) New accounting standards adopted during the period

There have been no new accounting standards, amendments to standards and interpretations that are mandatory for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 May 2022 that have any significant effect on the financial statements.

ii) Other new standards

Other new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations that are mandatory for the first time for the financial period beginning 1 May 2022, do not have any significant effect on the financial statements and are listed below.

International Accounting Standards and Interpretations	Effective for annual periods beginning on or after
Amendments to IAS 12 Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction	01 January 2023
Amendments to IAS 8, Definition of Accounting Estimates	01 January 2023
Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS and IFRS Practice Statement 2, Disclosure of Accounting policies	01 January 2023
• IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts • Amendments to IFRS 17 • Initial Application of IFRS 17 and IFRS 9 – Comparative Information	01 January 2023
Amendments to IAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements • Non-current Liabilities with Covenants • Deferral of Effective Date Amendment • Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current	01 January 2024*
Amendments to IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows and IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures: Supplier Finance Arrangements	01 January 2024*
Amendments to IAS 12 Income taxes: International Tax Reform –Pillar Two Model Rules	01 January 2023*
Amendments to IFRS 16, Leases – Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback	01 January 2024*

* Not yet adopted by the UK Endorsement Board

b) Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets consisting of software are shown at their original historic cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment. Cost includes the original purchase price of the assets and costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition intended for its use. Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised over useful economic life and assessed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the intangible asset may be impaired. The estimated useful economic life is as follows:

Software	5 years

Amortisation is recorded within operating costs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

c) Tangible fixed assets

Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use. Land and buildings and other fixed assets are shown at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment as set out in note 11(b).

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a straight-line basis over its estimated useful life, as follows:

Freehold buildings	10 to 50 years
Leasehold land & buildings	10 to 50 years
Public service vehicles (PSVs), depending on type	7 to 16 years
Plant and equipment and furniture and fittings	3 to 10 years
Freehold land is not depreciated	

d) Leases

The Company leases many assets including properties, office and plant equipment. Rental contracts are typically made for a fixed period of 6 months to 100 years. Certain leases have extension options which the Company may choose to exercise.

For contracts that convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration, the Company recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments, and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying asset.

Effect of lease extensions and break clauses on lease terms

Options to extend leases and break clauses are included in a number of the Company's leases. These are used by the Company to maximise flexibility in managing its assets and operations to meet passenger demands. The Company considers all the circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option or not utilise a break clause. An extension option or the periods after a break clause are only included in a lease term if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended or if the break clause is reasonably certain not to be utilised. For leases of properties, the Company considers the likely value of future rentals and anticipated changes in services operated from the property when considering whether it is reasonably certain to extend a lease or not to utilise a break clause.

Measurement of lease liabilities

Liabilities arising from a lease are initially measured at present value. Lease liabilities include the net present value of the following lease payments:

- Fixed lease payments, less any lease incentives receivable;
- Amounts expected to be payable by the Group under residual value guarantees;
- The exercise price of a purchase option if the Group is reasonably certain to exercise that option;
- Payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising that option;
- Payments to be made under reasonably certain extension options;
- Variable lease payments that are based on an on index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

d) Leases (continued)

Measurement of lease liabilities (continued)
The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Group's incremental borrowing rate is used, being the rate that the Company would have to pay to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment with similar terms, security and conditions. Incremental borrowing rates are determined for each internal reporting period and applied to the leases entered into during each such period.

To determine the incremental borrowing rate, the Company:

- uses recent third party financing received by the individual lessee as a starting point, adjusted to reflect changes in financing conditions since the third party financing was received;
- makes adjustments to the rate to reflect the terms and conditions specific to the lease. These will include adjustment for items such as the lease term and the right-of-use asset being leased.

The Company is exposed to potential future increases in variable lease payments for some properties based on an index or rate, which are not included in the lease liability until they take effect. When adjustments to lease payments based on an index or rate take effect, the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset. There are no leases with other forms of variable payment.

Lease payments are allocated between principal and finance cost. The finance cost is charged to the income statement over the lease period so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period.

Contracts can contain lease and non-lease components. For all property leases, the Company has separated lease and non-lease components. For all other leases, the Company has elected not to separate lease and non-lease components but instead accounts for these as a single lease component. Non-lease components for properties are excluded from the projection of future lease payments and are treated as a separate expense on a straight-line basis within operating costs.

Lease terms are negotiated lease by lease resulting in a wide range of terms and conditions. The lease agreements do not generally impose any financial covenants. The principal restriction on assets held under lease or hire purchase agreements is a restriction on the right to dispose of the assets during the period of the agreement.

Right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost comprising the following:

- the amount of the initial measurement of the lease liability;
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received;
- any initial direct costs; and
- dilapidation provisions.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

d) Leases (continued)

Right-of-use assets (continued)

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. If the Company is reasonably certain to exercise a purchase option, the right-of-use asset is depreciated over the underlying asset's useful life.

Short-term leases and low-value assets

Payments associated with short-term leases of equipment and vehicles and all leases of low-value assets are recognised on a straight-line basis as an expense in the consolidated income statement. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less. Low-value assets have a capital value, when new, of less than £4,500 and comprise principally IT equipment and small items of office equipment.

e) Impairment

Tangible fixed assets and other non-current assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amounts may not be recoverable.

An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

f) Stocks

Stocks of parts and consumables are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete or slow moving items. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out ("FIFO") method for fuel stocks and average cost method for all other stocks.

g) Taxation

Tax, current and deferred is calculated using tax rates and laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

Corporation tax is provided on taxable profit at the current rate applicable. Tax charges and credits are accounted for through the same primary statement as the related pre-tax item.

Deferred income tax is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements.

Deferred income tax is measured at the rates that are expected to apply in periods in which the temporary differences reverse based on tax rates and laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary difference can be utilised.

Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the 52 week period ended 29 April 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

g) Taxation (continued)

Management estimates amounts relating to uncertain tax treatments based on the applicable law and regulations, historic outcomes of similar audits and discussions, independent, external specialist advice and consideration of the progress on, and nature of, current discussions with the tax authority. Where management determines that a greater than 50% probability exists that the tax authorities would accept the positions taken in the tax return, amounts are recognised in the financial statements on that basis. Where the amount of tax payable or recoverable is uncertain, the Company recognises a liability or asset based on either: management's judgement of the most likely outcome or, when there is a wide range of possible outcomes, a probability weighted average approach.

h) Revenue

Revenue represents fare, concessionary income, contract revenues, fuel sales, commissions, engineering sales and lost property receipts receivable in respect of the period. The Directors regard the Company's business activities, which are carried out wholly in the United Kingdom, as being of one class.

The Company recognises revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration (payment) to which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Performance obligations of the Company are generally clear and transaction prices are even over the period to which they relate and are time apportioned. Customer compensation is treated as a reduction in revenue.

The Company principally generates revenue from the provision of transport services to its customers.

The Company has a number of revenue streams, as set out below. In general, revenue presented in the income statement is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Where appropriate, amounts are shown net of discounts, rebates, VAT and other sales taxes. The revenue is recognised as performance obligations are satisfied as described below for each significant revenue stream.

Commercial passenger revenue

Commercial passenger revenue primarily relates to ticket sales for travel on the Company's transport services. Passenger revenue is recognised in the income statement in the period in which the related travel occurs. This can involve some estimation – for example, revenue from the sale of season tickets and travelcards, that entitle individuals to use certain of our services during a specified period of time, is deferred within liabilities and recognised in the income statement over the period covered. The recognition of season ticket and travelcard income is recorded on a straight-line basis over the applicable period.

Concessionary revenue

In the UK, the Company receives concessionary revenue from public bodies, such as local authorities, for transporting certain qualifying individuals free of charge to the passenger. Although the revenue is received from a party other than the person receiving the service, the Company accounts for such revenue in accordance with IFRS 15, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, with the performance obligation being the provision of the free travel to those eligible. Amounts that are receivable from government bodies in respect of travel by individuals on the Company's transport services is recognised in the income statement in the period in which the related travel occurs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

h) Revenue (continued)

Tendered and school revenue

Other amounts that the Company receives from government bodies to pay for the operation of transport services they consider to be socially desirable are included in revenue and recognised in the income statement in the period that the relevant payment relates to. This includes tender and school revenue receivable to financially support certain bus services the Company operates in the UK.

Contract revenue

Revenue receivable from government bodies and others to the Company for operating transport services under contract is recognised in the income statement in the period that the contracted services relate to. In general, the revenue in respect of any particular period can be clearly determined from the contract. Where there is a contingent element to contract revenue (for example, where additional amounts are payable or receivable based on the punctuality of transport services and/or other operational measures), revenue is recognised based on the applicable operational measures when the amount of revenue can be reliably estimated and it is highly probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur.

Other revenue and income

Revenue that is incidental to the Company's principal activity of providing transport services is reported as other revenue. Such revenue is recognised as the service is provided, the amount of revenue can be reliably estimated and it is highly probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur. This may include income undertaking maintenance work on other operators' vehicles and selling fuel to other transport operators.

Contract liabilities

A contract liability is the obligation to provide services for a customer for which the Company has received consideration (or an amount of consideration is due) from the customer. If a customer pays consideration before the Company provides the services, a contract liability is recognised when the payment is made or the payment is due (whichever is earlier). Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the Company performs under the contract. Customers include individuals, corporations and public bodies who pay the Company for transport services. Contract liabilities include amounts in respect of unexpired season tickets and other tickets giving the holder a right to travel on the Company's services after the balance sheet date.

i) Other operating income

Revenues incidental to the Company's principal activity are reported as other operating income, and are recognised in the income statement in the period in which they are earned. Income from other sources is reported as other operating income. These other sources include COVID-related grant income, selling advertising space on vehicles and premises that the Company operates and property rental.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

j) Lease obligations

Assets acquired under hire purchase contracts are recorded in the balance sheet as an asset (at the equivalent of the purchase price) and as an obligation to pay future hire purchase capital instalments.

Obligations from hire purchase contracts and leases within creditors represent the total of the capital payments outstanding at the balance sheet date. Future finance charges are not included.

The interest element of lease obligations are charged to the income statement over the period of the lease.

k) Dilapidations

A dilapidations provision is recognised when there is future obligation relating to the maintenance of leasehold assets. Provisions for dilapidations are recognised on a lease by lease basis and are based on the Company's best estimate of the future expected repair costs required to restore leased assets to the condition required at the end of their respective lease terms.

l) Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The Company participates in a defined benefit scheme, the Stagecoach Group Pension Scheme, and a defined contribution scheme.

In respect of the defined benefit scheme, obligations are measured at discounted present value whilst scheme assets are recorded at market value. The recognised net asset is limited to the present value of economic benefits available in the form of any future refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the scheme. An economic benefit is available to the Company if it is realisable during the life of the scheme or on settlement of the scheme liabilities.

The operating and financing costs of the defined benefit plan is included within operating profit and is disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements; service costs are spread systematically over the working lives of employees and financing costs are recognised in the periods in which they arise. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in the statement of other comprehensive income. Mortality rates are considered when retirement benefit obligations are calculated.

Past service costs and adjustments are recognised immediately in income, unless the changes to the pension plan are conditional on the employees remaining in service for a specified period (the vesting period), in which case the past service costs are amortised using a straight-line method over the vesting period.

A full actuarial valuation is undertaken triennially for the scheme and updated annually using independent actuaries following the projected unit credit method. The present value of the scheme obligations is determined by discounting the estimated future cash outflows using interest rates of high quality corporate bonds which have terms to maturity equivalent to the terms of the related obligations. Experience adjustments and changes in assumptions which affect actuarial gains and losses are reflected in the actuarial gain or loss for the period.

For defined contributions schemes, the Company pays contributions to a separately administered pension scheme. Once the contributions have been paid the Company has no further obligations. The Company's contributions to defined contribution schemes are charged to the income statement in the period to which the contributions relate.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

m) Dividends

Dividends on ordinary shares are recorded in the financial statements in the period in which they are approved by the shareholders, or in the case of interim dividends, on the period in which they are paid.

n) Grants

Bus service operators grant ("BSOG") is recognised as other operating income. Other grants are credited to the profit and loss account as the expenditure is expensed.

COVID-19 related grants are government grants receivable in light of the ongoing COVID-19 situation. The amounts principally reflect grants receivable under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ("CJRS"), the COVID-19 Support Grant - Recovery ("CSG-R") scheme and the Network Support Grant ("NSG").

Under the CJRS, grant income may be claimed in respect of certain costs to the Company of furloughed employees. CJRS income is recognised in the income statement in the same period in which the related costs are incurred to the extent there is reasonable certainty that the grant will be received.

Under the CSG-R scheme, grant income may be claimed by operators of local bus services to close the shortfall of revenue earned by them during the period affected by COVID-19 and the costs incurred by them in that period. The estimation of the grant income involves significant uncertainty).

Under Network Support Grant ("NSG") support, funding was allocated to operators with reference to profit share and mileage operated. Income is recognised in the income statement in the same period in which the related shortfall of revenue over costs is incurred to the extent there is reasonable certainty that: (a) the Company will comply with the conditions attaching to the grant and (b) the grant will be received and retained by the Company, taking account of the potential adjustments to grant payments as a result of any reconciliation process.

o) Share based payments

The Group issued cash-settled share based payments to certain employees. The cost of the cash-settled transactions is measured at fair value. Fair value is estimated initially at the grant date and at each balance sheet date thereafter until the awards are settled. Market based performance are taken into account when determining fair value.

During the vesting period, a liability is recognised representing the estimated fair value of the award and the portion of the vesting period expired as at the balance sheet date. Changes in the carrying amount of the liability are recognised in the income statement for the period.

p) Cash flow statement

Fife Scottish Omnibuses Limited is not required to prepare a cash flow statement under IAS 7, as it is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Stagecoach Group Limited whose consolidated financial statements, which are publicly available, include a consolidated cash flow statement in which the cash flows of the Company are included.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

q) Financial instruments

The disclosure of the accounting policy that follows for financial instruments are those that apply under IAS 39 'Financial Instruments: Recognition and measurement'.

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

Financial liabilities are 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 Company 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.

The Company has only entered into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities such as trade and other receivables and payables, financing arrangements with banks and other third parties and balances due from and to related parties.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the balance sheet if, and only if, there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously.

Full details of the financial instruments policy of Stagecoach Group Limited are discussed in note 1 of the Group's 2023 annual report.

r) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are generally not interest bearing and are stated at amortised cost which approximates to nominal value due to creditors days being relatively low.

s) Trade receivables

Trade receivables are recorded at their original amount less provision for expected credit losses. The Company has elected to apply the simplified version of the expected credit loss model permitted by IFRS 9 in respect of trade receivables. The lifetime expected credit losses are assessed for all balances. The Company has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience and is adjusted for specific forward-looking factors. The carrying amount of the receivable is reduced through the use of a provision account and movements in the provision are recognised in the income statement within operating costs and other income. When a previously provided trade receivable is uncollectable, it is written off against the provision.

Adjustments to this policy may be made in specific circumstances. At each reporting date, the Company assesses whether trade receivables are credit impaired. This includes a review of whether the customer is in significant financial difficulty, the probability that the customer will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and any default or delinquency in payments.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

t) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the balance sheet, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with maturities at the balance sheet date of twelve months or less that are available for meeting short-term cash commitments and subject to no significant penalty for early withdrawal.

u) Reserves

The company has a number of reserve accounts.

Called up share capital represents the nominal value of the issued share capital of the Company.

Capital account represents capital contributions made prior to the Company adopting FRS 101.

The Profit and loss account is the cumulative retained loss of the Company.

v) Critical accounting policies and estimates

Preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101, 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' requires Directors to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual outcomes could differ from those estimated. The Directors believe that the accounting policies and estimation techniques discussed below represent those that require the greatest exercise of judgement. The Directors have used their best judgement in determining the estimates and assumptions used in these areas but a different set of judgements could result in material changes to the Company's reported financial performance and/or financial position.

The critical accounting policies summarised below cover the policies regarded by the Directors as critical to the Company's reporting in general.

i) Pensions

The determination of the Company's pension benefit obligation and expense for defined benefit pension schemes is dependent on the selection by the Directors of certain assumptions used by actuaries in calculating such amounts. Those assumptions include the discount rate, the annual rate of increase in future salary levels and mortality rates. The Directors' assumptions are based on actual historical experience and external data. While we believe that the assumptions are appropriate, significant differences in actual experience or significant changes in assumptions may materially affect the pension obligation and future expense.

ii) Taxation

The Company's tax charge is based on the pre-tax profit for the period and tax rates in force. Estimation of the tax charge requires an assessment to be made of the potential tax consequences of certain items that will only be resolved when agreed by the relevant tax authorities. Assessment of the likely outcome is based on historical experience, professional advice from external advisors, and the current status of any judgemental issues. However, the final tax cost to the company may differ from the estimates.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

v) Critical accounting policies and estimates (continued)

iii) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment, other than land, are depreciated on a straight-line basis to write off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over their estimated useful lives. Useful lives are estimated based on a number of factors, including the expected usage of the asset, expected deterioration and technological obsolescence. If another depreciation method (for example, reducing balance) was used or different useful lives or residual values were applied, this could have a material effect on the Company's depreciation charge and net profit.

vi) COVID-19 support schemes

Under CSG-R and NSG, grant income may be claimed by operators of local bus services in Scotland to close the shortfall of revenue earned by them during the period affected by COVID-19 and the costs incurred by them in that period. Estimating the amount of CSG-R and NSG receivable for the period ended 29 April 2023 involves significant estimation uncertainty. The extent to which certain costs are eligible for inclusion in claiming bus support grant income and how certain costs should be determined for the purposes of the schemes remains subject to reconciliation processes. That creates estimation uncertainty in determining the Group's bus support grant income. In the period ended 29 April 2023, the Company has recognised bus support scheme grant income of £11.268m (2022: £4.995m), being the amount in respect of which the Company considers there to be reasonable certainty that: (a) the Company will comply with the conditions attaching to the grant and (b) the grant will be received and retained by the Company, taking account of the potential adjustments to grant payments as a result of the schemes' reconciliation processes.

Full details of CSG-R and NSG are discussed in note 1 of the Group's 2023 Annual Report.

2 Revenue

Due to the nature of the Company's business, the origin and destination of revenue (the United Kingdom) is the same in all cases. As the Company predominantly sells bus services to individuals, it has few customers that are individually "major". Its major customers are typically public bodies that subsidise or procure transport services - such customers include local authorities and transport authorities.

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Commercial passenger revenue	**24,622**	22,802
Concessionary revenue	**31,876**	26,525
Tendered and school revenue	**12,741**	12,834
Contract and other revenue	**5,678**	4,845
	74,917	67,006

3 Other operating income

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Advertising income	258	225
Property rental income	33	28
Revenue and capital grants	17,007	11,798
Departure charges income	120	107
Other miscellaneous revenue	42	41
	17,460	12,199

Government support grants in the form of BSOG, CJRS, CSG-R and NSG are reported as other operating income.

4 Loss on disposal of land and buildings

The site at Esplanade, Kirkcaldy, Fife was sold in the prior period and the loss on disposal can be analysed as follows:

	2022
	£000
Proceeds	550
Net book value	(794)
Cost of disposal	(28)
Loss	(272)

5 Finance (income)/charges

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Hire purchase interest expense	-	1
Lease interest expense	40	31
Net finance (income)/expense on pension liability (note 18)	(159)	185
	(119)	217

6 Profit on ordinary activities before taxation

The profit on ordinary activities before taxation for the period is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Depreciation and amounts written off tangible fixed assets		
- owned	6,074	6,787
- held under hire purchase agreements	-	143
- right of use assets	60	54
Impairment of PSVs	-	520
Amortisation of intangible assets	7	7
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets other than properties	362	27
Rentals payable on low-value and short term leases	208	152

No auditors' fees have been settled directly by the Company. Audit fees of £19,643 (2022: £11,250) were paid by a fellow subsidiary undertaking on behalf of the Company in respect of audit work performed in the UK.

7 Dividends

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Interim dividend paid to parent company: £2.24 per ordinary share (2022: £Nil)	6,000	-

8 Staff costs

The average monthly number of persons employed by the Company (including executive directors) during the period was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Operations	1,126	1,134
Administration and supervisory	98	98
	1,224	1,232

	2023	2022
Staff costs:	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	35,716	33,074
Social security costs	3,503	3,105
Other pension costs (note 18)	3,055	2,987
	42,274	39,166

9 Directors' remuneration

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Emoluments of directors	**542**	304

The above details of directors' emoluments include an apportionment of the emoluments of BM Dingwall, CL Stockton-Jones, D Robertson and SD Greer (2022: BM Dingwall, CL Stockton-Jones, D Robertson and SD Greer) which are paid by fellow Group undertaking, Stagecoach Services Limited with the exception of BM Dingwall which are paid by Stagecoach Holdings Limited.

The highest paid director in the period received £347,000 (2022: £188,000).

The number of directors who were members of pension schemes during the period was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Defined contribution scheme	**3**	3

Contributions made to defined contribution schemes in respect of the highest paid director were of £15,000 (2022: £15,000).

The number of directors who exercised their share options during the period was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Share options	**-**	2

10 Tax on profit on ordinary activities

a) Tax recognised in the income statement

	2023	2022
Current tax:	**£000**	£000
UK corporation tax on profits of the period	**-**	141
Amounts receivable from fellow group undertaking in respect of losses	**(218)**	-
Adjustment in respect of prior period	**(40)**	(149)
Total current tax credit	**(258)**	(8)
Deferred tax:		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	**1,018**	755
Adjustment in respect of prior periods	**84**	299
Total deferred tax charge (note 16a)	**1,102**	1,054
Total tax charge reported in the income statement	**844**	1,046

10 Tax on profit on ordinary activities (continued)

b) Tax relating to items charged outside of income statement

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Tax on net actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	**-**	1,735

c) Factors affecting the tax charge for the period

The tax assessed for the period is lower (2022: higher) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.49% (2022: 19.00%). The differences are explained below:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	**5,167**	745
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19.49% (2022: 19.00%)	**1,007**	141
Effect of:		
Non tax deductible expenditure and other permanent differences	**(30)**	82
Super deduction enhanced capital allowances	**(329)**	(112)
Treatment of inter-company transactions	**(72)**	(80)
Impact on current year movement (differential in rates 19.5% - CT to 25% - DT)	**224**	-
Impact on deferred tax from change in UK corporation tax rate from 19% to 25%	**-**	866
Adjustment to tax charge in respect of previous periods	**44**	149
Total tax charge for the period reported in the income statement	**844**	1,046

d) Factors that may affect future tax charges

The deferred tax balances have been calculated with reference to the enacted UK corporation tax rate as at balance sheet date of 29 April 2023 of 25%.

11 Fixed assets

a) Intangible assets

The movement in the period is summarised below:

	Computer software £000
Cost	
Beginning of period	38
End of period	**38**
Accumulated depreciation	
Beginning of period	(27)
Charge for period	(7)
End of period	**(34)**
Net book value	
Beginning of period	11
End of period	**4**

11 Fixed assets (continued)

b) Tangible assets

The movement in the period is summarised below:

	Freehold land & buildings £000	Leasehold land & buildings £000	PSVs £000	Plant & equipment and furniture & fittings £000	**Total £000**
Cost or valuation					
Beginning of period	8,707	968	97,158	4,878	111,711
Additions	2,107	-	11,191	956	14,254
Disposals	-	-	(10,461)	(423)	(10,884)
Intercompany transfers	-	-	(285)	10	(275)
End of period	10,814	968	97,603	5,421	**114,806**
Accumulated depreciation					
Beginning of period	(2,974)	(407)	(59,269)	(3,871)	(66,521)
Charge for period	(281)	(11)	(5,529)	(253)	(6,074)
Disposals	-	-	9,731	423	10,154
Intercompany transfers	-	-	(1,608)	(45)	(1,653)
End of period	(3,255)	(418)	(56,675)	(3,746)	**(64,094)**
Net book value					
Beginning of period	5,733	561	37,889	1,007	45,190
End of period	**7,559**	**550**	**40,928**	**1,675**	**50,712**

There is no right of use assets included in the above.

The net book value of PSVs leased under hire purchase agreements, which have been capitalised and included in the above, is £Nil (2022: £Nil). Depreciation of £Nil (2022: £143,000) has been charged in the period in respect of assets held under hire purchase agreements.

Freehold land amounting to £ 2,323,000 has not been depreciated (2022: £2,323,000).

11 Fixed assets (continued)

c) Right of use assets

The movement in the period is summarised below:

	Leasehold land & buildings £000
Cost or valuation	
Beginning of period	974
Additions	102
End of period	1,076
Accumulated depreciation	
Beginning of period	(166)
Charge for period	(60)
End of period	(226)
Net book value	
Beginning of period	808
End of period	**850**

Cash outflows of £82,000 in relation to leases and related interest have taken place during the 52 week period to 29 April 2023 (52 week period to 30 April 2022: £75,000).

The income statement includes the following depreciation charges and other costs relating to leases:

	Note	**2023 £000**	2022 £000
Depreciation			
Leasehold land and buildings	11(c)	**60**	54
PSVs	11(b)	**-**	143
Total depreciation for right-of-use assets		**60**	197
Expense relating to short-term leases		**194**	136
Expense relating to low-value assets		**14**	16
Lease costs included within operating profit		**268**	349
Interest expense included in finance costs	5	**40**	31
Lease costs included within profit before tax		**308**	380

12 Assets held for sale

Assets held for sale relates to the Company's vacant property at Seagate Bus Station, Dundee with a fair value of £579,780.

13 Stocks

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Spares, consumables and fuel	**555**	447

In the opinion of the directors, the difference between the replacement cost of these stocks and their balance sheet value is not material.

The cost of stock recognised as an expense and included in operating costs during the period amounted to £17,623,000 (2022: £18,572,000).

14 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	**169**	143
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**1,677**	4,723
Intercompany group relief receivable	**218**	-
Prepayments	**256**	262
Contract assets	**1,947**	942
Government grant receivable	**29**	94
	4,296	6,164

Amounts due from fellow group undertakings within one year accrue no interest and are repayable on demand.

Contract assets represents amounts that have been earned by the Company prior to the balance sheet date which remain un-invoiced at the balance sheet date.

15 Creditors

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**14,393**	10,624
PAYE and NIC payable	**1,070**	934
Pension creditor	**320**	298
Capital and revenue grants	**4,096**	5,112
Accruals	**3,274**	3,511
Contract liabilities	**293**	758
Other creditors	**3**	-
Lease liabilities	**89**	93
	23,538	21,330
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Capital and revenue grants	**8,520**	6,208
Lease liabilities	**826**	768
	9,346	6,976

Amounts due to fellow group undertakings within one year accrue no interest and are repayable on demand.

Contract liabilities represents amounts advanced by customers in respect of which the Company has not yet met the performance obligations to allow the recognition of the balance as revenue. These mainly relate to the season tickets held by passengers which cross over the year end date and concessionary payments received by the Company in respect of services that had yet to be performed.

The contract liabilities as at 29 April 2023 are expected to be recognised as revenue in the year to 29 April 2023. The contract liabilities at the previous balance sheet date were predominately recognised within revenue in the subsequent year.

Changes in the contract liabilities relating to customer contracts at each year-end principally reflect changes in the volume of season tickets purchased in advance of the respective year-end dates.

16 Provisions for liabilities and charges

	2023	2022
Current:	**£000**	£000
Dilapidations provision (note 16b)	**13**	-
Non-current:		
Deferred tax liability (note 16a)	**4,712**	3,610
Dilapidations provision (note 16b)	**80**	-
	4,792	3,610
Total provisions	**4,805**	3,610

a) Deferred tax

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets against current tax liabilities and where the deferred taxes relate to the same fiscal authority. The offset amounts are as follows:

Deferred tax	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Deferred tax to be recovered after more than 12 months:		
Deferred tax liability	**4,712**	3,610
Net deferred tax liability	**4,712**	3,610

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
The movement in deferred tax during period was:		
At start of period	**3,610**	821
Deferred tax charge in income statement (note 10a)	**1,102**	1,054
Deferred tax charge to equity	**-**	1,735
Deferred tax provision at end of period	**4,712**	3,610

Deferred tax included in the Balance Sheet comprises:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Accelerated capital allowances	**4,858**	3,767
Other temporary differences	**(146)**	(157)
Net deferred tax liability	**4,712**	3,610

16 Provisions for liabilities and charges (continued)

a) Deferred tax (continued)

The amount of deferred tax recognised in the Income Statement by type of temporary difference is as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Accelerated capital allowances	1,091	1,091
Other short term temporary differences	11	(29)
Pension temporary difference	-	(8)
Deferred tax charge (note 10a)	1,102	1,054

b) Dilapidations provision

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
At start of period	-	11
Provisions created during period	93	-
Provision utilised during period	-	(11)
Provision at end of period	93	-
Current	13	-
Non-current	80	-
Total provisions	93	-

During the period, provisions were made for the company's leased properties: Almondgrove Place, Perth £13,000; Queensferry Road, Dunfermline £64,000; Catherine Street, Abroath £9,000 and Methven Street, Perth ££7,000. The provision in respect of dilapidations at the Company's property at Wellwood, Dunfermline was utilised in full during the prior period.

17 Called up share capital

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
2,675,000 (2022: 2,675,000) ordinary shares of £1 each	2,675	2,675

Ordinary shares have the following rights, preferences and restrictions:

The ordinary shares carry a right to vote all general meetings of the Company, a right to share in any dividend issued, and a right to share in a distribution of capital of the Company.

18 Retirement benefit obligations

The Company participates in a defined benefit occupational pension scheme, the Stagecoach Group Pension Scheme ("SPS"). In addition, the Company operates various defined contribution schemes for its employees, for which it has no further obligation once the contribution is paid. Contribution costs of £3,006,000 (2022: £2,938,000) were recognised by the Company, and as at 29 April 2023 there was a creditor of £320,000 (2022: £298,000) in relation to these contributions.

The Stagecoach Group Pension Scheme ("SPS")

The Stagecoach Group Pension scheme is a defined benefit scheme. The scheme closed to future accrual in April 2017. The Company, together with a number of companies within the Group headed by Stagecoach Group Limited, made contributions to the Scheme. The Company accounts for its portion of the retirement benefit obligation, based on its share of contributions to the scheme.

In the consolidated financial statements of Stagecoach Group Limited, the scheme as a whole is accounted for as a defined benefit scheme. The consolidated financial statements of Stagecoach Group Limited provide further details of the scheme. A full actuarial valuation of the scheme is normally carried out every 3 years.

During the financial year, the Trustees of the SPS took advantage of the exceptional rise in gilt yields to move away from an equity and multi-asset growth led strategy to a liability driven investment ("LDI") strategy with the majority of assets now in gilts and high-quality credit. At the balance sheet date the SPS had achieved a hedge of liabilities against interest and inflation movements in excess of 95%.

With the agreement of the employer, the Trustees conducted another out-of-cycle valuation as at 31 October 2022 to recognise and align the new investment and funding strategies and to perform the first valuation of the Sheffield Supertram Section formed in March 2022. The results of this valuation have been incorporated in these financial statements.

The combined surplus across all three sections of the Scheme at 31 October 2022 on the Trustees' technical provisions basis was £87.3m (compared to £48.7m at the 30 September 2021 for the then two sections) comprising scheme assets of £1,433.8m less benefit obligations of £1,346.5m. Revised contributions agreed from 1 May 2023 are for £4.1m for one year with a further two years at the same rate being paid into an escrow account to be called upon if required.

The management and reporting of the Stagecoach Group Pension Scheme is undertaken at Group level. A sensitivity analysis of significant actuarial assumptions is included within note 22 of the Group's 2023 Annual Report, which does not form part of this report.

18 Retirement benefit obligations (continued)

The amounts recognised in the balance sheet were determined as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Equities	2,430	61,722
Private Equities	1,062	1,577
Bonds	75,859	18,437
Cash	573	3,390
Property	6,919	8,702
Fair value of plan assets	86,843	93,828
Present value of obligations	(68,373)	(88,731)
Surplus recognised in the balance sheet	18,470	5,097
Withholding tax provision on recoverable surplus	(6,465)	(1,784)
Surplus net of withholding tax recognised in the balance sheet	12,005	3,313

At 29 April 2023, 90.8% (2022: 89%) of scheme assets were quoted on a recognised stock exchange or held in cash or assets readily convertible to cash and therefore considered to be liquid.

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Administration cost	49	49
Interest (income)/cost	(159)	185
Total defined benefit (credit)/cost	(110)	234
Defined contribution cost	3,006	2,938
Total income statement charge	2,896	3,172

The impact of the Income Statement charge can be analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Total included in staff costs (note 8)	3,055	2,987
Total included in finance charges (note 5)	(159)	185
	2,896	3,172

18 Retirement benefit obligations (continued)

The amounts recognised within the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Actual return (less)/higher expected return on pension scheme assets	**(5,702)**	3,662
Experience losses arising on the scheme liabilities	**(5,135)**	(2,762)
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of the scheme liabilities	**23,910**	13,331
Actuarial gain recognised in the statement of other comprehensive income	**13,073**	14,231
Withholding tax charge on distribution of recoverable surplus	**(4,681)**	(1,784)
Total actuarial gain recognised in the statement of other comprehensive income	**8,392**	12,447

The movement in the surplus/(liability) recognised in the Balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit plan during the period under IAS 19 was:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Surplus/(liability) at the beginning of the period	**3,313**	(9,090)
Credited/(charged) to income statement	**110**	(234)
Recognised in statement of comprehensive income	**13,073**	14,231
Employers' contributions	**190**	190
Surplus at end of the period	**16,686**	5,097
Withholding tax provision on recoverable surplus	**(4,681)**	(1,784)
Surplus net of withholding tax at end of the period	**12,005**	3,313

The movement in fair value of the plan assets during the period under IAS 19 is as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
At beginning of period	**93,828**	92,325
Return on assets	**(5,702)**	3,662
Interest income	**2,885**	1,758
Employers' contributions	**190**	190
Administration costs	**(49)**	(49)
Benefits paid	**(4,309)**	(4,058)
At end of period	**86,843**	93,828

18 Retirement benefit obligations (continued)

The movement in the present value of obligations recognised in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit plan during the period under IAS 19 is as follow:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
At beginning of period	**88,731**	101,415
Interest cost	**2,726**	1,943
Actuarial loss – experience gains and losses	**5,135**	2,762
Actuarial gain – changes in assumptions	**(23,910)**	(13,331)
Benefits paid	**(4,309)**	(4,058)
At end of period	**68,373**	88,731

The principal actuarial assumptions used were as follows:

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in pensionable salaries	**N/A**	N/A
Rate of increase of pension payment	**2.5**	2.9
Discount rate	**4.9**	3.2
Rate of inflation (RPI)	**3.0**	3.5
Consumer prices inflation assumption	**2.5**	2.8

The life expectancy assumptions used for each scheme are periodically reviewed. The weighted average life expectancies announced at year end were:

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
Current pensioner aged 65 – male	**19.6**	19.1
Current pensioner aged 65 – female	**21.9**	22.5
Future pensioner at 65 (aged 45 now) – male	**20.4**	20.5
Future pensioner at 65 (aged 45 now) - female	**23.1**	24.0

19 Guarantees and other financial commitments

a) Lease commitments

The Company has commitments of £7,000 (2022: £Nil) for short-term leases and £3,000 (2022: £3,000) of low-value assets as at 29 April 2023.

b) Contingent liabilities

The Company, together with certain other group undertakings, is a member of a group for VAT purposes, and technically stands liable in the event of default by any other group undertaking.

19 Guarantees and other financial commitments (continued)

c) Cross guarantees

The Company is subject to a cross corporate guarantee in relation to the Stagecoach Group Limited banking arrangements with the Bank of Scotland. There have been no instances where this guarantee has been called upon during the period and none are expected in the future.

20 Share based payments

Buy As You Earn scheme (BAYE) enabled eligible employees to purchase shares ("partnership shares") from their gross income. The parent company provided two matching shares for every share bought from the first £10 of each employee's monthly investment, subject to a maximum parent company contribution of shares to the value of £20 per employee per month. If the shares were held in trust for five years or more, no income tax and national insurance was payable. The matching shares were forfeited if the corresponding partnership shares were removed from trust within three years of award. In light of the COVID-19 situation, share investments under the BAYE Plan were suspended from 6 April 2020.

At 30 April 2022, there were 156 participants in the BAYE scheme to which were attributed 195,177 shares that they purchased, 83,998 matching shares that the parent company contributed and 55,996 shares in respect of notional dividends. These amounts exclude unattributed shares and any shares to be withdrawn because the employee has left the Stagecoach Group or requested a withdrawal.

All of the shares held in trust were subject to the offer for Stagecoach Group PLC. Following the change of control on 20 May 2022, all shares were purchased by Inframobility UK Bidco Limited, and proceeds returned to participants.

21 Related party transactions

The Company has taken advantage of the exemptions granted under IAS 24 by not disclosing details of sales and purchases with other members of the group headed by Stagecoach Group Limited. Details of amounts owed to and from group undertakings are disclosed in aggregate in notes 14 and 15.

The fellow group undertaking Scottish Citylink Coaches Limited is a 37.5% owned joint venture of Stagecoach Group Limited. For the period ended 29 April 2023, Fife Scottish Omnibuses Limited included revenue relating to operating contracts on behalf of Scottish Citylink Coaches Limited to a value of £3,186,000 (2022: £4,019,000) and costs relating to operating contracts on behalf of Scottish Citylink Coaches Limited of £3,274,000 (2022: £3,419,000).

As at 29 April 2023, the Company has a receivable of £29,000 (2022: £Nil) and a payable of £121,000 (2022: £26,000) with Scottish Citylink Coaches Limited. These balances are all due to be settled within one year and do not accrue interest as they represent trading balances due to be settled between the Company and Scottish Citylink Coaches Limited.

22 Ultimate parent company

The Company's immediate holding Company is Stagecoach Bus Holdings Limited, registered in Scotland (registered number SC176671). Its ultimate holding company is Pan-European Infrastructure III, SCSp ("PEIF III"), an infrastructure fund managed and advised by DWS Infrastructure. PEIF III is not under the control of any single party or, parties acting in concert.

The parent undertaking of the smallest group of which the company is a member, and for which consolidated financial statements are expected to be prepared, is Stagecoach Group Limited, a company registered in Scotland with registered number SC100764 and registered address at 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5TW.

The parent undertaking of the largest group of which the company is a member, and for which consolidated financial statements are expected to be prepared, is Inframobility UK Topco Limited, a company registered in England with registered number 13919225 and registered address at C/O Stagecoach Services Limited, One Stockport Exchange, 20 Railway Road, Stockport, United Kingdom, SK1 3SW.

23 Post balance sheet events

On 16 June 2023, the High Court issued a ruling in respect of Virgin Media v NTL Pension Trustees II Limited (and others) calling into question the validity of rule amendments made to defined benefit pension schemes contracted-out on a Reference Scheme Test basis between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2016. Amendments to these pension schemes over this time required confirmation from the Scheme Actuary that the Reference Scheme Test would continue to be met. In the absence of such a confirmation, the Rule amendment would be void. This ruling could have wide ranging implications for many UK pension schemes and will be subject to an Appeal in 2024.

The Company's SPS (note 18) was contracted-out as a "mixed benefits scheme" between 1997 and 2012 (when it ceased to contract-out), with over 99.9% of its membership contracted out on a "protected-rights" money purchase basis. As such, the Reference Scheme Test only applied to less than 20 employees and the company and pension scheme Trustees believe the impact of this ruling, should it stand under Scots Law, should be minimal.

In line with current legal advice the Company and pension scheme Trustees believe it is appropriate to await the outcome of the Appeal in 2024 before taking any further action.