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24 September 2024

THE MISSION GROUP plc

("MISSION", "the Group")

INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2024

Resilient organic revenue growth despite challenging trading environment New business momentum underpins full year outlook, with trading in line with revenue and headline operating profit expectations

MISSION Group plc (AIM: TMG), creator of **Work That Counts**TM, comprising a group of digital marketing and communications Agencies, is pleased to announce its interim results for the six months ended 30 June 2024 ("the period" or "H1").

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

 Resilient revenue performance across most segments combined with diligent cost control delivered a robust headline operating profit outcome for the period, despite an unpredictable trading environment.

Six months ended 30 June	2024	2023 Continuing operations**	%	2023 All operations	%
Revenue	£42.2m	£41.4m	+2%	£41.8m	+1%
Headline Operating Profit*	£2.6m	£2.5m	+4%	£2.0m	+33%
Headline Profit Before Tax*	£1.3m	£1.6m	-19%	£1.0m	+27%
Reported Profit Before Tax	£0.0m	£0.6m		£0.1m	-30%
Headline Earnings Per Share (pence)*	1.0	1.3	-23%	0.8	+22%
Headline Diluted Earnings Per Share * (pence)	1.0	1.3	-23%	0.8	+22%

- Net bank debt of £19.6m with £4.3m HMRC Time To Pay creditor repaid in full during the period (31 December 2023 equivalent: £19.7m being £15.4m net bank debt + £4.3m HMRC Time To Pay creditor).
- As a result of this, total debt*** reduced to £24.0m as at 30 June 2024 (£25.1m as at 31 December 2023).
- Successful refinancing of the Group's debt facilities with long standing lender NatWest.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

- H1 performance is in line with Board expectations, driven by organic revenue growth across the Group, particularly MISSION's Property and Sports & Entertainment Agencies.
- Notable new Client wins during the period include Mastercard, BNP Paribas, FatFace, GoHenry, Okta, Popeyes, England Cricket Board, Guinness Homes, Fonterra and McCarthy Stone.
- MISSION's global sports Agency, Influence Sports & Media, part of Mongoose, will open
 an office in Saudi Arabia to support significant new Client wins in the country.
 Mongoose has also been appointed as Global Sponsorship sales Agency for Formula E
 and brokered Southampton F.C.'s sponsorship with P&O Cruises.
- Bray Leino Events has won the contract for full operational service provision of the UK Pavilion at the upcomina Osaka World Trade Expo (Expo 2025) in Japan, comprisina

^{*}Headline results are calculated before start-up costs, acquisition adjustments, goodwill and business impairment, bank refinancing, equity placing and restructuring costs.

^{**} Continuing activities in 2023 exclude the results of the Group's 80% interest in Pathfindr which was sold in December 2023.

^{***} Total debt includes net bank debt and outstanding acquisitions obligations and any outstanding HMRC Time To Pay creditors.

over 130 individual events, retail and hospitality.

- MISSION continues to make good progress against the Value Restoration Plan with the vast majority of the approximately £5m of annualised projected profit improvements already in place for the year. Planned cost savings and operating efficiency improvements are in total H2 weighted, but tracking to expectations for full delivery by the end of 2024.
- The Group continues to progress discussions on options to deleverage its balance sheet. A further update will be provided when appropriate.

OUTLOOK

- Post period-end developments underpin confidence for full year outlook and include significant additional Client wins comprising new, multinational US Technology Clients, alongside household brands including Pizza Hut, Danske Bank, Bensons for Beds and Bugatti.
- As in previous years, the Group expects the majority of its profit to be generated in the second half of the year.
- The Board remains cautiously optimistic that the Group is on track to deliver against full
 year revenue and headline operating profit expectations but is mindful of the continued
 unpredictable trading environment.

David Morgan, MISSION's Non-Executive Chair, commented: "Despite an unpredictable trading environment in the first half of the year, the Group has remained firmly focussed on the delivery of profit targets, deleveraging and strengthening the balance sheet.

"The creativity of our Agencies demonstrates our commitment to delivering work that underpins real business growth and in July we were pleased to update the market, reporting positive ongoing momentum across the Group as we entered the second half of the year. These latest strategic new Client wins announced today reflect the growing strength of **MISSION**'s capabilities and underpin our confidence in the long-term outlook. I'm particularly pleased to announce our new office in Saudi Arabia to support our new Clients in the country, which also positions us well for wider opportunities in the region.

"We look forward to announcing further new Client wins in due course."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The MISSION Group Plc. is The Brand Performance Group.

Delivering measurable, results-driven campaigns as the preferred creative partner for real business growth. We offer top-tier agencies, strategic specialisms and global reach delivering outstanding performance for brands. We call it Work That CountsTMwww.themission.co.uk

The information contained within this announcement is deemed to constitute inside information as stipulated under the Market Abuse (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Upon the publication of this announcement, this inside information is now considered to be in the public domain.

OVERVIEW

MISSION has continued to make good progress in the first half of 2024 against our key priorities. Whilst the wider trading environment has remained unpredictable, with ongoing macro-economic uncertainty and the early timing of the UK general election continuing to manifest general client caution throughout the period, our entrepreneurial Agencies have remained focussed on our plans to drive value creation for all our stakeholders.

Across the Group we have continued to leverage the investments made in previous years to enhance and evolve **MISSION**'s service offering and capabilities. This underpinned success on several significant new business mandates in the first half of the year and has generated encouraging new business momentum as we enter H2.

The Group is encouraged to report like for like revenue growth of 2 percent to £42.2m (2023: £41.4m) for the period. Headline operating profit of £2.6m (2023: £2.0m reported, £2.5m from continuing operations), was driven by revenue growth across the majority of Group segments, particularly the Property and Sports & Entertainment segments, as well as profitable recovery in the Technology and Mobility segment from last year's slowdown in the US market.

Headline reported profit before tax of £1.3m (2023: £1.0m reported, £1.6m from continuing operations) reflects the impact of both higher debt levels when compared to last year (increase in interest of £0.2m) and also the full period impact of notional interest charges against new property leases (£0.1m).

Value Restoration Plan

Significant progress has been made on the Group's Value Restoration Plan ("VRP") announced on 17 January, 2024. The cost reduction elements of the Value Restoration Plan ("VRP") of £3.6m have been successfully implemented and the benefits are being realised across the year. These included £2m from headcount reductions as reported at the full year 2023 results, supplemented by further savings of £1.6m of central expenditure savings including staff costs, property and recruitment charges. The planned operating efficiency elements of the VRP of £1.2m are also tracking to expectations for delivery by the end of 2024. The H1 2024 cost savings benefit from the VRP has been c£1.6m, with the balance expected to benefit H2.

On 28 March 2024, the Group was pleased to announce the successful refinancing of its previous debt facility with long-standing lender NatWest. The new NatWest debt facility is a £20m Revolving Credit Facility, and a £9m overdraft facility. On 1 July 2024, following continued disciplined cash management, the Group and NatWest agreed to reduce the overdraft facility limit to £7m. Alongside the refinancing the Group also continues to progress discussions regarding options to deleverage its balance sheet. A further update will be provided when appropriate.

Net bank debt stood at £19.6m as of 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023: £14.9m) versus £15.4m on 31 December 2023. The increase in net debt reflects the settlement of the HMRC Time To Pay debt of £4.3m as at 31 December 2023 which was fully repaid in the period. It is important to note that given the second half weighting of the Group's profits and a number of one-off expenses incurred in the first half year relating to refinancing and defending the unsolicited approach from Brave Bison, the Group would expect to see a reduction in the net debt position in the second half of the financial year.

Total debt has been reduced by £1.1m over the period to stand at £24.0m on 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023: £20.0m) in comparison with £25.1m on 31 December 2023. This reduction has been achieved alongside the settlement of £1.1m of outstanding acquisition obligations from prior years in the first half of the year of which £0.6m were in cash) and the settlement of the £4.3m Time To Pay creditor.

Performance and progress

MISSION has reported like for like revenue growth of 2%, guided by strong performances across most Group segments, particularly in our Property and Sports & Entertainment segments. As previously mentioned, the Group has benefited from the continued recovery of the Technology and Mobility segment, with profits improving by £0.4m on H1 2023. This partially offset the lacklustre performance of the Group's Consumer & Lifestyle and Business & Corporate segments for the period, where profitability was impacted by the restrictions on Government spending in May and June as a result of the earlier than expected timing of the UK general election. Our Health & Wellness segment experienced a slower pick up in trading than forecast and there was the timing impact of a contract in our Sports & Entertainment segment that was secured after the end of H1.

Additional Client wins secured across the business throughout the period include Okta, Popeyes, FatFace, GoHenry, Mastercard, BNP Paribas, England Cricket Board, Guinness Homes, Fonterra and McCarthy Stone.

Since the period end, the Group has secured a number of notable new business wins with the robust new business pipeline for H2 demonstrating encouraging momentum despite broader macro-economic uncertainty and a challenging trading environment.

Alongside a series of new high-quality Client wins with major US Technology firms, the Group has been awarded a prestigious and significant Events assignment for the UK Pavilion at EXPO2025 in Osaka, Japan. This is a full operational services contract that will commence in 2024 and comprises of over 130 individual events, retail and hospitality that will be led by Bray Leino Events.

MISSION's global sports Agency, Influence Sports & *M*edia, part of Mongoose, has also won a significant new Client in Saudi Arabia and will open an office in Jeddah later this year to support the client and to leverage its expertise to capitalise on opportunities across the region. Mongoose has also been appointed as Global Sponsorship sales Agency for Formula E and brokered Southampton F.C.'s shirt sponsorship with P&O Cruises.

Rejection of unsolicited, conditional proposal from Brave Bison plc

On 29 April 2024, the Board of **MISSION** received an unsolicited conditional proposal regarding a possible offer by Brave Bison for the Group. This proposal, together with a subsequent revised proposal, was unanimously rejected following consultation with its financial adviser and certain shareholders. Brave

Bison confirmed on 9 June 2024 that it did not intend to make an offer.

MISSION believes this was an opportunistic approach that significantly undervalued the Group and its prospects, as well as being dilutive to its shareholders and resulted in exceptional costs which ultimately further impacted profitability and debt reduction. As previously announced, the Board of **MISSION** is open to proposals that it believes would enhance shareholder value and deliver benefits to **MISSION's** shareholders. The Board of **MISSION** did not consider the proposals to meet those criteria. The Board of **MISSION** considers confident in the Croup's standalone proposals. **MISSION** remains confident in the Group's standalone prospects.

MISSION's focus remains firmly on deleveraging, restoring balance sheet strength and delivering performance that achieves our profit targets, demonstrates the creativity of our Agencies, and shows our commitment to delivering work that underpins real business growth.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Billings and Revenue

Turnover ("billings") for the six months ended 30 June 2024 increased by 2% to £94.4m (2023: £92.9m) while operating income ("revenue") increased by 1% to £42.2m (2023: £41.8m).

Profit, Margins and Earnings Per Share

The increased revenues demonstrate good progress. Firm, but future-focussed cost control alongside a continued commitment to sharing infrastructure through the **MISSION** Made and Shared Services initiatives, has enabled the Group to deliver an operating profit that is ahead of the prior year comparison.

Headline operating profits increased by 4% to £2.6m (H1 2023: £2.0m reported, £2.5m from continuing operations). Headline operating margins increased to 6.2% (H1 2023: 4.7%, 6.1% from continuing operations). Continuing activities in 2023 exclude the results of the Group's 80% interest in Pathfindr which was sold in December 2023.

Financing costs increased to £1.5m (H1 2023: £1.0m), reflecting both a higher average level of debt in the period and also the full period impact of interest on new property leases. Financing costs for H2 are expected to remain at similar levels to H1 reflecting the net debt position and the effect of the accounting treatment of new property leases. Headline profit before tax increased to £1.3m (H1 2023:

Adjustments to headline profits before tax in the first half of 2024, at £1.2m, were higher than the prior year comparable period (H1 2023: £0.9m). After these adjustments, reported profit before tax was £0.0m (H1 2023: £0.1m).

The Group estimates an effective tax rate on headline profits before tax of 25% (H1 2023: 24%), resulting in an increase in headline earnings to £0.9m for the six months (H1 2023: £0.8m) and reported profit after tax of £0.0m (H1 2023: £0.0m). Fully diluted EPS decreased to a loss of 0.1 pence (H1 2023: 0.0 pence), while headline diluted EPS increased to 1.0 pence (H1 2023: 0.8 pence).

The key balance sheet ratio measured and monitored by the Board is the ratio of debt to headline EBITDA ("leverage ratio"). The Group closed the half year at 2.7x (30 June 2023: 1.7x, 31 December 2023: 2.0x). Whilst higher than prior comparators, the ratio offers significant headroom against the facility limit of 3.5x for the period.

The Board also monitors the ratio of total debt, including remaining acquisition obligations, to EBITDA and this ratio has increased to 3.2x (30 June 2023: 2.2x, 31 December 2023: 2.7x). Again, there is significant headroom against the facility limit of 4.0x for the period.

The headroom afforded by the covenant tests for the period ensures that the Group will avoid the highest level of interest rates for the period.

The Group spent £nil on acquisitions during the period (2023 £0.3m) and a total of £1.1m of acquisition obligations from prior years were settled in the first half of the year of which £0.6m were in cash (30 June 2023: £0.4m all of which were cash). After adjustments to estimated future contingent consideration payments the total estimated acquisition liability at 30 June 2024 totalled £4.4m (30 June 2023: £5.1m). Of this £0.2m is due for payment in the second half of 2024.

Capital expenditures have been strictly controlled and as such spend of £0.3m is reduced on H1 2023 (£2.0m).

Trade and other receivables increased marginally against last year to £54.3m (30 June 2023: £53.7m), while trade and other payables decreased slightly to £51.2m (30 June 2023: £52.2m). These movements, alongside an increase in stock of £0.5m and increased lease payables of £0.7m have driven the increase in net working capital in comparison to June 2023.

Consequently, the Group's net bank debt on 30 June 2024 of £19.6m has increased against the positions on both 30 June 2023 (£14.9m) and 31 December 2023 (£15.4m). However, the increase in net debt since the start of the new financial year ultimately reflects the settlement of the HMRC Time To Pay creditor which stood at £4.3m as at 31 December 2023 and has now been fully repaid.

As a result, total debt (being net bank debt plus outstanding acquisition obligations) closed at £24.0m (30 June 2023: £20.0m), down from £25.1m on 31 December 2023.

Dividend

The Board has made the decision to pause dividend payments alongside other major capital allocations until balance sheet strength is restored and net debt is reduced (2023: 0 pence per share). The Board will keep this decision under regular review.

OUTLOOK

MISSION has a significant second-half weighting with respect to profitability. Post period-end developments underpin confidence for full year outlook and include significant additional Client wins.

Revenue growth is anticipated across all the Group's sectors with monthly run rates from the Technology and Mobility segment being monitored carefully and continuing to improve. The Board remains cautiously optimistic that the Group is on track to deliver against full year revenue and headline operating profit expectations but is mindful of the continued unpredictable trading environment.

Condensed Consolidated Income Statement for the six months ended 30 June 2024

		Six months to	Continuing operations Six months to	Discontinued operations Six months to	Total Six months	Continuing operations Year ended
		30 June 2024*	30 June 2023	30 June 2023	to 30 June 2023	31 December 2023
	Note	Unaudited £'000	Unaudited £'000	Unaudited £'000	Unaudited £'000	Audited £'000
TURNOVER	2	94,392	92,480	428	92,908	195,450
Cost of sales		(52,160)	(51,032)	(78)	(51,110)	(109,130)
OPERATING INCOME	2	42,232	41,448	350	41,798	86,320
Headline operating expenses		(39,608)	(38,925)	(907)	(39,832)	(79,840)
HEADLINE OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS)		2,624	2,523	(557)	1,966	6,480
Start-up costs Acquisition adjustments Bank refinancing and equity raise costs	3 4	(86) (626) (242)	(512) (418)	- - -	(512) (418)	(1,818) (1,652) (475)
Goodwill, business and intangible impairment	3	-	-	-	-	(10,409)
Restructuring costs Profit on sale of Pathfindr	3	(203)	- -	-	-	(715) -
OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS)		1,467	1,593	(557)	1,036	(8,589)
Share of results of associates and joint ventures		75	75		75	150
PROFIT / (LOSS) BEFORE INTEREST AND TAXATION		1,542	1,668	(557)	1,111	(8,439)
Net finance costs	5	(1,494)	(1,042)	-	(1,042)	(2,472)
PROFIT / (LOSS) BEFORE TAXATION		48	626	(557)	69	(10,911)
Taxation	6	(86)	(166)	131	(35)	(225)
(LOSS) / PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD		(38)	460	(426)	34	(11,136)
Attributable to: Equity holders of the parent Non-controlling interests		(88) 50	429 31	(426)	3 31	(11,283) 147
		(38)	460	(426)	34	(11,136)
Basic earnings per share (pence)	7	(0.1)	0.5	(0.5)	0.0	(12.6)
Diluted earnings per share (pence) Headline basic earnings per	7	(0.1)	0.5	(0.5)	0.0	(12.6)

share (pence)	7	1.0	1.3	(0.5)	0.8	3.1
Headline diluted earnings per share (pence)	7	1.0	1.3	(0.5)	0.8	3.1

^{*}All results for 2024 relate to continuing operations

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the six months ended 30 June 2024

		Continuing	Discontinued		Continuing
		operations	operations	Total	operations
	Six months to	Six months to	Six months to	Six months	Year ended
				to	
	30 June	30 June	30 June	30 June	31
	2024	2023	2023	2023	December
					2023
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
(LOSS) / PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	(38)	460	(426)	34	(11,136)
(1000) / 1 110111 1011 1112 11110 1					, ,
Other comprehensive income - items					
that may be reclassified separately to					
profit or loss:					
Exchange differences on translation of	(93)	(153)	-	(153)	(271)
foreign operations					
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR					
THE PERIOD	(131)	307	(426)	(119)	(11,407)
Attributable to:					
Equity holders of the parent	(181)	267	(426)	(159)	(11,561)
Non-controlling interests	50	40		40	154
	(131)	307	(426)	(119)	(11,407)

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

		As at 30 June 2024 Unaudited	As at 30 June 2023 Unaudited	As at 31 December 2023 Audited
FIXED ASSETS	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000
Intangible assets Property, plant and equipment	8	90,223 2,951	101,704 3,599	90,628 3,209
Right of use assets Investments, associates and joint	9	15,534	19,033	16,432

ventures -		662	512	587
		109,370	124,848	110,856
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock		2,928	2,400	2,981
Trade and other receivables		54,280	53,732	44,676
Corporation tax receivable		856	75	447
Cash and short term deposits	_	226	5,096	4,632
	_	58,290	61,303	52,736
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Trade and other payables		(51,207)	(52,219)	(45,388)
Bank loans	10	(21)	(23)	(21)
Acquisition obligations	11 _	(3,508)	(1,873)	(1,745)
	_	(54,736)	(54,115)	(47,154)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	_	3,554	7,188	5,582
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		112,924	132,036	116,438
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		(10.000)	(10.0(0)	(10.070)
Bank loans	10	(19,833)	(19,960)	(19,973)
Lease liabilities	9 11	(15,047)	(18,226)	(15,768)
Acquisition obligations	11	(890)	(3,180)	(3,720)
Deferred tax liabilities	_	(433)	(704)	(524)
	-	(36,203)	(42,070)	(39,985)
NET ASSETS	_	76,721	89,966	76,453
CAPITAL AND RESERVES				
Called up share capital		9,224	9,102	9,102
Share premium account		46,081	45,928	45,928
Own shares		(217)	(983)	(942)
Share-based incentive reserve		1,107	1,069	1,107
Foreign currency translation reserve		(981)	(772)	(888)
Retained earnings		21,380	35,531	21,967
EQUITY ATTRIBUTABLE TO EQUITY	_			-
HOLDERS OF THE PARENT		76,594	89,875	76,274
Non-controlling interests		127	91	179
TOTAL EQUITY	_	76,721	89,966	76,453
	-			

Condensed Consolidated Cash Flow Statement for the six months ended 30 June 2024

	Six months to	Continuing operations Six months to	Discontinued operations Six months to	Total Six months to	Continuing operations Year ended
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023	30 June 2023	30 June 2023	31 December 2023
	Unaudited £'000	Unaudited £'000	Unaudited £'000	Unaudited £'000	Audited £'000
Operating profit / (loss)	1,467	1,593	(557)	1,036	(8,589)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment charges Increase in the fair value of	2,346	2,192	15	2,207	15,343
contingent consideration Profit on sale of Pathfindr Ltd	48 -	22	-	22	434
(Profit) / loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment and software and intellectual property	-	(1)	-	(1)	94
Non-cash charge for share options, growth shares and shares awarded,	-	40	-	40	79

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Increase in receivables	(9,604)	(11,735)	(374)	(12,109)	(2,945)
Decrease / (increase) in stock	53	(172)	(43)	(215)	(1,125)
Increase / (decrease) in payables	5,313	10,731	797	11,528	5,803
OPERATING CASH FLOWS	(377)	2,670	(162)	2,508	9,094
Net finance costs paid	(1,628)	(1,063)	-	(1,063)	(2,471)
Tax paid	(586)	(1,141)	88	(1,053)	(2,411)
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from	(2,591)	466	(74)	392	4,212
operating activities					
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Proceeds on disposal of property,	_	_		_	
plant and equipment	7	5	-	5	2
Purchase of property, plant and	(007)	(0.000)	(1)	(0.001)	(0.040)
equipment	(297)	(2,020)	(1)	(2,021)	(2,340)
Investment in software and product development	(8)	(2)		(2)	/1111
Acquisitions of, or investments in,	(0)	(3)	-	(3)	(111)
businesses	_	(397)	_	(397)	(397)
Payment relating to acquisitions		(377)		(377)	(377)
made in prior years	(614)	(393)	_	(393)	(393)
Cash acquired with subsidiaries		71	_	71	71
Proceeds on disposal of Pathfindr	-	_	_	_	
Costs of disposal of Pathfindr	-	_	_	_	-
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from	(912)	(2,737)	(1)	(2,738)	(3,168)
investing activities	(* .=)	(2,707)	(· /	(2,7 00)	(0,100)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Dividends paid	=	-	-	-	(1,495)
Dividends paid to non-controlling	(102)	(130)	-	(130)	(156)
interests					
Payment of lease liabilities	(698)	(913)	-	(913)	(1,820)
(Repayment of) / increase in bank	(10)	2,485	-	2,485	2,474
loans					
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from	(810)	1,442	-	1,442	(997)
financing activities					
(Decrease) / increase in cash and	(4,313)	(829)	(75)	(904)	47
cash equivalents	(4,010)	(027)	(73)	(704)	47
Exchange differences on translation of					
foreign subsidiaries	(93)			(153)	
Cash and cash equivalents at					
beginning of year	4,632			6,153	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of	·			_	
year	226		_	5,096	
					

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the six months ended 30 June 2024

	Share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Own shares £000	Share- based incentive reserve £000	Foreign currency translation reserve £'000	Retained earnings £000	Total attributable to equity holders of parent	Non- controlling interest £000	Total equity £'000
At 1 January 2023	9,102	45,928	(994)	1,010	(610)	35,558	89,994	181	90,175
Profit for period	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	31	34
Exchange differences on translation of fareign	-	-	-	-	(162)	-	(162)	9	(153)
operations Total					(1/0)	2	(150)	40	(110)

with a larging						_			
(loss) / income	-	-	-	-	(164)	3	(107)	40	(117)
for period									
Growth share	_	_	_	59	_	_	59	_	59
charge	_	_	_	37	_	_	37	_	37
Shares awarded			11		_	(30)	(19)	_	(19)
and sald from	-	-	11	-	-	(30)	(17)	-	(17)
own shares									
Dividend paid								(130)	(130)
At 30 June 2023	9,102	45,928	(983)	1,069	(772)	35,531	89,875	91	89,966
Ai 30 June 2023	7,102	45,726	(703)	1,007	(//2)	35,53 I	07,0/3	71	07,700
(Loss) / profit for	-	-	-	-	-	(12,029)	(12,029)	116	(11,913)
period						, ,	, ,		, , ,
Exchange									
differences on	_	_	_	_	(116)	_	(116)	(2)	(118)
translation of					()		(/	(-)	()
foreign									
operations									
Total									
comprehensive	_	_	_	_	(116)	(12,029)	(12,145)	114	(12,031)
(loss) / income					(110)	(12,027)	(12,140)		(12,001)
for period									
Share option	_	_	_	17	_	_	17	_	17
charge				.,			.,		17
Growth share	_	_	_	21	_	_	21	_	21
charge									
Shares awarded	_	_	41	_	_	(40)	1	_	1
and sold from						(.0)	•		•
own shares									
Dividend paid	_	_	_	_	_	(1,495)	(1,495)	(26)	(1,521)
At 31 December	9,102	45,928	(942)	1,107	(888)	21,967	76.274	179	76,453
2023	.,	.0,0	(· ·-)	.,	(000)				
(Loss) / profit for	-	-	-	-	-	(88)	(88)	50	(38)
period									
Exchange									
differences on	-	-	-	-	(93)	_	(93)	_	(93)
translation of					, ,		, ,		, ,
foreign									
operations									
Total									
comprehensive	-	_	-	-	(93)	(88)	(181)	50	(131)
(loss) / income					` '	` '	` '		. ,
for period									
New shares	122	153	-	-	-	-	275	_	275
issued									
Shares awarded	-	-	725	-	-	(499)	226	_	226
and sold from						, ,			
own shares									
Dividend paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(102)	(102)
At 30 June	9,224	46,081	(217)	1,107	(981)	21,380	76,594	127	76,721
2024									

Notes to the unaudited Interim Report for the six months ended 30 June 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 June 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the IAS 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" and the Group's accounting policies.

The Group's accounting policies are in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the United Kingdom and are set out in the Group's Annual Report and Accounts 2023 on pages 68-72. These are consistent with the accounting policies which the Group expects to adopt in its 2024 Annual Report. The Group has not early-adopted any Standard, Interpretation or Amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

The information relating to the six months ended 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023 is unaudited and does not constitute statutory financial statements as defined in Section 434 of the Companies Act 2006. The comparative figures for the year ended 31 December 2023 have been extracted from the Group's Annual Report and Accounts 2023, on which the auditors gave an unqualified opinion and did not include a statement under section 498 (2) or (3) of the Companies Act 2006. The Group Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Going concern

The Directors have considered the financial projections and cash flow projections for the Group alongside the availability of renewed committed bank facilities of £20m (expiring 5 April 2026), an overdraft facility of £7m (which will reduce to £3m in the event there is a deleveraging event - further information in Note 31 to the 2023 year end financial statements), and the headroom afforded against the covenant tests for the coming 12 months. The Directors have also considered and understood the mitigating actions that would be required in the event of reduced revenue profiles and any consequential difficulties with covenant compliance. Such potential mitigating actions would include a review of headcount, particularly in the areas impacted by any downturn. Furthermore the Group have considered actions that can be taken should increased headroom be required. This would most likely be the disposal of non-core or high value agency assets. Against these scenarios, the Group has adequate headroom against the facilities described above. This leads the Directors to become satisfied that, taking account of reasonably possible changes in trading performance, it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Accounting estimates and judgements

The Group makes estimates and judgements concerning the future and the resulting estimates may, by definition, vary from the actual results. The Directors considered the critical accounting estimates and judgements used in the interim financial statements and concluded that the main areas of judgement are:

- Potential impairment of goodwill;
- Contingent payments in respect of acquisitions;
- Revenue recognition policies in respect of contracts which straddle the period end;
- · Valuation of intangible assets on acquisitions; and
- Intangible development costs.

2. Segmental Information

Business segmentation

For management purposes the Board monitors the performance of its individual agencies and groups them into service segments based on the sectors in which they operate. Each reportable segment therefore includes a number of agencies with similar characteristics.

The Board assesses the performance of each segment by looking at turnover, operating income and headline operating profit. The headline operating profit shown below is after the reallocation to the agencies of certain head office costs relating to the Shared Services function. These costs include a significant portion of the total operating costs which are now centrally managed.

The Board does not review the assets and liabilities of the Group on a segmental basis. A segmental breakdown of assets and liabilities is therefore not disclosed.

	Business & Corporate	Consumer & Lifestyle	Health & Wellness	Property	Sports & Entertainment	Technology & Mobility	MISSION Advantage & Central	Investments	Total
Six months to 30 June 2024	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Turnover	35,569	12,784	1,948	16,015	4,023	16,629	7,424	-	94,392
Operating income	10,219	9,117	1,659	7,477	3,327	7,339	3,094	-	42,232
Headline operating profit	995	653	(2)	995	371	640	(1,028)	-	2,624
	Business & Corporate	Consumer & Lifestyle	Health & Wellness	Property	Sports & Entertainment	Technology & Mobility	MISSION Advantage	Investments	Total
Six months to 30 June 2023	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	& Central £'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover									
Continuing operations Discontinued operations	34,725 -	12,874	2,165	14,973	4,032	17,494 -	6,217	- 428	92,480 428
Total Group	34,725	12,874	2,165	14,973	4,032	17,494	6,217	428	92,908
Operating income Continuing operations Discontinued operations	10,127	9,180 -	2,032	6,821 -	3,000	7,849 -	2,439 -	- 350	41,448 350
Total Group	10,127	9,180	2,032	6,821	3,000	7,849	2,439	350	41,798
Headline operating profit / (loss) Continuing operations Discontinued operations	1,350 -	868 -	216	585 -	357 -	273 -	(1,126)	- (557)	2,523 (557)
Total Group	1,350	868	216	585	357	273	(1,126)	(557)	1,966
Year to 31	Business & Corporate	Consumer & Lifestyle £'000	Health & Wellness	Property	Sports & Entertainment £'000	Technology & Mobility	MISSION Advantage & Central £'000	Investments	Total £'000
December 2023									
Turnover									
Continuing operations Discontinued operations	67,215 -	26,128	4,438	30,983	10,373	40,876 -	15,437 -	438	195,450 438
Total Group	67,215	26,128	4,438	30,983	10,373	40,876	15,437	438	195,888
Operating income Continuing operations Discontinued operations	20,785	18,195 -	3,949	15,038	6,675 -	15,084	6,594 -	230	86,320 230
Total Group	20,785	18,195	3,949	15,038	6,675	15,084	6,594	230	86,550
Headline operating profit / (loss) Continuing operations Discontinued operations	2,831 -	1,322	712 -	2,303	1,368	165	(2,221)	- (1,438)	6,480 (1,438)
Total Group	2,831	1,322	712	2,303	1,368	165	(2,221)	(1,438)	5,042
•				,				, , , , , , ,	-,

Geographical segmentation

The following table provides an analysis of the Group's operating income by region of activity:

	Six months to 30 June 2024 Unaudited £'000	Six months to 30 June 2023 Unaudited £'000	Year ended 31 December 2023 Audited £'000
UK	37,905	35,828	75,278
USA	3,083	4,203	7,688
Asia	1,130	1,643	3,340
Rest of Europe	114	124	244
	42,232	41,798	86,550

3. Reconciliation of Headline Profit to Reported Profit

The Board believes that headline profits, which eliminate certain amounts from the reported figures, provide a better understanding of the underlying trading of the Group.

	30 Una	onths to June 2024 udited		x months 30 June 2023 Jnaudite £'000	31	ear ended December 2023 Audited £'000
	PBT £'000	PAT £'000		BT		PBT PAT
From continuing operations Headline profit	1,264	948	1,556	1,185	4,158	2,953
Acquisition-related items (Note 4)	(626)	(492)	(418)	(341)	(1,652)	(1,453)
Bank refinancing and equity raise costs	(301)	(226)	-	-	(475)	(356)
Restructuring costs Start-up costs Goodwill, business and	(203) (86)	(203) (65)	(512)	(384)	(715) (1,818) (10,409)	(536) (1,363) (10,381)
intangible impairment Reported profit / (loss)	48	(38)	626	460	(10,407)	(10,381)
From discontinued operations Headline profit	-	-	(557)	(426)	(1,438)	(1,098)
Profit on sale of Pathfindr Reported loss	<u>-</u> -	-	(557)	(426)	(1,130)	355 (743)
From continuing and discontinued operations						
Headline profit Acquisition-related items (Note 4) Bank refinancing and equity raise costs	1,264 (626) (301)	948 (492) (226)	999 (418) -	759 (341) -	2,720 (1,652) (475)	1,855 (1,453) (356)
Restructuring costs Start-up costs Goodwill, business and intangible impairment	(203) (86) -	(203) (65) -	(512) -	(384) -	(715) (1,818) (10,409)	(536) (1,363) (10,381)
Profit on sale of Pathfindr Reported profit / (loss)	48	(38)	- 69	34	308 (12,041)	355 (11,879)

Bank refinancing and equity raise costs in 2023 consisted of various professional fees incurred in connection with the bank refinancing, and other related costs associated with this

process. Costs in 2024 consist of further such expenses, accelerated bank debt arrangement fees (see note 5) and fees from various consulting and legal firms advising and assisting in the Board's consideration of an equity issue.

Restructuring costs in 2023 consisted of costs of closing down the April Six Singapore office, and redundancy, PILON and TUPE related costs associated with restructuring and right sizing of various business units in the last quarter of the year following the downgraded full year profit expectation announced to the market. Restructuring costs in 2024 consist of costs of closing down the MISSION China office.

Start-up costs derive from organically started businesses or loss-making businesses acquired and comprise the trading losses of such entities until the earlier of two years from commencement or when they show evidence of becoming sustainably profitable. Start-up costs in 2023 related to Livity, the launch of Turbine, an integrated Growth Media agency, specialising in owned, earned and paid media for consumer facing brands, the trading losses of BLS China launched in 2023, as well as costs associated with the early-stage foundation of performance marketing and data science capabilities. Start-up costs in 2024 consist of the launch of the US office of the Influence business.

In 2023, goodwill, business and intangible impairment costs related to the impairment of Story UK Ltd, Story Agency Ltd, Krow Agency Ltd and Krow Communications Ltd goodwill and the write off of the Mission Brand Bonding Index intangible asset.

4. Acquisition Adjustments

	Six months to	Six months to	Year ended
	30 June	30 June	31 December
	2024	2023	2023
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amortisation of intangible assets recognised on acquisitions Movement in fair value of contingent	(382)	(259)	(942)
consideration Acquisition transaction costs expensed	(48)	(22)	(434)
	(196)	(137)	(276)
	(626)	(418)	(1,652)

The movement in fair value of contingent consideration relates to a revision in the estimate payable to vendors of businesses acquired in prior years. Acquisition transaction costs relate to professional fees in connection with acquisitions made or contemplated, including reverse acquisitions.

5. Net Finance Costs

	Six months to	Six months	Vacrandad
	30 June 2024 Unaudited £'000	to 30 June 2023 Unaudited £'000	Year ended 31 December 2023 Audited £'000
Net interest on bank loans, overdrafts and deposits Amortisation of bank debt arrangement	(988)	(742)	(1,795)
fees	(21)	(23)	(45)
Interest expense on leases liabilities	(425)	(277)	(632)
Headline net finance costs	(1,434)	(1,042)	(2,472)
Accelerated amortisation of debt arrangement fees	(60)	-	-
Net finance costs	(1,494)	(1,042)	(2,472)

The increase in net interest on bank loans, overdrafts and deposits in the period is driven primarily by an increase in the interest rate payable on the bank debt following general increases in interest rates by the BOE and higher margins payable on the new revolving

credit facility entered into on 27 March 2024.

The increase in interest expense on lease liabilities in the period is the result of the general increase in interest rates and increase in Right of Use Assets and Lease Liabilities following the entering into of new leases, most notably the new London office.

Following the reduction in full year profit expectations announced to the market last year, the Group agreed a new revolving credit facility on 27 March 2024 and incurred additional bank debt arrangement fees that are being amortised over the period of the new facility. In addition, the remaining unamortised bank debt arrangement fees relating to the replaced facility were fully written off during the period. These additional bank debt arrangement fees, over and above what would have been amortised had the Group not refinanced, amounting to £60,000, have been classified as a headline adjustment.

6. Taxation

The taxation charge for the period ended 30 June 2024 has been based on an estimated effective tax rate on headline profit on ordinary activities of 25% (30 June 2023: 24%).

7. Earnings Per Share

The calculation of the basic and diluted earnings per share is based on the following data, determined in accordance with the provisions of IAS 33: "Earnings per Share".

	Six months to 30 June 2024 Unaudited	Six months to 30 June 2023 Unaudited	Year to 31 December 2023 Audited
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Earnings			
Reported profit for the period			
From continuing operations Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent	(88)	429	(11,283)
Non-controlling interests	50	31	147
	(38)	460	(11,136)
From discontinued operations Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent	-	(426)	(743)
Non-controlling interests		-	- (7.40)
	-	(426)	(743)
From continuing and discontinued operations Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent	(88)	3	(12,026)
Non-controlling interests	50	31	147
	(38)	34	(11,879)
Headline earnings (Note 3)			
From continuing operations Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent	898	1,154	2,806
Non-controlling interests	50	31	147
	948	1,185	2,953
From discontinued operations Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent	-	(426)	(1,098)
Non-controlling interests		-	-
		(426)	(1,098)

From continuing and discontinued			
operations			
Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent	898	728	1,708
Non-controlling interests	50	31	147
	948	759	1,855
Number of shares			
Weighted average number of Ordinary shares for the purpose of basic earnings per	90.357.314	89.531.712	89.549.143
share	70,007,014	07,331,712	07,047,140
Dilutive effect of securities:			
Employee share options	248,391	370,183	341,144
Weighted average number of Ordinary			_
shares for the purpose of diluted earnings	90,605,705	89,901,895	89,890,287
per share			
Reported basis:			
From continuing operations			
Basic earnings per share (pence)	(0.1)	0.5	(12.6)
Diluted earnings per share (pence)	(0.1)	0.5	(12.6)
From discontinued operations	` ,		, ,
Basic earnings per share (pence)	-	(0.5)	(0.8)
Diluted earnings per share (pence)	-	(0.5)	(0.8)
From continuing and discontinued			
operations Paris carrings per share (panel)	(0.1)	0.0	(12.4)
Basic earnings per share (pence) Diluted earnings per share (pence)	(0.1) (0.1)	0.0	(13.4) (13.4)
biloted eartings per state (perice)	(0.1)	0.0	(13.4)
Headline basis:			
From continuing operations			
Basic earnings per share (pence)	1.0	1.3	3.1
Diluted earnings per share (pence)	1.0	1.3	3.1
From discontinued operations			
Basic earnings per share (pence)	-	(0.5)	(1.2)
Diluted earnings per share (pence)	-	(0.5)	(1.2)
From continuing and discontinued operations			
Basic earnings per share (pence)	1.0	0.8	1.9
Diluted earnings per share (pence)	1.0	0.8	1.9
O-1	,-	- · ·	••

Basic earnings per share includes shares to be issued subject only to time as if they had been issued at the beginning of the period.

A reconciliation of the profit after tax on a reported basis and the headline basis is given in Note 3.

8. Intangible Assets

2024 2023 2024 2023 2024 2024 2024 2025	ntangible Assets			
Unaudited		30 June	30 June	31 December
Six months to 30 June to 30 June 2024 2023 200		2024	2023	2023
Six months to 30 June to 30 June 2024 2023 87,80		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Other intangible assets 2,248 3,581 2,77 90,223 101,704 90,65 Goodwill Six months to 30 June to 30 June 2024 Six months to 30 June 2023 December 2024		£'000	£'000	£'000
90,223 101,704 90,65 Goodwill Six months to 30 June to 30 June to 30 June Decemb 2024 Decemb 2023 2020		87,975	98,123	87,857
Goodwill Six months Six months Year ended 3 to 30 June to 30 June Decemb 2024 2023 2020	r intangible assets	2,248	3,581	2,771
Six months Six months Year ended 3 to 30 June to 30 June Decemb 2024 2023 202		90,223	101,704	90,628
Six months Six months Year ended 3 to 30 June to 30 June Decemb 2024 2023 202				
to 30 June to 30 June Decemb 2024 2023 203	lliwk			
2024 2023 200		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		Year ended 31
2020				December
		2024		2023
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
£'000 £'000 £'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost	1			
At 1 January 104,426 102,486 102,48	January	104.426	102,486	102,486
•	,	-	1,910	1,920
·		118	-	20
'	•	104,544	104,396	104,426

Impairment adjustment			
At 1 January	16,569	6,273	6,273
Impairment during the period	-	-	10,296
At 30 June / 31 December	16,569	6,273	16,569
Net book value	87,975	98,123	87,857

The increase in goodwill during the period relates to an adjustment to the net assets acquired of Mezzo Labs Ltd.

In accordance with the Group's accounting policies, an annual impairment test is applied to the carrying value of goodwill, unless there is an indication that one of the cash generating units has become impaired during the year, in which case an impairment test is applied to the relevant asset. The next impairment test will be undertaken at 31 December 2024. In 2023, as a result of the performance and restructuring of the operations of Story Agency Ltd, Story UK Ltd, Krow Agency Ltd and Krow Communications Ltd, and having calculated the net present value of projected cash flows derived from these operations, goodwill relating to these CGUs was impaired by £10,296,000.

Other Intangible Assets

	Six months to 30 June 2024 Unaudited £'000	Six months to 30 June 2023 Unaudited £'000	Year ended 31 December 2023 Audited £000
Cost			
At 1 January	11 <i>,</i> 797	11,575	11,575
Additions	8	522	629
Transfer from property, plant and equipment	14	-	-
Disposals	(10)	-	(407)
At 30 June / 31 December	11,809	12,097	11,797
Amortisation and impairment			
At 1 January	9,026	8,047	8,047
Charge for the period	532	469	1,295
Transfer from property, plant and equipment	13	-	-
Disposals	(10)	_	(316)
At 30 June / 31 December	9,561	8,516	9,026
Net book value	2,248	3,581	2,771

Other intangible assets consist of Client relationships, trade names, and software and product development costs.

9. Right of Use Assets and Lease Liabilities

The Group leases several assets including property, office equipment, computer equipment and motor vehicles. Under IFRS 16, the Group recognises Right of Use Assets and Lease Liabilities in relation to these leases. Assets and liabilities reduce over the period of the lease and increase when a lease is renewed, or a new lease entered into.

	Property	Office equipment, computer equipment and motor vehicles	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	15,168	2,399	17,567
Additions	10,481	227	10,708
Disposals	(790)	(243)	(1,033)
At 30 June 2023	24,859	2,383	27,242
Additions	-	25	25
Disposals	(1,975)	-	(1,975)

At 31 December 2023	22,884	2,408	25,292
Additions	66	303	369
Disposals	(1,365)	(769)	(2,134)
At 30 June 2024	21,585	1,942	23,527
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	6,164	1,867	8,031
Charge for the period	1,039	172	1,211
Disposals	(790)	(243)	(1,033)
At 30 June 2023	6,413	1,796	8,209
Charge for the period	1,220	181	1,401
Disposals	(750)	-	(750)
At 31 December 2023	6,883	1,977	8,860
Charge for the period	1,116	151	1,267
Disposals	(1,365)	(769)	(2, 134)
At 30 June 2024	6,634	1,359	7,993
Net book value at 30 June 2023	18,446	587	19,033
Net book value at 31 December 2023	16,001	431	16,432
Net book value at 30 June 2024	14,951	583	15,534

Obligations under leases are due as follows:

	30 June 2024 Unaudited £'000	30 June 2023 Unaudited £'000	31 December 2023 Audited £'000
In one year or less (shown in trade and other payables)	2,375	1,632	1,983
In more than one year	15,047	18,226	15,768
	17,422	19,858	1 <i>7,7</i> 51
10. Bank Loans and Net Bank Debt			
	30 June	30 June	31 December
	2024	2023	2023
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank loan outstanding Adjustment to amortised cost Carrying value of loan outstanding Less: Cash and short term deposits Net bank debt	20,039 (185) 19,854 (226) 19,628	20,060 (77) 19,983 (5,096) 14,887	20,049 (55) 19,994 (4,632) 15,362
The borrowings are repayable as follows: Less than one year In one to two years In two to three years	21 20,018 -	23 21 20,016	21 20,023 5
	20,039	20,060	20,049
Adjustment to amortised cost	(185)	(77)	(55)
	19,854	19,983	19,994
Less: Amount due for settlement within 12			
months (shown under current liabilities)	(21)	(23)	(21)
Amount due for settlement after 12 months	19,833	19,960	19,973

At 30 June 2024, the Group's committed bank facilities comprised a revolving credit facility of £20.0m, expiring on 5 April 2026. Interest on the facility is based on SONIA (sterling overnight index average) plus a margin of between 2.25% and 4.90% depending on the Group's debt leverage ratio, payable in cash on loan rollover dates.

In addition to its committed facilities, the Group had available an overdraft facility of up to £9.0m until 30 June 2024, reducing to £7.0m from 1 July 2024, with interest payable by reference to National Westminster Bank plc Base Rate plus 2.25%.

Included in the above is £39,000 of bank loans owing by Populate Social Ltd, one of the companies acquired in 2022. These borrowings are repayable over a two year period.

11. Acauisitions Obligations

The terms of an acquisition may provide that the value of the purchase consideration, which may be payable in cash or shares or other securities at a future date, depends on uncertain future events such as the future performance of the acquired company. The Directors estimate that the liability for payments that may be due is as follows:

	Cash £'000	Shares £'000	Total £'000
30 June 2024 Less than one year	3,473	35	3,508
Between one and two years	3,473 890	-	3,306 890
	4,363	35	4,398

A reconciliation of acquisition obligations during the period is as follows:

	Cash £'000	Shares £'000	Total £'000
At 31 December 2023	5,465	-	5,465
Adjustments to estimates of obligations	(488)	536	48
Obligations settled in the period	(614)	(501)	(1,115)
At 30 June 2024	4,363	35	4,398

During the period certain acquisition obligations previously expected to be settled in cash were actually settled in shares.

12. Post balance sheet events

There have been no material post balance sheet events.

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