

4 November 2025



Smiths News PLC
("Smiths News" or the "Company")

Final Results for the 52 weeks ended 30 August 2025

- Operating profit ahead of market expectations, largely driven by collectables
- Cash position underpinned by strong trading and one-off receipts
- Ordinary and special dividend aligned with capital allocation policy

Smiths News (LSE: SNWS), the UK's largest news wholesaler and a leading provider of early morning end-to-end supply chain solutions, today announces audited results for the 52 weeks ended 30 August 2025 (the "Period" or "FY2025").

Financial highlights:

- Delivered a strong performance in the Period, with adjusted operating profit above market expectations at £39.1m (FY2024: £39.1m), driven by excellent collectables performance
- Adjusted operating profit ahead of FY2024 by £0.9m on a comparable 52-week basis*
- Revenues of £1,064m (-3.6% versus FY2024, -1.7% on a 52-week basis), with 16% revenue growth from new verticals, and 93% of revenues secured to 2029
- Ongoing focus on cost out programme, delivering £4.9m of operational efficiencies in FY2025
- Investment programme progressing to plan, with £2.4m of £6.0m three-year investment made by the end of FY2025
- Adjusted profit after tax increased £2.3m to £27.0m due to lower finance costs, driving an 8% increase to the ordinary dividend proposed at 2x cover in line with our capital allocation policy
- Cash generation increased to £36.1m for FY2025 (FY2024: £23.0m on a 52-week basis*), benefitting from £6.9m of additional receipts, including £5.4m from the administrators of McColl's Retail Group ("McColl's"), accounting for 98% of the original debt balance
- In line with our capital allocation policy, we are pleased to announce:
 - Proposed final ordinary dividend of 3.80 pence per share due to be paid on 5 February 2026, resulting in a total ordinary dividend for the year of 5.55 pence per share (FY2024: 5.15 pence per share)
 - Proposed special dividend of 3.0 pence per share to be paid on 5 February 2026, resulting in total dividends (interim, final and special) for the year of 8.55 pence per share (FY2024: 7.15 pence per share)

£m	52 weeks to 30 Aug 2025	53 weeks to 31 Aug 2024	Change	Change (52-week basis)
Adjusted results ⁽¹⁾				
Revenue	1,064.0	1,103.7	(3.6%)	(1.7%)
Operating profit	39.1	39.1	-	2.4%
Profit after tax	27.0	24.7	9.3%	
Earnings per share	11.1p	10.3p	0.8p	
Statutory results				
Revenue	1,064.0	1,103.7	(3.6%)	
Operating profit	41.2	40.0	3.0%	
Profit after tax	28.3	25.5	11.0%	
Earnings per share	11.7p	10.6p	1.1p	
Ordinary dividend per share	5.55p	5.15p	0.40p	
Special dividend per share	3.00p	2.00p	1.00p	
Cash flow and net debt				
Free cash flow inflow ⁽²⁾	36.1	7.3	394.5%	57%
Bank Net Cash/(Debt) ⁽³⁾	3.3	(11.0)	130.0%	
Average Bank Net Cash/(Debt)	3.3	(11.7)	128.2%	

Outlook:

- Resilience in news and magazines market and ongoing operating efficiencies in the business model underpins confidence
- Anticipate continued strength in the collectables market across FY2026, driven by one-off events including the Men's Football World Cup and Pokémon's 30th anniversary
- Ongoing momentum in new verticals supported by the appointment of a Managing Director of Retail

- recycling
- Three-year internal investment programme advancing as scheduled to support and optimise service and efficiency across all verticals
- Management continues to implement strategy to establish Smiths News as a leading provider of early morning, end-to-end supply chain solutions
- The Company has delivered a good start to trading in the current financial year and expects to deliver results in line with current market expectations*

Jonathan Bunting, Chief Executive Officer of Smiths News, commented:

"I am delighted Smiths News has delivered such a strong financial and operational performance across the year, reinforcing the ongoing confidence we have in our business. Our strategic priorities remain steadfast as we seek to both leverage and expand our unique UK operating footprint.

"In addition, our existing capital allocation policy has provided us with the flexibility to both invest in our new business verticals alongside distributing funds to shareholders.

"Finally, I would personally like to thank everyone at Smiths News for their dedication and hard work, which collectively, sits at the heart of our ongoing success."

* Prior to this announcement, the Company determines that consensus market expectation for FY2026 is adjusted operating profit of £36.7m.

For further information, please contact:

Smiths News PLC
Jonathan Bunting, Chief Executive Officer
Paul Baker, Chief Financial Officer
www.smithsnews.co.uk

via Vigo Consulting

Vigo Consulting
Jeremy Garcia / Fiona Hetherington / Anna Sutton
smithsnews@vigoconsulting.com

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7390 0230

About Smiths News

Smiths News is the UK's largest news wholesaler and leading provider of early morning, end-to-end supply chain solutions. Smiths News has been delivering newspapers to retailers across the UK for over 200 years on behalf of the major national and regional publishers. Today, Smiths News delivers to over 22,000 customers across England and Wales on a daily basis.

Smiths News's service capability now extends into a number of new verticals that build on its expertise in warehousing, reverse logistics and early morning final mile services, across its extensive high-density UK delivery network, including a waste recycling collection service, the delivery of additional categories such as books and home entertainment, and extending our services in the final mile.

The speed of turnaround and the density of Smiths News' coverage is critical to one of the world's fastest physical supply chains and we remain focused on continuing to deliver best in class service to the news and magazines market, whilst exploring opportunities for growth based on this strong foundation.

For more information, please visit: www.smithsnews.co.uk

Person responsible for arranging release of this announcement:

Stuart Marriner, General Counsel & Company Secretary
Smiths News plc, Rowan House, Cherry Orchard North, Kembrey Park, Swindon SN2 8UH
Email: cossec@smithsnews.co.uk

Notes

The Company uses certain performance measures for internal reporting purposes and employee incentive arrangements. The terms 'Bank Net Cash/ (Debt)', 'free cash flow', 'Adjusted operating profit', 'Adjusted profit before tax', 'Adjusted earnings per share' and 'Adjusted items' are not defined terms under IFRS and therefore are Alternative Performance Measures (APM) and may not be comparable with similar measures disclosed by other companies.

- (1) The following are key APMs identified by the Company in the Group Financial Statements as Adjusted results:

- Adjusted operating profit - defined as operating profit excluding Adjusting items.
- Adjusted profit before tax (PBT) - defined as profit before tax before the impact of Adjusting items.
- Adjusted earnings per share - defined as Adjusted PBT, less taxation attributable to Adjusted PBT and including any adjustment for minority interest to result in adjusted profit after tax attributable to shareholders; divided by the basic weighted average number of shares in issue.
- Adjusting items - Adjusting items of income or expense are excluded in arriving at Adjusted operating profit to present a further measure of the Company's performance. Each adjusting item is considered to be significant in nature and/or quantum, non-recurring in nature and/or considered to be unrelated to the Company's ordinary activities or are consistent with items treated as adjusting in prior periods. Excluding these items from profit metrics provides readers with helpful additional information on the performance of the business across periods because it is consistent with how the business performance is planned by, and reported to, the Board and the Executive Team. They are disclosed and described separately in Note 3 to the consolidated financial statements to provide further understanding of the financial performance of the Company. A reconciliation of

- adjusted profit to statutory profit is presented on the income statement.
- (2) Free cash flow - defined as cash flow excluding the following: payment of dividends, the impact of acquisitions and disposals, the repayment of bank loan principal amounts and outflows for purchases of own shares (EBT share purchases) and cash held by the EBT.
 - (3) Bank Net Cash/ (Debt) - represents the net position drawn under the Company's banking facilities and is calculated as total debt less cash and cash equivalents. Total debt includes loans and borrowings (excluding amortised arrangement fees and cash held by the EBT), overdrafts and obligations under finance leases under accounting standards applicable in 2019.

Cautionary Statement

This document contains certain forward-looking statements with respect to Smiths News plc's financial condition, its results of operations and businesses, strategy, plans, objectives and performance. Words such as 'anticipates', 'expects', 'intends', 'plans', 'believes', 'seeks', 'estimates', 'targets', 'may', 'will', 'continue', 'project' and similar expressions, as well as statements in the future tense, identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of Smiths News plc's future performance and relate to events and depend on circumstances that may occur in the future and are therefore subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions. There are a number of factors which could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward looking statements, including, among others the enactment of legislation or regulation that may impose costs or restrict activities; the re-negotiation of contracts or licences; fluctuations in demand and pricing in the industry; fluctuations in exchange controls; changes in government policy and taxations; industrial disputes; war and terrorism. These forward-looking statements speak only as at the date of this document. Unless otherwise required by applicable law, regulation or accounting standard, Smiths News plc undertakes no responsibility to publicly update any of its forward- looking statements whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise. Nothing in this document should be construed as a profit forecast or profit estimate. This document may contain earnings enhancement statements which are not intended to be profit forecasts and so should not be interpreted to mean that earnings per share will necessarily be greater than those for the relevant preceding financial period. The financial information referenced in this document does not contain sufficient detail to allow a full understanding of the results of Smiths News plc. For more detailed information, please see Preliminary Financial Results and/or the Annual Report and Accounts, each for the 52-week period ended 30 August 2025 which can each be found on the Investor Zone section of the Smiths News plc website - www.smithsnews.co.uk. However, the contents of Smiths News plc's website are not incorporated into and do not form part of this document.

OPERATING REVIEW

Overview of performance

The Company delivered a strong performance in FY2025, with the news and magazines business performing well, alongside significant demand and proactive trading in the collectables market.

The Company generated adjusted operating profit of £39.1m (FY2024: £39.1m), ahead of market expectations and ahead of FY2024 by £0.9m on a 52-week basis*. Company revenues, reflecting the long-term volume decline in the newspaper and magazines market, were £1,064.0m (FY2024: £1,103.7m / £1,082.9m on a 52-week basis), in line with internal forecasts. Revenues from new verticals increased 16%.

Adjusted profit after tax was £27.0m (FY2024: £24.7m), an increase of £2.3m, with net finance costs £2.6m lower than FY2024. The Company's cost out programme continues to perform in line with expectations, delivering £4.9m of annualised savings in FY2025 (FY2024: £5.6m). The Company ended the year in a Bank net cash position of £3.3m of (FY2024: Bank net debt of £11.0m). Adjusted EPS increased 0.8 pence to 11.1 pence (FY2024: 10.3p).

The Company's free cash flow improved to £36.1m (FY2024: £7.3m / £23.0m 52-week basis*), in part due to the receipt of £6.9m of one-off items, which included the final instalments from the administrators of McColl's, taking the total payments received from the administrators to £5.4m, 98% of the total stated debt balance.

Smiths News continues to implement its ongoing programme of internal investment, increasing investment by £2.0m per annum through to FY2027, to support delivery of the Company's core capabilities.

Over the course of FY2025, the Company has continued to focus on maintaining shareholder returns whilst simultaneously developing additional revenue streams for the business that leverage the Company's existing network and expertise to drive long-term value creation and mitigate the long-established and gradual decline of newspaper and magazine volumes.

Smiths News is an established expert in early morning supply chain management, and the Company's strategy remains to build on these foundations to expand its services across additional verticals including end-to-end services and final mile logistics.

The Company continues to apply the capital allocation policy which was updated following refinancing in May 2024. With higher profit after tax, the proposed total ordinary dividend increased 8% to 5.55p (FY2024: 5.15p) being 2x cover. A special dividend of 3.0p (FY2024: 2.0p) is also proposed, taking total distributions to 8.55p (FY2024: 7.15p).

** The impact of the 53rd week in FY2024 was additional revenue of £20.8m, additional adjusted operating profit of £0.9m and a net cash outflow of £15.7m.*

News and magazines business

The news and magazines business delivered a pleasing performance in FY2025 and continues to generate the majority of Smiths News' revenue and profits. Against a backdrop of long-term market decline - which continues to be in line with internal expectations - the Company is working closely with retailers to maximise commercial opportunities across the category, alongside a focus on continual improvement to our customer proposition.

The collectables market, which has a separate demand cycle to newspapers and magazines, delivered an excellent performance in FY2025. Recognising this growth, the Company made a deliberate decision to focus efforts on these margin accretive products during the year in order to capitalise on momentum. Whilst some sales are non-repeatable, the Company believes the strength of the collectables market will continue into FY2026, supported by the 30th anniversary of Pokémon and the 2026 Men's Football World Cup.

New verticals

We continue to develop a number of initiatives as part of the Company's strategic vision to diversify the business and broaden revenue and profit streams through opportunities that complement our established news and magazines operations, and these initiatives continue to evolve.

Our growth verticals continue to build, producing a 16% increase in revenues. Profit was £1.4m (FY2024: £2.0m), reflecting planned investments, including trials, capability and capacity.

Within recycling, we see good demand from our existing newspaper and magazines customers, with volumes having increased by 49% to over 2,500 tonnes in the last 12 months, a key performance metric.

We welcomed Adam Wylie as Managing Director of Recycling at the end of FY2025. Adam brings a wealth of highly applicable industry experience and is already delivering valuable market intelligence to inform new market opportunities, including the use of partnerships and waste brokers.

In FY2025, we undertook a trial seeking to extend our recycling services to new customers along selected existing delivery routes in the Northwest. The trial has now concluded and provided the Company with valuable insights into the market dynamics, alongside the most efficient routes to market. Adam is now leading the development of our strategy, targeting scaled retailers where adoption is supported by both the recently introduced workplace recycling regulations^[1], and the expected introduction of future regulation^[2]. With an extended footprint, Smiths News is in a strong position moving into FY2026 to leverage its network to deliver its recycling services.

Our second key vertical focuses on the delivery of additional categories to existing customers, such as books and home entertainment. Smiths News already delivers to a number of customers in this vertical, including leading supermarkets and high street retailers. In February 2025, the Company commenced a trial with leading greetings cards brand Hallmark, and the offering is now live across circa 175 stores with over 63,000 cards sold in FY2025.

In the final mile services vertical, where we are specifically focused on delivering new products to new customers and locations, the small-scale trial for the delivery of specialist engineering and manufacturing parts was well received. Further to the trial, the Company was invited to tender for, and has now been awarded, a multi-year contract to undertake "in-night" deliveries.

Internal investment programme

As previously announced, Smiths News commenced a three-year internal investment programme in FY2025, increasing investment by £2.0m per annum through to FY2027. Thereafter, investment is expected to revert to a normalised level of £4.0m per annum.

The programme seeks to optimise warehouse operations and enhance existing capabilities and efficiencies, without disrupting service to the Company's existing customers.

We successfully implemented a new warehouse management system at one of our key regional hubs in the Period and put the foundations in place for a new transport management system, with initial implementation expected in FY2026.

Smiths News has simultaneously invested in its team, ensuring the Company has the skillset and talent to support the news and magazines business and to drive our new verticals. As noted above, at the end of FY2025, we welcomed a new Managing Director of Recycling and have continued to add skills in the wider management team. This investment ensures the business is well-positioned to capitalise on the opportunities available across all four verticals.

Operational efficiencies

Smiths News continues to identify operational efficiencies to optimise our network and services. The Company maintained the year-on-year delivery of cost savings despite the challenge of rising wages, delivering £4.9m in the Period (FY2024: £5.6m), focused on driving efficiencies in the business, streamlining operations, and reducing variable costs associated with volume declines.

Cash position

Cash generation - a core foundation of the Smiths News business model - remained positive in FY2025, with free cash flow at £36.1m (FY2024: £7.3m, £23.0m on a 52-week basis*), including the benefit of £6.9m one-off receipts in the year, being £5.4m from the McColls administrator and a £1.5m tax refund in respect of the return of surplus from the Smiths News pension scheme.

The £5.4m receipts from the administrators of McColl's, comprised £1.6m in H1 2025, a second payment of £1.7m, and a final payment of £2.0m, both received in H2 2025. This took the total payments received from the administrators to 98% of the original debt balance.

Average Bank net cash of £3.3m was achieved in the Period (FY2024: average Bank net debt of £11.7m), and closing Bank net cash improved to £3.3m (FY2024: £11.0m Bank net debt).

People

In January 2025, we welcomed Manju Malhotra as an independent non-executive director, replacing Denise Collis who retired from the Board at the conclusion of the AGM in January 2025. In March 2025, Paul Baker announced his intention to step down from his role as Chief Financial Officer, with Richard Clay joining the business in February 2026 to assume the role. George Cooper, currently Group Financial Controller at the Company, will assume the role of Interim Chief Financial Officer (a non-board appointment) to cover the period between Paul's departure and Richard's arrival.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank both Denise and Paul for their outstanding contribution to Smiths News. We are extremely grateful for the dedication and insights they have provided the business, and we wish them every success going forward.

We would also like to thank all our colleagues at Smiths News for their ongoing commitment to delivering first class customer service in an intense and time critical market. We remain committed to investing in our staff, and in creating a positive and inclusive culture that supports employees and enables our team to thrive.

Dividend

Further to a strong financial and cash generative performance, and in line with our capital allocation policy, the Company proposes to pay a final ordinary dividend of 3.80 pence per share on 5 February 2026 (FY2024: 3.40 pence per share) to shareholders on the register at close of business on 9 January 2026, which will bring the total proposed dividend for the year to 5.55 pence per share. The ex-dividend date will be 8 January 2026.

Additionally, the Company proposes to pay a special dividend of 3.0 pence per share, to be paid alongside the final ordinary dividend on 5 February 2026, to shareholders on the register at close of business on 9 January 2026.

Outlook

We have seen the positive momentum from FY2025 continue into FY2026, with the news and magazines business remaining resilient alongside ongoing strength in our collectables activities. In addition, we continue to refine our strategic focus to better utilise our early morning market expertise.

We remain committed to further extending our operational footprint into new verticals by leveraging our early morning, end-to-end supply chain solutions and utilising our high-density network and unrivalled experience and skillset. The Company has delivered a good start to trading in the current financial year and expects to deliver results in line with current market expectations*.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

In FY2025 the Company traded ahead of expectation, maintaining adjusted operating profit at £39.1m and increasing adjusted profit after tax to £27.0m despite one week less trading in the reporting period. This has led to an 8% increase in the ordinary dividend, paid at 2x cover in line with the Company's capital allocation policy. The Company continues to demonstrate good cash generation, augmented this year by additional one-off receipts of £6.9m, including £5.4m from the McColls administrator, which support the proposal of a 3.0p (£7.3m) special dividend, compared to 2.0p (£4.8m) in FY2024.

The Company's financial results in FY2025 represented 52 weeks of trading, compared to 53 weeks in FY2024. The additional week benefitted revenue in FY2024 by £20.8m (1.9%) and adjusted operating profit by £0.9m and did not include any significant one-off items.

Revenues of £1,064.0m (FY2024: £1,103.7m), were down 3.6% on the prior year, of which 1.9% related to the 53rd week. The remaining movement excluding the 53rd week of -1.7% was below the historic trend of -3% to -5%. Additional sales of collectables in FY2025 more than offset revenues made in FY2024 from the Men's UEFA Football Championships, while the decline in revenue from newspapers and magazines was within our long-term guidance of -3% to -5%.

Adjusted operating profit of £39.1m was an increase of £0.9m excluding the impact of the 53rd week with beneficial margin mix and continuing operation cost focus driving improved performance.

Adjusted profit after tax increased by £2.3m to £27.0m with lower debt levels and banking fees reducing net interest cost (£2.6m lower) and a lower effective tax rate owing to the successful resolution of overpayments made in previous tax years. Consequently, Adjusted EPS increased by 0.8p to 11.1p and this has resulted in a total ordinary dividend of 5.55p for the year in line with the Company's capital allocation policy.

Adjusting items after tax were a credit of £1.3m (FY2024 credit of £0.8m) and included a release of the provision for McColls receivables (FY2025: £3.7m; FY2024: £0.6m), as well as legal expenses of £0.7m and technology programme improvement costs of £0.7m.

Free cash flow of £36.1m (FY2025: £7.3m) included a working capital inflow (£4.1m) compared to an outflow in FY2024 (£17.0m), both the result of timing differences in the Company's normal working capital cycle. Excluding these movements, the FY2025 cash flow of £32.0m was higher than FY2024 £24.3m due to lower interest costs and higher income from adjusting items (FY2025: £5.1m inflow, FY2024: £0.4m outflow) which included £5.4m of cash recovered from the McColls administrator and £1.5m tax refund in respect of the return of surplus of the Smiths News pension scheme which occurred in FY2022.

Bank net debt improved by £14.3m from £11.0m (debt) in FY2024 to £3.3m (cash) in FY2025, the first time the Company has reported a net cash position but noting the working capital timing benefit of £4.1m during the year.

A final ordinary dividend of 3.8p per share (£9.2m) is proposed by the Board, which makes a total full year ordinary dividend of 5.55p (£13.5m) an 8% increase compared to 5.15p in FY2024 (£12.5m). A special dividend of 3.0p (£7.3m) compared to 2.0p in FY2024 (£4.8m), is also proposed to be paid alongside the final ordinary dividend in February 2026 reflecting the distribution of one-off items received during the year.

Adjusted results Group

£m	52 weeks to 30 Aug 2025	53 weeks to 31 Aug 2024	Change	52-week basis
Revenue	1,064.0	1,103.7	(3.6%)	(1.7%)
Operating profit	39.1	39.1	-	2.4%
Net finance costs	(3.3)	(5.9)	44.1%	
Profit before tax	35.8	33.2	7.8%	
Taxation	(8.8)	(8.5)	(3.5%)	
Effective tax rate	24.6%	25.6%	(100bps)	
Profit after tax	27.0	24.7	9.3%	

Revenue

Revenue was £1,064.0m (FY2024: £1,103.7m), down 3.6%, but 1.7% excluding the impact of the 53rd week in FY2024. Lower newspaper and magazines volumes were offset by the benefits of News UK and Midlands News Association contract wins (Q2 FY2024), cover price increases, increased sales of trading card and sticker collectables and increased revenue from new verticals.

Newspaper revenue decreased by 3.1% excluding the impact of the 53rd week and the annualisation of FY2024 contract wins. Magazine revenue was down 4% excluding the 53rd week. Both newspapers and magazine revenue decline rates are within our long-term expectation of -3% to -5%.

Revenue from collectables increased by 17% excluding the 53rd week, with good Premier League and Champions League football collections and the popularity of the current Pokémon series. The success of these ranges more than offset the year-on-year impact of the men's UEFA European Championships which benefitted FY2024.

Operating profit

Adjusted operating profit £39.1m was the same as FY2024 (£39.1m) and included the following items:

- A 53rd week of trading in FY2024 (£0.9m) compared to 52 weeks in FY2025
- Improved contribution from sales of collectable products (£2.5m) and in particular Pokémon, which included the benefit of £1.2m of one-off stock sales
- The net benefit of cost reduction plans within depot and overheads (£4.9m), which largely offset increases to the cost base driven by inflation (£4.5m) and the impact of changes to National Insurance Contributions (£0.5m)
- Additional technology costs (£0.7m) including license fees for newly implemented technology
- The impact of other costs (£0.8m) including £0.4m in trials for new services and products

Profit after tax

Net finance charges of £3.3m (FY2024: £5.9m) were driven by a lower net debt, lower interest rates and the write-off of unamortised fees in FY2024 relating to the previous financing facility. Taxation of £8.8m (FY2024: £8.5m) was higher than the prior period due to higher profit before tax. Profit after tax of £27.0m (FY2024: £24.7m) was £2.3m higher than last year and has driven an increase in the ordinary dividend, in line with the Company's capital allocation policy.

Statutory Results Group

£m	52 weeks to 30 Aug 2025	53 weeks to 31 Aug 2024	Change
Revenue	1,064.0	1,103.7	(3.6%)
Operating profit	41.2	40.0	3.0%
Net finance costs	(3.3)	(5.9)	44.1%
Profit before tax	37.9	34.1	11.1%
Taxation	(9.6)	(8.6)	(11.6%)
Effective tax rate	25.3%	25.2%	10bps
Profit after tax	28.3	25.5	11.0%

Statutory profit after tax of £28.3m was a £2.8m increase on the prior year (FY2024: £25.5m), resulting from the £2.3m increase in Adjusted profit after tax described above and a £0.5m higher benefit from adjusting items (FY2025 £1.3m credit; FY2024: £0.8m credit).

Earnings per share

	Adjusted		Statutory	
	52 weeks to 30 Aug 2025	53 weeks to 31 Aug 2024	52 weeks to 30 Aug 2025	53 weeks to 31 Aug 2024
Earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders (£m)	27.0	24.7	28.3	25.5
Basic weighted average number of shares (millions)	242.4	240.3	242.4	240.3
Basic Earnings per share	11.1	10.3	11.7	10.6
Diluted weighted number of shares (millions)	250.2	251.1	250.2	251.1
Diluted Earnings per share	10.8	9.8	11.3	10.2

Adjusted basic earnings per share of 11.1p, was an increase of 0.8p on the prior year driven by the increase in earnings of the business, offset by an increase in the average number of shares as a result of the employee benefit trust holding fewer shares.

Statutory basic earnings per share increased by 1.1p to 11.7p (FY2024: 10.6p) due to the benefit of adjusting items.

Dividends

52 weeks to 30 Aug 2025	53 weeks to 31 Aug 2024
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Dividend per share (proposed)	8.55p	7.15p
Dividend per share (paid and recognised)	7.15p	4.50p

The Board is proposing a final ordinary dividend of 3.80p per share (FY2024: 3.40p per share). The proposed final dividend is subject to approval by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting on 29 January 2026 and has not been included as a liability in these accounts. The Board is also proposing a special dividend of 3.0p per share. These dividend recommendations follow the capital allocation policy which was revised following the Company's refinancing in May 2024.

The proposed dividends will each be paid on 5 February 2026 to shareholders on the register at close of business on 9 January 2026. The ex-dividend date will be 8 January 2026.

Adjusting items

£m	52 weeks to 30 Aug 2025	53 weeks to 31 Aug 2024
Tuffnells (costs)/credits	(0.8)	0.2
Technology transformation costs	(0.7)	(0.1)
Network and reorganisation costs	(0.1)	(0.1)
Impairment reversal in investment in joint ventures	-	0.3
Impairment reversal on receivables - McColl's	3.7	0.6
Total before tax	2.1	0.9
Taxation	(0.8)	(0.1)
Total after taxation	1.3	0.8

Adjusting items after tax was a net credit of £1.3m, compared to a net credit of £0.8m in the prior year period, both periods including a release of the provision for McColl's receivables originally made in FY2022.

Tuffnells costs of £0.8m arose from professional fees incurred in responding to information requests from the Pensions Regulator in respect of its investigation into the Tuffnells defined benefit pension scheme (£0.7m), and an increase in provisions to settle insurance claims (£0.1m). Technology transformation costs of £0.7m related to enhancements made to technology infrastructure, and £0.1m of costs arose from simplifying the Group structure. The Company also recognised a £3.7m impairment reversal of the provision for McColl's receivables following final recoveries from the administrator. In total, the Company received £5.4m from the administrator, being 98% of the £5.5m receivable which was owing at the point of McColl's administration. Of the initial provision of £4.4m, £4.3m has therefore been released (£0.6m in FY2024 and £3.7m in FY2025).

In the prior period, the Company also reversed the remaining impairment held on the Rascal joint venture of £0.3m and released insurance provisions made following Tuffnells entering into administration of £0.2m. These credits were partially offset by £0.1m of reorganisation costs in relation to simplifying the Group structure and £0.1m in respect of technology transformation costs.

Further information on these items can be found in Note 3 to the Group Financial Statements. Adjusting items are defined in the Glossary to the Group Financial Statements and present a further measure of the Company's performance. Excluding these items from profit metrics provides readers with helpful additional information on the performance of the business across periods because it is consistent with how the business performance is planned by, and reported to, the Board and the Executive Team. Alternative Performance Measures (APMs) should be considered in addition to, and are not intended to be a substitute for, or superior to, IFRS measurements.

Free cash flow

£m	52 weeks to 30 Aug 2025	53 weeks to 31 Aug 2024
Adjusted operating profit	39.1	39.1
Depreciation and amortisation	9.5	8.5
Adjusted EBITDA	48.6	47.6
Working capital movements	4.1	(17.0)
Capital expenditure	(4.5)	(4.4)
Lease payments	(6.5)	(5.9)
Net interest and fees	(3.2)	(5.0)
Taxation	(8.8)	(8.5)
Other	1.3	0.9
Free cash flow (excluding Adjusting items)	31.0	7.7
Adjusting items (cash effect)	5.1	(0.4)
Free cash flow	36.1	7.3

Free cash flow of £36.1m (FY2024: £7.3m) was £28.8m higher than last year in part due to the impact of the 53rd week in FY2024, which was a net outflow of £15.7m and the benefit of £5.1m of adjusting items in FY2025 which included £5.4m of cash received from the McColl's administrator.

There was a working capital inflow of £4.1m in FY2025 and an outflow of £17.0m in FY2024. The FY2025 inflow arose from increased collectables trading in the second half of the year, while the FY2024 outflow related to payments made to publishers in the 53rd week and part of the Company's normal working capital cycle at the end of the calendar month.

Capital expenditure in the period was £4.5m (FY2024: £4.4m), an increase of £0.1m and including £1.2m of spend relating to the Company's three-year investment programme.

Lease payments of £6.5m (FY2024: £5.9m) increased by £0.6m, driven by rent renewals.

Net interest and fees of £3.2m (FY2024: £5.0m) decreased by £1.8m, due to lower net debt.

Cash tax outflow of £8.8m (FY2024: £8.5m) was an increase on the prior period of £0.3m, owing to higher levels of profit.

Other items include non-cash share-based payment expense.

The total cash impact of other Adjusting items was a net inflow of £5.1m (FY2024: outflow of £0.4m).

In the current period, there were two significant inflows; £5.4m was received from the McColls administrators, and a £1.5m tax refund in respect of the return of surplus of the Smiths News pension scheme which occurred in FY2022. Offsetting these items were £0.8m of professional fees in respect of the Pensions Regulator's investigation into the Tuffnells pension scheme, £0.7m relating to technology investments, £0.2m settlement of Tuffnells insurance claims and reorganisation costs of £0.1m.

In the prior period, the outflow of £0.4m resulted from the £0.2m settlement of Tuffnells insurance claims, technology investment of £0.1m, and reorganisation costs of £0.1m.

A reconciliation of free cash flow to the net movement in cash and cash equivalents is given in the Glossary.

Net cash/debt

£m	As at 30 August 2025	As at 31 August 2024
Opening Bank Net Debt	(11.0)	(4.2)
Free cash flow	36.1	7.3
Dividend paid	(17.4)	(10.8)
Purchase of shares and cash held by employee benefit trust	(4.4)	(3.3)
Closing Bank Net Cash/(Debt)	3.3	(11.0)

Bank net cash closed the year at £3.3m compared to Bank net debt of £11.0m at 31 August 2024, an improvement of £14.3m.

Average daily bank net debt moved from £11.7m (net debt) in the prior period to average Bank net cash of £3.3m in the current period, reflecting good ongoing cash generation and benefitting from increased collectables trading within the working capital cycle.

Total dividends paid during the year amounted to £17.4m (FY2024: £10.8m), an increase of £6.6m. The FY2024 final ordinary dividend of £8.3m was paid in February 2025 (FY2024: £6.7m), alongside a special dividend of £4.9m, bringing the total dividend paid in respect of FY2024 to £17.4m. The Company also paid an interim ordinary dividend in July 2025 of £4.2m (FY2024: £4.2m).

Reported net debt is impacted by the timing of the Company's working capital cycle. The intra-month working capital cash flow cycle generates a routine and predictable cash swing within the overall bank facility of £40.0m (FY2024: £40.0m) at the period end. This results in a predictable fluctuation of net debt during the month compared to the closing net debt position.

The Company's Bank net cash: Bank EBITDA ratio improved to -0.1x (FY2024: Debt ratio of +0.3x) which is within our main leverage covenant ratio of +2.5x. We remain within all our other bank covenant tests at period end.

A reconciliation of Bank net debt (which excludes IFRS 16 lease liabilities and unamortised arrangement fees) to the balance sheet and Bank EBITDA (which uses pre-IFRS16 lease accounting) to the profit and loss account is provided in the Glossary.

PRINCIPAL AND EMERGING RISKS

Principal Risks

During FY2025 the Board and Audit Committee each continued to undertake an ongoing assessment of the principal and emerging risks, the Board having considered the performance of the business, its markets, the changing regulatory and macroeconomic landscape, the Company's future strategic direction and ambition as well as the heightened climate-related risk environment. In addition, in evaluating the Company's risk management and internal control processes, the Audit Committee has considered both internal and external audit reports and received confirmation from management that the Company's control frameworks have operated satisfactorily. The sustainable development risks considered throughout our business have been reviewed by the Sustainability Committee. The directors are therefore of the view that they have carried out a robust assessment of the Company's emerging and principal risks, including those that could threaten its business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity.

Emerging Risks

Emerging risks are identified as either a new or previously unforeseen risk that we are now adding to our risk registers or a risk that was already on our radar and which has the potential to become a principal risk. Most risks identified as emerging are already reflected on our functional risk registers with a current risk rating of 'serious likelihood' or above. The Board has noted that in the execution of its growth and diversification strategy, new emerging risks have been identified. These emerging risks are managed through mitigating activities, such that the residual risk exposure is not considered significant. All new initiatives are planned in detail, with contingency and BCP plans in place and ongoing reviews conducted to evaluate the project execution against the original plan and to identify lessons learnt. We will continue to monitor potential risks relating to our growth and diversification strategy in the year ahead.

Key Changes in the Year

In line with our usual procedures, a refresh of the Company's principal and emerging risks was conducted at the half and full year, taking into account changes in our business practices, our industry sector, the development of our three growth verticals and any other market changes across our business and industry sector, together with the increasing relevance of climate-related risks and cyber security incidents across all sectors and industries (in relation to the former, considering both transitional and physical-related risks to both our business and through our supply chain). This broad review was conducted through discussion with a cross-section of the Executive Leadership Team, senior management and the Audit Committee, who were each asked to consider the key risks (both in place and emerging) and the challenges facing the business (by reference to the existing principal risks), our current activities and controls that help address these risks, and future actions that may be taken to further mitigate these risks (where appropriate). The opportunity to review and refresh the Company's principal and emerging risks has resulted in all but one of our identified principal risks remaining stable, with a reduction in the acquisition and retention of labour risk in light of vacancies (internally and amongst the outsourced final mile delivery contractors) having stabilised at a consistently lower level each month and our colleague turnover comparing favourably versus our sector. Following this review, there remains a general alignment around the nature of risks, the risk ownership, the direction of travel, any mitigation actions to reduce the gross risk, and acceptance of remaining net risk.

In light of the above, we have therefore been able to maintain a stable number of principal risks but with a reduction in the number of emerging risks identified by the Board given that those events previously identified as emerging were, in fact, already broadly under review either as part of another principal or emerging risk.

The table below details each principal business risk, those aspects that would be impacted were the risk to materialise, our assessment of the current status of the risk and how each is mitigated.

Principal risks and potential impact	Mitigations	Strategic link/ change
1. Cyber security		
Global trends demonstrate a continued high volume of cyber-attacks against all industry sectors and that cyber threats continue to indiscriminately evolve. To meet the needs of our stakeholders, our IT infrastructure and data processes need to be flexible, reliable and secure from cyber attacks. Secure infrastructure acts as a deterrent to, and helps prevent and/or mitigate the impact of, external cyber-attack, internal threat or supplier-related breach, which could cause service interruption and/or the loss of Company and customer data. Cyber incidents could lead to major adverse customer, financial, reputational and regulatory impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defined risk-based approach to the information security roadmap and technology strategy which is aligned to the strategic plans. Regular tracking of key programmes against spend targets and delivery dates. The Company assesses cyber risk on a day-to-day basis, using proactive and reactive information security controls to detect and mitigate common threats. Dedicated investments in information security and access to third-party cyber security experts, including 24/7 security monitoring, advanced AI-driven threat detection and managed incident response, endpoint protection platforms and specialist testing. The Company encourages a cyber-aware culture by undertaking exercises, such as computer-based training and simulated phishing attacks and regular communications about specific cyber threats. All functions that place reliance on business systems have established business continuity plans that set out how to conduct key activities if a system interruption takes place due to a disruptive event such as a cyber-attack. 	<p>Strategic link: Technology</p> <p>Change: Stable - despite ongoing investment and enhancements in the Company's IT infrastructure and IT security - the backdrop remains heightened, leading to stable risk assessment.</p>
2. Macro-economic uncertainty		
Deterioration in the macro-economic environment could result in supply-side cost inflation and/or a reduction in demand-side sales volumes. Supply-side macro-economic pressures could present the Company with additional cost challenges, e.g. increased competition in the distribution labour market and/or rises in fuel and utility prices. Adverse changes to economic conditions could result in reduced consumer demand for newspapers and magazines and/or reduction in titles/editions. These cost increases and sales pressures present a risk when they cannot be fully mitigated through increased prices or other productivity gains. This could result in deterioration in the level of profitability in both the short and medium term and impacts on the Company's ability to execute its strategies,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual budgets and forecasts take into account the current macro-economic environment to set expectations internally and externally, allowing for, or changing, objectives to meet short- and medium-term financial targets. Weekly cost monitoring enables oversight and action on a timely basis. Cover price increases in magazine and newspaper titles provide some offset against the impact of volume decline. Predictable level of volume decline within the core business enables cost optimisation planning. Use of fixed-term contracts as a hedge against rapidly rising prices e.g. energy costs. The Company continues to be significantly cash generating to support its strategic priorities. 	<p>Strategic link: Cost and efficiencies, Operations</p> <p>Change: Stable - whilst the UK economy has grown in 2025, inflation remains above the Bank of England's target range. Increases in the National Living Wage continue to match or exceed inflation. Employers' national insurance contributions increased in April 2025 and have</p>

including level of debt and liquidity objectives.		added to the Company's cost base. The tightening of standards pursuant to the Employment Rights Bill is expected to create further cost pressures.
3. Changes to retailers' commercial environment		
Our largest retailers (e.g. grocers and symbol group members) remain under significant pressure to maximise sales and profitability by channel within their retail stores and at associated sale outlets, such as at petrol forecourt stores. This could result at any time in a category review of the newspaper and/or magazine channel, leading to a significant reduction in newspapers' and/or magazines' selling space-in-store (or its location) in favour of other higher margin products and/or the delisting of all/particular titles of newspapers and/or magazines. A reduction in (or change in location of) sales space and/or full delisting of newspapers and/or magazines by our largest retailers (or a high number of other retailers) could materially reduce the Company's revenue, profitability and cash flow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our EPoS-based returns (EBR) solution has been introduced in-store with our largest retailers, improving staff efficiency in managing the magazine category, thereby reducing cost to the retailer. Potential to extend EBR to newspapers in order to broaden efficiency-benefits to retailers. Supply-side shrink activities underway and renewed focus improve channel profitability and reduce complexity associated with the category. Form stronger partnerships with emerging retailers to stock magazines and newspapers. Expand retail offering to include single copy digital downloads of newspapers and/or magazines to supplement physical print and category range in-store. 	<p>Strategic link: Cost and efficiencies</p> <p>Change: Stable</p>
4. Acquisition and retention of labour		
Due to competition and constraints in the current distribution labour market, this could lead to an increased risk of being unable to recruit and/or retain warehouse colleagues and support staff. The same pressures are also being felt in sourcing and retaining delivery sub-contractors as well as filling in-house roles within our central support functions. A failure to maintain an appropriate level of resourcing could result in increased costs, employee disengagement and/or loss of management focus which underpin our ability to address the strategic priorities and to deliver forecasted performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We seek to offer market competitive terms to ensure talent remains engaged. We offer long-term contracts with our sub-contracted delivery partners. We use a variety of platforms to recruit employees and contractors. The level of vacancies across warehouse and delivery contractors is monitored daily. We undertake workforce planning; performance, talent and succession initiatives; learning and development programmes; and promote the Company's culture and core values. Retention plans are reviewed to address key risk areas, and attrition across the business is regularly monitored. Regular surveys are undertaken to monitor the engagement of colleagues. 	<p>Strategic link: People first, Culture and values, Cost and efficiencies</p> <p>Change: Reducing - vacancies have stabilised at a consistently lower level each month and our colleague turnover compares favourably with our sector. Retention challenges remain for specific job roles which are managed through agile and bespoke responses.</p>
5. Execution risk within the 3 growth verticals		
A successful growth and diversification strategy is essential to the long-term success of the Company. Implementing new business opportunities in order to grow the Company's revenue and profit streams carries an execution risk to achieving our vision and purpose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong project management and governance in place to sign-off new vertical activities and oversee their implementation. A Growth Business Development Group and Growth Operations Delivery Steering Committee have been established to review and control new business opportunities and then plan and measure the impact of these opportunities on core operations. Experimentation through trials of new business opportunities has been deployed to assess the demand and potential economic benefit of such opportunities. The Executive Leadership Team's balanced scorecard of key performance indicators ensures sub-optimal performance is tracked and monitored on a regular basis and allows appropriate interventions to be made. 	<p>Strategic link: Cost and efficiencies</p> <p>Change: Stable - our growth verticals' initiatives are expected to become a more significant part of our business over time, leading to space and capacity constraints at both our sites and in our vehicles potentially increasing. In addition, layering in of change projects such as our investment in a Warehouse Management System and the Operational Excellence programme may</p>

		create management bandwidth and operational pressures in the short-term before improvements become evident.
6. Sustainability and climate change - for details of all Sustainability and climate-related risks please refer also to the Sustainability Report in the Annual Report for 2025.		
Our sustainability linked risks extend beyond the physical and transitional risks associated with climate change which we have previously identified, such as a scarcity of resources, extreme weather events, power outages, increasing regulation and associated cost in response to a drive to 'net zero' carbon emissions and the increasingly stringent air quality emission zones. Regulatory requirements and reporting obligations on environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters are increasing and ongoing investment is required to maintain a safe working environment and to protect the Company from cyber-attacks, as well as making progress in delivering on our diversity and inclusion ambitions. In common with all major organisations, there is a risk of reputational damage and/or loss of revenue if the Company fails to meet stakeholder expectations across our sustainability framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Sustainability Committee established (Chaired by the Chief Financial Officer) to consider and determine the Company's sustainability strategy and progress, together with risk environment and activities and actions. Dedicated management Sustainability Steering Committee established (also chaired by the Chief Financial Officer) coordinates the Company's day-to-day activities and actions in delivering the Company's sustainability strategy, including in relation to climate change. Working with suppliers to ensure they share the Company's vision to act on sustainability and climate change. Emissions and air quality targets in UK towns and cities are monitored by a central team in the Operations function which ensures the Company can fulfil its obligations to customers and remain compliant with legal requirements. Operational sites are reviewed for their resilience to extreme weather events, such as flooding, with upgrades and interventions made where these are cost-effective. Depots are relocated to new sites (e.g. during lease break windows) where this represents a better option than adapting an existing location. 	<p>Strategic link: Cost and efficiencies, Operations, Sustainability</p> <p>Change: Stable</p>
7. Major newspaper titles exit the market or move to digital-only editions		
Significant decline in advertising and/or circulation, together with rising production costs, could lead to one or more national newspaper titles exiting the market and/or publications being taken fully digital. This could lead to a significant deterioration in the Company's profitability and cash flow in both the short and medium term as well as impacting on its ability to execute its strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We seek to ensure full availability of alternative newspaper titles to maximise substitution opportunities for customers. Partial mitigation against newspaper title closures is built into our contracts with major publishers. Ongoing successful execution of our growth and diversification strategy provides longer-term mitigation through alternative profitable revenue streams. 	<p>Strategic link: Cost and efficiencies,</p> <p>Change: Stable</p>
8. Legal and regulatory compliance		
The Company is required to be compliant with all applicable laws and regulations. Failure to adhere to these could result in financial penalties, third party redress, and/or reputational damage. Key areas of legal and regulatory compliance include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDPR Health and Safety Tax compliance Environmental legislation Employment law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in laws and regulations are monitored, with policies and procedures being updated as required. Business-wide mandatory training programmes for higher-risk regulatory areas. External experts are used where applicable. All major policies are reviewed by the Board or Audit Committee on an annual basis. Operational auditing and monitoring systems for higher risk areas. 	<p>Strategic link: Technology, Sustainability, Operations</p> <p>Change: Stable</p>

The Audit Committee believes that it has been able to respond quickly and efficiently to the ever-evolving risk environment that the business regularly faces head on and have deployed effective risk management processes across the Company. Accordingly, the Audit Committee is satisfied (on behalf of the Board) that it has carried out a robust assessment of the principal and emerging risks that the Company faces (within the scope of the Board's risk appetite) as required by the 2018 edition of the UK Corporate Governance Code.

GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Group Income Statement

for the 52-week period ended 30 August 2025

£m	52-week period ended 30 August 2025				53-week period ended 31 August 2024		
	Note	Adjusted*	Adjusting items	Total	Adjusted*	Adjusting items	Total

Revenue	2	1,064.0	-	1,064.0	1,103.7	-	1,103.7
Cost of sales	2	(988.9)	-	(988.9)	(1,030.5)	-	(1,030.5)
Gross profit		75.1	-	75.1	73.2	-	73.2
Administrative expenses		(35.8)	(1.6)	(37.4)	(33.8)	-	(33.8)
Net impairment (loss)/reversal on trade receivables	13	(0.1)	3.7	3.6	(0.1)	0.6	0.5
Losses from equity accounted joint ventures	11	(0.1)	-	(0.1)	(0.2)	-	(0.2)
Impairment reversal of joint venture investment	11	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.3
Operating profit		39.1	2.1	41.2	39.1	0.9	40.0
Finance costs	5	(3.6)	-	(3.6)	(6.3)	-	(6.3)
Finance income	5	0.3	-	0.3	0.4	-	0.4
Profit before tax		35.8	2.1	37.9	33.2	0.9	34.1
Income tax expense	6	(8.8)	(0.8)	(9.6)	(8.5)	(0.1)	(8.6)
Profit for the period attributable to equity shareholders		27.0	1.3	28.3	24.7	0.8	25.5

Earnings per share			Pence			Pence
Basic	8		11.7			10.6
Diluted	8		11.3			10.2

*This measure is described in Note 1(4) of the accounting policies and the Glossary to the Accounts. Adjusting items are set out in Note 3 to the Group Financial Statements.

Group Statement of Comprehensive Income for the 52-week period ended 30 August 2025

£m	52-week period ended 30 August 2025	53-week period ended 31 August 2024
Items that may be reclassified to the income statement:		
Currency translation differences	-	(0.1)
Items that will not be reclassified to the income statement:		
Tax credit on pension surplus	21	1.5
Other comprehensive result for the period	1.5	(0.1)
Profit for the period	28.3	25.5
Total comprehensive income for the period	29.8	25.4

Group Balance Sheet as at 30 August 2025

£m	Note	At 30 August 2025	At 31 August 2024*
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets	9	2.5	2.4
Property, plant and equipment	10	10.7	9.7
Right-of-use assets	17	29.4	29.5
Interest in equity accounted joint ventures	11	4.6	4.6
Deferred tax assets	18	0.8	1.3
Other non-current assets		0.9	-
		48.9	47.5
Current assets			
Inventories*	12	12.6	18.0
Trade and other receivables*	13	103.4	106.2
Cash and cash equivalents	15	8.2	7.0
Corporation tax receivable		0.9	0.9
		125.1	132.1
Total assets		174.0	179.6
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	14	(127.2)	(128.5)
Lease liabilities	17	(5.6)	(5.5)
Provisions	19	(0.5)	(1.3)
		(133.3)	(135.3)
Non-current liabilities			
Bank loans and other borrowings	15	(1.7)	(17.6)
Lease liabilities	17	(24.9)	(25.4)
Provisions	19	(4.6)	(4.6)
		(31.2)	(47.6)
Total liabilities		(164.5)	(182.9)
Total net assets/(liabilities)		9.5	(3.3)

Equity

Called-up share capital	202.4	199.4	199.4
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Called up share capital	22(a)	12.4	12.4
Share premium account	22(c)	60.5	60.5
Demerger reserve	23(a)	(280.1)	(280.1)
Own shares reserve	23(b)	(2.9)	(3.7)
Translation reserve	23(c)	0.2	0.2
Retained earnings		219.4	207.4
Total shareholders' funds/(deficit)		9.5	(3.3)

*Comparatives have been restated as detailed in Note 1(26).

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 3 November 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Jonathan Bunting
Chief Executive Officer

Paul Baker
Chief Financial Officer

Registered number - 05195191

Group Statement of Changes in Equity

for the 52-week period ended 30 August 2025

£m	Note	Called up share capital	Share premium account	Demerger reserve	Own shares reserve	Translation reserve	Retained earnings	Total
Balance at 27 August 2023		12.4	60.5	(280.1)	(4.4)	0.4	194.9	(16.3)
Profit for the period		-	-	-	-	-	25.5	25.5
Currency translation differences		-	-	-	-	(0.2)	0.1	(0.1)
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	-	-	-	(0.2)	25.6	25.4
Dividends paid	7	-	-	-	-	-	(10.8)	(10.8)
Employee share scheme purchases		-	-	-	(3.3)	-	-	(3.3)
Employee share scheme awards		-	-	-	4.0	-	(3.2)	0.8
Recognition of share-based payments net of tax		-	-	-	-	-	0.9	0.9
Current tax recognised in equity		-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1
Deferred tax recognised in equity		-	-	-	-	-	(0.1)	(0.1)
Balance at 31 August 2024 and 1 September 2024		12.4	60.5	(280.1)	(3.7)	0.2	207.4	(3.3)
Profit for the period		-	-	-	-	-	28.3	28.3
Tax credit on pension surplus		-	-	-	-	-	1.5	1.5
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	-	-	-	-	29.8	29.8
Dividends paid	7	-	-	-	-	-	(17.4)	(17.4)
Employee share scheme purchases		-	-	-	(1.6)	-	-	(1.6)
Employee share scheme awards		-	-	-	2.4	-	(2.1)	0.3
Recognition of share-based payments net of tax		-	-	-	-	-	1.3	1.3
Current tax recognised in equity		-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Deferred tax recognised in equity		-	-	-	-	-	(0.1)	(0.1)
Balance at 30 August 2025		12.4	60.5	(280.1)	(2.9)	0.2	219.4	9.5

Group Cash Flow Statement

for the 52-week period ended 30 August 2025

£m	Note	52-week period ended 30 August 2025	53-week period ended 31 August 2024
Net cash inflow from operating activities	21	49.4	22.4
Investing activities			
Dividends received from joint ventures	11	0.2	0.2
Purchase of intangible assets	9	(0.6)	(1.0)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	10	(3.9)	(3.4)
Interest received		0.2	0.4
Net cash used in investing activities		(4.1)	(3.8)
Financing activities			
Interest paid		(3.2)	(4.9)
Dividend paid	7	(17.4)	(10.8)
Repayments of lease principal		(6.5)	(5.9)
Repayment of term loan		-	(41.5)
Net (decrease)/increase in revolving credit facility	15	(15.9)	17.5
Purchase of own shares by Employee Benefit Trust		(1.6)	(3.3)
Proceeds from exercise of share purchase options		0.5	-
Net cash used in financing activities		(44.1)	(48.9)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		1.2	(30.3)
Opening net cash and cash equivalents		7.0	37.3

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting policies

(1) Basis of consolidation

Smiths News plc ('the Company') is a company incorporated in England, UK under the Companies Act 2006. The Group accounts for the 52-week period ended 30 August 2025 comprise the Company and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the 'Group') and the Group's interests in joint ventures. Subsidiary undertakings are included in the Group Accounts from the date on which control is obtained. They are deconsolidated from the date on which control ceases. All significant subsidiary accounts are made up to 30 August 2025 and are included in the Group Accounts. Unless otherwise noted references to 2024 and 2025 relate to a 53-week period ended 31 August 2024 and the 52-week period ended 30 August 2025 as opposed to calendar year.

The Accounts were authorised for issue by the directors on 3 November 2024.

(2) Accounting basis of preparation

The financial information contained within this preliminary announcement for the 52 weeks to 30 August 2025 and the 53 weeks to 31 August 2024 does not comprise statutory financial statements for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006 but is derived from those statements. The statutory accounts for Smiths News PLC for the 53 weeks to 31 August 2024 have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and those for the 52 weeks to 30 August 2025 will be filed following the Company's annual general meeting. The auditor's reports on the accounts for both the 52 weeks to 30 August 2025 and the 53 weeks to 31 August 2024 were unqualified, did not draw attention to any matters by way of emphasis, and did not include a statement under Section 498 (2) or (3) of the Companies Act 2006. The Annual Report and Accounts will be available for shareholders in December 2025.

The Accounts are prepared on the historical cost basis and are presented in Pound Sterling and rounded to £0.1m, except where otherwise indicated.

The Group Accounts have been prepared in accordance with UK-adopted International Accounting Standards (IFRS) in conformity with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Intra-group balances and unrealised gains and losses or income and expenses arising from intra-group transactions are eliminated in preparing the Group Accounts. Unrealised gains and losses arising from transactions with joint ventures are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in these entities.

(3) Going concern

The Group accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

When assessing the going concern of the Group, the directors have reviewed the period-to-date financial actuals, as well as detailed financial forecasts for the period up to 27 February 2027, the Company's interim reporting date for FY2027, the going concern period.

The Group currently has a net asset position of £9.5m as at 30 August 2025. All bank covenant tests were met at the balance sheet date. The key Bank Net (Cash)/Debt: Bank EBITDA ratio of (0.1)x was below the covenant test threshold of 2.5x.

The intra-month working capital cash flow cycle at Smiths News generates a routine and predictable cash swing and therefore a predictable fluctuation in Bank Net Debt during the course of the month compared to the closing Bank Net Debt position. The Group's average daily Bank Net Cash during the period was £3.3m (2024: £11.7m Bank Net Debt). The Company utilises a Revolving Credit Facility (RCF) to manage the cash swing. At the balance sheet date, £36.4m of the RCF was available and the Company had £5.4m of cash on hand giving headroom of £41.8m. Additionally the Group held £2.8m in the EBT for the purpose of purchasing own shares.

3i) Bank facility

The Group's banking facility comprises an RCF of £40.0m and an uncommitted accordion facility of £10.0m. The RCF is available less committed letters of credit amounting to £1.5m (see Note 15). The agreement is with HSBC and Santander.

The facility's current margin is 2.45% per annum over SONIA and has a final maturity date of 2 May 2028, following the extension exercised on the facility's first anniversary, and with the option of a one-year extension with lender consent on the second anniversary.

3ii) Reverse stress testing

The Directors have prepared their base case forecast which represents their best estimate of cash flows over the going concern period, and in accordance with FRC guidance have prepared a reverse stress test that identifies either insufficient liquidity or breach of the Bank Net Debt: Bank EBITDA ratio that at peak debt would create a scenario which could lead to the facility being exhausted or becoming repayable on demand, respectively.

A point of insufficient liquidity would occur in February 2027 if EBITDA was 56% below the Board approved three-year plan. The directors consider the likelihood of this level of downturn to be remote based on:

- current trading which is in line with expectations;
- period-on-period declines in revenues would have to be significantly greater than historical trends;
- 93% of contracts secured with publishers to 2029; and
- the Company continues to trade with adequate profit to service its debt covenants.

3iii) Mitigating actions

In the event the break environment scenario went from being remote to possible then management would seek to take mitigating actions to maintain liquidity and compliance with the bank facility covenants. The options within the control of management would be to:

- Optimise liquidity by working capital management of the peak-to-trough intra-month movement. Utilising existing vendor management finance arrangements;
- Utilise arrangements with retailers and optimise contractual payment cycles to suppliers which would improve liquidity headroom;
- Not pay planned dividend payments;
- Delay non-essential capex projects;
- Cancel discretionary annual bonus payments;
- Increase the principal facility amount by exercising the £10m accordion option in the RCF Facility; and
- Identify other overhead and depot savings.

More extreme mitigating actions would also be available if the scenario arose.

The Company has vendor finance arrangements in place where it has the ability to request early payment of invoices at a small discount, the payments are non-recourse and the invoices are considered settled from both sides once payment is received. The Company has not made use of this facility in the current or prior periods, nor since the balance sheet date.

3iv) Assessment

Having considered the above and the funding requirements of the Group and Company, the directors are confident that headroom under the bank facility remains adequate, future covenant tests can be met and there is a reasonable expectation that the business can meet its liabilities as they fall due for a period of greater than 12 months (being an assessment period of 16 months) from the date of approval of the Group Financial Statements. For this reason, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements and no material uncertainty has been identified.

(4) Alternate performance measures

In reporting financial information, the Group presents alternative performance measures (APMs), which are not defined or specified under the requirements of IFRS.

The Group believes that these APMs (listed in the Glossary), are not considered to be a substitute for, or superior to, IFRS measures but provide stakeholders with additional helpful information on the performance of the business. These APMs are consistent with how the business performance is planned and reported to the Board and Executive Leadership Team.

The APMs do not have standardised meaning prescribed by IFRS and therefore may not be directly comparable to similar measures presented by other companies.

(5) Estimates and judgements

The preparation of these accounts requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expense. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Key accounting judgements

The significant judgements made in the accounts are:

Revenue recognition

The Group recognises the wholesale sales price for its sales of newspapers and magazines. The Group is considered to be the principal based on the following indicators of control over its inventory: discretion to establish prices; it holds some of the risk of obsolescence once in control of the inventory on returns; and has the responsibility of fulfilling the performance obligation on delivery of inventory to its customers. If the Group were considered to be the agent, revenue and cost of sales would reduce by £898.2m (2024: £937.3m).

Adjusting items

Adjusting items of income or expense are excluded in arriving at adjusted operating profit to present a further measure of the Group's performance. Each adjusting item is considered to be significant in nature and/or quantum, non-recurring in nature and/or considered to be unrelated to the Group's ordinary activities or consistent with items treated as adjusting in prior periods. Excluding these items from profit metrics provides readers with helpful additional information on the performance of the business across periods because it is consistent with how the business performance is planned by, and reported to, the Board and the Executive Leadership Team.

The classification of adjusting items requires significant management judgement in considering the nature and intentions of a transaction. Adjusted measures are defined with other APMs in the Glossary.

Based on the nature of the transactions, adjusting items after tax was a credit of £1.3m (2024: credit of £0.8m) and a breakdown is included within Note 3.

Contingent liabilities

During the period the Group has responded to information requests from the Pensions Regulator in respect of its investigation relating to the Tuffnells defined benefit pension scheme and the Company's former period of ownership of Tuffnells. Management has, supported by external legal advice, applied judgement in concluding the matter to be disclosed as a contingent liability, with further details included in Note 20.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period that may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next period are as follows.

Property provision

The Group holds a provision which estimates the future liabilities to restore leased premises to an agreed standard at the date the lease is terminated. The provision is calculated using assumptions which include the length of time properties will be occupied, the discount rate applied, inflation and the future costs of restoration and the condition of the property at the end of occupation.

A change in any of these assumptions could materially impact the provision balance. Refer to Note 19 for further details on the sensitivity of the assumptions used to calculate the property provision. The property provision's carrying value at the balance sheet date was £4.6m (2024: £5.2m).

(6) Revenue

Revenue from wholesale distribution

Revenue from wholesale distribution is recognised when products and services have been delivered to and received by customers and there is no unfulfilled obligation that could affect the customer's acceptance of the products or services.

Revenue is earned from the wholesale of products, from charges for services, being the sortation, delivery, merchandising and return of products, and from the sale of recyclable returns waste. Products sold and handled are principally newspapers, magazines and collectables, but also include other items such as books and greeting cards. Certain products are sold to retailers on a sale or return basis and estimation is made of the expected returns as outlined further below.

Other revenue

Other revenue includes income from services to collect recyclate waste from customers, the short-term use of storage and space in depots and management fees for support provided to third parties.

Returns reserve

Sale of wholesale products are typically made on a sale or return basis, the Group estimates a value of expected returns from retailers. Likewise, as the

publishers are required to provide the Group with credit for any purchase returns, so a purchase returns reserve is also required. The key estimates used in

calculating the period end reserve are rates of returns (based on historical trends), average shelf life of the product types and average margin of each product

type. These estimates are similarly applied to calculate the credit for purchase returns.

Revenue for goods supplied with a right of return is stated net of the value of any returns. Newspapers and magazines are often sold with retrospective volume discounts based on aggregate net sales. Revenue from these sales is recognised based on the price specified in the contract, net of the estimated volume discounts. Accumulated experience is used to estimate and provide for the discount and returns, using the expected value method, and revenue is only recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal will not occur. A returns reserve accrual and discount accrual (included in trade and other payables) is recognised for expected volume discounts and refunds payable to customers in relation to sales made until the end of the reporting period. A right to the returned goods (included in other debtors) is recognised for the products expected to be returned.

No element of financing is deemed present because the sales are made with short credit terms, which is consistent with market practice.

A receivable is recognised when the goods are delivered, since this is the point in time that the consideration is unconditional because only the passage of time is required before the payment is due.

(7) Cost of sales and gross profit

The Group considers cost of sales to equate to cost of inventories recognised as an expense and distribution costs as these are considered to represent for the Group direct costs of making a sale.

Gross profit is equal revenue less cost of sales.

(8) Taxation

Tax on the profit or loss for the period comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the income statement, except to the extent it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. Current tax is the expected tax payable based on the taxable profit for the period, using tax rates enacted, or substantively enacted, at the balance sheet date and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous periods.

Deferred tax is provided on the balance sheet using the liability method with temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes recorded as a deferred tax asset or liability.

The amount of deferred tax provided is calculated using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date that are expected to apply when the related deferred tax asset is realised or the deferred tax liability is settled. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which these temporary differences can be realised.

(9) Segmental reporting

The Board is responsible for allocating resources and assessing the performance of the business and is therefore identified as the chief operating decision maker.

The Group has determined that it has one reportable segment identified as Smiths News, a UK market-leading distributor of newspapers, magazines and ancillary products and services to retailers across the UK. The performance of Smiths News is reviewed, on a monthly basis, by the Board, making decisions based on the Group as whole.

Included in revenues arising from Smiths News are revenues of £100.3m (2024: £100.5m) which arose from sales to the Group's largest customer. Three other customers contributed 13.1% (2024: 13.9%) of the Group's revenue in the period.

No segmental analysis is required on geographical lines as substantially all of the Group's activities are in the United Kingdom. As a result, no segmental disclosure is provided.

(10) Dividends

Interim and final dividends are recognised in the financial statements in the period in which they are declared.

(11) Capitalisation of internally generated development costs

Expenditure on developed software is capitalised when the Group is able to demonstrate all of the following:

- the technical feasibility of the resulting asset;
- the ability (and intention) to complete the development and use it;
- how the asset will generate probable future economic benefits;
- adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and to use the software are available; and
- the ability to measure reliably the expenditure attributable to the asset during its development.

Software costs are also capitalised if they can be hosted on another server, are portable and the Group has sole rights to the software. Subsequent to initial recognition, internally generated intangible assets are reported at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses, on the same basis as intangible assets that are acquired separately. Software costs provided on a licence agreement (software-as-a-service) are expensed as incurred.

(12) Interests in joint ventures

The Group Financial Statements include the Group's share of the total recognised gains and losses in its joint ventures on an equity accounted basis.

Investments in equity accounted joint ventures are carried in the balance sheet at cost adjusted by post-acquisition changes in the Group's share of the net assets of the joint ventures, less any impairment losses. The carrying values of investments in joint ventures include acquired goodwill. Losses in joint ventures that are in excess of the Group's interest are recognised only to the extent that the Group has incurred legal or constructive obligations or made payments on behalf of the joint venture.

(13) Business combinations - goodwill and intangibles

The Group uses the acquisition method of accounting to account for business combinations. The cost of an acquisition is measured at the fair value of the assets given, equity instruments issued, liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange. Acquisition-related costs are recognised in profit or loss as incurred. Any deferred or contingent purchase consideration is recognised at fair value over the period of entitlement.

Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured, initially, at their fair values at the acquisition date, irrespective of the extent of any non-controlling interest.

Goodwill arising on all acquisitions is initially recognised as an asset at cost and is subsequently measured at cost and accumulated impairment losses.

The carrying value of goodwill is reviewed annually for impairment or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Intangible assets arising under a business combination (acquired intangibles) are capitalised at fair value as determined at the date of exchange and are stated at fair value less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Amortisation of acquired intangibles is charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives as follows:

Customer relationships	- 2.5 to 7.5 years
Trade name	- 5 to 10 years
Software and development costs	- 3 to 7 years

Computer software and internally generated development costs which are not integral to the related hardware are capitalised separately as an intangible asset and stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses.

All intangible assets are reviewed for impairment when there are indications that the carrying value may be higher than its recoverable value. The recoverable value used is the value in use. The value in use is determined by estimating the future cash inflows and outflows to be derived from continuous use of the asset and applying the appropriate discount rate to those future cash flows. Where the carrying value is higher than the calculated value in use, an impairment loss will be recognised.

(14) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any recognised impairment losses. No depreciation has been charged on freehold land. Other assets are depreciated, to a residual value, on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Freehold and long-term leasehold properties	- over 20 years
Short-term leasehold properties	- shorter of the lease period and the estimated remaining economic life
Fixtures and fittings	- 3 to 15 years

Equipment and vehicles - 2 to 12 years
All property, plant and equipment is reviewed for impairment when there are indications that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

(15) Leasing

Leases are recognised as a right-of-use asset and a corresponding liability at the date at which the leased asset is available for use by the Group.

Assets and liabilities arising from a lease are initially measured on a present value basis. Lease liabilities include the net present value of the following lease payments:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable;
- variable lease payments that are based on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- 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; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising that option.

Lease payments to be made under reasonably certain extension options are also included in the measurement of the liability.

The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, which is generally the case for leases in the Group, the lessee's incremental borrowing rate is used, being the rate that the individual lessee 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.

To determine the incremental borrowing rate, the Group:

- where possible, uses recent third-party financing received by the individual lessee as a starting point, adjusted to reflect changes in financing conditions since third-party financing was received;
- makes adjustments specific to the lease where applicable, for example with regards to the term and security.

The Group is exposed to potential future increases in variable lease payments 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.

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

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

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

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis unless the lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset to the lessee, to which depreciation is over the useful life of the underlying asset. If the Group is reasonably certain to exercise a purchase option, the right-of-use asset is depreciated over the underlying asset's useful life.

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 profit or loss. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less. Low-value assets comprise IT equipment and small items of office furniture.

Extension and termination options

Extension and termination options are included in a number of property and equipment leases across the Group. These are used to maximise operational flexibility in terms of managing the assets used in the Group's operations. The majority of extension and termination options held are exercisable only by the Group and not by the respective lessor.

Modifications

When the Group revises its estimate of the term of any lease (because, for example, it re-assesses the probability of a lessee extension or termination option being exercised), it adjusts the carrying amount of the lease liability to reflect the payments to make over the revised term, which are discounted using a revised discount rate. The carrying value of lease liabilities is similarly revised when the variable element of future lease payments dependent on a rate or index is revised, except the discount rate remains unchanged. In both cases an equivalent adjustment is made to the carrying value of the right-of-use asset, with the revised carrying amount being amortised over the remaining (revised) lease term. If the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset is adjusted to zero, any further reduction is recognised in profit or loss.

(16) Inventories

Inventories comprise goods held for resale and are stated at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Inventories are recorded at purchase cost.

(17) Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised on the Group's balance sheet when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. The Group derecognises financial assets and liabilities only when the contractual rights and obligations are transferred, discharged or expire.

Financial assets comprise trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents. Financial liabilities comprise trade payables, financing liabilities and bank borrowings.

(18) Financial assets

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured subsequently at fair value (either through profit or loss (FVTPL) or through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)); and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on the entity's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

Trade receivables

Trade receivables are initially measured at fair value, which for trade receivables is equal to the consideration expected to be received from the satisfaction of performance obligations, plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition these assets are measured at amortised cost less any provision for impairment losses including expected credit losses. The Group applies the simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for all trade receivables. To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics such as the ageing of the debt and the credit risk of the customers. An historical credit loss rate is then calculated for each group and then adjusted to reflect expectations about future credit losses. The Group does not have any contract assets.

Classification as trade receivables

Trade receivables are amounts due from customers for goods sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. They are generally due for settlement within 30 days and are therefore all classified as current. The Group holds trade receivables with the objective of collecting the contractual cash flows, and so it measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Details about the Group's impairment policies and the calculation of the loss allowance are provided in Note 13.

Due to the short-term nature of current receivables, their carrying amount is considered to be the same as their fair value.

Other receivables

Other receivables are recognised on trade date, being the date on which the Group has the right to the asset. Other receivables are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the other receivables have expired or have been transferred and the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

At initial recognition, the Group measures other receivables at their fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not held at FVTPL, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial asset. Transaction costs of FVTPL financial assets are expensed in profit or loss.

Subsequent measurement of other receivables depends on the Group's business model for managing the asset and the cash flow characteristics of the asset.

The Group classifies its other receivables at amortised cost.

Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows, where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest, are measured at amortised cost. Interest income from these financial assets is included in finance income using the effective interest rate method. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition is recognised within other gains/(losses). Impairment losses are presented separately in Note 2.

The Group classifies its financial assets at amortised cost when it is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cash flows, and the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

The Group applies the general approach to impairment under IFRS 9 based on significant increases in credit risk rather than the simplified approach for trade receivables using lifetime ECL.

(19) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of the period which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition. Trade and other payables are presented as current liabilities unless payment is not due within 12 months after the reporting period. They are recognised initially at their fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(20) Treasury

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet and cash flow statement comprise cash at bank and in hand, short-term deposits and funds with an original maturity of three months or less, held with the intention to meet short-term cash commitments, and it is subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

BACS and next-day payments are recognised at the settlement date, rather than when they are initiated, to reflect the nature of these transactions.

Cash and cash equivalents includes amounts held by the EBT for the purpose of purchasing own shares.

Financial liabilities and equity

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Group after deducting all of its liabilities. Equity instruments issued are recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs.

Bank borrowings

Interest-bearing bank loans and overdrafts are initially measured at fair value (being proceeds received, net of direct issue costs), and are subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. Finance charges, including premiums payable on settlement or redemptions and direct issue costs, are accounted for on an accruals basis and taken to the income statement using the straight-line method and are added to the carrying value of the instrument to the extent that they are not settled in the period in which they arise.

Modification/derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when there is extinguishment of the original financial liability and recognition of a new financial liability. Equally, significant modification of the terms of the existing financial liability is accounted for as an extinguishment of the original financial liability and recognition of a new financial liability.

Foreign currencies

Financial statements of foreign operations

The assets and liabilities of foreign operations, including goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on acquisition of a foreign entity, are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign entity and are translated at foreign exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date. The revenues and expenses of foreign operations are translated at an average rate for the period where this rate approximates to the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions.

Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the income statement. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are stated at fair value are translated at foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates the fair value was determined.

(21) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are measured at the present value of the directors' best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the balance sheet date and if this amount is capable of being reliably estimated. If such an obligation is not capable of being reliably estimated, no provision is recognised and the item is disclosed as a contingent liability where material. Where the effect is material, the provision is determined by discounting the expected future cash flows.

(22) Retirement benefit costs

Defined contribution schemes

The Group operates two defined contribution schemes for the benefit of its employees. Payments to the Group's schemes are recognised as an expense in the income statement as incurred.

(23) Employee Benefit Trust

The Smiths News Employee Benefit Trust (EBT) purchases and holds shares in the Company from the market to satisfy the demand from the Group's share schemes. The EBT is a separately administered trust that is funded by contributions from Group companies. The assets of the trust comprise shares held in Smiths News plc and cash balances.

The Group consolidates the assets and liabilities of the EBT into the Group Financial Statements as a subsidiary on the basis of control. Where the EBT holds any shares in the Company, these are deducted from equity as 'own shares reserve' until those shares are either cancelled or transferred out of the EBT.

The shares held by the EBT are valued at the historical cost of the shares acquired. This value is deducted in arriving at shareholders' funds and presented as the own share reserve.

(24) Share schemes

Share-based payments

The Group operates several share-based payment schemes, being the Sharesave Scheme, the Executive Share Option Scheme, the LTIP and the Deferred Bonus Plan. Details of these are provided in the Directors' Remuneration report and in Note 24.

Equity-settled share-based schemes are measured at fair value at the date of grant. The fair value is expensed with a corresponding increase in equity on a straight-line basis over the period during which employees become unconditionally entitled to the options. The fair values are calculated using an appropriate option pricing model and are adjusted where a scheme includes market-based performance criteria. The income statement charge is then adjusted to reflect expected and actual levels of vesting based on non-market performance-related criteria.

Administrative expenses and distribution and marketing expenses include the cost of the share-based payment schemes.

(25) Changes in accounting policies

During the period the Group has adopted the following accounting standards and interpretations:

- Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16 Leases);
- Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current (Amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements);
- Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements); and
- Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows and IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures).

The standards and amendments adopted had no impact on the financial statements to prior periods and are not expected to significantly affect the current or future periods.

New standards and interpretations not yet applied

There are a number of standards, amendments to standards, and interpretations which have been issued by the IASB that are effective in future accounting periods that the Group has decided not to adopt early.

IFRS 18 - Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Statements was issued in April 2024 and replaces IAS 1 - Presentation of Financial Statements. The standard sets out new requirements for presentation in the income statement, including specified totals and subtotals, additional guidance on aggregation and disaggregation, and additional required disclosures in respect of management performance measures (which replace alternative performance measures).

The impact of this standard on the Group is currently being assessed. The standard is effective from 1 January 2027 with early adoption permitted.

The Group does not expect any other standards issued by the IASB, but not yet effective, to have a material impact on the Group.

(26) Restatement of comparative information

The prior period balance sheet has been restated to reclassify £4.1m of returned newspapers from inventories to trade and other receivables to correctly reflect the nature of the balance. This has no impact on the net assets, cash flow statement, or income statement. The same reclassification of £4.1m was also required in the 2023 period end balance sheet.

2. Operating profit

Revenue and cost of sales are analysed as follows:

£m	Adjusted	2025 Adjusting items	Total	Adjusted	2024 Adjusting items	Total
Wholesale distribution revenue	1,061.0	-	1,061.0	1,101.1	-	1,101.1
Other revenue	3.0	-	3.0	2.6	-	2.6
Total revenue	1,064.0	-	1,064.0	1,103.7	-	1,103.7
Cost of inventories recognised as an expense	(898.2)	-	(898.2)	(937.3)	-	(937.3)
Distribution costs	(90.7)	-	(90.7)	(93.2)	-	(93.2)
Cost of sales	(988.9)	-	(988.9)	(1,030.5)	-	(1,030.5)
Gross profit	75.1	-	75.1	73.2	-	73.2

Operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):

£m	Note	2025	2024
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	10	2.5	2.2
Amortisation of intangible assets	9	0.5	0.4
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	17	6.5	5.9
Short-term and low-value lease charges on equipment and vehicles		0.6	0.5
Lease rental income - land and buildings		(0.2)	(0.4)
Staff costs (excluding share-based payments)	4	46.6	44.1

Included in administrative expenses are amounts payable by the Company and its subsidiary undertakings in respect of audit and non-audit services which are as follows:

£m	2025	2024
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of the Group and Company's annual accounts - BDO LLP	0.2	0.2
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of the Company's subsidiaries - BDO LLP	0.5	0.5
Total non-audit fees (interim review)	0.1	0.1
Total fees	0.8	0.8

Details of the Company's policies on the use of auditors for non-audit services and how the auditors' independence and

Details of the Company's policy on the use of auditors for non-audit services and how the auditors' independence and objectivity were safeguarded are set out in the Audit Committee Report in the Annual Report 2025.

3. Adjusting items

£m		2025	2024
Tuffnells costs	(a)	(0.8)	0.2
Technology transformation costs	(b)	(0.7)	(0.1)
Network and reorganisation costs	(c)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Administrative expenses		(1.6)	-
Impairment reversal on trade receivables	(d)	3.7	0.6
Impairment reversal of investment in joint ventures	(e)	-	0.3
Total before tax		2.1	0.9
Taxation		(0.8)	(0.1)
Total after taxation		1.3	0.8

The Group recognised a net total adjusting items credit before tax of £2.1m (2024: £0.9m) and net credit of £1.3m (2024: £0.8m) after tax respectively.

Adjusting items are defined in the accounting policies in Note 1 and in the Glossary. In the directors' opinion, removing these items from the adjusted profit provides a relevant analysis of the trading results of the Group because it is consistent with how the business performance is planned by, and reported to, the Board and Executive Team. However, these additional measures are not intended to be a substitute for, or superior to, IFRS measures. They comprise:

Administrative expenses: £1.6m costs (2024: net £nil)

(a) Tuffnells costs: £0.8m (2024: £0.2m credit)

As part of the sale of Tuffnells Parcels Express Limited (Tuffnells) in May 2020, a contractual agreement was put in place in respect of the future treatment and responsibility of certain insurance claims brought or notified to insurers. This agreement extinguished the Group's exposure to new accident and insurance claims brought after the sale of Tuffnells but which related to the Group's period of ownership of Tuffnells up to May 2020.

During the period, a review of provisions was held in respect of all remaining claims held following utilisations in the period and as a result, the provision was increased by £0.1m (2024: reduced by £0.2m), reflecting management's best estimate of remaining claims brought at the period end.

In the period professional fees of £0.7m were incurred in respect of the Group responding to information requests from the Pensions Regulator in respect of its investigation relating to the Tuffnells defined benefit pension scheme and the Company's former period of ownership of Tuffnells. Further details are included in Note 20.

These provisions have been reported as adjusting items on the basis that it relates to a former discontinued operation and is therefore outside the normal course of activity. The cash impact during the period was an outflow of £1.0m (2024: £0.1m) being £0.8m of professional fees and £0.2m (2024: £0.1m) of insurance settlements.

(b) Technology transformation costs: £0.7m (2024: £0.1m)

In the prior period a transformation programme to enhance its technology infrastructure and enable alignment to the Group's updated vision and strategy commenced.

Implementation costs of £0.7m (2024: £0.1m) have been recognised as adjusting items on the basis that the three-year programme is driving a significant change to the Company and largely comprise software-as-a-service arrangements. The cash impact was an outflow of £0.7m (2024: £0.1m).

(c) Network and reorganisation costs: £0.1m (2024: £0.1m)

During the period, an additional £0.1m (2024: £0.1m) of costs were provided for with regards to simplifying the DMD group structure. It is expected that this work will be concluded in the next 12 months.

The cash impact of network and reorganisation was a £0.1m outflow (2024: £0.2m outflow).

(d) Impairment provision on trade receivables: £3.7m credit (2024: £0.6m)

In respect of the administration of McColl's Retail Group during FY2022, at FY2024 a provision of £3.8m was held, in respect of management's best estimate of recovery of 30% of the total claim filed representing a total of £1.7m, as per the issued notification from the administrators.

During the period, £5.4m was recovered from the administrators in final settlement of the claim, which was £3.7m higher than expected, and therefore released and reported as an adjusting item on the same basis as previous impairment losses and reversals recognised during the prior periods. Further details are included in Note 13.

(e) Impairment reversal of investment in joint ventures: £nil (2024: £0.3m reversal)

During the prior period, the Company reviewed the business plan for the Rascal joint venture. As a result of this review, the remaining cumulative impairment of £0.3m was reversed, which has been presented within adjusting items to align to the previous impairment charge, which was significant in both quantum and nature to the results of the Group.

Taxation on adjusting items increased by £0.7m to £0.8m (2024: £0.1m), driven by the release of McColl's provision noted above.

4. Staff costs and employees

The aggregate remuneration of employees (including Executive Directors) was:

£m	2025	2024
Wages and salaries	41.2	39.4
Social security	4.2	3.6
Pension costs	1.2	1.1
Share-based payments expense	1.3	0.9
Total	47.9	45.0

The total average number of employees (including Executive Directors) was:

	2025	2024*
Operations	1,291	1,345
Support functions	121	120
Total	1,412	1,465

*During the period, the average number of employees reported has been updated to better align to the requirements of the Companies Act. Comparatives have been restated as a result.

Defined contribution pension schemes

The Group operates two defined contribution pension schemes. For the 52 weeks ended 30 August 2025, contributions from the respective employing company totalled £1.2m (2024: £1.1m) which is included in the income statement.

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Group pays contributions to an independently administered

fund - such contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employees' pay. The Group has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions to the fund once the contributions have been paid. Members' benefits are determined by the amount of contributions paid by the Company and the member, together with investment returns earned on the contributions arising from the performance of each individual's chosen investments and the type of pension the member chooses to buy at retirement. As a result, actuarial risk (that benefits will be lower than expected) and investment risk (that assets invested in will not perform in line with expectations) fall on the employee.

5. Finance costs and finance income

£m	Note	2025	2024
Interest on bank overdrafts and loans		(0.8)	(2.7)
Amortisation of loan arrangement fees*		(0.2)	(1.4)
Interest payable on leases		(2.4)	(2.0)
Total interest cost on financial liabilities at amortised cost		(3.4)	(6.1)
Unwind of discount on provisions	19	(0.2)	(0.2)
Finance costs		(3.6)	(6.3)
Finance income		0.3	0.4
Net finance costs		(3.3)	(5.9)

*During the prior period £0.8m of unamortised arrangement fees were immediately recognised on derecognition of the previous loan facility.

Finance income comprises interest received on bank deposits.

6. Income tax expense

£m	2025			2024		
	Adjusted	Adjusting items	Total	Adjusted	Adjusting items	Total
Current tax	8.7	0.8	9.5	8.2	0.1	8.3
Adjustment in respect of prior period	(0.3)	-	(0.3)	-	-	-
Total current tax charge	8.4	0.8	9.2	8.2	0.1	8.3
Deferred tax - current period	0.4	-	0.4	0.3	-	0.3
Total tax charge	8.8	0.8	9.6	8.5	0.1	8.6
Effective tax rate	24.6%		25.3%	25.6%		25.2%

The effective adjusted income tax rate in the period was 24.6% (2024: 25.6%). After the impact of tax recognised on adjusting items of £0.8m (2024: £0.1m), the effective statutory income tax rate was 25.3% (2024: 25.2%).

Corporation tax is calculated at the main rate of UK corporation tax of 25% (2024: 25%). The Group has assessed its deferred tax positions using a rate of 25%. Taxation for other jurisdictions was applied using prevailing rates.

The tax charge for the period can be reconciled to the profit in the income statement as follows:

£m	2025	2024
Profit before tax	37.9	34.1
Tax on profit at the standard rate of UK corporation tax	9.5	8.5
Income not subject to tax	-	(0.1)
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	0.4	0.3
Adjustment in respect of prior periods	(0.3)	0.1
Share options	-	(0.2)
Tax charge	9.6	8.6

Amounts recognised directly in equity

A current tax credit of £0.5m (2024: £0.1m) and deferred tax charge of £0.1m (2024: charge of £0.1m) was recognised directly in equity during the period.

Impact of future tax changes

The UK Government enacted legislation on 11 July 2023 to implement the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Pillar Two model rules, including a Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-Up Tax. This legislation ensures that multinational enterprises (MNEs) pay a minimum tax rate of 15% on UK and overseas profits arising after 31 December 2023.

The period ended 30 August 2025 is the first to which these rules apply for the Group, which falls within scope of the legislation due to its UK and international presence and revenue exceeding €750 million. However, as the Group's business is substantially UK-based, and with its international revenues and profits at a de minimis level, there has been no impact on the Group's financial statements for the period.

7. Dividends

Amounts paid and proposed as distributions to equity shareholders in each period is set out below:

Dividends proposed in the period	2025	2024	2025	2024
	Per share	Per share	£m	£m
Interim dividend	1.75p	1.75p	4.2	4.2
Final dividend	3.80p	3.40p	9.2	8.2
Special dividend	3.00p	2.00p	7.3	4.8
	8.55p	7.15p	20.7	17.2
Dividends paid in the period				
Final dividend - prior period	3.40p	2.75p	8.3	6.7
Special dividend - prior period	2.00p	-	4.9	-
Interim dividend - current period	1.75p	1.75p	4.2	4.2
	7.15p	4.50p	17.4	10.8

After the balance sheet date, a final ordinary dividend of 3.80p per share is proposed for the 52 weeks ended 30 August 2025 (53 weeks ended 31 August 2024: 3.40p), alongside a special dividend of 3.00p per share (2024: 2.00p), each of which is expected to be paid on 5 February 2026 to all shareholders who are on the register of members at close of business on 9 January 2026. The ex-dividend date will be 8 January 2026.

8. Earnings per share

2025			2024		
£m	Million	Pence	£m	Million	Pence
Earnings	Weighted	per share	Earnings	Weighted	per share

	average number of shares	snare		average number of shares	snare	
Weighted average number of shares in issue	247.7			247.7		
Shares held by the Employee Benefit Trust (weighted)	(5.3)			(7.4)		
Basic earnings per share (EPS)						
Adjusted earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders	27.0	242.4	11.1	24.7	240.3	10.3
Adjusting items	1.3			0.8		
Earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders	28.3	242.4	11.7	25.5	240.3	10.6
Diluted earnings per share (EPS)						
Effect of dilutive share options		7.8			10.8	
Diluted adjusted EPS	27.0	250.2	10.8	24.7	251.1	9.8
Diluted EPS	28.3	250.2	11.3	25.5	251.1	10.2

Dilutive shares increase the basic number of shares at 30 August 2025 by 7.8m to 250.2m (31 August 2024: by 10.8m to 251.1m). The calculation of diluted EPS reflects the potential dilutive effect of employee incentive schemes.

9. Intangible assets

	Goodwill	Acquired intangibles		Internally generated development costs	Computer software costs	Total
£m		Customer relationships	Trade name			
Cost:						
At 1 September 2024	5.7	2.1	0.2	2.6	2.6	13.2
Additions	-	-	-	0.2	0.4	0.6
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(0.4)	(0.4)
At 30 August 2025	5.7	2.1	0.2	2.8	2.6	13.4
Accumulated amortisation and impairment:						
At 1 September 2024	(5.7)	(2.1)	(0.2)	(0.6)	(2.2)	(10.8)
Amortisation charge	-	-	-	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.5)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	0.4	0.4
At 30 August 2025	(5.7)	(2.1)	(0.2)	(0.9)	(2.0)	(10.9)
Net book value at 30 August 2025	-	-	-	1.9	0.6	2.5
Cost:						
At 27 August 2023	5.7	2.4	0.2	1.8	2.8	12.9
Additions	-	-	-	0.8	0.1	0.9
Disposals	-	(0.3)	-	-	(0.3)	(0.6)
At 31 August 2024	5.7	2.1	0.2	2.6	2.6	13.2
Accumulated amortisation and impairment:						
At 27 August 2023	(5.7)	(2.4)	(0.2)	(0.4)	(2.3)	(11.0)
Amortisation charge	-	-	-	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.4)
Disposals	-	0.3	-	-	0.3	0.6
At 31 August 2024	(5.7)	(2.1)	(0.2)	(0.6)	(2.2)	(10.8)
Net book value at 31 August 2024	-	-	-	2.0	0.4	2.4

10. Property, plant and equipment

£m	Land and buildings		Fixtures and fittings	Equipment and vehicles	Total
	Long-term leasehold improvements	Short-term leasehold improvements			
Cost:					
At 1 September 2024	-	9.7	3.2	15.8	28.7
Additions	-	2.6	0.7	0.2	3.5
Disposals	-	(1.1)	(0.2)	(2.0)	(3.3)
At 30 August 2025	-	11.2	3.7	14.0	28.9
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 September 2024	-	(6.4)	(1.6)	(11.0)	(19.0)
Depreciation charge	-	(0.9)	(0.3)	(1.3)	(2.5)
Disposals	-	1.2	0.1	2.0	3.3
At 30 August 2025	-	(6.1)	(1.8)	(10.3)	(18.2)
Net book value at 30 August 2025	-	5.1	1.9	3.7	10.7
Cost:					
At 27 August 2023	0.2	9.2	3.5	17.0	29.9
Additions	-	1.4	0.1	1.6	3.1
Disposals	(0.2)	(0.9)	(0.4)	(2.8)	(4.3)
At 31 August 2024	-	9.7	3.2	15.8	28.7

At 27 August 2022	2022	2021	2020	2019
Accumulated depreciation:				
At 27 August 2023	(0.2)	(6.8)	(1.7)	(12.4)
Depreciation charge	-	(0.5)	(0.3)	(1.4)
Disposals	0.2	0.9	0.4	2.8
At 31 August 2024	-	(6.4)	(1.6)	(11.0)
Net book value at 31 August 2024	-	3.3	1.6	4.8

11. Interests in equity accounted joint ventures

£m	2025	2024
At beginning of the period	4.6	4.4
Share of profit*	0.2	0.1
Impairment reversal	-	0.3
Dividends received	(0.2)	(0.2)
At end of the period	4.6	4.6

*During the period working capital loans of £0.3m (2024: £0.3m) were made to joint ventures that were fully impaired and presented with losses from joint ventures.

The joint ventures listed below have share capital consisting solely of ordinary shares, which are held directly by the Group.

Nature of investments in joint ventures

Company name/ (number)	Share class	Group %	Registered address	Measurement method
Rascal Solutions Limited 05191277	Ordinary A Shares	50%	C/O Mercer & Hole, The Pinnacle, 170 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 1BP	Equity method
Bluebox Systems Group Limited SC544863	Ordinary A Shares	31.8%	Estantia House, Pitreavie Drive, Pitreavie Business Park, Dunfermline, Fife KY11 8US	Equity method
Fresh On The Go Limited 08775703	Ordinary Shares	29.9%	61 Bridge Street, Kington, HR5 3DU	Equity method

The Group owns 50% of the ordinary shares of Rascal Solutions Limited, a company incorporated in England, which in turn owns 100% of the ordinary shares of Open-Projects Limited. The latest statutory accounts of Rascal Solutions Limited were drawn up to 31 August 2024. Rascal Solutions Limited provides retail support services and is a strategic partnership for the Group to provide additional services to its existing customers.

Bluebox Systems Group Limited is the holding company of Bluebox Aviation Systems Ltd, the principal activity of which is the sale of innovative in-flight entertainment systems. This business is a strategic partnership with DMD which also provides inflight media to the aviation industry.

Fresh On The Go Limited provides retail outlets with coffee vending and other related products. After the balance sheet date, the Group disposed of its holding in Fresh On The Go Limited for consideration of £25,000.

During the period, the Group disposed of its holding in Lucid Digital Magazines Limited t/a LoveMedia for the nominal value of the shares, representing consideration of £100.

There are no other commitments relating to its joint ventures. All joint ventures are private companies and there is no quoted market price available for their shares.

Dividends of £0.2m (2024: £0.2m) were received in the period from joint ventures.

Rascal Solutions Limited investment

During the period Rascal Solutions Limited (Rascal) recorded a profit of £0.3m (2024: £0.3m). The Group holds £4.6m (2024: £4.6m) on the balance sheet comprising a £2.2m (2024: £2.2m) share of net assets and £2.4m (2024: £2.4m) of goodwill. Goodwill represents the difference between the fair value of the share of the net assets acquired and the amount paid, and forms part of the investment in the joint venture.

During the prior period, the Company reviewed the business plan for the Rascal Joint Venture, considering the cumulative previous impairment recognised of £0.3m, and as a result of this review, the remaining impairment was reversed. There have been no new indicators of impairment identified during the current period and therefore an impairment review has not been performed.

12. Inventories

£m	2025	2024
Goods held for resale*	12.5	17.9
Raw materials and consumables	0.1	0.1
Total	12.6	18.0

*Comparatives have been restated as detailed in Note 1(26).

13. Trade and other receivables

£m	2025	2024
Trade receivables	69.4	76.4
Provision for individually assessed expected credit losses ⁽¹⁾	-	(3.8)
Provision for collectively assessed expected credit losses	(0.1)	(0.1)
	69.3	72.5
Other debtors*	31.3	30.5
Prepayments	1.7	1.8
Accrued income	1.1	1.4
Trade and other receivables	103.4	106.2

*Comparatives have been restated as detailed in Note 1(26).

(1) Net impairment loss on trade receivables - McColl's Retail Group

During the period ended 27 August 2022, the Company received notice that McColl's Retail Group had gone into administration. A statement of claim was filed with the administrators for an amount of £5.5m.

At the prior period end, a provision of £3.8m was held, in respect of management's best estimate of recovery of 30% of the total claim filed representing a total of £1.7m, as per the issued notification from the administrators. During the period, £5.4m was recovered from the administrators in final settlement of the claim, which was £3.7m higher than expected, and therefore released to the income statement. The remaining £0.1m was written off to the provision.

In the prior period the expected credit loss provision of £3.8m was allocated to 'over 90 days overdue' matching the ageing profile of the £5.5m total receivable due.

Trade receivables

The average credit period taken on sale is 32 days (2024: 32 days). Trade receivables are generally non-interest bearing. The following table provides information about the Group's exposure to credit risk and expected credit losses held against customer balances:

£m	2025				2024			
	Gross carrying amount	Individually assessed ECL	Collectively assessed ECL	Net carrying amount	Gross carrying amount	Individually assessed ECL	Collectively assessed ECL	Net carrying amount
Current (not overdue)	69.3	-	(0.1)	69.2	70.4	-	(0.1)	70.3
30-60 days overdue	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	0.1
61-90 days overdue	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	0.1
Over 90 days overdue	0.1	-	-	0.1	5.8	(3.8)	-	2.1
Total	69.4	-	(0.1)	69.3	76.4	(3.8)	(0.1)	72.5

The following table provides information about the Group's loss rates applied against customer balances:

%	2025	2024
Current (not overdue)	<0.1	<0.1
1-30 days overdue	1.7	<0.1
30-60 days overdue	17.0	<0.1
61-90 days overdue	20.4	<0.1
Over 90 days overdue	31.0	70.0

Of the trade receivables balance at the end of the period:

- two (2024: two) customers had individual balances that represented more than 10% of the total trade receivables balance. The total of these was £18.7m (2024: £20.9m); and
- a further five (2024: three) customers had individual balances that represented more than 5% of the total trade receivables balance. The total of these was £23.8m (2024: £16.9m).

The movement in provision for expected credit losses for the period is detailed below:

£m	Note	2025	2024
At beginning of the period		3.9	4.5
Expected credit losses recognised		0.1	0.1
Reversal of individually assessed credit losses	3	(3.7)	(0.6)
Amounts written off as uncollectible		(0.2)	(0.1)
At end of the period		0.1	3.9

The directors consider that the carrying amount of trade and other receivables approximates their fair value which is considered to be a level 2 methodology of valuation. The inputs used to measure fair value are categorised into different levels of the fair value hierarchy (levels 1 to 3). The fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety in the level of the lowest level input that is significant to the entire measurement.

Default occurs when the debt becomes overdue by 90 days.

The Group performed sensitivity analysis on the expected credit loss and should the default rate change from expected:

- An increase in default rate by 2% would increase the expected credit loss by £1.4m.
- A decrease in default rate by 2% would result in no credit losses.
- An increase in default rate by 5% would increase the expected credit loss by £3.4m.
- A decrease in default rate by 5% would result in no credit losses.

Other debtors and prepayments

The largest items included within this balance are returns reserve asset of £17.0m (2024: £16.9m) (refer to Note 1, section 6) and £7.1m (2024: £8.0m) of publisher debtors.

14. Trade and other payables

£m	2025	2024
Trade payables	(87.2)	(88.4)
Other creditors	(31.7)	(32.6)
Accruals	(8.2)	(7.4)
Deferred income	(0.1)	(0.1)
	(127.2)	(128.5)

Included within other creditors is a balance of £19.8m (2024: £19.8m) relating to the returns reserve accrual. (Refer to Note 1, section 6.)

Trade and other payables principally comprise amounts outstanding for trade purchases and ongoing costs. The average credit period taken for trade purchases is 30 days (2024: 33 days). No interest is charged on trade payables. The directors consider that the carrying amount of trade and other payables approximates to their fair value using a level 2 valuation.

15. Cash and borrowings

Cash and borrowings by currency (sterling equivalent) were as follows:

£m	Sterling	Euro and other	Total 2025	2024
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Cash at bank and in hand	5.2	0.2	5.4	7.0
Cash held by the EBT to purchase own shares	2.8	-	2.8	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	8.0	0.2	8.2	7.0
Revolving credit facility	(2.1)	-	(2.1)	(18.0)
Unamortised arrangement fees - presented in non-current liabilities	0.4	-	0.4	0.4
Total borrowings	(1.7)	-	(1.7)	(17.6)
Net cash/(borrowings)	6.3	0.2	6.5	(10.6)
Total borrowings				
Amounts due after 12 months	(1.7)	-	(1.7)	(17.6)
Total	(1.7)	-	(1.7)	(17.6)

The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents approximates to their fair value.

The Group has a financing facility in place comprising a £40.0m Revolving Credit Facility (RCF) with a £10.0m accordion option. The agreement is with HSBC and Santander. This initial arrangement had a final maturity date of 2 May 2027 with the option of two one-year extensions on the first and second anniversaries. During the period, the first one-year extension was exercised which extended the maturity date to 2 May 2028.

At 30 August 2025, £2.1m (2024: £18.0m) of the RCF was drawn. The total available amount is £40.0m for the life of the facility. As part of the terms of the financing, the Company and its principal trading subsidiaries provide security over their assets to the lenders. The current rate on the facility is 2.45% per annum over SONIA.

At 30 August 2025, the Company had £37.9m (2024: £22.0m) of undrawn committed borrowing facilities in respect of which all conditions precedent had been met. This is partially reduced by letters of credit of £1.5m (2024: £1.5m); further details are included in Note 20.

During the period, the net decrease of £15.9m in total borrowings comprised £101.8m of cash inflows from drawing down the RCF and £117.7m of cash outflows from repayment of the RCF.

Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

The table below details changes in the Group's liabilities arising from financing activities, including both cash and non-cash changes. Liabilities arising from financing activities are those for which cash flows were, or future cash flows will be, classified in the Group's consolidated statement of cash flows as cash flows from financing activities.

£m	Note	1 September 2024	Financing cash flows	New leases	Disposals	Other changes	30 August 2025
Revolving credit facility	16	17.6	(16.7)	-	-	1.2	2.1
Leases		30.9	(8.9)	6.6	0.5	1.4	30.5
Total		48.5	(25.6)	6.6	0.5	2.6	32.6

£m	Note	27 August 2023	Financing cash flows	New leases	Disposals	Other changes	31 August 2024
Revolving credit facility	16	-	18.0	-	-	(0.4)	17.6
Term loan	16	40.2	(41.5)	-	-	1.3	-
Leases		23.2	(7.9)	11.2	-	4.4	30.9
Total		63.4	(31.4)	11.2	-	5.3	48.5

Other changes include rent increases, interest accruals and the amortisation of loan fees.

Analysis of net debt

£m	Note	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents*	16	8.2	7.0
Non-current borrowings	16	(1.7)	(17.6)
Net borrowings		6.5	(10.6)
Lease liabilities	17	(30.5)	(30.9)
Net debt		(24.0)	(41.5)

*Included within cash and cash equivalents is £2.8m (2024: £nil) of cash held by the EBT for the purpose of purchasing own shares.

16. Financial instruments

Treasury policy

The Group operates a centralised treasury function to manage the Group's funding requirements and financial risks in line with the Board-approved treasury policies and procedures and their delegated authorities. The role of Treasury is to ensure that cash financing is available for running the businesses of the Group on a day-to-day basis, whilst minimising net interest cost. No transactions of a speculative nature are undertaken. Dealings are restricted to those banks with suitable credit ratings and counterparty risk and credit exposure is monitored frequently.

Capital risk management

The Group manages its capital to ensure that entities in the Group will be able to continue as a going concern while maximising the return to stakeholders through the optimisation of the debt and equity balance. The capital structure of the Group consists of debt, which includes the borrowings, cash and cash equivalents as disclosed in Note 15 and equity attributable to equity holders of the parent, comprising issued capital, reserves and retained earnings as disclosed in the Group statement of changes in equity.

The only externally imposed capital requirements for the Group are Bank Net Debt to Bank EBITDA and interest cover under the terms of the banking facilities. The Group has fully complied during both the current and prior periods. To maintain or adjust its capital structure, the Group may adjust the dividend payment to shareholders and/or issue new shares. In the prior period there was a cap on dividends of £10.0m under the banking facility, subject to all the covenants. As part of the refinancing in May 2024, this restriction was removed.

The Board regularly reviews the capital structure. As part of this review, the Board considers the cost of capital, and the risks associated with each class of capital. We expect free cash from operations to be sufficient to manage net debt while also maintaining an attractive total shareholder return. The Group is targeting a Bank Net Debt: Bank EBITDA ratio below 1.0x, achieved through managing free cash from operations. The Group's facilities include a clause to account for lease charges under accounting standards applicable in 2019; Bank Net Debt: Bank EBITDA is stated on this basis.

Liquidity risk

The Group manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate reserves and banking facilities and by monitoring forecast and actual cash flows. The facilities that the Group has at its disposal to further reduce liquidity risk are described below. As at 30 August 2025, the Group had £40.0m (2024: £40.0m) of committed bank facilities in place, comprising a £40.0m

...the Group has a revolving credit facility (RCF), which expires on 2 May 2028.

The facility described above is subject to the following covenants:

- Leverage cover - the Bank Net (Cash)/Debt: Bank EBITDA ratio which must remain below 2.5x. At 30 August 2025 the ratio was (0.1x) (2024: 0.3x);
- Interest cover - the consolidated net interest: Bank EBITDA ratio which must remain above 4x. As at 30 August 2025 the ratio was 79x (2024: 17.9x); and
- Guarantor cover - the annual turnover, gross assets and pre-tax profits of the guarantors under the banking facilities contribute, at any time, 90% or more of the annual consolidated turnover, gross assets and pre-tax profits of the Group for each period. The guarantors, which are all 100% owned or wholly owned subsidiaries of Smiths News plc, comprise Smiths News plc, Smiths News Holdings Limited, and Smiths News Trading Limited.

At 30 August 2025, the Group had available £36.4m (2024: £20.5m) of undrawn committed borrowing facilities comprising the £37.9m (2024: £22.0m) RCF above less letters of credit of £1.5m (2024: £1.5m). In addition, the facility includes a £10m accordion facility option. There were no breaches of loan agreements during either the current or prior periods.

As the Group is cash generative its liquidity risk is considered low. The Group's cash generation allows it to meet all loan commitments as they fall due as well as sustain a negative working capital position.

The Group invests significant resources in the forecasting and management of its cash flows. This is critical given a routine cash cycle at Smiths News that results in significant predictable swings within each month; the Group's average gross borrowing for the period was £6.6m (2024: £26.7m). The Group has available funding via the undrawn RCF and a £10m accordion facility option.

The following is an analysis of the undiscounted contractual cash flows payable under non-derivative financial liabilities. The undiscounted cash flows will differ from both the carrying value and fair value. Floating rate interest is estimated using the prevailing rate at the balance sheet date.

£m	Due within 1 year	Due between 1 and 2 years	Due between 2 and 3 years	Greater than 3 years	Total
2025					
Bank and other borrowings	(2.1)	-	-	-	(2.1)
Trade and other payables	(127.2)	-	-	-	(127.2)
Leases	(7.8)	(7.1)	(6.0)	(18.2)	(39.1)
Total	(137.1)	(7.1)	(6.0)	(18.2)	(168.4)
2024					
Bank and other borrowings	(18.0)	-	-	-	(18.0)
Trade and other payables	(128.5)	-	-	-	(128.5)
Leases	(7.6)	(6.8)	(6.0)	(19.8)	(40.2)
Total	(154.1)	(6.8)	(6.0)	(19.8)	(186.7)

Counterparty risk

Dealings are restricted to those banks with suitable credit ratings and counterparty risk and credit exposure is monitored.

Foreign currency risk

- The majority of the Group's transactions are carried out in the functional currencies of its operations, and so transactional exposure is limited.
- The majority of the Group's net assets are held in Sterling, with £0.4m (2024: £0.6m) of net assets held in overseas currencies. Translation exposure arises on the retranslation of overseas subsidiaries' profits and net assets into Sterling for financial reporting purposes and is not seen as significant.
- Note 15 denotes borrowings by currency, with no material currency exposures to disclose.

Interest rate risk

The Group monitors its exposure to interest rate in light of the Group's debt exposure, consideration of the macroeconomic environment and sensitivity to potential interest rate rises. The Group avoids the use of derivatives or other financial instruments in circumstances when the outcome would effectively be largely dependent upon speculation on future rate movements. The Group does not consider interest rate risk to be sensitive.

Credit risk

The Group considers its exposure to credit risk to be as follows:

£m	2025	2024
Bank deposits and money market funds	8.2	7.0
Trade and other receivables*	100.6	103.0
	108.8	110.0

*Comparatives have been restated as detailed in Note 1(26).

Further detail on the Group's policy relating to trade receivables and other receivables can be found in Note 13.

17. Leases

The balance sheet shows the following right-of-use assets in relation to leases:

£m	Equipment and vehicles	Land and buildings	Total
Cost:			
At 1 September 2024	1.5	49.2	50.7
Additions	1.2	5.6	6.8
Disposals	(0.4)	(4.2)	(4.6)
At 30 August 2025	2.3	50.6	52.9
Accumulated depreciation:			
At 1 September 2024	(0.9)	(20.3)	(21.2)
Depreciation charge	(0.3)	(6.2)	(6.5)
Disposals	0.4	3.8	4.2
At 30 August 2025	(0.8)	(22.7)	(23.5)
Net book value at 30 August 2025	1.5	27.9	29.4
Cost:			
At 27 August 2023	2.0	38.4	40.4
Additions	0.3	13.3	13.6
Disposals	(0.8)	(10.7)	(11.5)

Disposals	(0.8)	(2.5)	(3.3)
At 31 August 2024	1.5	49.2	50.7
Accumulated depreciation:			
At 27 August 2023	(1.4)	(17.2)	(18.6)
Depreciation charge	(0.3)	(5.6)	(5.9)
Disposals	0.8	2.5	3.3
At 31 August 2024	(0.9)	(20.3)	(21.2)
Net book value at 31 August 2024	0.6	28.9	29.5

Amounts recognised in respect of leases

£m	2025	2024
Interest expense (included in finance cost)	2.4	2.0
Expense relating to low-value leases (included in cost of sales and administrative expenses)	0.6	0.5
Property rental income	(0.2)	(0.4)
Total cash outflow from leases	8.9	7.9

Maturity analysis of lease liabilities

£m	2025	2024
Current	(5.6)	(5.5)
Non-current	(24.9)	(25.4)
Total	(30.5)	(30.9)

Amounts recognised as lessor:

At the balance sheet date, the Group had contracted with tenants for the following future minimum lease payments:

£m	2025	2024
Within one year	0.2	0.3
In the second to fifth years inclusive	0.2	0.6
	0.4	0.9

18. Deferred tax

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are attributable to the following:

£m	Fixed assets	Share-based payments	Other temporary differences	Total
At 1 September 2024	-	0.9	0.4	1.3
Charge to income	(0.3)	(0.1)	-	(0.4)
Charge to equity	-	(0.1)	-	(0.1)
At 30 August 2025	(0.3)	0.7	0.4	0.8
Deferred tax assets	-	0.7	0.4	1.1
Deferred tax liabilities	(0.3)	-	-	(0.3)
At 27 August 2023	0.4	1.0	0.3	1.7
(Charge)/credit to income	(0.4)	-	0.1	(0.3)
Charge to equity	-	(0.1)	-	(0.1)
At 31 August 2024	-	0.9	0.4	1.3
Deferred tax assets	-	0.9	0.4	1.3

The deferred tax assets have been deemed recoverable as the Group forecasts that it will continue to make profits against which the assets can be utilised for tax purposes.

The Group has capital losses carried forward of £20.2m (2024: £20.2m). Deferred tax assets of £5.1m (2024: £5.1m) have not been recognised in respect of the capital losses carried forward due to the uncertainty of their utilisation. These capital losses do not have an expiry period.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities at the period end have been calculated based on the rate of 25% substantively enacted at the balance sheet date on the basis that the temporary differences are expected to unwind when that rate applies.

19. Provisions

£m	Reorganisation provisions	Insurance and legal provisions	Property provisions	Total
At 1 September 2024	(0.2)	(0.5)	(5.2)	(5.9)
Transfer	0.1	(0.1)	-	-
Charged to income statement	(0.1)	(0.1)	-	(0.2)
Credited to income statement	-	-	0.2	0.2
Utilised in period	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.0
Unwinding of discount utilisation	-	-	(0.2)	(0.2)
At 30 August 2025	(0.1)	(0.4)	(4.6)	(5.1)

£m	2025
Included within current liabilities	(0.5)
Included within non-current liabilities	(4.6)
Total	(5.1)

Reorganisation provisions of £0.1m (2024: £0.2m) relate to the restructure of the DMD business, the Smiths News network and the Group's support functions.

Insurance and legal provisions represent the expected future costs of employer's liability, public liability, motor accident claims and legal claims; included within the total balance is £0.4m (2024: £0.5m) relating to claims from the Tuffnells business prior to disposal.

The property provision represents the estimated future cost of dilapidation costs across the Group. These provisions have been discounted to present value and this discount will be unwound over the life of the leases. The provisions cover the period to 2035 with all of the liability falling within ten years and greater than one year.

The Group has performed sensitivity analysis on the property provision using the possible scenarios below:

If the discount rate changes by +/- 0.5%, the property provision would change by +/- £0.2m (2024: +/- £0.1m).

If the repair cost per square foot changes by +/-£1.00p, the property provision would change by +/- £0.5m (2024: +/- £0.3m).

20. Contingent assets, liabilities and capital commitments

Bank and other guarantees

As at 30 August 2025, the Group had approved letters of credit of £1.5m (2024: £1.5m) to the insurers of the Group for the motor insurance and employer liability insurance policies. The letters of credit cover the employer deductible element of the insurance policy for insurance claims.

Administration of Tuffnells Parcels Express Limited (Tuffnells)

As reported in Note 3, during the year the Company incurred £0.7m of legal costs in considering and responding to two extensive enquiry requests (October 2024 and June 2025) from the Pensions Regulator (tPR) in relation to tPR's ongoing investigation into the Tuffnells defined benefit pension scheme and the Company's period of ownership of Tuffnells, which had concluded with its sale in May 2020.

The Company has continued to engage with tPR after period end and understands that the Company remains part of tPR's investigations as one of a number of potential targets relevant to its regulatory powers under the Pensions Act 2004.

tPR are yet to issue a Warning Notice as at the date of these financial statements, and it is not known when, or if it will be issued (up to tPR's stated statutory deadline of 20 February 2026). The Board has nevertheless considered the nature and circumstances of tPR's investigation to date and concluded, at the date of authorisation of the financial statements, that no provision is required, particularly given that no Warning Notice has been issued, it remains uncertain at this time as to how tPR may proceed with the information before it or whether any future obligation (including the nature thereof) will arise at all, and the Company therefore does not currently have a present obligation that could lead to an outflow of resources. Accordingly, the Board has concluded that the matter represents a possible obligation only and has disclosed a contingent liability.

tPR has communicated that the Tuffnells defined benefit scheme had an estimated s75 liability of £3.355m (however the final certified liability is yet to be confirmed) and that any Warning Notice, if issued, will be made under its wide-ranging Financial Support Direction powers available to it (which are based on a "no-fault" liability-regime).

With support of legal advice, the Board maintains the view that the Company has acted reasonably throughout its time as parent of Tuffnells and notes that it was an overall net contributor of funding to Tuffnells during its period of ownership. The Company continues to make itself available to provide further assistance to tPR as required.

Indemnity coverage

On winding up of the News Section of the WH Smith Pension Trust defined benefit pension scheme in December 2021, the Company has agreed run-off indemnity coverage for any member claims that were uninsured liabilities capped at £6.5m over the following 60 years. The Group is not aware of any claims brought during either the current or prior reporting period.

Reversionary lease

Other potential liabilities that could crystallise are in respect of the previous assignment of a lease where the liability could revert to the Group if the lessee defaulted. Pursuant to the terms of the Demerger Agreement from WH Smith PLC in 2006, any such contingent liability in respect of assignment prior to demerger, which becomes an actual liability, will be apportioned between Smiths News plc and WH Smith PLC in the ratio 35:65 (provided that the actual liability of Smiths News plc in any 12-month period does not exceed £5m). The Company's share of the rental commitment at 30 August 2025 was £0.9m (2024: £0.4m), which increased during the period following a review of market rent. This lease is expected to end in 2033.

Capital commitments

Contracts placed for future capital expenditure approved by the Directors but not provided for amount to £0.1m (2024: £2.2m).

21. Net cash inflow from operating activities

£m	Note	2025	2024
Operating profit	3	41.2	40.0
Impairment reversal of investment in joint venture	11	-	(0.3)
Share of loss of joint ventures	11	0.1	0.2
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	10	2.5	2.2
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	17	6.5	5.9
Amortisation of intangible assets	9	0.5	0.4
Share-based payments		1.3	0.9
Decrease/(increase) in inventories		5.4	(4.4)
Decrease/(increase) in receivables		1.4	(1.0)
Decrease in payables		(1.4)	(12.2)
Decrease in provisions		(0.8)	(0.8)
Income tax paid		(8.8)	(8.5)
Refund of tax on pension surplus*		1.5	-
Net cash inflow from operating activities		49.4	22.4
Net cash flow from operating activities is stated after the following adjusting items:			
	3		
Recovery of McColls trade receivables		5.4	-
Refund of tax on pension surplus*		1.5	-

Tuffnells costs	(1.0)	(0.1)
Technology transformation costs	(0.7)	(0.1)
Network and reorganisation costs	(0.1)	(0.2)
Total adjusting items cash flow	5.1	(0.4)

*During the period, the Company received a £1.5m refund of an overpayment of tax made in respect of the wind up of the News Section of the WH Smith Pension Trust defined benefit pension scheme during FY2022. This amount has been presented in other comprehensive income consistent with the original £5.1m charge recognised during FY2022.

22. Share capital

(a) Share capital

£m	2025	2024
Issued, authorised and fully paid:		
247.7m (2024: 247.7m) ordinary shares of 5p each	12.4	12.4

(b) Movement in share capital

Number (m)	Ordinary shares of 5p each
At 31 August 2024 and at 30 August 2025	247.7

The holders of ordinary shares are entitled to receive dividends as declared from time to time and are entitled to one vote per share at the general meetings of the Company. The Company has one class of ordinary shares, which carry no right to fixed income.

No shares were issued during the current or prior periods.

(c) Share premium

£m	2025	2024
At 31 August 2024 and at 30 August 2025	60.5	60.5

23. Reserves

(a) Demerger reserve

£m	2025	2024
At 31 August 2024 and at 30 August 2025	(280.1)	(280.1)

The demerger reserve was created on demerger of the Group from WH Smith PLC in 2006. The balance represented the difference between the share capital and reserves of the Group restated on a pro-forma basis as at 31 August 2004 and the previously reported share capital.

(b) Own shares reserve

£m	2025	2024
At beginning of the period	(3.7)	(4.4)
Acquired in the period	(1.6)	(3.3)
Disposed of on exercise of options	2.4	4.0
At end of the period	(2.9)	(3.7)

The reserve represents the cost of shares in Smiths News plc purchased in the market and held by the Smiths News Employee Benefit Trust (EBT) to satisfy awards and options granted under the Group's Executive Share Schemes (see Note 24). The number of ordinary shares held by the EBT as at 30 August 2025 was 5,665,315 (2024: 8,031,253). In accordance with IAS 32, these shares are deducted from shareholders' funds. Under the terms of the EBT, the Trustee has waived all dividends on the shares it holds.

(c) Translation reserve

£m	2025	2024
At beginning of the period	0.2	0.4
Currency translation differences	-	(0.2)
At end of the period	0.2	0.2

24. Share-based payments

The Group recognised a total charge of £1.3m (2024: £0.9m) related to equity-settled share-based payment transactions during the period. The average share price throughout the period was 58.2p (2024: 51.5p).

The Group operates the following share incentive schemes:

Sharesave Scheme	Under the terms of the Group Sharesave Scheme, the Board grants options to purchase ordinary shares in the Company to eligible employees who enter into an HM Revenue & Customs approved Save-As-You-Earn (SAYE) savings contract for a term of three years. Options are granted at up to a 20% discount to the market price of the shares on the day preceding the date of offer and are normally exercisable for a period of six months after completion of the SAYE contract.
LTIP	Under the terms of the Group LTIP, executive directors and key senior executives are awarded each year entitlements to ordinary shares in the Company (which may be in the form of nil cost options or conditional awards) or, in order to retain flexibility and at the Company's discretion, a cash sum linked to the value of a notional award of shares up to a value of 200% of base salary. The vesting of awards is subject to the satisfaction of three-year performance conditions, which is determined by the Remuneration Committee at the time of grant. Subject to the satisfaction of the performance conditions, awards are normally exercisable until the tenth anniversary of the date of grant.
Deferred Bonus Plan (DBP)	Under the terms of the Group Deferred Bonus Plan, each year Executive Directors and key senior executives are

year Executive Directors and key senior executives are granted share awards (in the form of nil cost options) dependent on the achievement of the Annual Bonus Plan performance targets. Awards are immediately exercisable, but a two-year hold-back period applies, during which the share certificate for such shares is held by the Company. Separately, key senior executives may also be granted share awards (in the form of nil cost options) under the DBP plan in respect of a (discounted) restricted share award which are dependent on continued employment with the Company.

Details of the options/awards are as follows:

	Sharesave		ESOS		LTIP		DBP	
	No. of shares	Weighted average exercise price (p)	No. of shares	Weighted average exercise price (p)	No. of shares	Weighted average exercise price (p)	No. of shares	Weighted average exercise price (p)
At 26 Aug 2023	7,960,613	30.38	800,450	125.3	9,368,088	-	1,221,981	-
Granted	1,603,582	60.80	-	-	2,994,040	-	1,389,805	-
Exercised	(4,415,748)	-	-	-	(3,167,125)	-	(1,424,789)	-
Expired/Forfeited	(302,050)	42.83	(340,412)	189.5	(201,737)	-	(18)	-
At 31 Aug 2024	4,846,397	50.75	460,038	153.9	8,993,266	-	1,186,979	-
Granted	1,270,955	61.60	-	-	2,474,769	-	1,279,212	-
Exercised	(1,347,405)	-	-	-	(2,261,850)	-	(1,323,209)	-
Expired/Forfeited	(327,398)	56.75	(460,038)	153.9	(2,988,807)	-	(28,967)	-
At 30 Aug 2025	4,442,549	55.50	-	-	6,217,378	-	1,114,015	-
Exercisable at 30 Aug 2025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exercisable at 31 Aug 2024	-	-	460,038	153.9	-	-	-	-

The weighted average remaining contractual life in years of options/awards is as follows:

	Sharesave	ESOS	LTIP	DBP
Outstanding at 30 August 2025	1.7	-	1.2	1.6
Outstanding at 31 August 2024	1.0	0.3	1.2	1.6

Details of the options/awards granted or commencing during the period were as follows:

	Sharesave	ESOS	LTIP	DBP
During 2025:				
Effective date of grant or commencement date	Jul 2025	-	Dec 2024	Dec 2024
Average fair value at date of grant or scheme commencement - pence	11.9	-	43.5	60.6
During 2024:				
Effective date of grant or commencement date	Jul 2024	-	Dec 2023	Dec 2023
Average fair value at date of grant or scheme commencement - pence	16.4	-	32.6	47.6

The options outstanding at 30 August 2025 had exercise prices ranging from nil to 49.3p (2024: nil to 48.9p). The weighted average share price on the date of exercise was 60.3p (2024: 45.4p).

Sharesave options granted during each period have been valued using the Black-Scholes model. LTIP performance measures include a 60% (2024: 60%) total shareholder return (TSR) metric which is valued by reference to the share price at date of grant less an adjustment for the TSR portion of the award. The DBP schemes are valued by reference to the share price at the date of grant.

The inputs to the Black-Scholes model are as follows:

	Sharesave	LTIP	DBP
2025 options/awards:			
Share price at grant date - pence	61.6	61	61
TSR adjustment - pence	-	(29)	-
Exercise price - pence	49.3	-	-
Expected volatility - per cent	33.6	-	-
Expected life - years	3	-	-
Risk free rate - per cent	3.8	-	-
Expected dividend yield - per cent	9.13	-	-
Weighted average fair value - pence	11	43	60
2024 options/awards:			
Share price at grant date - pence	60.8	48	48
TSR adjustment - pence	-	(25)	-
Exercise price - pence	48.9	-	-
Expected volatility - per cent	69.5	-	-
Expected life - years	3	-	-
Risk free rate - per cent	3.9	-	-
Expected dividend yield - per cent	7.48	-	-

25. Post balance sheet events

The Directors have considered the period between the balance sheet date and the date when the accounts are authorised for issue for evidence of conditions that existed at the balance sheet date, either adjusting or non-adjusting post balance sheet events, and have concluded that there are no other events in the current period.

26. Related-party transactions

Transactions between businesses within the Group which are related parties have been eliminated on consolidation and are not disclosed in this note.

Trading transactions

£m	Sales to related parties	
	2025	2024
Joint ventures	0.4	0.4

Sales to related parties are for management fees and payment is due on the last day of the month following the date of invoice. There were no amounts owed by related parties in either period.

There were no non-trading transactions with related parties during either period.

Directors' remuneration

£m	2025	2024
Salaries	0.9	0.8
Bonus	0.7	0.6
Non-executive director fees	0.4	0.4
	2.0	1.8

Information concerning Directors' remuneration, interest in shares and share options is included in the Directors' Remuneration report.

There are two (2024: two) Directors to whom retirement benefits are accruing in respect of qualifying services under money purchase schemes.

Directors made gains on share options of £nil (2024: £nil).

Key management personnel (including directors)

The remuneration of the Directors and the Executive Leadership Team, who are the key management personnel of the Group, is set out below in aggregate for each of the categories specified in IAS 24 'Related Party Disclosures'.

£m	2025	2024
Short-term employee benefits	3.2	3.0
Share-based payments	0.9	0.8
	4.1	3.8

27. Subsidiary and associated undertakings

The table below summarises the interests of the Group as at 30 August 2025:

Company name/ (number)	Share class	Group %	Company name/ (number)	Share class	Group %
United Kingdom					
Rowan House, Cherry Orchard North, Kembrey Park, Swindon SN2 8UH					
Connect Limited 02008952	Ordinary Shares	100%	Dawson Holdings Ltd (*) 00034273	Ordinary Shares	100%
Connect Logistics Limited 09172965	Ordinary Shares	100%	Martin Lavell Limited 02654521 (*)	Ordinary Shares	100%
Connect News & Media Limited 08572634	Ordinary Shares	100%	Pass My Parcel Limited 09172022	Ordinary Shares	100%
Connect Parcel Freight Limited 09295023	Ordinary Shares	100%	Smiths News Holdings Limited 04236079	Ordinary Shares	100%
Connect Parcels Limited 09172850	Ordinary Shares	100%	Smiths News Instore Limited 03364589	Ordinary Shares	100%
Connect Services Limited 08522170	Ordinary Shares	100%	Smiths News Investments Limited (*) 06831284	Ordinary Shares	100%
Connect Specialist Distribution Group Limited 08458801	Ordinary Shares	100%	Smiths News Distribution Limited 08506961	Ordinary Shares	100%
Connect2U Limited 03920619	Ordinary Shares	100%	Smiths News Trading Limited 00237811	Ordinary Shares	100%
Dawson Media Services Limited 06882722	Ordinary Shares	100%	Dawson Limited 03433262	Ordinary Shares	100%
Dawson Guarantee Company Limited 06882393	Ordinary Shares	100%	Dawson Media Direct Limited (*) 06882366	Ordinary Shares	100%
Germany					
Dawson Media Direct GmbH HRB 96649	Ordinary Shares	100%	Johannstr. 39 40476 Dusseldorf, Germany		
Thailand					
Dawson Media Direct Company Limited 105558138385	Ordinary Shares	48.9%	87 MThai Tower, All Seasons Place, 23rd Floor, Witayu Road, Lumpini Sub-District, Pathumwan District, Bangkok, Thailand		

*Audit exemption statement

For the 52 weeks ended 30 August 2025, the companies as indicated in the table by '(*)' above were entitled to exemption from audit under section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary companies. As such, Smiths News plc has provided a guarantee against all debts and liabilities in these subsidiaries as at 30 August 2025. The members of these companies have not required them to obtain an audit of their financial statements for the 52 weeks ended 30 August 2025.

August 2025.

Structured entities

Further to the above, the Group consolidates the Smiths News Employee Benefit Trust (EBT), a trust for the purpose of purchasing and holding shares in Smiths News plc to satisfy share schemes. The trust is registered with and administered by Computershare Trustees (Jersey) Limited ("the Trustee"), 13 Castle Street, St Helier, JE1 1ES, Jersey.

Smiths News plc

Company Balance Sheet

As at 30 August 2025

£m	Note	2025	2024
Fixed assets			
Investments in subsidiary undertakings	3	225.7	402.5
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		0.1	-
Debtors	4	-	30.6
Total assets		225.8	433.1
Current liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	5	(30.0)	(229.8)
Net current liabilities		(29.9)	(199.2)
Net assets		195.8	203.3
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	6(a)	12.4	12.4
Share premium account	6(c)	60.5	60.5
Retained earnings	7	122.9	130.4
Total shareholders' funds		195.8	203.3

The result for the period was a profit of £8.6m (2024: £18.9m).

These accounts were approved by the Directors on 3 November 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

Jonathan Bunting
Chief Executive Officer

Paul Baker
Chief Financial Officer

Registered number - 05195191

Company Statement of Changes in Equity

For the 52 weeks ended 30 August 2025

£m	Note	Share capital	Share premium	Retained earnings	Total
Balance at 27 August 2023		12.4	60.5	122.3	195.2
Profit for the period and total comprehensive income		-	-	18.9	18.9
Dividend paid		-	-	(10.8)	(10.8)
Balance at 31 August 2024 and 1 September 2024		12.4	60.5	130.4	203.3
Share-based payments		-	-	1.3	1.3
Profit for the period and total comprehensive income		-	-	8.6	8.6
Dividend paid		-	-	(17.4)	(17.4)
Balance at 30 August 2025		12.4	60.5	122.9	195.8

Smiths News Plc

Notes to the Company balance sheet

1. Accounting policies

(a) Accounting convention

The separate financial statements of the Company are presented as required by the Companies Act 2006. The Company meets the definition of a qualifying entity under FRS 100 (Financial Reporting Standard 100) issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 101 (Financial Reporting Standard 101) 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The Company has taken advantage of section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to present a profit and loss account and related notes.

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

- the requirements of paragraphs 10(d), 10(f), 39(c) and 134-136 of IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements;
- the requirements of IAS 7 Statement of Cashflows;
- the requirements of paragraphs 30 and 31 of IAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors; and
- the requirements of IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures to disclose related party transactions entered into between two or more members of a group, provided that any subsidiary which is a party to the transaction is wholly owned by such a member.

In addition, and in accordance with FRS 101, further disclosure exemptions have been applied because equivalent disclosures are included in the Group Financial Statements, including:

- the requirements of paragraphs 134(d)-134(f) and 135(c)-135(e) of IAS 36 Impairment of Assets;
- paragraphs 45(b) and 46 to 52 of IFRS 2, 'Share-based payment' (details of the number and weighted average exercise prices of options, and how the fair value of goods and services received was determined); and
- IFRS 7, 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures'.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis. The principal accounting policies adopted are the same as those set out in Note 1 to the Group Financial Statements except as noted below.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are considered to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making judgements about the carrying value of assets and liabilities which are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis and any revisions to them are recognised in the period in which they are revised.

Estimated impairment of investments

Investments are reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable or where a previous impairment has been recognised. When a review for impairment is conducted, the recoverable amount (determined as the higher of value in use or fair value less cost to sell) is determined using value in use calculations as the fair value is not readily determinable.

The value in use method requires the Company to determine appropriate assumptions in relation to the cash flow projections over the three-year plan period (which is a key source of estimation uncertainty), the growth rate to be applied beyond this three-year period and as part of the terminal value calculation the post-tax discount rate used to discount the assumed cash flows to present value. The assumption that cash flows continue into perpetuity is a source of significant estimation uncertainty.

(b) Investments in subsidiary undertakings

Investments in subsidiary undertakings are held at historical cost less provision for impairment.

(c) Financial instruments

Trade payables are measured at amortised cost.

Equity instruments issued by the Company are recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs.

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

(d) Taxation

Current tax is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

(e) Employee Benefit Trust

The Smiths News Employee Benefit Trust holds shares of the Company for the purpose of settling share-based payment plans for the Group's employees and is deemed a subsidiary of the Company on the basis of control. Smiths News Trading Limited, a subsidiary of the Company, provides funding to the trust for this purpose and the amounts are recognised as a capital contribution by the Company within investments. Any reduction from the purchase of shares is treated as a repayment of capital contribution.

2. Result for the period

The Company has not presented its own profit and loss account as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The result for the period attributable to shareholders, which is stated on an historical cost basis, was a profit of £8.6m (2024: profit of £18.9m). There were no other recognised gains or losses. Dividends paid in the period totalled £17.4m (2024: £10.8m) (refer to Note 7 of the Group financial statements).

3. Investments in subsidiary undertakings

At 30 August 2025, the carrying value of the Company's investment in subsidiary was £225.7m (2024: £402.5m) with a cumulative impairment provision of £460.2m (2024: £282.2m*).

£m	2025	2024*
Net book value:		
At beginning of the period	402.5	383.6
Additions*	1.3	-
Impairment (charge)/reversal	(178.1)	18.9
At end of the period	225.7	402.5

*Note: The comparative information for 2024 has been restated for to correct the cumulative impairment from £260.4m to £282.2m which was previously misstated in error. This disclosure error has no impact on net assets or profit for the prior period. Additions relate to £1.3m invested by way of capital contribution in respect of equity settled share-based payments relating to employees of its subsidiaries.

During the period, a dividend of £186.7m was received from Smiths News Holdings Limited (the Company's immediate subsidiary) which had the impact of increasing retained earnings in the Company but lowering the net value in the subsidiary. This reduction in net value, alongside the net book value of investment versus the derived market capitalisation of the Group triggered an impairment review.

The impairment review was based on the Group's value in use adjusted for net debt and included a sensitivity analysis on the key inputs including the discount rate and on scenarios which might affect the Group's future cash flows.

As a result of the impairment review, the Directors concluded that it was appropriate to increase the previously recognised cumulative impairment of £282.2m by £178.1m representing the modelled estimate of the Group's value in use being lower than the carrying amount of the Company's investment in subsidiary largely driven by the £186.7m dividend which transferred value from the Company's subsidiary during the period.

The Company reviewed the component cash flows within the Group during the period in the light of management changes made, most notably the recruitment of a Managing Director of Recycle within the growth verticals. These components have therefore been updated to comprise Smiths News, Growth verticals (Growth), and its joint venture investment in Rascal Solutions Limited (Rascal). Dawson Media Direct group (DMD) was consolidated into Smiths News.

The Company prepares cash flow forecasts derived from the most recent three-year plan budget. Cash flows beyond this three-year period are extrapolated using a terminal growth rate based on management's future expectations.

The key assumptions in the value in use calculations were as follows:

Assumptions applied	Smiths News	Growth	Rascal	Smiths News	Growth	Rascal
Post-tax discount rate	9.8%	19.8%	11.8%	11.2%	11.2%	13.2%
Terminal value (decline)/growth rate	(3%)	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%

The post-tax discount rates are derived from a risk-adjusted weighted cost of capital using an average market participant capital structure, the inputs of which include a UK risk free rate, risk premium, small company risk premium and a risk adjustment (beta).

The market which Smiths News operates is in long-term structural decline and it is assumed that revenue is expected to fall each year over the longer term. This, in conjunction with updating the component cash flows, resulting in moving to a terminal value decline of 3% (2024: 0%).

As disclosed in the accounting policies (see Note 1), the cash flows used within the impairment model are based on assumptions which are sources of estimation uncertainty and small movements in these assumptions could lead to a change in the impairment loss. Management has performed sensitivity analysis on the key assumptions in the impairment model using reasonably possible changes in these key assumptions and in reference to the Company's principal risks.

	Impairment £m	Impact to carrying value £m
Expected case	(178.1)	-
+1% Discount rate	(192.0)	(14.0)
-1% Discount rate	(161.8)	16.3
+1% TGR	(167.8)	10.2
-1% TGR	(186.8)	(8.7)
Scenario 1	(206.4)	(28.4)
Scenario 2	(188.1)	(10.0)

Scenario 1 - Assumes gross profit from newspapers and magazines is reduced by 3%

Scenario 2 - Assumes profit from growth initiatives is reduced by 50%.

4. Debtors

£m	2025	2024
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	-	30.6

Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings are repayable on demand, unsecured, non-interest bearing and settled in cash.

5. Net current liabilities

£m	2025	2024
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings	(30.0)	(229.8)

Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings are repayable on demand, unsecured, non-interest bearing and typically settled in cash. During the period a restructure of intercompany positions was performed. This included the receipt of an intercompany dividend of £186.7m from Smiths News Holdings Limited, a subsidiary of the Company.

6. Share capital

(a) Share capital

£m	2025	2024
Issued and fully paid ordinary shares of 5p each		
At 31 August 2024 and at 30 August 2025	12.4	12.4

The holders of ordinary shares are entitled to receive dividends as declared from time to time and are entitled to one vote per share at the meetings of the Company. The Company has one class of ordinary shares, which carry no right to fixed income.

(b) Movement in share capital

Number (m)	Ordinary shares of 5p each
At 31 August 2024 and at 30 August 2025	247.7

(c) Share premium

£m	
At 31 August 2024 and at 30 August 2025	60.5

7. Directors' emoluments and employees

The Company engaged five (2024: five) Non-Executive Directors. Smiths News Trading Limited, an indirect subsidiary, pays all remuneration without recharge for all Directors and the amounts are disclosed within the Directors' Remuneration Report.

Glossary - Alternative performance measures

Introduction

In the reporting of financial information, the Directors have adopted various alternative performance measures (APMs).

These measures are not defined by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and therefore may not be directly comparable with other companies' APMs, including those in the Group's industry.

APMs should be considered in addition to, and are not intended to be a substitute for, or superior to, IFRS measurements.

Purpose

The Directors believe that these APMs assist in providing additional useful measures of the Group's performance. They provide readers with additional information on the performance of the business across periods which is consistent with how the business performance is planned by, and reported to, the Board and the Executive Leadership Team.

Consequently, APMs are used by the Directors and management for performance analysis, planning, reporting and incentive-setting purposes.

APM	Closest equivalent IFRS	Adjustments to reconcile to IFRS	Note/page reference for reconciliation	Definition and purpose
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	IFRS measure	to IFRS measure	reconciliation	
Income statement				
Adjusting items	No direct equivalent	N/A	Note 3	Adjusting items of income or expense are excluded in arriving at adjusted operating profit to present a further measure of the Group's performance. Each Adjusting item is considered to be significant in nature and/or quantum, non-recurring in nature and/or unrelated to the Group's ordinary activities or consistent with items treated as adjusting in prior periods. Excluding these items from profit metrics provides readers with helpful additional information on the performance of the business across periods because it is consistent with how the business performance is planned by, and reported to, the Board and the Executive Team.
Adjusted operating profit	Operating profit*	Adjusting items	Income statement/ Note 3	Adjusted operating profit is defined as operating profit excluding the impact of adjusting items is the headline measure of the Group's performance and a key management incentive metric.
Adjusted profit before tax	Profit before tax (FBT)	Adjusting items	Income statement/ Note 3	Adjusted profit before tax is defined as profit before tax excluding the impact of adjusting items.
Adjusted profit after tax	Profit after tax (PAT)	Adjusting items	Income statement/ Note 3	Adjusted profit after tax is defined as profit after tax from continuing operations, excluding the impact of adjusting items.
Adjusted EBITDA	Operating profit*	Depreciation and amortisation Adjusting items		This measure is based on business unit operating profit from continuing operations. It excludes depreciation, amortisation and adjusting items.
Bank EBITDA	Operating profit*	Depreciation and amortisation Adjusting items Operating lease charges		This measure is based on business unit operating profit from continuing operations. It excludes depreciation, amortisation, adjusting items and adds back operating lease charges under accounting standards applicable in 2019 and share-based payments expense. This measure is used to calculate compliance with banking covenants.
Adjusted earnings per share	Earnings per share	Adjusting items	Note 8	Adjusted earnings per share is defined as Adjusted FBT, less taxation attributable to Adjusted FBT and including any adjustment for minority interest to result in adjusted PAT attributable to shareholders; divided by the basic weighted average number of shares in issue.

Cash flow statement				
Free cash flow	Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	Dividends, acquisitions and disposals, repayment of bank loans, EBT share purchases		Free cash flow is defined as the movement in cash and cash equivalents excluding the following: payment of dividends, the impact of acquisitions and disposals, the repayment of bank loan principal amounts, outflows for purchases of own shares (EBT share purchases) and cash held by the EBT. This measure reflects the cash available to the Group, which can be used for investments, dividends and the reduction of debt.
Free cash flow (excluding adjusting items)	Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	Dividends, acquisitions and disposals, repayment of bank loans, EBT share purchases, pension deficit repair payments adjusting items		Free cash flow (excluding adjusting items) is free cash flow adding back the cash impact of adjusting items.
Balance sheet				
Bank Net Cash/Debt	Borrowings less cash		Cash flow statement	Bank net debt is calculated as total debt less cash and cash equivalents. Total debt includes loans and borrowings excluding unamortised arrangement fees, overdrafts and obligations under finance leases under accounting standards applicable in 2019.
Net debt	Borrowings less cash		Cash flow statement	Net debt is calculated as total debt less cash and cash equivalents. Total debt includes loans and borrowings, overdrafts and obligations under leases.

*Operating profit is presented on the Group income statement. It is not defined per IFRS, however, is a generally accepted profit measure.

Reconciliation of free cash flow to net movement in cash and cash equivalents

£m	2025	2024
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1.2	(30.3)
Net decrease in borrowings	15.9	23.5

Movement in borrowings and cash	17.1	(6.8)
Dividend paid	17.4	10.8
Outflow for purchase of own shares by EBT	1.6	3.3
Total free cash flow	36.1	7.3

Reconciliation of bank net cash/debt to reporting net debt

£m	2025	2024
Bank net cash/(debt)	3.3	(11.0)
Unamortised arrangement fees (Note 15)	0.4	0.4
IFRS 16 lease liabilities (Note 17)	(30.5)	(30.9)
Net debt (Note 15)	(26.8)	(41.5)

Reconciliation of adjusted operating profit to Bank EBITDA

£m	Note	2025	2024
Operating profit		41.2	40.0
Adjusting items	3	(2.1)	(0.9)
Adjusted operating profit		39.1	39.1
Depreciation	2	2.5	2.2
Amortisation	2	0.5	0.4
Right-of-use asset depreciation	2	6.5	5.9
Adjusted EBITDA		48.6	47.6
Operating lease charges	2	(8.3)	(8.3)
Exclude: Share based payments expense	4	1.3	0.9
Bank EBITDA		41.6	40.2

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england>

[2] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deposit-return-scheme-drinks-producer-and-retailer-responsibilities>

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